



## Anne Frank: A Hidden Life

*Mirjam Pressler*

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## Anne Frank: A Hidden Life Mirjam Pressler

Anne Frank's diary gives readers an intimate portrait of her life in hiding. But what else do we know about Anne? What did others think of her? Here, surviving friends and neighbors describe Anne as a child, and the people who protected her during the war describe the Secret Annex. Sections from Anne's diary that were recently made public give readers a closer look at the girl who wrote, "I want to go on living even after my death "

## Anne Frank: A Hidden Life Details

Date : Published August 27th 2001 by Puffin (first published April 1st 1995)

ISBN : 9780141312262

Author : Mirjam Pressler

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : World War II, Holocaust, History, Biography, Nonfiction, War



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## From Reader Review Anne Frank: A Hidden Life for online ebook

### Brittney Finck says

The Diary of a Young Girl was one of my favorite community reads during Middle School. I remember Anne Frank being relatively close to my age during the time I read her diary which really made it possible for a girl to relate. It was a sad feeling I received reading that book. Ever since The Diary of a Young Girl was introduced to me, I have had an amazing interest in the Holocaust. I was able to visit Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau in Poland and shortly after, I visited the house in which Anne Frank's hiding took place in Amsterdam. I was in the very room of the girl who initiated my feelings of emotion while reading and it was too much for me to grasp. Anne Frank spent some of her last years in the very room I was standing in.

Anne Frank: A Hidden Life is a novel by Mirjam Pressler that tells the story of Anne Frank from new perspectives. Pressler invites the reader to hear Anne's story from her surviving friends, neighbors, and the protectors of her family during the war.

Diversity wasn't necessarily celebrated during World War II since it was a plan to end the diversity of the human race. However, it did form a bond that made me feel closer to Anne Frank. Anne Frank: A Hidden Life is a great companion for her original diary that gives more information for curious readers.

The story was about Anne Frank and her family that hid in a secret annex during almost two years of war. I would consider this to be an in-depth treatment of cultural issues in itself. Anne Frank's family was dehumanized just because of their Jewish history and the book highlights this well.

“I know we can't leave here!”

Anne Frank: A Hidden Life Page 123.

Along with the awareness of cultures, the “minority” group in this story was definitely filling more of a purpose than a quota since the entire story revolved around Anne Frank's family and different views on this family. As a target minority, Anne Frank and her family knew that they couldn't leave the annex without an unknown, unpreferable fate. Which allowed for plenty of reflection.

I have been reflecting on Anne Frank A Diary of a Young Girl since I read it. With the new knowledge that Anne Frank: A Hidden Life has provided for me, I will combine the two and simultaneously reflect. It makes me cringe still, just knowing that Anne Frank suffered with her family during her last years. She was such a young, talented lady who still had a lot of life left in her until the end. I believe that reading both stories has allowed for me to appreciate the life I was given.

The unique style comes from the story revolving around Anne Frank. People with knowledge on the subject were given the opportunity to remember and reflect on this young girl which doesn't seem to be a common style in books. The memory of Anne Frank lives on and this book helps to access her memory.

This story is a biography and I believe that it stays true to it's genre. The truth seems to be told and the story stays true to Anne Frank's time in the annex. It is of enduring quality as it has helped change my thoughts on the Holocaust yet again. This story has enhanced my memory of my time in Anne Frank's Huis and it is one that I will be putting on the shelves of my classroom library.

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### Meghan says

Anne Frank: A Hidden Life by Mirjam Pressler was a mediocre novel that deserves some applause. This novel focused more on the becoming of Anne's diary as well as the background of all the people in the Secret Annex, the place were Anne, her family, a dentist, and another family hid, rather than her life. After previously reading The Diary of Anne Frank, I had knowledge on her story as well as her life. Since my

