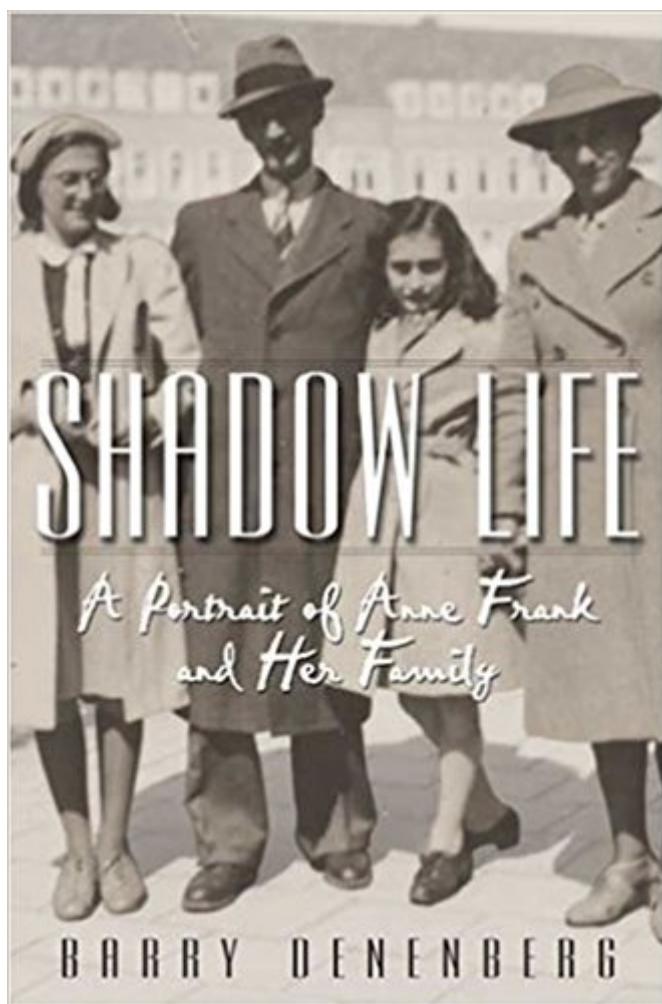


The book was found

# Shadow Life: A Portrait Of Anne Frank And Her Family



## **Synopsis**

In a groundbreaking work, acclaimed author Barry Denenberg explores the history of the Holocaust and the lives of Anne Frank and her family. Denenberg presents the complete story of Anne Frank and her family's life, from Frankfurt, Germany, where Anne and Margot were born before the war, up through to their murders at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. When the Franks leave Frankfurt for Amsterdam, they are hoping to find a place where they can resume a normal life, but instead, the family's freedoms are taken away bit by bit. But it is when they see that other Jews are being taken away, and sent to so-called labor camps that the Franks realize they have no choice but to go into hiding; they live in fear for 2 years.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; 1St Edition edition (March 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0439416787

ISBN-13: 978-0439416788

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.6 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #839,436 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #119 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Holocaust #285 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Historical

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 5-9âœ Denenberg is clearly passionate about his subject. Unfortunately, his enthusiasm doesn't translate into a thoughtful, well-written biography. One problem is his audience: the introduction and bibliographical essay are directed at adults, while the text swings from upper elementary to high school (and back again). Second, the writing is often awkward and choppy, with an annoying use of sentence fragments. Third, there are many errors, omissions, and unanswered questions. Finally, the book's four sections are disjointed. "Living" is a straightforward narrative. In "Hiding," Denenberg covers the Franks' years in the Secret Annex through a fictional diary "written"

by Anne's sister, Margot. In his introduction he claims that this made-up diary accomplishes six "important things," but it doesn't. There are a number of discrepancies between Margot's "diary" and Anne's. And, by not quoting any of Anne's entries, key insights into her personality, feelings and beliefs, and growing maturity are absent—*from her own biography*. "Dying" uses oral histories of concentration-camp survivors. "Surviving" is disappointingly brief and ends abruptly with the publication of Anne's diary. There is nothing about the play or movie/TV adaptations, nothing on the Anne Frank House or Foundation, nothing on the controversies that have arisen regarding the diary's authenticity (and how it was edited), and—most importantly—nothing about the diary's enormous impact. While not totally satisfactory, Susan Goldman Rubin's *Searching for Anne Frank* (Abrams, 2003) is both thorough and interesting. —Ann W. Moore, Schenectady County Public Library, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*Starred Review\*** Gr. 6-10. Readers of Anne Frank's diary may think they know her story, but this thoroughly researched volume offers much more, throwing light on the lives of Anne and her family before, during, and after the years in the secret annex. The first section discusses the Franks' life in Germany when Hitler came to power, their move to Amsterdam, and their lives during the next nine years. The second section, a fictional diary in the voice of Anne's older sister Margot, offers a slightly different perspective on the time the family spent in hiding. Returning to nonfiction, the third and fourth sections recount what happened to the family members when they were discovered and sent to concentration camps, and describe Otto Frank's postwar efforts to find his daughters and the publication of Anne's diary. Inserting a fictional diary into a nonfiction work was an unusual choice, but the section effectively makes the people, their relationships, and their experiences more real. While Anne's diary is affecting in a way that no other version of her story could be, readers who hunger to know more will find this informative, involving book--with source notes, a detailed time line, a bibliographic essay, and lists of further resources--a great place to turn. Photos, not available prepublication, will be included. Carolyn PhelanCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

As a middle school teacher, I have read and taught the play many times. While I have seen the impact (mostly positive) the play has on readers, I also quite agree with the criticisms (of the play) presented in the book. What *\*Shadow Life\** adds to appreciation and knowledge of Anne's story cannot be overestimated. The book's content and structure have been previously discussed at

length, so I will just hit some high points. The three sections of the book are complimentary, yet almost completely separate works. Section One provides some interesting background material, though nothing particularly new. Section Two is an imaginative diary written by Margot during their time at the annex. It is both interesting and tiresome in the way that teenage diaries can be. The truly remarkable portion of the book is the final section, which concentrates on tracing Anne's history to its end in the death camps. Through eyewitness accounts, letters and historical evidence, the author weaves the story of Anne's last days in a clinical, yet strangely emotional way. It is profoundly moving, profoundly disturbing, and profoundly redemptive in a way that no other work written about Anne has been. For the ending alone, this book should not be missed.

