



A Friend Called Anne

By Jacqueline Van Maarsen

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This is the true story of two best friends, one of whom was Anne Frank. Since their first meeting at school in Amsterdam in September 1941, Jacqueline van Maarsen and Anne Frank were inseparable. Although the anti-Jewish laws meant that there were few activities open to them, the girls still had a lot of fun together. They made a pact: that if one of them had to go away, then they would write the other a letter of farewell. Then, suddenly, Anne disappeared. Shortly after, Jacqueline's own life changed dramatically. Her father was Jewish, but her mother was not, and Mrs van Maarsen was able to persuade the authorities that they were not really Jewish - and so Jacqueline was able to take off the yellow star which all Jews had to wear. Jacqueline van Maarsen gives a fascinating and moving account of her friendship with Anne and the effect of her sudden disappearance. She vividly describes how she and her own family lived through the Nazi occupation and how, at the end of the war, she was finally able to read the promised farewell letter from her very best friend, Anne Frank. Written by Jacqueline van Maarsen and adapted for children by Carol Ann Lee, this will appeal to all the millions of fans of The Diary of Anne Frank.

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Editorial Review

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Gr. 5-8. Lee, who has previously written adult biographies of Anne Frank and her father, as well as a version of the former for children, now offers an edition of van Maarsen's book *My Friend Anne Frank* (1989) rewritten for a younger audience. Van Maarsen, who met Anne Frank in 1941 at the Jewish Lyceum, their school in Amsterdam, became her closest friend. She contributes a short preface to this book, which is followed by an introduction in which Lee describes meeting her in Amsterdam. Still living, van Maarsen survived the war because her mother was successful in having her children taken off the Nazi's Jewish register. Young readers intrigued by Anne Frank will find this a fascinating account of Anne, her family, and her friends before she went into hiding, as well as van Maarsen's life in Holland during and after the German occupation. Reproductions of photos and documents illustrate the book. A time line of events is appended. This absorbing book vividly portrays life in occupied Amsterdam and throws interesting sidelights on Anne Frank's story. *Carolyn Phelan*

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About the Author

JACQUELINE VAN MAARSEN was born in 1929 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Her father was Dutch, her mother French. He was Jewish, she was a Catholic by birth. During the war Jacqueline suffered from the persecution of the Jews. In 1941, at the Jewish High School she met Anne Frank and they became best friends until Anne went into hiding. Since 1989 Jacqueline has been lecturing on Anne Frank and on discrimination in schools, mainly in America and in Germany. She still lives in Amsterdam, is married and has three children and seven grandchildren. CAROL ANN LEE was born in Yorkshire in 1969 and is the author of Anne Frank's Story, a biography for children which has been published in America, UK and Commonwealth and in Europe; the critically acclaimed Roses from the Earth: The Biography of Anne Frank, and The Hidden Life of Otto Frank which have both been published in many different parts of the world. Carol Ann lives in Amsterdam.

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