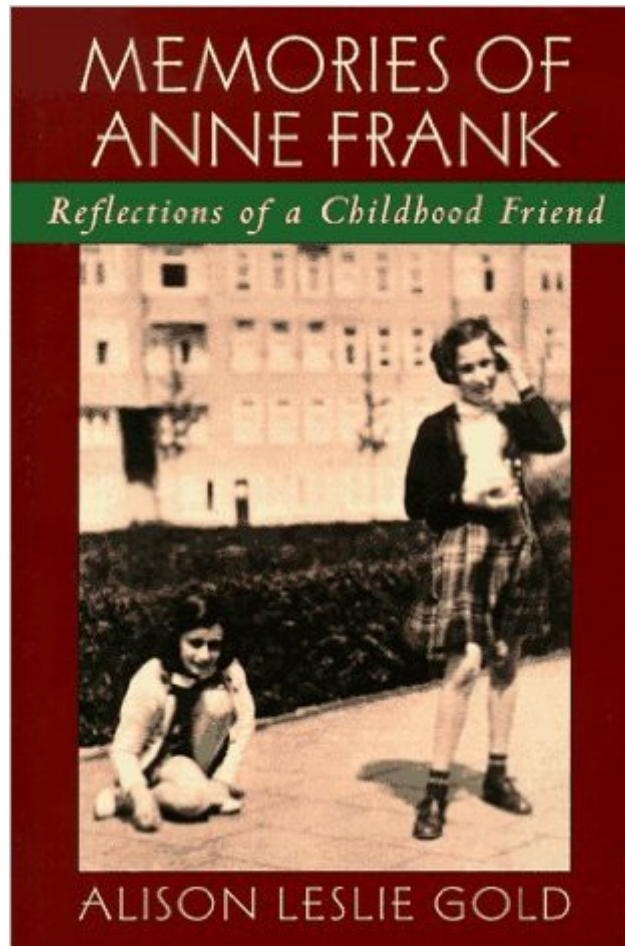


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Memories Of Anne Frank: Reflections Of A Childhood Friend



Synopsis

Hannah Goslar relates her memories of Anne Frank to author Alison Leslie Gold and complete the story of Anne's life, taking the reader one step beyond *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Book Information

Age Range: 10 and up

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Library Binding: 135 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Trade; 1st edition (October 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590907220

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (38 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #906,666 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #5619 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Customer Reviews

Anne Frank didn't exist in a vacuum. She had friends, some mentioned in her diary. One of these was Hannah Gosler, "Lies" in Anne's writings. Now Hannah Gosler has set down her childhood memories of both Anne and her own terrifying experiences during the Nazi occupation of Holland. Mrs. Pick-Gosler's odyssey is every bit as astonishing as Anne's. The book begins with the Franks' disappearance and careens headlong into the Goslers' own nightmare. Somehow, Hannah manages to keep hold of her toddler sister Gabi even as the rest of her family dies--in pieces, member by member. There is the heartrending chance reunion with Anne through an Auschwitz fence mentioned in the Afterward of Anne's diary. And finally the end of the war and surreal "liberation"...from a Nazi cattle car, with Auschwitz survivors staggering out into a deserted snowy field, almost senseless with illness and starvation, their guards having fled. Parents should be both warned and assured: this beautiful book doesn't flinch from brutal fact, but in Ms. Gold's deft hand the language manages to convey information without any morbidity. And the haunting photographs are a precious inclusion. We see little Anne, dark eyes laughing, against the backdrop of her Amsterdam apartment building. Hannah grows up before our eyes in a series of photos taken

against this same wall. There is one photo of Hannah holding little Gabi, and it's shocking to know this is the same child she managed to keep alive through the Nazi concentration camps. But the most heartbreaking photo is on the back of the book. Nine beautiful little girls line up, arms around shoulders, smiling in pretty party dresses. It's Anne's birthday.

Even though *Memories of Anne Frank: Reflections of a Childhood Friend* was written in the 1990s, it portrays the horrors of the Holocaust as vividly as if Hannah Goslar, Anne's childhood best friend, had been describing her whole story just when she was liberated of Bergen-Belsen almost half a century before, in 1945. This book is basically a journey through Hannah's life during, before, and even a bit after World War II, taking us to the various concentration camps she was sent to. Probably the most touching scene is when Hannah miraculously finds Anne, a few months before she died, at Bergen-Belsen. Anne had believed Hannah to be long dead, as she once wrote an entry in her diary stating that she felt tremendously guilty for Hannah's suffering. Ironically, it turned out to be the other way around, and Anne was the one to die instead. I found it incredibly hard not to let go off a few tears when I read about the deaths of Hannah's loved ones, one by one. Each was as sad as the previous one, and I cannot imagine how Hannah found the strength to survive and ultimately to go on with her life in those harsh circumstances. Undoubtedly, that took real courage. I believe Alison Gold did a pretty good job in telling the world Hannah's story, even though at times, I did not quite like her writing style because I found it too simple, which is just misleading, because this book is not a light read at all. Other than that, I found her descriptions to be good but thankfully not too graphic. I really enjoyed Hannah's personal photographs at the middle of the book. I felt like each and every single one of them was telling me a whole new story, and it was disturbing to know how many people pictured did not manage to survive this whole atrocity.

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