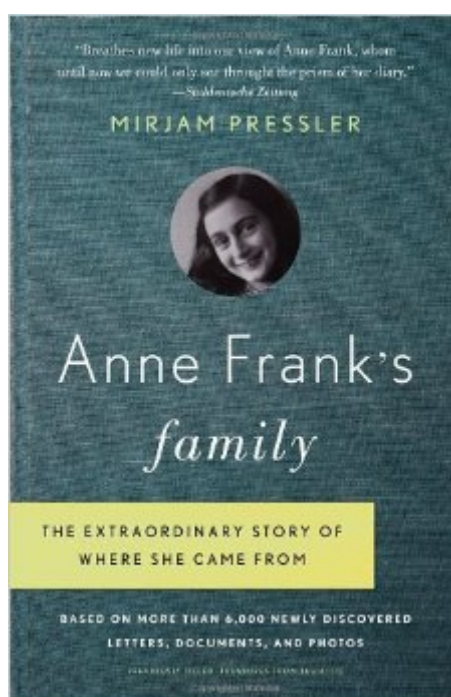


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Anne Frank's Family: The Extraordinary Story Of Where She Came From, Based On More Than 6,000 Newly Discovered Letters, Documents, And Photos



Synopsis

This fascinating history of Anne Frank and the family that shaped her is based on a treasure trove of thousands of letters, poems, drawings, postcards, and photos recently discovered by her last surviving close relative, Buddy Elias, and his wife, Gerti. As children, Anne and her cousin Buddy were very close; he affectionately dubbed her "the Rascal" and they visited and corresponded frequently. Years later, Buddy inherited their grandmother's papers, stored unseen in an attic for decades. These invaluable new materials bring a lost world to life and tell a moving saga of a far-flung but close-knit family divided by unimaginable tragedy. We see Anne's father surviving the Holocaust and searching for his daughters, finally receiving a wrenching account of their last months. We see the relatives in Switzerland waiting anxiously for news during the war and share their experiences of reunion and grief afterwards and their astonishment as Anne's diary becomes a worldwide phenomenon. Anne Frank's Family is the story of a remarkable Jewish family that will move readers everywhere.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mirjam Pressler is a beloved German author, and the award-winning translator of Anne Frank's Diary. She organized these notes and letters and adds in some information about what others of that day would have been doing or wearing or were thinking, so that Treasures from the Attic: The Extraordinary Story of Anne Frank's Family reads as a continuous narrative, not just a series of letters. Gerti and Buddy were additional sources that she used for clarification. At first it was hard for me to get into, especially the audiobook version, because I was trying to make connections and

draw the lines on the family tree, but then I relaxed and let myself enjoy the stories of this warm, loving and silly family, going all the way back into the late 1800's. We learn that other relatives placed importance on keeping a record of their thoughts via a journal. It's grave to consider the likelihood that Anne would never have journaled her time in hiding from the Nazis were it not such a valued habit in the family. After the somewhat slow start (just because it wasn't connected to the time period that I associate with Anne Frank), bits of information about the prejudice against Jews throughout Europe begins to surface. And here's the real irony -- though Jewish by birth, the Frank family was quite secular in practice, even celebrating Christmas as a holiday, and not even attending temple on the high holy days. Less than halfway through brings us to the low point in Otto Frank's life, as we find out that Edith, Anne, and Margot have all died, as we wrote letters and telegrams back home after he and the other concentration camp inmates were freed by Russia (a fact that was new to me).

Have you ever wondered about how much a well-known person is impacted by his or her family? Or have you ever wondered how the renowned person had an impact on his or her family? We see answers to both questions in this book. "Anne Frank's Family" is based on a large number of letters and photographs discovered by Buddy Elias's (Anne's cousin's) wife Gerti in the attic of their home. This work is in three major parts. The first has to do with Anne's paternal grandmother Alice Stern Frank ; the second tells about her aunt Helene Elias, Otto Frank's (Anne's father's) sister. The third part, markedly the longest of the three, is about Buddy Elias, Anne's cousin, who is now the only living relative who actually knew Anne. Readers can see both the impact Anne's family had on her, and her impact on the family. In Anne's diary, we see poetry written for special occasions, such as birthdays. This poetry was obviously a family tradition; we see several more such poems in "Anne Frank's Family." These poems also help readers see where Anne must have gotten the talent to write as well as she did at a young age. But how did young Anne's life impact the lives of her family members? "Anne Frank's Family" shows the great affection and closeness of the members of the Frank family. Anne loved her family, and her family loved her. Her father, after his discovery of her diary, made it his life's work to publish the diary. After Otto Frank's death in 1980, cousin Buddy Elias took over leadership of the Anne Frank Fonds and made carrying on Anne's legacy very important in his life.

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