

# WHEN WE FLEW AWAY

ALICE HOFFMAN

Dear Reader,

In the year when I was twelve, I discovered many of the books that have meant the most to me, books that changed my life. The book that affected me more than any other was *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank. It changed the way I looked at the world. It changed the person I was and the person I would become.

Anne Frank's remarkable book opened up a world of grief and sorrow that I had never been told about before, and it also introduced me to the greatest first-person narrator in literature. Anne's voice spoke directly to me in a way no author had before. Despite the cruel ending of her life at the age of fifteen, her diary helped me to see that even when there was evil in the world, even when it was impossible to have hope, it was still possible to be brave. It was possible not to be forgotten and to live on in what you had written. It was possible to have a dream.

I wondered what Anne's life had been like before the diary, and what had caused her to become the writer whose voice spoke for a generation of those whose lives were ruined or ended by the Nazi occupation, a voice that will never allow us to forget what had happened.

I hope you will remember Anne's story as you read my novel.

With best wishes,



Alice Hoffman



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