"I shall not remain insignificant," are the words of Anne Frank before she knew the world would never forget her. Barry Denenberg's *Shadow Life: a Portrait of Anne Frank and her Family* is a story that keeps her memory alive. This book illustrates the journey of Anne Frank through the perspective of her family, friends, and fellow holocaust victims. It is broken up into chronological parts of her life: her childhood, the secret annex, the camps, and life after the war. While Denenberg does not pull directly from Anne Frank's personal diary entries, he gives another point of view to paint the picture of her experiences living in a world war. This point of view is intriguing because of how it is not from Anne Frank, but from others. As told by narrators, Margot (Anne Frank's sister), other friends, and holocaust victims, this book details the story about Anne Frank and her family. First, the narrator describes Anne Frank's childhood, the beginning of the war, and the Franks' move from Germany to Holland. Next, it turns into a part called "Hiding," which is all written by Margot Frank in her diary. There, she talks about every day life in the Annex and what happens behind the big secret bookcase door. Third, "Dying" is all about the camps the Frank's went through and the quotes from fellow victims. Finally, "Surviving" is the last part about Otto Frank's (Anne Frank's father) life after the war. The most important part of this book to me is not only what is described, but how it is written, and all the points of view it incorporates. In "Hiding," the part written by Anne Frank's sister, she talks about life in the secret annex writing, "It is nearly impossible to find someplace quiet during the day... I read and do my schoolwork and shut out the rest as best I can (pg. 61). This is just one of many examples in which Denenberg does a great job of portraying each person's image of the Secret Annex. Young adults will enjoy this book for the clarity of the story, but also the complex clockwork behind it all. Despite the numerous voices of all the different narrators, there is a lucid flow to this book. "By the fall of 1944, Hitler's regime, knowing they were going to lose the war, began destroying the physical and documentary evidence of their monstrous crimes

(pg. 189)." The reason we know so much about this historic event, is because of people like Anne Frank and other holocaust victims. Shadow Life is not only about Anne Frank's struggle through World War II, but the big picture behind it all.

Since the publication of her diary, much has been written about Anne Frank and her family's remarkable story. In "Shadow Life" Barry Denenberg has tried to throw some illumination onto that story for a young adult audience, and for the most part he succeeds."Shadow Life" begins with an explanation from the author, giving his reasons for writing this book and his reasons for laying it out in the manner he did. This biographical look at the Frank family is broken into four parts, offering brief overviews that a younger audience can easily digest in order to understand what life was like during this times. For the first part, Denenberg details what caused the Franks to move from their native Germany to the Netherlands, and what eventually caused them to go into hiding. In the third section, he uses testimonials of concentration camp survivors, some who knew the Frank girls, to offer insight into what life in the camps was like. The fourth and final section is slight, an extremely brief sketch of Otto Frank's trek to find out what happened to his daughters after the war, and the publishing of Anne's diary. While Denenberg has done a good job in making the story accessible to a younger audience and expanding upon Anne's account, not much new light is shed upon the Frank's ordeal. Denenberg mentions the sources he used for his books, and drawing heavily upon these more thorough, adult-oriented accounts, he has little new information to share. What is unique about Denenberg's book is the second section entitled "Hiding". To tell this part of the story, the author claims that he did not want to rehash what others and Anne herself had said, so he imagines a diary that her sister Margot may have kept in hiding, basing the voice upon letters she had written and what is known about her interests. Denenberg ties it into accounts present in Anne's diary, and it offers readers a unique opportunity to see the experience through someone else's eyes."Shadow Life" is quick-paced, but often choppy, the author prone to fragments. It lacks much of Anne's presence, relying on others to tell what she has already told. Yet it is a commendable companion piece to the legacy of Anne Frank and allows children to step into the Frank's experience.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Shadow Life: A Portrait of Anne Frank and Her Family Anne Frank: The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography Ã QuiÃfÃ©n fue Ana Frank? / Who Was Anne Frank? (Spanish Edition) (Quien Fue]]? / Who Was]]?) The Anne of Green Gables Cookbook: Charming Recipes from Anne and Her Friends in Avonlea Conversations with Anne Rice: An Intimate, Enlightening Portrait of Her Life and Work World History Biographies: Anne Frank: The Young Writer Who Told

the World Her Story (National Geographic World History Biographies) Akiane: Her Life, Her Art, Her Poetry The Mobologist's Story: Wanted by the most powerful crime family, only her church family could save her now Anne Frank: A Hidden Life Anne of Avonlea Complete Text (Anne of Green Gables) Anne of Avonlea: Anne of Green Gables Part 2 Irish Lace: A Nuala Anne McGrail Novel (Nuala Anne McGrail Novels) The Lady Anne (Above all Others; The Lady Anne Book 2) Anne of the Island: Anne of Green Gables, Book 3 Anne's House of Dreams (Anne of Green Gables Book 5) Anne of Windy Poplars (Anne of Green Gables) Anne of Avonlea (Anne of Green Gables) Anne of Windy Poplars (Anne of Green Gables Book 4) Anne of the Island Complete Text (Anne of Green Gables) Anne of Green Gables (Anne of Green Gables series Book 1)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)