



After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next

By Jana Hensel

Download now

Read Online ➔

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel

Jana Hensel was thirteen on November 9, 1989, the night the Berlin Wall fell. In all the euphoria over German reunification, no one stopped to think what it would mean for Jana and her generation of East Germans. These were the kids of the seventies, who had grown up in the shadow of Communism with all its hokey comforts: the Young Pioneer youth groups, the cheerful Communist propaganda, and the comforting knowledge that they lived in a Germany unblemished by an ugly Nazi past and a callous capitalist future.

Suddenly everything was gone. East Germany disappeared, swallowed up by the West, and in its place was everything Jana and her friends had coveted for so long: designer clothes, pop CDs, Hollywood movies, supermarkets, magazines. They snapped up every possible Western product and mannerism. They changed the way they talked, the way they walked, what they read, where they went. They cut off from their parents. They took English lessons, and opened bank accounts. Fifteen years later, they all have the right haircuts and drive the right cars, but who are they? Where are they going?

In *After the Wall*, Jana Hensel tells the story of her confused generation of East Germans, who were forced to abandon their past and feel their way through a foreign landscape to an uncertain future. Now as they look back, they wonder whether the oppressive, yet comforting life of their childhood wasn't so bad after all.

↓ [Download After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Ch ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online After the Wall: Confessions from an East German ...pdf](#)

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next

By Jana Hensel

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel

Jana Hensel was thirteen on November 9, 1989, the night the Berlin Wall fell. In all the euphoria over German reunification, no one stopped to think what it would mean for Jana and her generation of East Germans. These were the kids of the seventies, who had grown up in the shadow of Communism with all its hokey comforts: the Young Pioneer youth groups, the cheerful Communist propaganda, and the comforting knowledge that they lived in a Germany unblemished by an ugly Nazi past and a callous capitalist future.

Suddenly everything was gone. East Germany disappeared, swallowed up by the West, and in its place was everything Jana and her friends had coveted for so long: designer clothes, pop CDs, Hollywood movies, supermarkets, magazines. They snapped up every possible Western product and mannerism. They changed the way they talked, the way they walked, what they read, where they went. They cut off from their parents. They took English lessons, and opened bank accounts. Fifteen years later, they all have the right haircuts and drive the right cars, but who are they? Where are they going?

In *After the Wall*, Jana Hensel tells the story of her confused generation of East Germans, who were forced to abandon their past and feel their way through a foreign landscape to an uncertain future. Now as they look back, they wonder whether the oppressive, yet comforting life of their childhood wasn't so bad after all.

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #297007 in Books
- Brand: PublicAffairs
- Published on: 2008-03-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .50" w x 5.38" l, .37 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

 [Download After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Ch ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online After the Wall: Confessions from an East German ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hensel was born in Leipzig, East Germany, in 1976 and was 13 when the Berlin Wall fell. This intriguing but frustrating memoir, a bestseller in Germany, portrays the disorientation of her generation, whose upbringing under communism ended abruptly with the integration of East and West Germany. Hensel rambles through a wide range of subjects: the erasure of memory; East German youth's alienation from their Western peers; her ambivalence about her childhood; their inability to adjust to the new world, which resulted in a role reversal in which Hensel had to "interpret" Western customs for her parents; and her generation's compulsion to disguise themselves as Western, changing their clothes and even their accents. But the disappearance of the artifacts of her childhood and the lack of value attributed by her Western friends to her memories leave Hensel at a loss. According to Clarke's note at the book's end, this was the first title to expose the experience of Hensel's generation. Although the memoir clearly struck a chord in Germany, it is so blurred by the "twilight zone" of Hensel's existence, "in which daily life seems arbitrary, provisional, and somewhat unreal," that Clarke's thoughts more clearly reveal East German history and Hensel's generation than the author does herself.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Booklist](#)

A best-seller in Germany under the title *Zonenkinder*, Hensel's memoir is one of the first from her generation to examine the cultural effects of communism's fall in East Germany. When the Berlin Wall came down, Hensel was only 13 years old, and her high-school class was the first to follow a West German curriculum. Hensel writes refreshingly unaffected personal anecdotes about growing up behind the iron curtain and, postcommunism, about how she and her young adult peers strove to assimilate in the West--losing accents and clothing styles--anything that would betray which side of the wall they grew up on. With candor, deep insight, and occasional bursts of acid wit, Hensel describes the bewildering divides between older generations of East Germans and her own. And in deeply moving observations, she shows how the universal ache of leaving childhood behind was, for her, even more profoundly disorienting because an entire culture, not just a childhood, had been lost. A fascinating, highly readable memoir that should interest a wide audience. *Gillian Engberg*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

"Publishing News"

"Thirteen when the Berlin Wall came down, Hensel describes what it was like for her generation, growing up with the certainties and strange comforts of a totalitarian regime which was suddenly swept away. Her memoir is of a childhood suddenly truncated, life changed forever as she and many like her try to absorb all the experiences they had missed, behind the wall."

"The International Herald Tribune"

"[Jana Hensel] shines a fascinating light on the social and emotional consequences as the euphoria dissipated and was slowly replaced by a sense of disenfranchisement, disorientation and confusion... Surprisingly for someone who makes her living as a journalist... her prose is simple and at times almost guileless. Yet far from detracting from her story, this quality actually enhances the honesty and integrity that runs through her fascinating narration of a changing world."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Lee:

Now a day people who Living in the era just where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading through a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information particularly this After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next book since this book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

Alan Fan:

The book untitled After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next is the reserve that recommended to you to study. You can see the quality of the e-book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that publisher use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of investigation when write the book, therefore the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also could get the e-book of After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Gregory Jager:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent all day long to reading a book. The book After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book has high quality.

Dennis Winters:

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial

pondering.

Download and Read Online After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel #CDTIEGKZL69

Read After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel for online ebook

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel books to read online.

Online After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel ebook PDF download

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel Doc

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel Mobipocket

After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel EPub

CDTIEGKZL69: After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life that Came Next By Jana Hensel