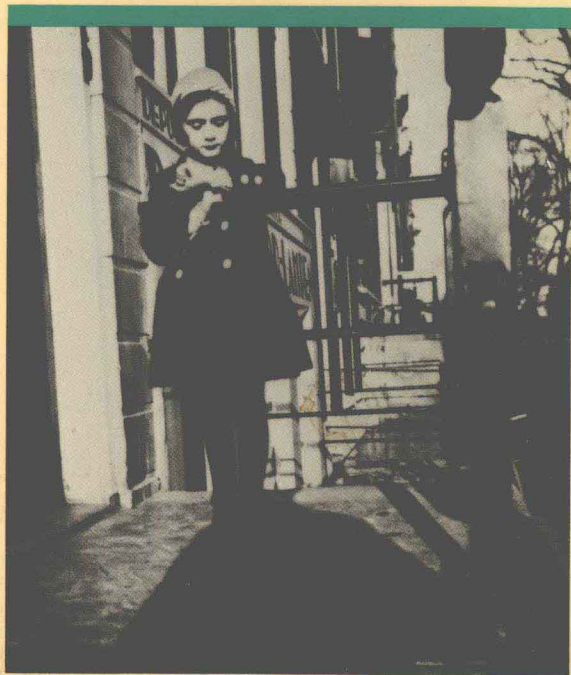


A · N · N · E
F · R · A · N · K

remembered



THE STORY OF THE WOMAN WHO
HELPED TO HIDE THE FRANK FAMILY

M I E P G I E S

WITH ALISON LESLIE GOLD

ANNE FRANK
REMEMBERED

*The Story of the Woman
Who Helped to Hide
the Frank Family*

Miep Gies
with Alison Leslie Gold

SIMON AND SCHUSTER
NEW YORK

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“Monday, 8 May 1944

*It seems as if we are never
far from Miep’s thoughts. . . .”*

ANNE FRANK



NORTH SEA

*AMSTERDAM

THE NETHERLANDS

←ENGLAND

GERMANY

BELGIUM

1:2.400.000

THE NETHERLANDS

PROLOGUE

I am not a hero. I stand at the end of the long, long line of good Dutch people who did what I did or more—much more—during those dark and terrible times years ago, but always like yesterday in the hearts of those of us who bear witness. Never a day goes by that I do not think of what happened then.

More than twenty thousand Dutch people helped to hide Jews and others in need of hiding during those years. I willingly did what I could to help. My husband did as well. It was not enough.

There is nothing special about me. I have never wanted special attention. I was only willing to do what was asked of me and what seemed necessary at the time. When I was persuaded to tell my story, I had to think of the place that Anne Frank holds in history and what her story has come to mean for the many millions of people who have been touched by it. I'm told that every night when the sun goes down, somewhere in the world the curtain is going up on the stage play made from Anne's diary. Taking into consideration the many printings of *Het Achterhuis* ("The Annex")—published in English as *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*—and the many translations that have been made of Anne's story, her voice has reached the far edges of the earth.

My collaborator, Alison Leslie Gold, said that people would respond to my remembrances of how these sad events all happened. Since everyone else is now dead, there remain only my husband and me. I am writing of these events as I remember them.

In keeping with the spirit of the original version of Anne's diary, I have chosen to continue using some of the names that Anne invented for many of the persons involved. Anne made up a list of pseudonyms which was found among her papers. Apparently she intended to disguise the identities of people in case anything of her hiding experiences was published after the war. For example, my nickname is Miep, a very common Dutch nickname that Anne didn't bother to change. My husband's name, Jan, Anne changed to "Henk." And our last name, Gies, became "Van Santen."

When the diary was first published, Mr. Frank decided to use Anne's names for everyone other than his own family, out of respect for people's privacy. For reasons of consistency with Anne's diary, as well as privacy, I have done the same, using either variations of Anne's made-up names or names I've made up for some people not mentioned in Anne's diary. The notable exception is that this time I have used my real last name, Gies. The true identities of all these people are carefully documented in the official archives of the Netherlands.

In some instances, more than fifty years have passed, and many details of events recorded in this book are half-forgotten. I have reconstituted conversations and events as closely as possible to the way I remember them. It is not easy to recall these memories in such detail. Even with the passing of time, it does not get easier.

My story is a story of very ordinary people during extraordinarily terrible times. Times the like of which I hope with all my heart will never, never come again. It is for all of us ordinary people all over the world to see to it that they do not.

MIEP GIES