



Annexed

By Sharon Dogar

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Everyone knows about Anne Frank and her life hidden in the secret annex – but what about the boy who was also trapped there with her?

In this powerful and gripping novel, Sharon Dogar explores what this might have been like from Peter's point of view. What was it like to be forced into hiding with Anne Frank, first to hate her and then to find yourself falling in love with her? Especially with your parents and her parents all watching almost everything you do together. To know you're being written about in Anne's diary, day after day? What's it like to start questioning your religion, wondering why simply being Jewish inspires such hatred and persecution? Or to just sit and wait and watch while others die, and wish you were fighting.

As Peter and Anne become closer and closer in their confined quarters, how can they make sense of what they see happening around them?

Anne's diary ends on August 4, 1944, but Peter's story takes us on, beyond their betrayal and into the Nazi death camps. He details with accuracy, clarity and compassion the reality of day to day survival in Auschwitz – and ultimately the horrific fates of the Annex's occupants.

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Annexed By Sharon Dogar Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—On July 13, 1942, 15-year-old Peter van Pels and his parents entered the attic that became their home for two years. Peter is angry that he is hiding and not fighting Nazis. He is also not happy to be sharing cramped living quarters with the Franks, especially know-it-all Anne. In this novel, Dogar "reimagines" what happened between the families who lived in the secret annex immortalized in Anne Frank's diary. In doing so, she creates a captivating historical novel and fully fleshes out the character of Peter, a boy whom teens will easily relate to. He agonizes over whether he will ever make love to a girl, fights with his parents, sulks, and questions God and religion before finally maturing into a man. While this novel focuses on his adolescent struggles in the face of unthinkable adversity, the most compelling dilemma he faces is figuring out who he is. When Anne accuses him of deserting his people, Peter laments, "I want so many things, but what I need is to know who I am. Because if I don't know that, I can only ever be what they say I am. A Jew." Even in the concentration camp, he fights against being treated as an animal, is angered at being stripped of his name, and regrets that he may not be able to tell his story. But he does, and readers are enlightened and deeply moved as a result. *Annexed* is a superb addition to the Holocaust literature, and should not be missed. *Wendy Scalfaro, G. Ray Bodley High School, Fulton, NY*

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From [Booklist](#)

Joining the growing list of titles based on Anne Frank's diary, this novel is written from the viewpoint of Peter van Pels, who is nearly 16 in 1942 when he and his parents join the Franks in hiding in their Amsterdam attic. Meticulous about distinguishing fact from fiction, the author points out that Anne's view in *The Diary* may have contradicted Peter's story. Here, she irritates him at first, and she invades his privacy in the crowded space. Then he and Anne get closer, flirt, and kiss. Peter asks her not to put their relationship in her diary, which raises a crucial question: What did Anne leave out? Interspersed with Peter's first-person, diary-like accounts of life in hiding are searing reports of his last days in the death camps, where he remembers the attic as he witnesses the horrors at Auschwitz and Mauthausen. With its historical and intimate details, as well as the questions about *The Diary*'s connections and omissions, this moving novel is sure to find a wide YA audience. Grades 8-12. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"While *Annexed* does not depend upon a prior reading of *The Diary of a Young Girl* for interest or understanding, readers of that book will appreciate the opportunity to see Anne Frank's story given a benefit it could not have: hindsight."—*The Horn Book*, **starred review**

"Readers are enlightened and deeply moved....*Annexed* is a superb addition to the Holocaust literature, and should not be missed."—*School Library Journal*, **starred review**

"Showing equal skill in bringing history to life and in capturing the spirit of a young man searching for his identity amid chaos, Dogar has written a novel as provocative as it is devastating."—*Publishers Weekly*, **starred review**

"The lines between written record, educated guess, and fictional construct are fascinatingly blurred here. . .made all the more so when readers consider the role perspective, translation, and editing play in the written

record. The book's skillful synthesis of all these facets should stimulate discussion about the nature of history, fiction, and truth."—*The Bulletin*, **starred review**

"[Annexed] is compassionate and thoughtful, told in a very intimate way. Dogar gets the claustrophobia of the annexe across brilliantly, as it escapes in pointless bickering and petty resentments, but the picture of vital, interesting people with hopes, dreams, loves and ambitions rises equally vividly from the pages. Peter himself is wonderfully drawn: painfully shy, introspective and independent of thought."—*The Book Bag* (UK)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Christine Curnutt:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this Annexed guide written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation Annexed as good book not simply by the cover but also from the content. This is one publication that can break don't ascertain book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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Carmen Annunziata:

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