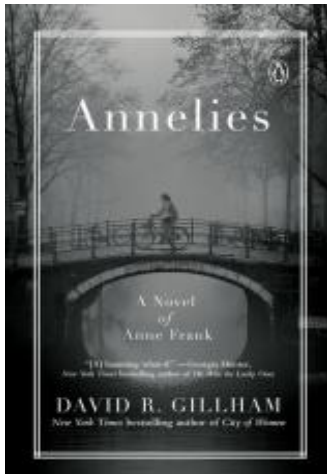


# Annelies: A Novel of Anne Frank

by David R. Gillham

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## About the Book

**From the author of CITY OF WOMEN, a powerful new novel that asks the question: What if Anne Frank survived the Holocaust?**

Anne Frank is a cultural icon whose diary painted a vivid picture of the Holocaust and made her an image of humanity in one of history's darkest moments. But she was also a person --- a precocious young girl with a rich inner life and tremendous skill as a writer. In this masterful new novel, David R. Gillham explores with breathtaking empathy the woman --- and the writer --- she might have become.

## Discussion Guide

1. In *ANNELIES*, Anne and her father, Pim, often have a thorny relationship as they cope with the trauma of surviving the war in different ways. How would you describe their different approaches in attempting to rebuild their lives?
2. Perhaps the most famous passage in Anne Frank's diary concerns her belief that people are basically good at their core. How do you think the novel *ANNELIES* addresses this? Does the fictional character Anne believe this to be true, even after her horrific experiences in the camp?
3. The relationship between the character Anne and the boy Raaf is fraught with contradictions and danger. Why do you think Anne propelled herself into this relationship?
4. How do you think the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* --- "repairing the world" and taking moral responsibility for the welfare of others as well as one's own --- helped Anne repair herself?
5. Anne feels a tremendous amount of guilt surrounding the death of her sister, Margot. Do you think her guilt is

warranted? How well do you think the character Anne resolves her feelings of guilt by the end of the novel?

6. The real Anne Frank has become an international symbol of the loss perpetrated by the Holocaust, and a powerful voice of hope through her diary. In what ways has she become mythologized? Did reading *ANNELIES* change the way you thought about her?

7. *ANNELIES* focuses on how anti-Semitism was still very present in Europe despite the fall of the Nazi regime and the liberation of the camps. Did that surprise you? How is this aspect different from other World War II novels?

8. When you first picked up this book reimagining Anne Frank as having survived the Holocaust, what did you think of that starting place? Did your opinion change after finishing the book?

9. At the end of the book, the author includes a list of fictional letters from readers responding to *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL*. How did you think the young letter writers in the book experienced Anne's diary differently than we do?

10. This novel is based on real people and events. Did knowing that transform your reading experience? Do you read differently when characters are purely fictional?

## Author Bio

David R. Gillham is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *CITY OF WOMEN*, *ANNELIES* and *SHADOWS OF BERLIN*. He studied screenwriting at the University of Southern California before transitioning into fiction. After moving to New York City, Gillham spent more than a decade in the book business, and he now lives with his family in Western Massachusetts.

## Critical Praise

"Gillham is a powerful storyteller, and *ANNELIES* is marbled with spare eloquence that captures the absurdity of life after the camps.... A novel that reminds the world to remember Anne Frank is most welcome."

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### **Annelies: A Novel of Anne Frank**

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