

Helping you choose books for children



opening extract from

# **The Life of Anne Frank**

written by

**Anne Frank House**

published by

**Macmillan**

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please print off and read at your leisure.

I used to have a photo of Anne Frank pinned above my bed when I was a girl. It was the best-known image of Anne, where she's sitting upright, arms folded, smiling into the camera. I pretended that she was smiling straight at me. She is my all-time hero. I read her wonderful diary again and again. I knew the passage where Anne says she wants to be a writer by heart.

I don't think any book has ever meant so much to me. No one has written so clearly about the joy and pain of growing up, made especially difficult for Anne in the cramped surroundings of the Secret Annexe. It's so unbearably poignant that such a passionate, gifted girl failed to grow up herself.

Anne's diary keeps her alive for all of us. This beautiful new book has many pages of previously unpublished fascinating photographs of Anne, her family, her friends, and many pages from the little red-checked diary. I lost my original photo long ago. I shall keep this book by my bedside instead.

*Jacqueline Wilson*

1925 - 1933

1933

1934 - 1939

1940 - 1942

1942 - 1944

1944 - 1945

1945 **and after**

\*

## Contents

|                                                |                    |            |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| <b>One of my nicest presents</b>               |                    | <b>6</b>   |
| <b>A German girl</b>                           |                    | <b>12</b>  |
| <b>Leaving Germany</b>                         |                    | <b>32</b>  |
| <b>At home in the Netherlands</b>              |                    | <b>38</b>  |
| <b>War and occupation</b>                      |                    | <b>56</b>  |
| <b>In hiding</b>                               |                    | <b>70</b>  |
| <b>The Secret Annexe shortly after the war</b> | <b>photographs</b> | <b>78</b>  |
| <b>The people in hiding and their helpers</b>  | <b>photographs</b> | <b>99</b>  |
| <b>Anne Frank's diary</b>                      | <b>photographs</b> | <b>116</b> |
| <b>The interior of the Annexe</b>              | <b>photographs</b> | <b>142</b> |
| <b>Traces of those hiding in the Annexe</b>    | <b>photographs</b> | <b>153</b> |
| <b>The end</b>                                 |                    | <b>160</b> |
| <b>The legacy</b>                              |                    | <b>190</b> |
| <b>What was it really like?</b>                | <b>glossary</b>    | <b>208</b> |

# One of my nicest presents



Anne was given this diary  
on her thirteenth birthday.



snæfjall foto hã!!!!



Ik zal hoop ik aan jou alles kunnen  
bevertrouwen, zoals ik het nog aan  
niemand gekunt heb, en ik hoop dat  
je een grote steun voor me zult zijn.

Anne Frank. 12 Juni 1942.

Ik heb het nu een grote steun aan je gehad,  
en ook aan onze lieve club die ik nu geregeld  
schijf, deze manier om in mijn dagboek te  
schrijven vind ik veel

Annelies Marië Frank

figureren

en nu kan

1941/  
1942. (winter)

Ik heb nu haast  
niet afwachten als  
ik tijd heb om in je te  
schrijven

28 Sept. 1942.

Anne Frank.

[Ik ben, o zo blij dat ik je meegenomen heb.

On 12 June 1942 Anne Frank woke at six o'clock. It was her thirteenth birthday and she could hardly wait to get up. She hadn't been able to celebrate her previous two birthdays properly. On her eleventh birthday, the Germans had just occupied the Netherlands and no one had felt like having a party. When she was twelve, her grandmother was so ill that her birthday was missed then as well.

Anne stuck it until a quarter to seven. Then she got up and went to the dining room of their house in Merwedeplein, Amsterdam. Moortje, the cat, welcomed her by meowing and rubbing against her legs. At seven o'clock Anne woke her father and mother. When the whole family was sitting round the breakfast table, she was finally allowed to open her presents: a game, sweets, a gift token for two books, a puzzle, a brooch and a diary.



Anne pasted a photograph of herself onto the first page of her diary, with the comment, **Gorgeous photograph, isn't it!!!!**



Anne started her diary with the following sentences: **I hope I will be able to confide everything to you, as I have never been able to confide in anyone, and I hope you will be a great source of comfort and support.** (12 June 1942)

The diary was one of Anne's nicest presents. She had been able to choose it herself in the local bookshop. Anne intended to put everything she thought important in the diary, especially things she could not discuss with her friends. Anne filled her diary with letters she wrote as if to a girlfriend, whom she called 'Kitty'.

Anne began her diary straight away, on her birthday. First she said a few things about her classmates at school. After that she introduced herself and told her new 'girlfriend' at length what her life had been like.

Ik zal hoop ik van jou alles kunnen  
halvertrouwen, zoals ik het nog aan  
niemand getruud heb, en ik hoop dat  
je de grote sterren van me kunt zijn  
Anne Frank. 12 Juni 1942.