



It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary

By Anonymous Teenager

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The editor of the classic GO ASK ALICE has compiled the poignant journals of a 14-year-old date-rape victim who contracted AIDS and died.

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Editorial Review

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Gr. 7-12. Fourteen-year-old Nancy, an asthmatic, 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, explained in a note at the beginning of the book, as the result of her weakened immune system, Nancy leads a full, poignantly happy life because of the loving support of both friends and family.

It Happened to Nancy follows the YA-enticing diary format seen years ago in *Go Ask Alice*, which also was edited by Sparks. And the same reservations remain. Is this really a teen's diary, or is it Sparks' attempt to convey the reality of adolescent susceptibility to HIV/AIDS in a format that will impact YA readers? Does the occasional place lapse (the Arizona time zone is earlier than South Carolina's) reflect editing sloppiness while Sparks was changing both names and places for privacy, or a fiction writer's lack of focus? There is no way of knowing. Although this is frustrating for adults who monitor the children's/YA field, it's doubtful that it will make much difference to the book's intended audience. YAs will devour this book just as they did its predecessor. Nancy's initial "love" relationship with Collin, her subsequent date rape, and the terror of her diagnosis will be real to teenagers, especially girls. And Nancy's support network is truly educational. Adolescents crave the kind of friends who stand behind Nancy throughout her ordeal (she even has a boyfriend!), as well as the loving relationship she has with both her parents, divorced but determined to work together during this tragedy.

Sparks provides additional educational information at the end of the book, "Questions Nancy Wanted Answered About Rape and AIDS," a good thing, since Nancy asked her diary several questions without providing their answers in the body of the text. Parts of the book are graphic: Nancy worries about blood from her menstrual cycles, how to dispose of her tampons, and how to deal with her rectal ulcers, a common manifestation of AIDS. And, of course, she dies--the ultimate AIDS inevitability--unlike what happens in so many other books about teens and AIDS, both fiction and nonfiction. She progresses from happy-go-lucky junior-high-school student to AIDS patient to death in a spiral that will hold YAs' attention, without the didacticism of so many message-inherent titles. In spite of its flaws, Nancy's diary should be on our shelves.

Frances Bradburn

Review

"I Love Nancy, I love her still, and hope you will not only love Nancy but appreciate her decision to make her most private thoughts and experiences public, in the hope of helping you better understand AIDS."--
Doctor B

About the Author

Beatrice Sparks is a family and adolescent therapist who edited the diary that formed the basis for *Go Ask Alice*, and has since edited many diaries on topics such as gangs, AIDS, and teen pregnancy in the 1988 *Annie's Baby*. She lives in Provo, UT.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patsy Marshall:

Reading a book tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world could share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire all their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the publications. But also they write about the information about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors these days always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write on their book. One of them is this It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary.

Alta Valentin:

This It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary is great book for you because the content which is full of information for you who also always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it details accurately using great coordinate word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but hard core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary in your hand like having the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no reserve that offer you world within ten or fifteen second right but this publication already do that. So , this is certainly good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that?

Gregory Phipps:

Is it you actually who having spare time in that case spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary can be the answer, oh how comes? A book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a geek activity. So what these textbooks have than the others?

Lisa Saxon:

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