

Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation

Anne Frank

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Anne's parents gifted her a beautiful diary on her thirteenth birthday. Anne never really had someone to talk to about her deepest thoughts, so when Kitty, her new diary, comes along Anne is elated. She starts by writing about her family and school, where all the boys adore her. But soon enough Anne's life is turned upside down. Her family's lives are put into danger by German occupation in Holland, forcing all of them to go into hiding. Anne and her family stow themselves away in the Secret Annex, a tiny hidden section in her father's office building. There they remain hidden from the world with another family, the van Daan's and Albert Dussel. Anne chronicles her time inside the Secret Annex, the conflicting emotions she had regarding her situation, and all her profound contemplations and musings.

Having Anne's diary in graphic novel format allows the reader to be brought into Anne's world to get a little taste of what it was like to live in her shoes. I felt like I was there with her as she struggled being cooped up with her family and the people who viewed her with disapproval. Polonsky's stunning illustrations do a beautiful job of expressing and visualizing Anne Frank's powerful writing. I enjoyed Anne Frank's writing most of all. It was surprising to see such deep and intimate writing from someone as old as Anne. She was wise beyond her years, having matured so quickly during difficult times. Her writing was incredibly reflective with a thoughtful outlook on the state of her world. She was an aspiring writer and it's sad to know that she was unable to live out that dream. I was enraptured by the sense of self-awareness, humanity, and earnestness in Anne Frank's writing, making me inclined to read her diary in entirety. Through her telltale sarcasm, humor, and introspective outlook, Anne Frank writes a moving account of her experience during World War II. With a meaningful story like Anne's, it truly is something that everyone should get around to reading.

There are minor violent and sexual elements to look out for in this graphic novel, along with a few instances of smoking and bad language. I do have to say that the graphic adaptation does not include all of Anne Frank's diary, but it is well summarized. The illustrator and adapter made sure to acknowledge that at the end of the book, which I greatly appreciated as they truly wanted to do Anne Frank's writing justice. For these reasons, I would suggest this graphic novel to anyone 11 years or older. Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation would make a great gift to younger readers and fans of graphic novels.

Recommended Titles:

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Who was Anne Frank? by Ann Abramson and Nancy Harrison

The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank by Willy Lindwer

Night by Elie Wiesel

The Boy in Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne