On June 12, 1942, a young girl received a diary for her 13th birthday. The gift was given during one of the most turbulent and bloody chapters in modern history. Just a decade before, a terrifying force had been unleashed in Germany.

The Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler, took power and began to systematically persecute the German Jewish population. It was really very scary to go out in the street to do your shopping, and many, many people disappeared. Many, many were arrested. Forced immigration, imprisonment and murder were becoming daily threats for Jews.

And as World War II broke out and Hitler gained more and more territory in Europe, those Jews who fled persecution found themselves under threat once again, unable to escape.

After several weeks and months, the measures against the Jewish population started to bite.

She was not allowed to go into parks. She was not allowed to go to the movies. She was not allowed to use public transport, which was a very visible measure, also in terms of the persecution of the Jews.

The girl in receipt of the diary was Anne Frank, a young German Jew who had fled with her family from Frankfurt in 1933, but now found herself trapped in occupied Amsterdam.

For some, she's a victim. For some, she is a source of inspiration. For some, she is a brilliant writer. As she put pen to paper to record her experience, she could never have envisioned that would lead to one of the most well-known works of literature the world has ever seen.

People said, well, who is interested in the diary of a young girl? Nor could she have realized that it would also be the document to a harrowing and ultimately tragic story of persecution inflicted on a child who would become the symbol of millions of others.

It's a remarkable fact that a book has been able to inspire so many people in so many different ways. Through her, of course, the world is learning about what has happened.

The story of Eva Schloss, also an immigrant to Amsterdam, would run in parallel to that of Anne Frank. She could not have imagined however, how inextricably their lives would be linked.

One day a little girl came to me and introduced herself. And she said it was Anne Frank.

Separately, Eva and Anne would spend two years hiding from the constant threat of the Nazis. These two young girls would share similar experiences, but their lives would have very different outcomes.

There were one and 1/2 million children murdered, but if you talk about that, people can't imagine. So Anne has become the symbol for all those one and 1/2 million victims.

Eva survived to tell her story, but the legacy Anne Frank would end up having a global impact. In the holocaust, Anne has become the most important victim actually.
Anne was born to a German Jewish family. Her father's family had lived in Frankfurt for seven generations. They were culturized, they were very settled in Frankfurt. Her mother was Edith Hollander, also from a Jewish family.

Anne's father was Otto Frank, seventh generation German Jew, who had actually fought in the First World War and had been decorated with the Iron Cross.

Three years before Anne was born, her sister Margot was born. Anne was born on the 12th of June, 1929. She was a pretty normal girl growing up in a German family. Their lives were very much like kids live their lives today, playing in the street, going to birthday parties. A very normal childhood.

In 1933 the Nazi party seized power in Germany. Hitler's anti-semitism meant that Jewish persecution was implemented immediately, and the very normal childhood experienced by Anne and thousands of other Jewish children in Germany would be changed forever.

She came with her family to the Netherlands in the beginning of 1934.

The Nuremberg Laws were introduced and life became increasingly difficult for German Jewish families.

All books of Jewish authors are ordered burned in the public squares. Authors, scientists, artists are driven from Germany. 16,000 have fled to Holland. 12,000 to France, 1,200 to Spain, 3,000 to Czechoslovakia.

The Franks chose to move to Holland, and in 1934 arrived in Amsterdam.

Otto knew people in the city, and went originally himself to see if he could find work, start a business, which he did.

Anne and Margot both enrolled in Dutch schools and both seemed to adapt well to life in Amsterdam.

Basically, she was raised as a Dutch girl in the'30s, went to school. She was fond of reading. She read a lot of books.

She was actually quite precocious though for a 13-year-old and quite self-absorbed. She was the chatterbox in the class and always getting into trouble with the teacher.

The family quickly settled into their new surroundings. The Netherlands became their home and a normal life could once again be resumed.

Transcript from: The Diary of Anne Frank: A Tale of Two Sisters, Films on Demand.