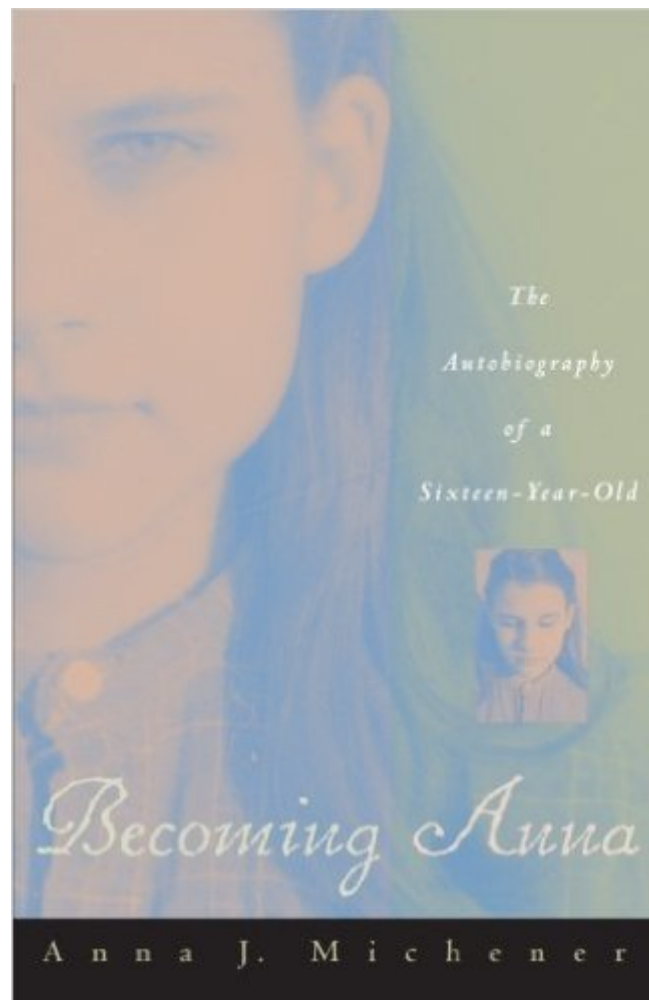


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# Becoming Anna



## Synopsis

Becoming Anna is the poignant memoir of the first sixteen years in the life of Anna Michener, a young woman who fought a painful battle against her abusive family. Labeled "crazy girl" for much of her childhood, Anna suffered physical and emotional damage at the hands of the adults who were supposed to love and protect her. Committed to various mental institutions by her family, at sixteen Anna was finally able to escape her chaotic home life and enter a foster home. As an effort toward recovery and self-affirmation as well as a powerful plea on behalf of other abused children, Anna wrote this memoir while the experience was fresh and the emotions were still raw and unhealed. Her story is a powerful tale of survival."A teen's raw, in-your-face chronicle of events almost as they were happening. As such, it's unforgettable. . . . Michener's story gives voice to the thousands of children and adolescents trapped in 'the system,' biding their time until their 18th birthdays. A candid and unstinting tell-all."â "Kirkus Reviews"Extraordinary. . . . Michener's expressive writing does justice to a topic that is clearly very disturbing to her personally and communicates a profoundly important message on behalf of all abused and neglected children."â "Booklist"An important book, painful to read, but essential if other children in similar situations are to be saved."â "Library Journal"An innocent child's account of 16 years in hell and of the terrible wrongs inflicted on children who are without rights or caring advocates."â "Choice"[Michener] emerges as a compelling and courageous advocate for children and their welfareâ "she's a young writer with an extraordinary voice."Feminist Bookstore News"Quite simply one of the best, most compelling, well-written autobiographies published in years. . . . Remember the name. We have not heard the last of Anna Michener."â "Myree Whitfield, Melbourne Herald-Sun, cover story

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am writing to provide some background for the readers of the abovebook, since I feel that I can clarify some matters about which some have been curious. My wife and I are the old couple mentioned in the epilogue of Anna's book, with whom she has lived on and off for several years. Some readers have questioned whether a 16-year-old could write so perceptive an account, implying that she was helped by others. Soon after she came to our house, she sat down at the computer and started writing. At first we did not know what she was writing, although soon she said she was writing the story of her life. She told us a lot about her past, probably everything in her book, but the written product we did not see. Rarely, when she was pleased with something she had written, she would read a few pages to us, but we did not have a chance to read the whole thing until it was being submitted to the press. She worked nearly every day, sometimes for long hours, and was very proud of having finished before her 17th birthday, but then it was 500 typewritten pages long. In the following year, still without accepting advice from us, she cut it down to 250 pages. Early in her stay with us, of course we wondered about her stories and the accuracy of her recollections. We got a copy of the records from the institution where she spent about a year. We found no inconsistencies; she tells the truth. Nothing bad was said about her in the records except by way of her mother's accounts. Some have wondered how she could remember accurately all the things that she reports.

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