



My Secret Diary

Jacqueline Wilson , Nick Sharratt (Illustrator)

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A wonderfully written and engaging memoir of Jacqueline Wilson's life as a teenager - her problems with her family, first love, her school life and her friends. Read extracts from her real secret teenage diaries and the stories she wrote as a teenager, to build up a fascinating picture of a real teenager and her inner life. Covering issues as diverse as the songs she danced to and the way she created beehive hairdos to her troubled school life and her parents' problematic relationship.

This follows on from the massive success of Jacky Daydream, her first memoir. Written in Jacqueline's usual and inimitable style, this will be fascinating reading for her fans, and for anyone who's interested in life in the UK in the Fifties and Sixties.

My Secret Diary Details

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Author : Jacqueline Wilson , Nick Sharratt (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review My Secret Diary for online ebook

Tori says

It was a wonderful book and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Wilson painted a clear and vibrant picture of teenage life during the 1960s. The Diary entries from her childhood gave the book added depth and really engaged me as a reader. A great book for both adults and children alike.

For a more detailed review please visit my blog on the link below.

<http://myreadinglifebookreviews.blogs...>

Stella says

Quite good. It is a book that has some parts from her diary and she then writes about how she thinks of them now that she is a grown woman. I think it is a good book for people in year five and six.

Felicity says

This was the perfect book to read when I was off work with the sickness bug.

I loved Jacky Daydream and re-read it before I read My Secret Diary. This book covers Jackie's years at junior school and goes up to when she is 14. It uses a lot of her diary entries and she makes fun of her teenage self with many dry anecdotes.

This was an easy read which made me laugh out loud in places and remembered the awkwardness of being a teenager. I don't think she was any sillier over boys than most of us at that age and I would love to read more of her autobiographies. Hint hint!

Michelle Disha says

I read this book because I'm a big fan of Jacqueline Wilson writings; and decided to buy this since I would love to know her personal life more, what she was like when was a teenager. And this book turned out just okay for me. There are times that I just want to put it on shelf and continue reading like a week later, because the story was not more interesting than her usual children books. But if we consider this as a diary/journal not a story book yet it actually is, Jacq's life was pretty incredible back to nowadays. The best thing in this book for me would be the knowledge I got about 60's teenager lifestyle & stuff from this book. However, if you're a fan you'll enjoy reading this. Jacq pulled this book as best as she can to be interesting to read. Well, she nailed it. The book is as hilarious as the title 'Dating, Dancing, Dreams, and Dilemmas' :)

p.s. its my first review!sorry for bad and boring writing haha

The Styling Librarian says

I normally read an author's work before jumping into an autobiography about them, but since I saw over 20 copies of Jacqueline Wilson's books get checked out over a three day period in my new library, I figured that I'd appreciate a glimpse at the author's life before reading a few of her books. So far, I'm enjoying the book- Only from her life when she was 14 though.

I admit it, I slogged through this book. I think I might have found a little too much of my own childhood connections within the pages... where you're a little too ignorant and boy crazy to pay attention to the more important things around you. This was quite the honest story and I really appreciated the glimpse back at life in 1960 in England. It was a fascinating book and portions of it made me laugh loudly. Others made me wince, especially Jacqueline Wilson's experiences with teachers at her school. This is much more of a high school book vs. elementary. There were various scenes that made me wonder if it should be pulled and put into the professional collection. Still reflecting on that...

Yolanda says

Alright, if you like that sort of thing.

As part of the reading challenge over the summer at my school, we are encouraged to read a book that takes us out of our comfort zones. I chose this one because I don't like chick lit and am not fond of Jacqueline Wilson's work, but am well aware that it's immensely popular with young girls (and some boys) and also the reasons why. In fact, I enjoyed reading this a lot more than Wilson's normal books, but think that might be because of a personal interest in history. To be honest, this book is basically a lowest common denominator description of a 1960s childhood if your parents were married and from a lower middle class or comfortable working class background, with the one caveat that I'm pretty sure her dad suffered from depression. Hundreds of thousands of families lived just like the Aitkens (as they were) and as a representation of that, this is basically a time capsule in literary form. For me, books like this have to exist so that novels covering the more unusual family or young lives of the time can actually be compared with something.

