



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

By Jana Hensel

The Perseus Books Group. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life That Came Next, 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...



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After the Wall : confessions from an East German childhood and the life that came next. by. Hensel, Jana. Publication date. 2004. Topics. Hensel, Jana, Teenage girls, Teenage girls, Youth. After the Wall: Confessions from an East German Childhood and the Life That Came Next, by Jana Hensel, New York: Public Affairs, 180 pages, \$24. Stasiland: True Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall, by Anna Funder, London: Granta Books, 288 pages, \$16.95. Like its counterpart in Moscow, East Germany's Ministry for State Security—better known by its sounds-like-Nazi nickname, Stasi—regarded itself as the sword and shield of the Communist Party. (One of my goals this summer is to pick up new scholarly books in my field - something I have not done since graduating and enjoying a respite from academia. I can't promise they'll be as exciting as my usual fiction entries but I am enjoying the foray back into history.). [The last "true" GDR kids] trends amounted to nothing more than a staged performance of individual withdrawal from public life, a refusal to participate, and, to a certain extent, collective boredom. In cliques, everyone looks and feels the same. Internal unity was more important than external individualism. Such was the schizophrenia of everyday life in the GDR. You had to participate without attracting attention, to function within the system without actively collaborating or supporting it. After The Wall book. Read 99 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. Jana Hensel was thirteen on November 9, 1989, the night the Berlin W... A brief book, I came across it, either as a review or excerpts, or both in some news magazine or other way back towards the beginning of the century. The author was then a young woman looking on entering into puberty just as the DDR/GDR came to an end. This is written from one person's experience growing up in the former East Germany, and then being thrust into a new way of life after German reunification. The author views the former East Germany through the rose tinted glasses of childhood. Hensel was born in Leipzig, East Germany, in 1976 and was 13 when the Berlin Wall fell. This 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. Rating: (not yet rated) 0 with reviews - Be the first. For the fifteenth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall: The bittersweet memoir of a young East German woman, searching for her country and herself Read more Reviews. User-contributed reviews. Add a review and share your thoughts with other readers. Be the first. Add a review and share your thoughts with other readers. Be the first. Tags. Add tags for "After the Wall : confessions from an East German childhood and the life that came next".