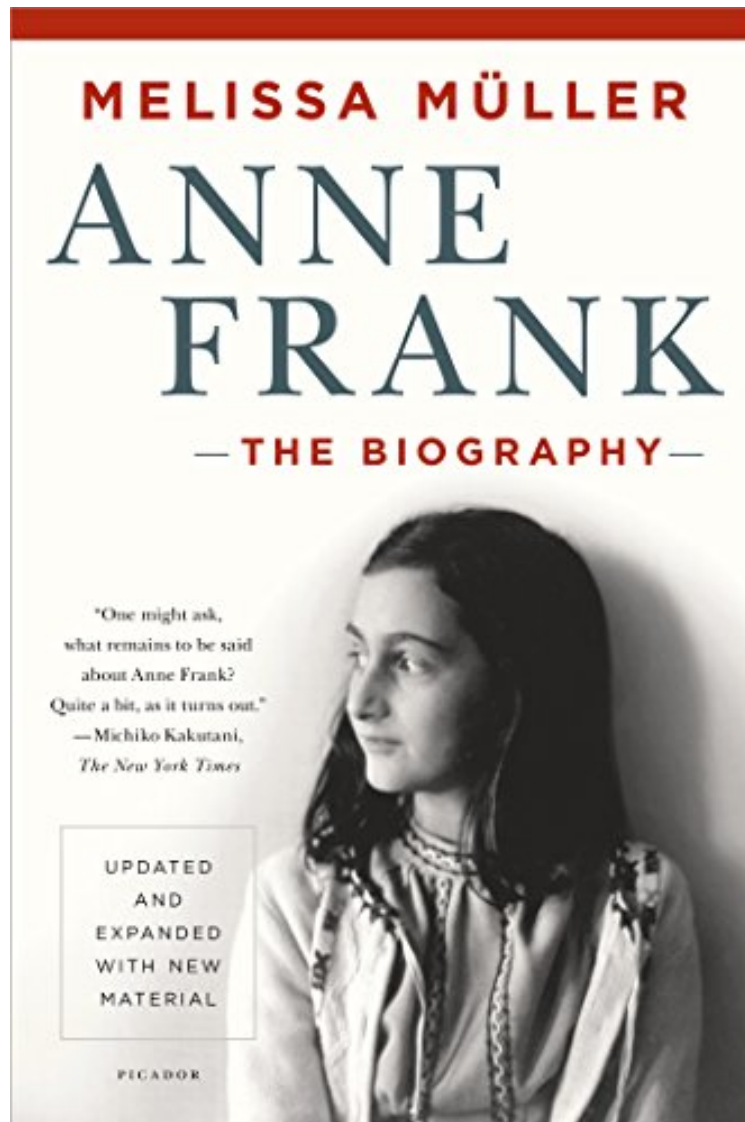


(Free) Anne Frank: The Biography

Anne Frank: The Biography

Melissa Mller

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UPDATED AND FILLED WITH STRIKING NEW REVELATIONS, THE BESTSELLING, "SUPERB"

BIOGRAPHY THAT "HONORS IN FULL A LIFE WE THOUGHT WE KNEW" (NEWSWEEK) Praised as "remarkable," "meticulous," and "long overdue," Anne Frank: The Biography, originally published in 1998, still stands as the definitive account of the girl who has become "the human face of the Holocaust." Full of revelations, Miller's richly textured narrative returned Anne Frank to history, portraying the flesh-and-blood girl unsentimentalized and so all the more affecting. Now, sixteen years after the book first appeared, much new information has come to light: letters sent by Otto Frank to relatives in America as he sought to emigrate with his family, the identity of other suspects involved in the betrayal of the Franks, and important details about the family's arrest and subsequent fate. Revised and updated with more than thirty percent new material, this is an indispensable volume for all those who seek a deeper understanding of Anne Frank and the brutal times in which she lived and died.

