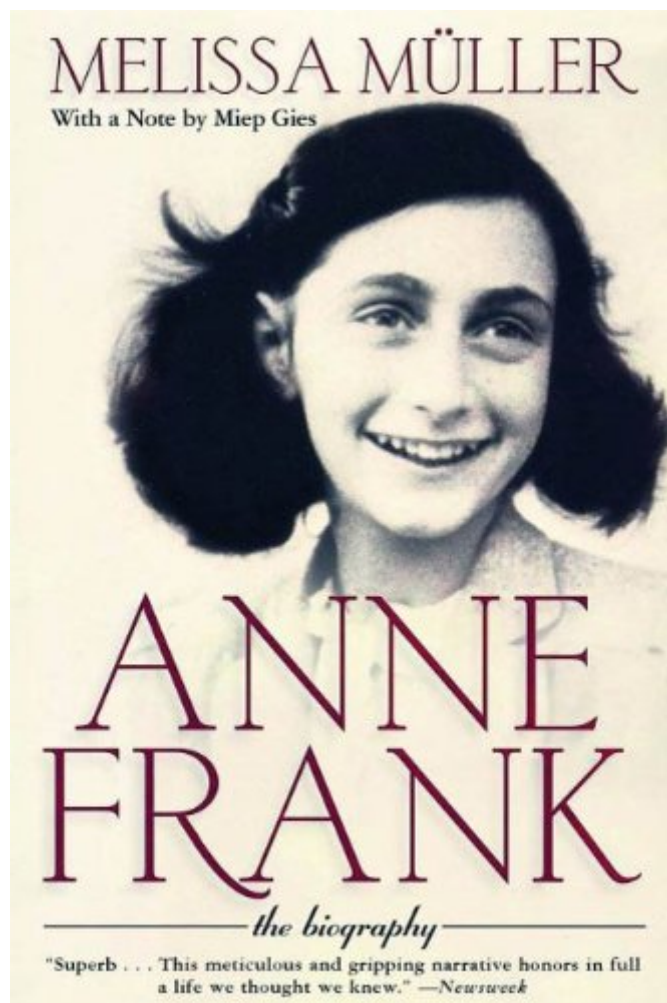


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Anne Frank: The Biography



Synopsis

"An invaluable complement to an immortal testimony." - Kirkus Reviews
The first biography of the girl whose fate has touched the lives of millions. For people all over the world, Anne Frank, the vivacious, intelligent Jewish girl with a crooked smile and huge dark eyes, has become the "human face of the Holocaust." Her diary of twenty-five months in hiding, a precious record of her struggle to keep hope alive through the darkest days of this century, has touched the hearts of millions. Here, after five decades, is the first biography of this remarkable figure. Drawing on exclusive interviews with family and friends, on previously unavailable correspondence, and on documents long kept secret, Melissa Muller creates a nuanced portrait of her famous subject. This is the flesh-and-blood Anne Frank, unsentimentalized and so all the more affecting--Anne Frank restored to history. Muller traces Frank's life from an idyllic childhood in an assimilated family well established in Frankfurt banking circles to her passionate adolescence in German-occupied Amsterdam and her desperate in Bergen Belsen at the age of sixteen. Full of revelations, this richly textured biography casts new light on Anne's relations with her mother, whom she treats harshly in the diary, and solves an enduring mystery: who betrayed the families hiding in the annex just when liberation was at hand? This is an indispensable volume for all those who seek a deeper, richer understanding of Anne Frank and the brutal times in which she lived and died. With an Epilogue by Miep Giess

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Customer Reviews

This was the first biography I've read about Anne Frank. In all transparency, I never really liked "Diary of a Young Girl," finding it dull and saccharine in places, so was interested to read an impartial biography. Anne is touchingly fleshed out into an all-too-real girl here. I appreciate the author's lack of bias in presenting her personality traits, some of which are not especially flattering. Here, we see a young lady who was no saint: she was at times peevish, sulking, prone to bouts of temper and surprisingly catty at times. And instead of taking away from the reader's appreciation for the person, these realities just illuminate the fact that she truly was an everyday normal, teenage girl whose world was turned upside down by an apocalyptic catastrophe, and makes her fate and the fate of countless others like her all the more tragic and unimaginable. It's also so tragic to imagine who she might have become, given the fact that she seems to truly have been a gifted and inspired writer. It was enlightening to read the accounts of her experiences in Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. It's important to remember that her story didn't end when the family was discovered. Instead, it continued in these unthinkable places, where she showed fortitude and resilience that often go unremarked upon because these were events that took place after the more familiar denouement of her story.

Many of my own impressions correspond to those in the capsule review, and I shall not repeat these. Older readers may not find the manner of writing to be especially appealing, because the presentation is very much in the 'young adult book' manner of expression. As well, those of us who have previously studied Anne Frank may find little that is truly original here. It nonetheless is a superb biography for young adult use, and should be very enlightening to those of any age who know Anne only from her diary. The author is frank and detailed about Anne's recollections and those of the people who knew her and her family, and there are many contributions from those in the latter group. She also is sensitive and insightful regarding factors in the diary which may be troubling, such as in outlining the circumstances which would have coloured Anne's highly negative comments about her mother and Mr Pfeffer. It is a well balanced presentation. The treatment of, for example, how the enforced, constant isolation, at the very age when one normally expands one's life beyond one's family, could have sparked Anne's strong irritation is accurate and delicate, and

could be helpful to those who wish to use the book in a classroom.

The best historical information about Anne Frank that I have read. I thought the chapter that showed the slow but steady taking of specific rights from the Jewish residents was excellent in providing a picture of what was happening to them. I'd never read about what happened after Anne Frank and her family and friends went to concentration camps, so that was sad but historically interesting. Excellent book. I would recommend it to everyone!

Very nice.

I went through a stage of extreme interest in Anne Frank after reading her biography and this book added another dimension to her story. Recommended reading.

Still reading, but great to read back story leading to the diary..

Exceeded expectations, like new. Great buy

Very informative and interesting, although it did not include very much new material.

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