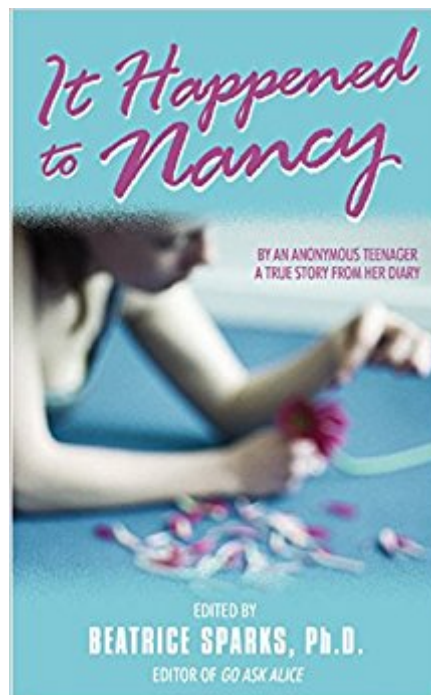




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It Happened To Nancy: By An Anonymous Teenager, A True Story From Her Diary



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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

"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

I just received the book today when I got home from school! The only difference is it looks small than the picture shown & it says "edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph.D.. Hopefully it is the true story of her actual diary! I can't wait to read it!!

I bought this for my daughter and she loved it I guess it's a true story which makes it even better

This book is a good book because it is the harsh reality of our everyday life all of our youth should read this book. Protect yourself!!!! Be sure the people you hang around have good intentions!!! Get tested every year if you have engaged in sex!!!

I wish this were a fiction book, I really do. This diary of a 14 year old girl who was not only raped but left with the HIV virus is gut-wrenching. This poor girl had her life taken away from her before it really ever started. The fact that it's a true story makes it all the harder to read. I felt so bad for Nancy and was close to tears more than a few times during the course of the book. She goes from depression to happiness, trying to fight off the Virus, and sometimes even mentally convincing herself she can do it, other times she just wants to die. It's a look into the mind of a young teenage girl that has to go through something no one at any age deserves to go through. Her budding romance with a different boy her age was probably the hardest to read, as both she and I knew her

talk of growing old with him and having his children, which would never happen, since some older guy decided to rape her. I feel for Nancy, and anyone else going through the same situation, this book was a real eye-opener. This book isn't just for teenage girls either, I'm a 24 year old guy and still found this book to be an excellent experience. Do yourself a favor and read this book, you'll be a better person because of it.

Although I blew through this book in a couple hours, I wouldn't say it was because it was so good I couldn't put it down. The idea is intriguing: to hear a personal account of a young girl with a shocking disease, but I felt I couldn't connect with Nancy. I read a few reviews eluding to the fact this may be fake, so maybe that tarnished my view. I just felt like I was grasping for more...more substance, perspectives, reality? The only moment of true emotion to be honest is with an animal towards the end. Ok beach reading maybe, but there's a lot better out there.

I truly loved this book, though it left me sobbing more than once. Great for teens and parents to read, makes you see how naive young girls can be, which in turn makes you want to try and protect them even more and listen to them and be more involved in their lives especially if you are a parent or have young impressionable people in your life who you love dearly.

My daughter actually recommended this book to me, I feel so sad for young girls that have to deal with issues like this.

I purchased this book for my 14 year old niece. I read the book before giving it to her. This book brought back many memories for me on just how tough it is to be a teenager and how you feel and think as a teen. It is written from the diary of a 14 year old that is date raped and gets AIDS. The book is very real and makes one see just how scary the dangers are in this world not only for teens but all of us. It is a great example of how anyone can get AIDS. The book is very, very sad and at times hard to read because of the sadness. I greatly admire this girl's family for making their daughter's painful journey available to others. I hope all that read this book can learn from it as I have. I think this would please the young lady that this book is about very much. As this book shows this young lady was such a special person although I don't think she realized just how special that she was. If you are a parent you should read this book. If you are a teen you should read this book. If you are a human being you should read this book. I will never forget this book, its message and especially the young lady that wrote about her short life in her diary.

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