background with Anne Frank was somewhat clear, I expected this book to be mainly about Anne's life before hiding, as well as a shorter version of her time in hiding, compared to her diary. The book was both what I expected and more, but not in a good way. The reason I gave this book a three out of five stars was because the author had many chapters that recounted how Anne's diary came about or why not all logs were included in her published diary. During these chapters I often found myself bored and wishing that they would end. Also, I wished there would of been a little more information on Anne's life before hiding. I found the chapter that focused on this point to be bland. I would recommend this book for people between the ages of twelve and sixteen, mainly because this book has some difficult vocabulary and people younger than twelve would most likely loose interest quickly. This book is more suited for girls because it follows a girls life, but a boy could also enjoy the novel too. Lastly, I would recommend this book to someone who has not read The Diary of Anne Frank. The only new knowledge I got from this book was about publishing and some more background information on other characters. Overall, Anne Frank: A Hidden Life by Mirjam Pressler was a moderate book that I enjoyed very minimally, and one that lacked interest and the ability to keep the reader engaged.

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### **Meghan robinson says**

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### **Kristine says**

Title: Anne Frank: A Hidden Life

Author: Mirjam Pressler

Genre: Biography

Theme: fear, bravery, and wartime

Opening line/sentence: "Today it is difficult for us even to imagine what Auschwitz concentration camp must have been like on the day it was liberated."

Brief Book Summary: This story gives the readers a close look on what Anne Frank's life was like when she was in hiding. Many friends, family and neighbors describe Anne as a child and the people who protected her during the war describe the secret Annex she was living in. You learn about the struggles Anne faced and the rough life during the time of concentration camps.

Professional Recommendation/Review #1: Edmund J. Farrell (The ALAN Review, Fall 2000 (Vol. 28, No. 1))

Anne Frank: A Hidden Life (published in Germany in 1992) answers questions students might have after reading Anne's original diary and/or the play based on her life's story. Miriam Pressler co-edited with Otto Frank the first critical edition of Anne's diary. Now, years later, she has written a wonderful companion piece, placing the Franks in a historical context. Ms. Pressler's work includes--description of the Frank's life prior to their 1942 move into the secret annex; analysis of the eight personalities who inhabited the 550 square foot hiding place for nearly two years; and profiles of the five brave souls who helped those in hiding.

The work concludes with haunting stories of both Holocaust victims and survivors--underscoring how this unspeakable horror is still very alive. The crux of the book, though, is Anne's life. Pressler draws a complete portrait of this young woman--something that neither diary nor play can provide. From age 13 to 15, we watch Anne blossom into a mature, sensitive personality, filled with the insecurities and complexities that beset all teenagers. Suitable for class discussions and research projects, this fine addition to the life of Anne Frank ends with a helpful chronology of her life and the political times in which she lived--and died. Genre: Biography 2000, Dutton Children's Books, 176p, \$15.99. Ages 11 up.

(PUBLISHER: Dutton Children's Books (New York:), PUBLISHED: 2000.)

Professional Recommendation/Review: Kate McDowell (The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, April 2000 (Vol. 53, No. 8))

Many aspects of Anne Frank's life apart from her diary have been illuminated in other volumes (Anne Frank, Beyond the Diary: A Photographic Remembrance, BCCB 11/93), but Pressler offers an unusual presentation of the people in Anne Frank's life. Beginning with Anne's father's return to their wartime hiding place, Pressler provides historical context to invoke a sense of the personal devastation Otto Frank might have felt when faced with the loss of his entire family and then, upon reading Anne's diary, the loss of Anne's talent as well. While other chapters are less intense, dealing with topics that range from historical events and their effects on the annex occupants to intimate information about Anne's physical development, Pressler presents the available facts to create an emotionally charged vision of human survival in pressing circumstances. Those circumstances, despite being necessary to understanding interpersonal tensions in hiding, constitute a large amount of complex information that may be daunting to many fans of Anne's more easily readable diary. The book is neither browsable nor swift reading, and Pressler's exegesis further burdens the narrative, as she inserts her own opinions between the reader and Anne's experiences (I cannot help wondering what it was like for [Anne] later in Auschwitz, in Bergen Belsen. Could she retain her belief in God there? I would very much like to think so). Nonetheless, teachers will find excellent excerpts to read aloud in connection with curriculum, and readers eager for more detailed information about Anne Frank will appreciate the windows Pressler opens into the emotional lives of the annex dwellers. A chronology of Anne Frank's life, notes, and a bibliography are included. (Reviewed from galleys) Review Code: Ad -- Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area. (c) Copyright 2000, The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois. 2000, Dutton, 192p, \$15.99. Grades 10 up.

