

BOOK STALL



Time to Go

In 2017, Susie Kennaway asked her son to kill her. With an older and infirm husband, 88-year-old Susie wanted to choose the time, manner and place of her own death. So when Susie asked her son, the author Guy Kennaway, to buy heroin so she could end her life, Guy immediately started taking notes, resulting in the release of his latest book, *Time to Go*.

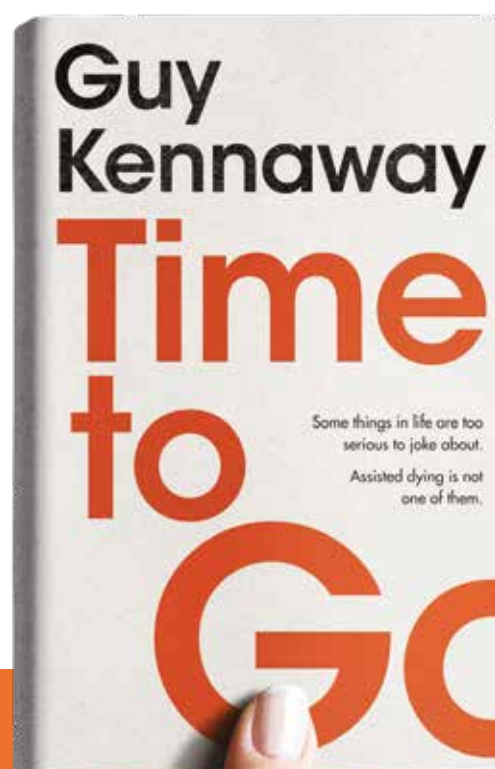
At first, Guy wonders whether Susie is playing a game, a plea for attention. But it becomes apparent she is deadly serious. The flaw in Susie's plan is that she's not ill, she's not even particularly frail.

Time to Go has been reviewed as both a serious discussion of self-euthanasia and a dark and comical account of a fractious mother-and-son relationship. Susie's first husband, novelist James Kennaway, died aged 40, leaving her to bring up her four children. Guy portrays Susie as a feisty, strong-willed woman, so

perhaps it is of no surprise that such a resolute character is not prepared to compromise, determined to end her life on her terms. Indeed, one of the reasons for Susie's decision is her concern that Brexit may mean the end of free healthcare, and she has no intention of spending time inside a care home.

The book is a story of Susie and Guy's journey through the moral, legal, emotional and practical issues that come with the subject of assisted suicide and euthanasia. Susie has also written a chapter of the book, her "right to reply". She was so outraged when she discovered that Guy had written the book that she threatened to sue him, but she also thought it might be fun to attend the launch party. Although their relationship is a difficult one, the reality of what mother and son were planning has brought them together. The book raises some important questions about assisted death, but with a large dose of hilarity.

“Life is too precious not to be lived properly. As with a job, a relationship or a party, you have to know when it's time to go.”



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