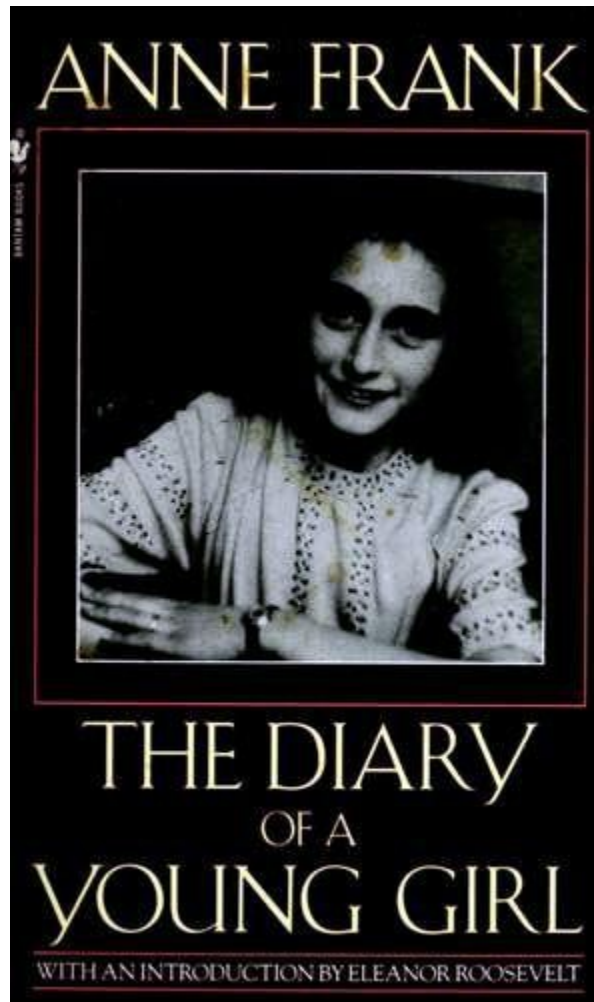


The Diary of a Young Girl : A Book Review



Author of the book: Anne Frank

Genre: Journal, Autobiography

Publisher: Contact Publishing

Published date: 25th June, 1947

Characters: Anne Frank, Otto Frank, Edith Frank, Margot Frank, Mrs. Van Daan, Peter Van Daan, Mr. Kleiman, Mr. Kugler, Mr. Van Daan

“Women should be respected as well! Generally speaking, men are held in great esteem in all parts of the world, so why shouldn't women have their share? Soldiers and war heroes are honored and commemorated, explorers are granted immortal fame, martyrs are revered, but how many people look upon women too as soldiers?” - Anne Frank

The Diary of a Young Girl is a book, more specifically a diary written by Anne Frank in the early 40's under the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. The book is an international bestseller and even the harshest of critics have given it a nice rating. Anne Frank is considered as a beacon of hope even in the darkest times a man can face.

The book is written to Kitty, an imaginary friend of Anne. This is also a symbolism for her innocence, though not intentional- we could understand it that way. Anne spent her time moving between Munich and The Netherlands, as the Nazis gained most of their power in Munich. The constant movement of her family didn't exactly let her make new friends, except for her sister, and therefore her coping mechanism was writing her experiences in journals or diaries.

The book was originally given to her by her father on her thirteenth birthday as a present. Anne had a great social life, a life expected of a teenager, therefore her diary was full of teen things like boys, school and friends. The book showcases a dark twist, a descent into darkness and how it affected a teenager. Anne happened to be a Jew living in the 40's, not exactly the best time to be a Jew in Europe. The Jews were rounded up, sent into concentration camps and killed by the SS officers. Anne went into hiding when the Germans occupied Holland. The rest of the book is about her hiding from the Gestapo until her capture and ultimately death. They hid for two years with the Vandarn family, in their father's office or as Anne liked to call it, “The Secret Annex”.

One of the Vandarn sons, Peter is another important character in the book as Anne started to catch feelings for him during their time together in hiding. Anne spent her time listening to the radio and writing her diary, for her dream was to become a writer. When she thought that the war had ended, the book turned into a more cheerful path, but she didn't make it to see the day, the day of liberation of the Netherlands.

At the end, however, Anne and her family were found by the Gestapo, and taken to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany, where they gassed her and she died.

This book symbolizes that hope is simply just not enough for the continuity of one's will, the will in this book being, the will of survival. The book is hard to take in an enthusiastic way. This book brings the holocaust in the light as many parts of the world still dont recognize the Genocide of Jews, Roma, Partasians, Homosexuals etc committed by the Nazis in the Second World War.

This book uses false hope to drive us into a state of relief and then surprises us with tragedy, in this case, being Anne's momentary hope of the war ending. In total, Anne spent 762 days in hiding and was arrested on the 4th of June, 1944, where she died due to Typhus in the concentration camp, the diary was then found by an office cleaner and returned to Otto, Anne's father after the war who published it years later.

This book is a must read especially for teenagers, as it shows how tragedy can spin someone's life into a vortex; it showcases how the descent into darkness can be slow and misleading. But this isnt just a story about Anne, but a story about the genocide of millions and how inhumanity can affect someone with no part in matters, much less a child.

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