(PUBLISHER: Dutton Children's Books (New York:), PUBLISHED: 2000.)

Response to Two Professional Reviews: I thought both reviews were good important reviews and informative of the story in different ways. I liked how they both mentioned what the lay out of story is like so people who have already read other versions of Anne Frank know if this story would benefit them. It really set the reader up to know what the story is like, even review #2 included that is it not a quick read so the reader knows they have to be really focused on the book before jumping in.

Evaluation of Literary Elements: There are many different literary elements of this story, I think because it is a biography it goes into so much detail about the setting so that readers can really picture living in the circumstances that Anne Frank was living in. The characterization of this story is clearly very strong because with it being a biography you also learn a lot about the character and their life. Many of the literary elements in this story are very good and that is important in this story so some of the young readers can truly understand what Anne Frank went through during this time.

Consideration of Instructional Application: Being that this is not the original diary of Anne Frank there are many instructional applications that can be associated with this book and her story. This book would be good

to use for a read aloud to look further into her life while learning about Anne Frank and the holocaust. Also since this is such a detailed biography it would be good to use as an example for students to understand how to write a biography for themselves. Even if this book is not used as a read aloud it would be good for students who are personally interested in learning more about Anne Frank after the class is done their lesson.

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### **Talia says**

This book is great for researching Anne Frank. It's chapters go through her life, and explains different elements in her life that were important. This book also had various quotes from her diary that supported the fact being stated.

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl, that was born in Frankfurt, and moved to the Netherlands in the time of World War II. Her family went into hiding in a place in her fathers office building. They called it the Secret Annex. There was a door that was hidden behind a movable bookcase that looked like it was bolted to the wall. Anne and her family were hiding from the Nazis. If they were found they would have been brought to a concentration camp, because they were Jewish. Anne's family managed to stay in hiding for two years and they were caught months before Hitler and the Nazis were defeated.

This book goes through the journey a young girls life, that was just too short.

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### **L 5capling says**

In her biography, Anne Frank: A Hidden Life (2000), author Mirjam Pressler informs the audience of the life of Anne Frank in the annex during World War II. Pressler develops this information by using reverse chronological order, telling the story backwards; giving insight on each character and how they affect Anne, for example, she mentions her father often and how he "barges in on her too often and disrupts her privacy"; and conveying information to the audience about Anne as a person and writer. Mirjam Pressler's purpose is to exemplify how hard life was for Jews during the war in order to provoke empathy toward Anne's family and the others living in the annex. Pressler expresses an educational tone with her audience of people all around the world reading The Diary of Anne Frank and learning about the tragedies of the Holocaust.

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### **Sujit Thummala says**

The story was sad. By reading this story I learned the difficulties Anne Frank faced in her life.

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### **Amanda says**

A beautiful look at Anne Frank's life for the younger audience. It gave an interesting view of this girl's life!

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### **Nancy says**

Found That this book was VERY inappropriate.

I'm very disappointed that the author included parts from the diary that Otto Frank never wanted to be published. Nearly every chapter in this book included something inappropriate.

Very disappointed.

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### **Nitin says**

It's the story of how thirteen year old Jewish girl, Anne Frank, spent her two years in secret Annexe when her family went into hiding following Nazi deportation notice. Mirjam Pressler tries to find out what's it was like to be that teenage girl who was coming into her adolescence during her stay in hiding place. Anne's viewpoints, her way of judging/misjudging her fellow companions in Annexe, her own definitions of love & god are explained critically by author with the help of Anne's diary & notes & Miep's (one of four helpers)book & personal account of some events.