.com One of this book's great strengths is writer Melissa Miller's ability to situate Anne Frank's famous diary within a larger historical and biographical context--more than half of it covers the years before the Franks went into hiding. Equally important is her discovery of the existence of five pages Otto Frank removed from his daughter's original diary and entrusted shortly before his death to Cor Sujik, international director of New York's Anne Frank Center. Sujik showed these pages to Miller, who accurately notes in the biography that they "enhance our understanding of the diary's author." Until now, readers have known the eight people sequestered in the secret annex through Anne's eyes only. Miller reveals everyone's correct names (they were changed for the diary's publication) and tactfully corrects a teenager's skewed perceptions when necessary, always reminding us of the claustrophobic closeness and material deprivation that sometimes fueled Anne's uncharitable comments about, for example, the middle-aged dentist with whom she was forced to share a room. Miller also plausibly identifies the Dutch informant who betrayed the secret annex's inhabitants to the Gestapo. Horror suffuses Miller's grim recap of the Franks' ordeal at Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, though there is some comfort in survivors' reports that Anne, her mother, and her older sister formed "an inseparable trio," all former quarrels forgotten in their fierce struggle to save each other. They failed, and Miller does not gloss over that tragedy. But she reminds us that, "In the end, the Nazi terror could not silence Anne's voice, which still rings out for all of us." From School Library Journal YA-This biography is in no way a substitution for Anne Frank's moving diary but it is a well-written addition to our knowledge of the young woman, her family, and her tragically short life. What is new here is the depth of background. Miller includes a family tree; a family history; and considerable insight into the character, personality, and quality of life of Anne's parents, relatives, and friends. Interviews with many of these surviving people give a clearer idea of the situation and Anne's reactions to it. There seems to be no contradiction to her diary statements, but Anne's father, Otto Frank, had admittedly suppressed though not destroyed several pages of those writings, some of them dealing with Anne's evaluation of her mother's life and marriage. This recovered material shows Anne's feelings to be kindly and understanding. Also, the question of who betrayed the Secret Annex's residents is analyzed. One chapter covers the seven-month period from the time of the arrest, imprisonment in Westerbork, and the family's transfer to Auschwitz-Birkenau to the deaths of Edith, Margot, and Anne. Information on the concentration-camp existence is based on reports of those who encountered Anne there. An epilogue reviews the experiences and fates of those friends, heroic helpers, possible betrayers, and surviving relatives of the Frank family. A dozen photographs of Anne, her family, and her friends are included. The book closes with a moving four-page note by Miep Gies, who salvaged and preserved Anne's diary. Frances Reiher, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. One might ask, what remains to be said about Anne Frank? Quite a bit, as it turns out. Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times The first serious biography of Anne Frank. David Barnouw and Gerrold van der Stroom, editors of The Diary of Anne Frank: The Critical Edition Miller pays respect to the legend, but she also does something long overdue. She saves Anne Frank from idolatry and impersonal symbolism by restoring her physical presence. Time A meticulous and gripping narrative. Laura Shapiro, Newsweek Miller biography ably celebrates a life of singular intensity.' ...In the end, it does exactly what it should: sends us back to Anne's words. The Philadelphia Inquirer Remarkable Miller has achieved the near-impossible by restoring human proportions to the near mystical Anne. she has returned the young writer to history. Susan Jacoby, Newsday Flawlessly researched and compellingly written...In her comprehensive and nuanced portrait of Anne and her collapsing world, Miller has given us Anne Frank for adults. The Christian Science Monitor In this updated edition of her superb 1998 biography, Miller adds immeasurably to a well-known story...An invaluable complement to an immortal testimony. Kirkus (starred review) Miller offers an especially impressive portrait of Anne's father, Otto, as well as a chilling, convincing theory about the Dutch informant who likely led the Gestapo to the secret annex. Carolyn Alessio, Chicago Tribune (editor's choice) A thoughtful book, honorable and fluent...humane. Robert Skloot, The Nation The author's literary gifts and exhaustive research distinguish Anne Frank: The Biography as both an absorbing and definitive text. Deborah Hornblow, The Hartford Courant Miller succeeds in rounding out the picture of the sensitive and talented Jewish schoolgirl through interviews with friends and family, letters and previously unavailable documents. The Minneapolis Star Tribune