



Anna's Story

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Anna Wood was only 15 years old when she went to a party, took an ecstasy tablet and died from the consequences. The Australian Medical Association launched the Anna Wood Drug and Alcohol Education Project. This book, supported by Anna's family and friends, endorses the AMA initiative.

Anna's Story Details

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From Reader Review Anna's Story for online ebook

Julie scott says

I still remember wen this tragedy happened n how sad n horrible i felt 4 the family wen Anna died. The heartwrenching story of Anna a young n beautiful 15 yr old girl with a loving family n many friends. Anna was also abt 2 leave school 2 start her dream job until a nite out with her friends @ a dance party took a ectasy tablet became violently ill & died 3 days later!!!

Colleen Foldy says

Every teenager should read this book

Narelle Thomas blessington says

A book of which I have much connection to.....I am a local girl, having also attended Forest High, completing school 6 years earlier in 1989. I grew up in the area, with the belief that children on the North Shore are 'immune' to drugs and no harm could come our way. But Anna'a Story highlights the fact it can happen, regardless of age, status etc.

I enjoyed the book, ironically the first day I read it (the parents chapter),it happened to be Anna's 30th birthday. The book may appear dry in sections, due to its statistical nature, but the chapter outlining Anna's final hours is harrowing.

Perhaps the book may appear 'dated', but as a mother of 16 year old girl right now, the book serves as a sounding board of advice.

A tragic story.

Hannah says

I found this book somewhat cliched. I was expecting more of the story of Anna's life and death, not a lecture on how important it is to talk to your children and "just say no". It had altogether too preachy a tone for me to actually enjoy.

Andrea says

We've all heard the story, read the newspapers, etc etc.

It's all too familiar and somewhat rather obvious and yet often it is the familiar, the obvious and that which stares us right in the face that we never seem able to completely grasp the concept of or gain an insightful understanding into

Parents talk to your children, nurture and cherish your relationships with your babies as they grow through childhood and their teenage years on their way to becoming young adults.

Communication, Communication, Communication and perhaps just perhaps another tragedy like the one that fell upon Anna Wood and her family (and countless others) could be avoided.

Somebody please remove the soap box before I get too carried away on this one !!

Christian says

I read this book when I was about 21 and I'll never forget how angry it made me feel.

It is just an awfully patronizing and misinformative book for a young person to read.

I remember there being a chapter addressed specifically to kids, where the author tells young people that they "should know better" than their parents' generation, to avoid drugs altogether, now that we have "better information".

And then, because this book was rushed out (to capitalize on media hype) before Ms Wood's autopsy results had been finalized, the author actually rules out, with an incorrect scientific explanation, what eventually became known as her official cause of death.

I just hope there have been better books written since that might express some insight into why a normal teenager would take party drugs.

Eloise says

I had to read Anna's Story in my year 10 English Literature class. It is a non-fiction text surrounding the tragic death of 15 year old, Anna Wood in 1995, due to her consumption of an ecstasy tablet. As well as personal accounts from Anna's family and friends, the book also contains information aimed at parents and kids about drugs. Statistics and information in relation to teenagers, their use of drugs, and the effects provide a scientific edge to the book. While interesting however, I found the book to be poorly constructed and quite heavy to read. Perhaps its relevance was partially lost on me, as Anna was my age nearly twenty years ago, and the societal context is much different now. Overall, it probably was an extremely informative book in 1996, but now is just a sad story.

Farah says

I wouldn't normally read or even pick up this type of book but I am glad I did. This book was a very lovely read, it really opened my eyes to a lot of issues and events that are happening today.. I can say I learnt a lot from this book. I really liked how this book was presented, we got to see the point of views of various people which I really liked. This book is defiantly a part biographical part informative text. I am very happy I got to the chance to read this.

Erin says

I read the book Anna's Story by Bronwyn Donaghy for my 2nd quarter book project. This story is about a

girl named Anna who took an ecstasy tablet at a party and died three days later. The book also speaks about the lives of her loved ones and how they coped with her death. I believe the author's purpose for writing this book was to inform preteens and teenagers about the dangers of drugs. Another purpose could be to explain that the consequences of one's choices not only affect them, but also everyone around them.

