

## Anne Frank's Diary

Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who became famous for her diary. She wrote it while hiding from the Nazis in a secret annex of rooms behind her father's office in Amsterdam. The family was discovered after two years and sent to concentration camps. There, Anne died at the age of fifteen.

Anne's diary was published in 1947. It has been translated into sixty-seven languages and is one of the most widely read books in the world.

The diary was a gift from Anne's parents on her thirteenth birthday. It is the story of the hopes and dreams of a typical teenage girl. Anne's first entry, addressed to an imaginary friend named Kitty, reads: "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."

The diary also provides an historical view of life during the Holocaust. Anne wrote: "After May 1940, the good times were few and far between; first there was the war, then the capitulation and then the arrival of the Germans, which is when the trouble started for the Jews."

Because Anne spent two years confined to the secret annex, she wrote much in her diary to pass the time. Some of the entries showed her despair: "I've reached the point where I hardly care whether I live or die. The world will keep on turning without me, and I can't do anything to change events anyway."

But the act of writing also helped maintain Anne's spirits. She confides, "When I write, I can shake off all my cares."

Anne Frank's diary is essentially a story of faith, hope, and love in the face of horror and hate. Perhaps its most inspiring message is captured in this single entry: "I still believe that people are good at heart."

One of the last things Anne wrote before her death is a tribute to the greatness of the human spirit: "I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness; I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too. I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more."