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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 This beautiful new book has many pages of previously unpublished fascinating photographs of Anne, her family, her friends, and many pages from the little red-checked diary.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**

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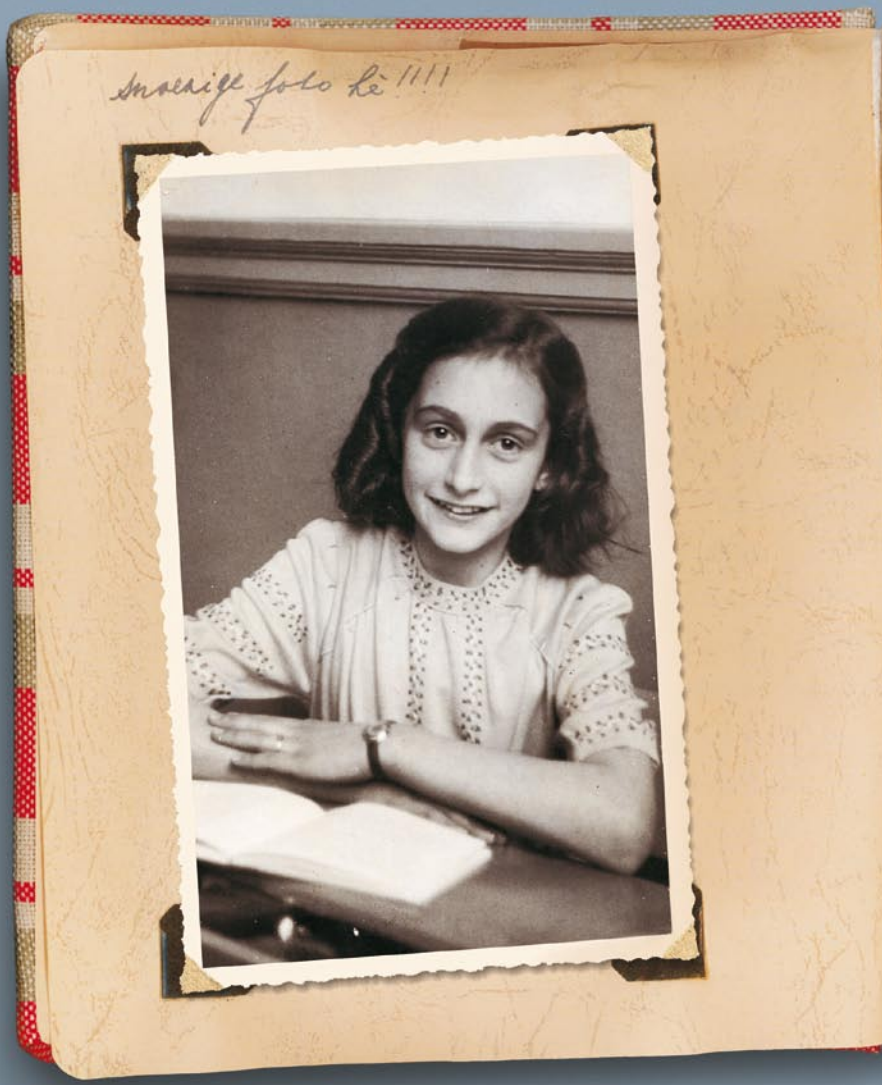
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One of my nicest presents

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Anne was given this diary on her thirteenth birthday.




Mooiste foto hè !!!!

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

Anne Frank. 12 Juni 1942.

Ik heb dat nu een groote steun aan je gehad,
en ook aan onze lieve club die ik zo geregeld
schrijf, deze manier om mijn dagboek te
schrijven vond ik veel
prettiger en nu kan
ik het nog haast
niet opmaken als
ik zin heb om mij te
schrijven.

28 Sept. 1942.
Anne Frank.

Ik ben, o, z.o blij dat ik je meegenomen heb.

Annelies Marie Frank
1941/1942. (winter)

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.

