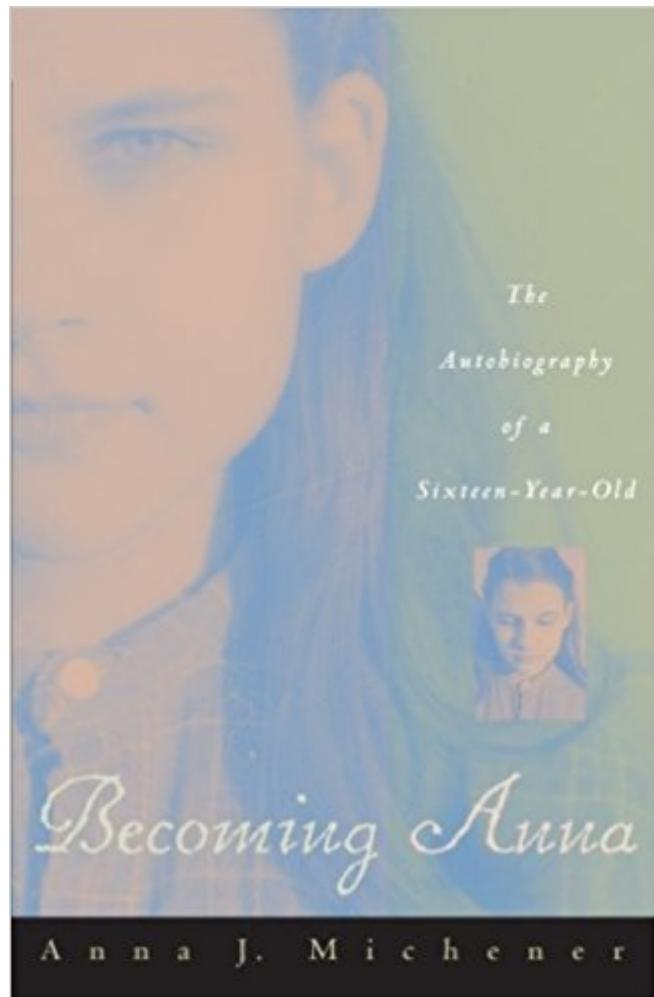


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Becoming Anna



Synopsis

Becoming Anna is the poignant memoir of the first sixteen years in the life of Anna Michener, a young woman who fought a painful battle against her abusive family. Labeled "crazy girl" for much of her childhood, Anna suffered physical and emotional damage at the hands of the adults who were supposed to love and protect her. Committed to various mental institutions by her family, at sixteen Anna was finally able to escape her chaotic home life and enter a foster home. As an effort toward recovery and self-affirmation as well as a powerful plea on behalf of other abused children, Anna wrote this memoir while the experience was fresh and the emotions were still raw and unhealed. Her story is a powerful tale of survival."A teen's raw, in-your-face chronicle of events almost as they were happening. As such, it's unforgettable. . . . Michener's story gives voice to the thousands of children and adolescents trapped in 'the system,' biding their time until their 18th birthdays. A candid and unstinting tell-all." Kirkus Reviews"Extraordinary. . . . Michener's expressive writing does justice to a topic that is clearly very disturbing to her personally and communicates a profoundly important message on behalf of all abused and neglected children." Booklist"An important book, painful to read, but essential if other children in similar situations are to be saved." Library Journal"An innocent child's account of 16 years in hell and of the terrible wrongs inflicted on children who are without rights or caring advocates." Choice"[Michener] emerges as a compelling and courageous advocate for children and their welfareâ "she's a young writer with an extraordinary voice."Feminist Bookstore News"Quite simply one of the best, most compelling, well-written autobiographies published in years. . . . Remember the name. We have not heard the last of Anna Michener." Myree Whitfield, Melbourne Herald-Sun, cover story

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; 1 edition (September 1, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0226524035

ISBN-13: 978-0226524030

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #756,017 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #204 inÂ Books > Politics & Social

Customer Reviews

I am writing to provide some background for the readers of the abovebook, since I feel that I can clarify some matters about which somehave been curious. My wife and I are the old couple mentioned in theepilogue of Anna's book, with whom she has lived on and off forseveral years. Some readers have questioned whether a 16-year-oldcould write so perceptive an account, implying that she was helped byothers. Soon after she came to our house, she sat down at thecomputer and started writing. At first we did not know what she waswriting, although soon she said she was writing the story of her life. She told us a lot about her past, probably everything in her book, butthe written product we did not see. Rarely, when was pleased withsomething she had written, she would read a few pages to us, but wedid not have a chance to read the whole thing until it was beingsubmitted to the press. She worked nearly every day, sometimes forlong hours, and was very proud of having finished before her 17thbirthday, but then it was 500 typewritten pages long. In thefollowing year, still without accepting advice from us, she cut itdown to 250 pages. Early in her stay with us, of course we wonderedabout her stories and the accuracy of her recollections. We got a copy of the records from the institution where she spent about a year. We found no inconsistancies; she tells the truth. Nothing bad was saidabout her in the records except by way of her mother's accounts. Somehave wondered how she could remember accurately all the things thatshe reports.

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