



The Secret Annexe: from The diary of Anne Frank

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This extract from the Definitive Edition of Anne's diary begins on Tuesday 10 November 1942.

For her thirteenth birthday Anne Frank received a diary as a present from her father. She kept it from 12 June 1942 to 1 August 1944. In this diary, which she addressed to an imaginary friend called Kitty, Anne wrote about her life - first in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam and then, when the Nazi persecution of Jews forced her family into hiding, in the sealed-off back rooms of an Amsterdam office building, which they referred to as 'the Secret Annexe'. Anne had always dreamed of being a writer and hoped one day to publish her diary.

The Secret Annexe: from The diary of Anne Frank Details

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Coenraad says

I have known about Anne Frank's diary for a very long time, but I have never actually read it. This extract seems to capture so much about life in the Secre Annexe: the attempts to be quiet and positive, the too-human interpersonal conflict, the tension about being discovered, the fear when Amsterdam is bombed by Allies's planes. The perspective of the young Anne is honest and insightful; if she had survived the war, she would probably have been a strong literary voice in the post-war world. This demonstrates the real tragedy of war: the destruction of so much beauty and potential.

Hierdie uittreksel is die eerste deel van die bekende dagboek van Anne Frank wat ek lees. Die borrelende persoonlikheid van die jong skrywer spreek duidelik, ten spyte van die ernstige sake wat sy opteken. Hierdie klein boekie inspireer my om die volledige teks te lees, en met Lina Spies se Afrikaanse vertaling beskikbaar, het ek nie werklik meer 'n verskoning nie!

Christian says

No había leído el diario de Ana Frank y tengo apenas vagos recuerdos de una película. Y me sorprendió, porque esperaba encontrar algo más oscuro y deprimente. Todos sabemos cómo terminó la historia, pero acá lo que está es la voz de una adolescente rebelde, por momentos sarcástica, por momentos sensible, y siempre alerta. La prosa es rápida y precisa, y cuesta creer que lo haya escrito alguien tan chico (¿habrá ayudado la traducción al inglés?). Esta crónica del encierro (las ratas, las ropas agujereadas, el inodoro que se tapa), mientras afuera caen las bombas, no es tan claustrofóbica ni triste como pensé.

Anna says

How could you rate it any less than five? I don't know what the difference between that and the main diary is... But anyway. She was incredibly gifted at writing. What more can I say? It's tragic.

Lex Redding says

A window into the life of a teenage girl trying to make it through the war.

Steve Mitchell says

The Diary of Anne Frank is one of those books that somehow passed me by. After reading this extract it is a fault that I fully intend to rectify immediately.
