



The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank

By Willy Lindwer



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Everyone knows the story of Anne Frank -- the extraordinary Diary that she wrote during her two years in hiding in the Secret Annexe. But few know how that story ended. Here six women whose lives touched Anne Frank's in her final months tell their story -- of the terrible journey east to Auschwitz, of the daily privations and terror of the death camps, and of the friendships and courage that transcended even the most vile conditions. Anne Frank's story did not end with the last words in her Diary; it ended alone on a filthy floor at Bergen-Belsen. These women were the lucky ones who lived.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Given the extraordinary popularity of Anne Frank's Diary, notes Dutch filmmaker Lindwer, it was "inevitable" that her account would be romanticized; indeed, Anne Frank is especially remembered for having nobly affirmed, during her persecution, that she believed people were good at heart. But, Lindwer adds, "arrest, deportation, and annihilation are the final unwritten chapters of Anne's diary." As if to complete our understanding of what she and her fellow victims endured, Lindwer interviewed six women who were interned in concentration camps with Anne Frank (these interviews formed the basis for Lindwer's internationally aired television documentary of the same name). These six survived perhaps because they were older, stronger or simply luckier than Frank, and their accounts provide horrifying glimpses of camp life and death. Among the saddest images is that of a reunion, across a barbed-wire fence in Bergen-Belsen, of Anne and the friend referred to in the Diary as Lies, during which a "broken" Anne (incorrectly) announces, "I don't have any parents anymore." These testimonies would be unbearable if they did not also give voice to the courage and dignity of the six witnesses throughout their own suffering. Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

YA-- Lindwer presents the transcripts of six in-depth interviews conducted in preparation for his film documentary, *The Last Seven Months of Anne Frank*. Although "Lies Goosens," real name Hannah Elisabeth Pick-Goslar, will be the most familiar to readers of *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*, each of these women's first-person accounts is compelling. They relate their backgrounds, their capture, details of the concentration camp experience, and descriptions of the time immediately following liberation. Each includes her relationship to Anne Frank and gives impressions of the girl's final days. This collage of intimate recollections paints a clear picture of the human experience known as the Holocaust. Few will be able to digest this book in one sitting; fewer still will be able to turn away from it once they've begun. -- Barbara Hawkins, West Potomac High School, Fairfax, VA
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From Library Journal

Anne Frank's now famous diary stops days before her hiding place was found and she began a forced journey to Auschwitz. Through her record of ordinary life in a terrible era, she became a voice for all who died. Lindwer, a documentary filmmaker, found six women who knew Anne in the camps; they described on camera their own memories of her death and their own survival. Here Lindwer presents the complete texts of interviews, which could not be fully incorporated into Lindwer's 1988 documentary. Not only is the courage of the survivors demonstrated but the nature of death and dying is clarified for the far greater number, like Anne, who disappeared in the Holocaust. A moving account, recommended for most collections.
- Rena Fowler, Northern Michigan Univ. Lib., Marquette
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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