It's really amazing to see how Anne emerges out to be a girl more mature & wiser than her age would allow. Your heart cries out for each of those 8 people hiding in Annexe & anger for the brutal Nazi regime responsible for death of millions of innocent lives including our own Anne frank.

One should read this book only to see how teenage girl like Anne could come up with such nice descriptions of her fellow companions, her daily monotonous routine in Annexe, her longing for caring, love & her concept of religion & god. Even though some of theses viewpoints are extreme & too an extent illogical(given her young age); for some points one can do nothing but admire at the level of maturity & writing skills demonstrated by Young Anne.

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### **Verena Annette says**

Leider kann ich dieses Buch nicht empfehlen.

Die Autorin Mirjam Pressler ist die Übersetzerin der neuen (aktuellsten?) kritischen Ausgabe der Anne Frank Tagebücher.

Grundsätzlich habe ich den Eindruck, dass sie dieses Buch recherchiert hat; es ist gut durchdacht. Allerdings weist es starke handwerkliche Schwächen auf. Mirjam Pressler durchzieht den kompletten Text stark mit ihrer eigenen Meinung. Ich denke, sie will auch ganz bewußt die Lebensumstände von Anne und ihrer Familie nicht nur dokumentieren, sondern auch rekonstruieren. Dagegen habe ich gar nichts einzuwenden, da mich gerade das interessiert hat, hab ich das Buch angefangen zu lesen! Aber das Lesen wird immer mühseliger, denn Pressler schreibt zwei, drei Absätze und setzt dann persönliche Kommentare oder Ausschweifungen in Klammern gesetzt dahinter.

Ihrer Meinung bin ich bei den "Klammertexten", die ich gelesen habe, das ist nicht was mich erst irritiert hat, später nur noch genervt. Es stört einfach massiv. Es unterbricht eigenartig den Lesefluß, so sehr, dass ich anfang die Klammern zu "überlesen". Aber die Klammern zu überspringen ist auch keine Lösung, da Pressler dort nicht nur ihre persönlichen Kommentare setzt, sondern teilweise noch Informationen zu eben genannten Personen gibt. Und es nervt einfach enorm, wenn komplette Absätze in Klammern gesetzt sind und irgendwie gar nicht richtig zum Fließtext gehören.

Schade. Eigentlich ist das Buch gut und auch gut lesbar für Jüngere oder für Leser, die sich mit Anne Frank noch gar nicht befasst haben ... aber diese Klammern, das ist einfach nur schlecht gemacht.

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## **Joe says**

*Anne Frank: A Hidden Life* was a very fast read and full of interesting facts and tidbits. It is a perfect book to help refresh your mind about Anne and her diary. Especially if you are going to teach *The Diary of Anne Frank* soon to eighth graders.

The author gives you very critical insight into Anne's life, and sometimes offers her own (sometimes not needed) opinion. The chapters are organized very logically, and very reader friendly. It is kind of disturbing when she writes about Anne's first orgasm. I don't know if that is truly necessary, but at the same time I couldn't not read it.

A great resource book for any teacher who might teach about Anne Frank, the Holocaust, or WWII.

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## **drworm says**

I like reading this book but I felt incomplete after putting it down. There are so many questions in my mind. This book is a review as it cited so many sources, but the author made many assumptions on how Anne Frank felt at that time, which may or may not be fair. I am going to find the translated diary of Anne Frank, read it and try to have my own POV Plus, I am going to read Mein Kampf and try to understand how this barbaric incident occurred.

RIP Anne Frank. Your story will not end here.

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## **Sharayu Gangurde says**

The more I read about Anne, the more grateful I feel about having this life full of comforts and luxury.

Her energy and outlook towards living a life during those war days is such a humble reminder for all of us to be more humane in our approach to living our lives now, six decades later.

I always think of how Anne would have lived her life had she been alive. She's a constant source of unfailing inspiration and my personal guide in times of distress.

You'll live forever, Dear Anne!

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## **Allanvre says**

An informative and humbling view into the lives of the Frank family and all of those who risked their lives regularly to aid them.

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