

It Happened to Nancy

by Anonymous

Fourteen-year-old Nancy meets 18-year-old Collin, a gentle, caring young man who appears to be the answer to her dreams--until he rapes her, leaving her HIV-infected. In spite of her rapid decline, Nancy leads a full, poignantly happy life because of the loving support of both friends and family.

Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood

by Ibtisam Barakat

In this groundbreaking memoir set in Ramallah during the aftermath of the 1967 Six-Day War, Ibtisam Barakat captures what it is like to be a child whose world is shattered by war. With candor and courage, she stitches together memories of her childhood: fear and confusion as bombs explode near her home and she is separated from her family; the harshness of life as a Palestinian refugee.

Under a Red Sky: Memoir of a Childhood in Communist Romania

by [Kaya Leah Molnar] Haya Leah Molnar, née Eva Zimmermann, recalls growing up in Bucharest, Romania, during the 1950s. Though she heard Yiddish and kept Kosher at home, Eva remained unaware of her Jewish heritage. This ignorance protected Eva at her Communist-run school.

Stick Figure: A Diary of My Former Self

by Lori Gottlieb

In the image-conscious world of 1970s Beverly Hills, 11-year-old Lori knows she's different. Instead of trading clothes and dreaming of teen idols like most of her pre-adolescent friends, Lori prefers reading books, writing in her journal and making up her own creative homework assignments. Chronically disapproving of her parents' shallow lifestyle, she challenges their authority and chafes under their constant demands to curb her frank opinions and act more "ladylike". Feeling as though she has lost control over her rapidly changing world, Lori focuses all her concentration on one subject: dieting.

The Year We Disappeared

by Cylin Busby

Cylin and John Busby share the challenges they faced after their family was forced into hiding to protect themselves from a killer who had already shot John, a police officer, and was determined to finish the job.

Behind Enemy Lines

by H.R. DeMallie

Howard DeMallie, a young American pilot, and his crew are forced to bail out of their B-17 airplane over Holland. He is helped by the Dutch underground and imprisoned in a German prisoner of war camp.

Biographies and Memoirs for Teens



The Bite of Mango

by Mariatu Kanara

When Mariatu set out for a neighborhood village in Sierra Leone, she was kidnapped and tortured, and both of her hands cut off. She turned to begging to survive. This heart-rending memoir is a testament to her courage and resilience. Today she is a UNICEF Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict.

Autobiography of a Face

by Lucy Grealy

At age nine, Lucy Grealy was diagnosed with a potentially terminal cancer. When she returned to school with a third of her jaw removed, she faced the cruel taunts of classmates. In this strikingly candid memoir, Grealy tells her story of great suffering and remarkable strength without sentimentality and with considerable wit. Vividly portraying the pain of peer rejection and the guilty pleasure of wanting to be special.

Snow Falling in Spring

by Moying Li

Moying Li is twelve years old when the Cultural Revolution sweeps across China. Studying at a prestigious language school in Beijing, she seems destined for a promising future. But everything changes when student Red Guards orchestrate brutal assaults, violent public humiliations, and forced confessions throughout the country. Struggling to make sense of her crumbling world, she finds sanctuary in literature. But with many schools shut down and most books forbidden, how can she keep her passion for learning alive? – Amazon

Disguised: A Wartime Memoir

by Rita la Fontaine de Clercq Zubli.

With the Japanese army poised to invade their Indonesian island in 1942, Rita la Fontaine's family knew that they and the other Dutch and Dutch-Indonesian residents would soon become prisoners of war. Fearing that twelve-year-old Rita would be forced to act as a "comfort woman" for the Japanese soldiers, the family launched a desperate plan to turn Rita into "Rick," cutting her hair short and dressing her in boy's clothes. Rita's aptitude for languages earned her a position as translator for the commandant of the prisoner camp, and for the next three years she played a dangerous game of disguise while advocating against poor conditions, injustice, and torture.

Simeon's story: An Eyewitness Account of the Kidnapping of Emmett Till

by Simeon Wright

Documents the 1955 kidnapping and murder of teenage Emmett Till as remembered by his cousin, sharing descriptions of life in period Mississippi and how the ensuing murder trial became a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

Episodes: My Life as I See It

by Blaze Ginsberg

Blaze Ginsberg offers a unique view into the mind and life of a high functioning autistic teenager. Inspired by the format of the Internet Movie Database, Ginsberg organizes the events in his life as a collection of episodes. Some of these are ongoing (like Thanksgiving dinners with his family), some are in syndication, and some (his crush on Hillary Duff, for example) have sadly come to an end.

Dove

by Robin Lee Graham

In 1965, 16-year-old Robin Lee Graham began a solo around-the-world voyage from San Pedro, California, in a 24-foot sloop. Five years and 33,000 miles later, he returned to home port with a wife and daughter and enough extraordinary experiences to fill this bestselling book, Dove.

King of the Mild Frontier : An Ill-Advised Autobiography

by Chris Crutcher

Like his novels, Crutcher's autobiography is full of heartbreak, poignancy, and hilarity. Reminiscences of some of his youthful rites of passage are laugh-out-loud funny, such as his humiliating initiation into his high-school athletic club. On a more serious note, he discusses his occasionally rocky relationships with his parents and siblings. He talks openly about his struggles with a bad temper that constantly got him into trouble, how he came to terms with questions about God, how he confronted intolerance, and how he found his own place in the world. - *Booklist*

Almost Lost : The True Story of an Anonymous Teenager's Life on the Streets.

by Anonymous

Sammy, 15, ran away from home in depression and despair, and this is the story of his return to his family and his road to recovery. The book was written from tapes of his therapy sessions. In eight months, he transformed from being a gang member surviving in the streets to the glue that brought his parents together again.