The theme of this book is choices. In this book, Anna made the choice to take an ecstasy tablet. In the end, her choice not only ended up costing her her life, but it made everything harder on the people around her. This teaches the readers to think before doing and to make smart choices.

This book is a description. The story starts off telling about Anna's life before the ecstasy tablet. It skips around and tells the story from many different perspectives such as Anna's father and many of her friends. It explains their thoughts and feelings of the whole situation, and how it influenced their lives after Anna's death. The book also has a lot of information pertaining to drugs. It includes the bad things that they can do to you, and what precautions to take if someone has taken an ecstasy tablet.

Over all I really enjoyed this book. It has definitely scared me away from drugs forever. I would recommend this book to anyone who is thinking of taking an ecstasy tablet to remind them of the horrible consequences that may follow. One thing that I did not like about this book was how much time the author spent talking about random facts about ecstasy. I'm sure it may help some people, but the whole 'drug lesson' in the middle of the story didn't really hold my attention.

Ngairé says

I first read this book as set reading in year 12. The story stuck with me and 10 years later I found a copy and decided to read it again. I could not finish it. Anna's story is tragic, and it certainly sounds like she was an amazing young woman, but this book does not do her justice. It's a badly written cautionary tale aimed at keeping kids away from drugs. It was obviously well meaning, but as the book demonstrated, sometimes no matter what you do, no matter how perfect everything seems, teenagers will always take risks like this. I was hoping (both in year 12 and now) that this book would be a biography of a young Australian woman who young girls could relate to and learn from, but instead it's a series of interviews about a 'perfect child' centered around a barely veiled and clumsy "don't do drugs kids or this could happen to you". To be honest, teenagers are smarter than this, and can see through this message in a heartbeat. An authentic story would have had more of an impact.

Sylvia says

Anna was just fifteen. She was leaving school to start the job of her dream. She was beautiful, she had a loving family and countless friends. Yet on 21 October 1995, Anna Wood took an ecstasy tablet at a dance party and died three days later. A life destroyed, a family devastated, a community in shock.

A very good book. Shows what drugs can do to ordinary people just like us.

Anne says

Frightening is the only word for this story. A beautiful young girl gone too soon all because of drugs and that need to fit in, belong and get high.

Tragic for the parents, sadness for the friends and hopefully a full realisation that it can happen to you or someone you know at some point, maybe not today or tomorrow but it can and it does.

I loved the fact that Anna's sister is non proactive with teens and drugs, if only there had been someone before Anna's death doing what her sister is now perhaps her life would not have been lost.

Its a eye opening book for all parents and a definite must read.

Emma Dance says

I read this book while I was the same age as Anna and I was so scary about all the things happening in her life were so similar to mine. even though it was like 20 years ago it made me realise how easy it is to do these things. This book has scared me out of even thinking about doing drugs and put a lot in perspective. I thought it served its purpose well and encourages people to talk about this touchy subject before it's to late.

Taleah21 says

Bronwyn has positioned the central character, Anna, is highly positive light in order to highlight her own message which was dominant throughout the story. Very anti-drugs and biased.

Sabrina Rutter says

This book is a real eye opener for parents who like to think that they have provided the perfect home life. Even kids with great lives can get caught up in in the taking of drugs.

It's sad to say Anna was just beginning to experiment with drugs. No one will ever know for sure if she would have went on to become a common user or if she would have dabbled and moved on.

This book was more of an interview with Anna's family and friends. Certain parts were information on how to help your kids be more aware of the dangers in taking drugs and the effects that drugs have on your body. I think this book would be a great one for people to have their teens read. So many kids experiment with drugs because they see their friends doing it so they feel there is nothing dangerous about it. Unfortunately drugs effect everybody differently and in this sad case one little tablet ended a life that was just begining.
