



# Anne Frank — Her Life —

MARIAN HOEFNAGEL



An authorised, easy-to-read biography

# ANNE FRANK

— Her Life —

First published in the UK in 2010 by  
Evans Brothers Ltd  
2A Portman Mansions  
Chiltern Street  
London W1U 6NR  
www.evansbooks.co.uk

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Hoefnagel, Marian, 1950-

Anne Frank : her life.

1. Frank, Anne, 1929-1945-Juvenile literature. 2. Jews-Netherlands-Amsterdam-Biography-Juvenile literature.

3. Holocaust, Jewish (1939-1945)-Netherlands-Amsterdam-Juvenile literature.

I. Title

940.5'318'092-dc22

ISBN-13: 9780237539245

Photos © family photos Anne Frank: AFF, Basel/AFS, Amsterdam; Anne Frank Stichting Amsterdam, www.annefrank.org; AFS/Allard Bovenberg; USHMM, Washington/Mark Chrzanowski; Maria Austria Institute; Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, Amsterdam; Imperial War Museum, London

*Anne Frank – Her Life* has been written in simple, easy-to-read English. Some quotations have been simplified, and the narrative does not always follow the order of events in Anne Frank's diary. The photographs of the rooms in the secret annex were taken when it was furnished temporarily for a film.

The Anne Frank Trust UK runs exhibitions and education programmes.  
www.annefrank.org.uk

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NARRATIVE TEXT TRANSLATED BY  
ROBIN PASCOE



# Introduction

During the Second World War the German leader, Adolf Hitler, ordered his Nazi followers to round up people they considered to be 'inferior'. The people the Nazis hated most were Jews, and millions of them were sent to prison camps, called concentration camps. The conditions there were terrible. Thousands died of disease or starvation, but most of them were murdered in gas chambers by the Nazis. Many Jews went into hiding, helped by brave people who risked their own freedom. Often, though, they were betrayed by Hitler's supporters. Like Anne Frank's family, these Jews were sent to concentration camps, where most of them died. By the end of the war, more than six million Jews had been killed, 1.5 million of them children like Anne.

# Anne

On 12 June 1929, a little girl is born in Germany. She is a happy girl – she has a mother and father who love her, and a sister who is mad about her. She lives in a beautiful city: Frankfurt am Main. Lots of her relations live there too. They all come to look at the little girl, and everyone likes her.

The girl is called Anne – Annelies Marie Frank – an ordinary name. At that moment, no one knows her life will be short. No one knows she will never be older than 15. No one knows she will become famous all over the world. But that is what happens.

Little Anne is a nice baby and a funny toddler. She is very different from her older sister Margot, who is quiet and does what her mother says. Anne talks a lot and asks lots of questions.



*Anne Frank at two years old  
Anne is a happy little girl.*

# Tension

Anne and Margot have a good life. Lots of children live nearby and they play together every day. They do not know that their parents are worried – very worried. The Frank family owns a bank and lots of members of the family work at the bank, including Anne's father. It is not a big bank, but it has made the family rich. However, now the bank is not doing so well.

The Frank family bank is not the only one in trouble. All the banks in Germany are having difficulties, as are all the factories and all the shops. Things are not going well in Germany. The country is in crisis and many people do not have jobs.

But there is something else worrying Anne's parents – Germany's new leader. He is called





*Anne (third from left) and Margot (fourth from right)  
The sisters enjoy playing with the neighbourhood children.*

Adolf Hitler and he hates Jews.  
He blames them for Germany's troubles.  
That is nonsense, of course, but many  
Germans think Hitler is right and that  
the Jews have caused the crisis, so they  
don't like Jews either.

Hitler's supporters are called Nazis, and  
they make life very difficult for the Jews in  
Germany. There are laws against Jews.

Suddenly, many Jews are not allowed to work for the council or as teachers. They lose their jobs. Jewish children are put into separate groups at school, and they are bullied by their classmates. The Frank family, which is Jewish, has difficulties as well.



*Adolf Hitler in Nuremberg, Germany, 1927*

*Hitler's party starts small, but it gets more and more supporters.*