



Everything She Thought She Wanted

By Elizabeth Buchan

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The bestselling author of *Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman* returns with a delightfully wise and witty novel of two women constrained by choice. One has too little, the other too much.

In the summer of 1959, 40-year-old Barbara Beeching, the married mother of two grown-up children, embarks on an unexpected, tender, and surprisingly passionate affair with a much younger man. Forty years later, 35-year-old Siena Grant, a successful television fashion consultant, faces a difficult question: Should she agree to have the baby her husband yearns for?

Decades separate Barbara and Siena, yet each is at a crossroads, and each is wondering, "Where does happiness lie?" They are destined never to meet, yet their stories are woven together and their intimate, inner lives are linked.

Fans of Elizabeth Buchan know that no one is better at capturing the complexities of marriage at middle age. Each of her novels is eagerly awaited by women who revere her as a literary goddess. Her latest—savvy, sophisticated, irresistibly entertaining—does not disappoint.

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Everything She Thought She Wanted By Elizabeth Buchan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #5445577 in Books
- Brand: Brand: HighBridge Company
- Published on: 2005-03-17
- Formats: Audiobook, Unabridged
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 9
- Dimensions: 5.75" h x 1.00" w x 5.00" l,
- Running time: 660 minutes
- Binding: Audio CD

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The separate stories of two women—one a career-driven late-20th-century professional and the other a 1950s housewife—are awkwardly juxtaposed in this third novel by British author Buchan (*Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman; The Good Wife Strikes Back*). Thirty-five-year-old Siena Grant enjoys a life that many women only dream of. A highly successful fashion consultant with her own business, a magazine column, a book deal and an American television show, Siena is also married to a loving, sensitive man. She and Charlie live in a trendy flat and enjoy intimate little suppers. What more could anybody want? For starters, Charlie is dreaming of a country home and children—not a life that appeals to the oh-so-chic Siena. Meanwhile, in 1959, 42-year-old Barbara Beeching, a married mother of two grown children, lives with her pilot husband, Ryder, in a charming country home and hosts the most delightful little parties. Perfect partners, Barbara and Ryder survived the atrocities of war over England and now face the rest of their lives as Ryder thinks of retirement and Barbara thinks of... Alexander Liberty, a hunky psychiatry student whose passion for her takes her by surprise. The ungainly setup—the two stories only glancingly connect at the novel's conclusion—is partly mitigated by Buchan's warm writing and her realistic portrayal of the choices women continue to face, but this isn't quite up to the standard of her previous two outings.

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From [Booklist](#)

With just the right blend of heartfelt feminism and humor, British author Buchan (*Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman*, 2003) crafts another women's-crisis story that accurately captures the doubts and fears about personal fulfillment experienced and rarely resolved by two generations of women. The drama begins with Sienna, a young, successful British fashion consultant in the present, whose "psycho-situation" with her husband, Charlie, centers on his desire for children and hers to pursue a television opportunity in the U.S. Then the camera pans to Barbara, who, in 1959, meets an attractive younger man and suddenly finds her life as a well-groomed farmwife constricting. In alternating chapters, Buchan uses these two women's experiences to portray women's changing values in the twentieth century, from home and family to career and family, and the difficulties real women have in balancing their suddenly disparate priorities. Without falling into trite stereotypes, Buchan affectionately reveals Sienna and Barbara in a thoughtful melange of scenes that most women will find compelling. *Jennifer Baker*

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Review

"Honestly explores the difficulties of marriage . . . while at the same time depicting the difficult moments of motherhood along with the quiet joys." —**The Washington Post**

"We all have secret pleasures. For this reader, English author Elizabeth Buchan spells delight. What makes Buchan such a joy to read is her ability to take familiar material and probe it for new insights. For well-done domestic drama, there's only one writer for this reader: Elizabeth Buchan." —**Dierdre Donahue, USA**

Today

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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The ability that you get from Everything She Thought She Wanted is the more deep you searching the information that hide into the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but Everything She Thought She Wanted giving you enjoyment feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood by anyone who read that because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We advise you for having this particular Everything She Thought She Wanted instantly.

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