The main standout thing is clearly that Wilson was born a talented writer and developed her talent still further by hard work and reading widely, and her adolescent diaries already show this. I think it's important for teen girls to read this so they can understand how they can achieve their dreams. Maybe it's just me being a bitter cynic, though, but I'm going to pose the question - could Wilson have done any of this if she hadn't been a baby boomer and thus born at the right time to take advantage of the chances of a changing society? As the book mentions, 'Jackie' teen magazine was named after her - an astonishing achievement. These days, these kind of chances tend to exist online if at all - and if they exist in the world of physical print, it's normally because you know someone.

One point I was interested to read was that Wilson is quite dismissive of fantasy novels, and also was when she was a teenager. As she rightly points out, adolescent fiction (which is actually a misnomer because adolescence lasts from 12-23, ho hum) hasn't really existed as a genre for very long. What did use to exist

was incredibly patronising and filled with two-dimensional characters. I read fantasy novels a lot as a teenager, interspersed with very heavy-going adult fiction and factual books, because they offered a glimpse into an 'other' adult world where the same problems existed, but they were dealt with via magic or religion etc. From this book, I have the overwhelming sense that Wilson would not fully understand this or would not have understood it at the time. She also disliked adventure stories (which I loved and love, due to their expanded horizons beyond the humdrum existence of the home) and basically preferred kitchen sink dramas - apparently, though her favourite novel as a teen was *Gone with the Wind*, which obviously IS an adventure story as well as being a document of war and a bodice-ripper. This is a literal print confirmation that books like hers aren't aimed at 'people like me.' Which is absolutely fascinating.

Georgia says

I REMEMBER STAYING UP ALL NIGHT READING THIS.

It was my first book that interest and fascinated me...

****EX CLAIMER**

SORRY it's not a review, especially by one sentence but seriously any teenager, youngsters out there willing or wanting to read this. JUST PLEASE do, It's amazing, so worth it and super adventurous. I loved her writing and she's the queen of children books also 'THE' best author ever. Duh ;)

If you're not British then you'll still love it too, some places you won't know but seriously-yy, great book or let me say Diary, I sound so cheesy aha.

Thanks to my friend (A totally bookworm, who had every book of hers)

Alsie says

I learnt lots more about Jacqueline. It has her diary entries she wrote, boys, her family, holidays and even one of her stories she wrote at fourteen. I hope there's one about when she was an adult. It did have 'to be continued' at the end!

Emily Lavender says

This book was great, but Jacqueline Wilson wrote a lot of better books.

Molly says

This was a nice re-read of one of my favorite books back when I was younger, Jacqueline Wilson was my

undisputed number one author when I was 8-13ish and even now I still find that her books are fun to re-read.

This is her 2nd book that is about her own life growing up, the first being Jacky Daydream which follows her from birth to around age 11 I think.

I love this, it's such a nice cosy read and it's nice reading about life as a young adult during the 1960's.

I'm also still pining for a follow up book to this that follows her next few years. *cough cough* :D

Emily says

I have read this many times! As a childhood inspiration, Jacqueline Wilson's book on her life as an early teenager was engaging and insightful. Even though the audience is not my age, I still enjoy it every time I read it. Defiantly recommend!

Blatant Witch says

Even though it may seem like a juvenile read, my teenager-self enjoyed it immensely.

Lucy Dawson says

Not as good as her first autobiography.

Den says

I'd forgotten this was part of her series of books which make up her 'dairy' entries. I did like the way, she showed her teenage entry and then expanded on it but it didn't engage me like her story books and I found it hard to keep going at times.

Amy says

Is now my favourite book- amazing recount of a fabulous authors life and an interesting insight into the past.
