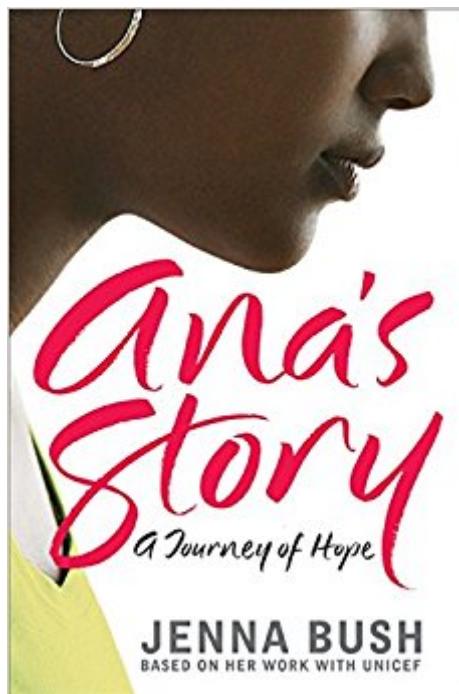


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# Ana's Story: A Journey Of Hope



## **Synopsis**

Jenna Bush, daughter of President George W. and Mrs. Laura Bush, shares the poignant story of a 17-year-old single mother living with HIV in Latin America - an inspiring story of strength and survival.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 304 pages

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## **Customer Reviews**

First Daughter Jenna Bush worked as an intern with UNICEF throughout Latin America, and in her first book, she focuses on the life of a young woman she befriended during her travels. Infected with HIV/AIDS at birth, Ana loses both parents to the disease. After suffering abuse at relatives' homes, she finds a caring center for those living with HIV/AIDS, where she falls in love and eventually gets pregnant. Her child is born without the virus, and at the story's close, Ana has found a peaceful home where she can plan a new life for herself and her baby. The pace is brisk: chapters are only a few pages long, and the accessible language and simple sentences will pull reluctant readers. A few jarring passages point to Bush's outsider's view (a comparison between Ana and "the exotic subjects in Gauguin's Tahiti paintings" stands out), but the wrenching story, illustrated with a few photos, effectively sends an urgent message: too many children are unsafe and burdened by secrets. Classroom-ready resources include discussion questions and suggestions for volunteering.

Engberg, Gillian

Ana's Story: A Journey of Hope is a work of narrative nonfiction based on Jenna's experiences while interning for UNICEF and documenting lives of children and

teens she encountered through her work. The book focuses on Ana, a teenage single mother who is bravely living with, rather than dying from, HIV. Ana's determination has allowed her to overcome abuse and abandonment and fight for an education and a better future for her child. Inspired by the framework of one girl's life, it is also the story of many children around the world who are marginalized and excluded from basic care, support, and education. Jenna Bush sends a message of hope, inclusion and survival, and calls for youth involvement in helping other young people triumph over adversity. The book features approximately 45 full color photographs taken by Mia Baxter, Jenna's friend and fellow UNICEF intern, as well as detailed backmatter including A Letter from Jenna Bush; You Can Make A Difference; Protect Yourself, Protect Others; What's the Real Deal? Ten Myths About HIV/AIDS; Do You Know the Whole Story? Ten Myths About Abuse; and Discussion Questions.

It appears that some readers are put off by the format and the fact that this is not great literature. However, it is a well-enough-written book in an interesting format that can be enjoyed by younger and older readers. It is nonfiction and it is the story that counts and we decide how we respond to it. This is a book that leaves room for response and reflection. No, the story is not told in vivid description nor are the characters developed as a novel would be. It is a straight-forward story that less experienced readers can enjoy. When I say "enjoy" I mean it is a story that one feels connected to and it matters little if we have heard similar stories before. This is about one human being and there is enough in it to lead to discussions among young adult readers that will allow them to share their own meanings as it touches their experience and understandings. I cannot believe that some would doubt that Jenna wrote this? Why? (I cannot help but comment that one very negative reviewer didn't even spell "matter" correctly.) Jenna is an educated woman and let's get over the fact that her father is President, please. Did she have an advantage by having a recognizable name, sure! But the story is still one that is worthy of the telling and the photo easy-to-read format adds to the uniqueness of the book. It is what it is and what it is, is a good read on an important subject. It need not be more. Someone else can write a book about this topic in a more literary format and many young people who will find enlightenment in this will not read that book. There is room for a variety of books for a varied audience in this world.

The book was very interesting, and told very honestly. I was left wanting to know more about Ana, and I know that she is just one of so many more with a similar story. I would love to read about follow-up stories of Jenna's experiences. The photography was really compelling, and Jenna is a

fantastic story teller. To say this book puts a lasting personal impression on me is an understatement. I didn't put the book down until I finished.

I bought Ana's story because I wanted to see what kind of book Jenna Bush would write. Jenna spent some time as a worker for Unicef, and during this time she interviewed Ana - not her real name - who had been infected with the HIV virus at birth. Ana's story is enlightening because it reveals how one very real person is coping with living with HIV, through no fault of her own. Jenna did a good job both in telling her story and in providing resources at the end of the book for more information or to help with this growing problem. The book is short; I finished it in just a few reading sessions. Ana's story is useful to me for another reason: It shows how a young person can make a meaningful contribution. Granted, Jenna Bush is the daughter of a president, but she didn't have to spend time in a third world country and she didn't have to record Ana's story for us. She is a teacher, and it is obvious from her work that she is also a person with a passion. I recommend Ana's story to anyone, but especially to young people looking for ways they can "make a difference."

I ordered this for a friend and she loved it. So I am writing this for her. IT's awesome.

I ordered this on the recommendation of my daughter-in-law. Very well written book. Gives a different slant on those who live in 3rd world countries facing AIDS. The story was so riveting that I did not want it to end..

I run a reading group for middle-school girls. This was a perfect book to get the discussion going on boys, AIDS, step-parents and child abuse. Jenna tells a gripping tale of Ana who has had a tough life and faces many problems in her future. Even though Ana lives in South America she could be from anywhere - even here in the U.S. This book has short chapters and is written on a 7th grade level - great for kids dealing with grown-up subject matter.

I'm an HIV Medical Case Manager and this book is an inspiration story. It's great for all ages and yes very sad...I highly recommend!!!

Great book  I would love to meet Ana

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