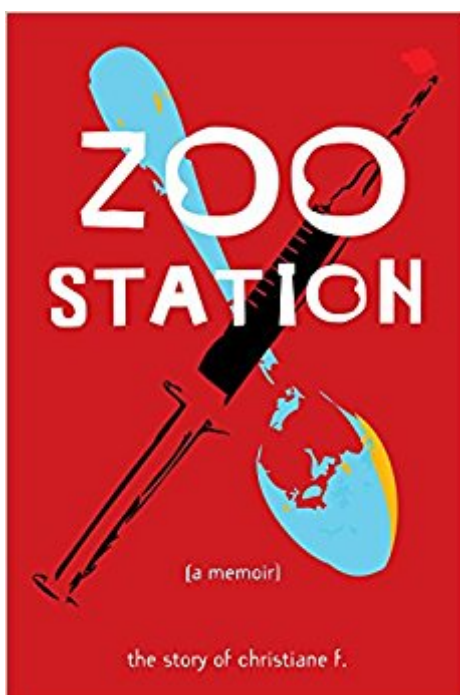


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# Zoo Station: The Story Of Christiane F. (True Stories)



## Synopsis

In 1978 Christiane F. testified against a man who had traded heroin for sex with teenage girls at Berlin's notorious Zoo Station. In the course of that trial, Christiane F. became connected with two journalists, and over time they helped to turn her story - which begins with a dysfunctional but otherwise fairly normal childhood - into an acclaimed bestseller. Christiane F.'s rapid descent into heroin abuse and prostitution is shocking, but the boredom, the longing for acceptance, the thrilling risks, and even the musical obsessions that fill out the rest of Christiane's existence will be familiar to every reader. Christiane F.'s Berlin is a strange and often terrifying place, but it's also a place that remains closer than we might think.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Drug memoirs have long been a reliable mix of cautionary content, salacious detail, and voyeuristic thrill, and this new translation of the long-out-of-print Christiane F., first published in 1978 and something of a cult classic, delivers on every front. It follows Christiane, whose childhood in a Berlin ghetto was marked by a totally apeshit father, lack of adult supervision, and an early involvement in drugs. As a preteen Christiane was already taking a prolonged cruise through the entire pharmaceutical industry with stops at pot, quaaludes, acid, and more. At age 13, she took her first snort of heroin. From there, it was a fast slide into larceny, turning tricks, and watching her friends wither away and die. Christiane was in and out of rehab, and it was never long before she returned to the same routine: whoring, shooting up, whoring, shooting up. Though the prose is dry, the details

are undeniably powerful – for example, an apartment’s stench of blood from all of the discharged needles. Repetitive and numbing, for sure, but that’s part of the point.

Grades 9-12. --Kraus, Daniel

“An eloquent memoir of teen drug abuse from 1970s Berlin retains a contemporary feel in a new translation. . . . Disturbing but compelling.” – Kirkus Reviews  
“A powerful memoir first published 35 years ago in Germany (a U.S. edition and film adaptation soon followed) shows no sign of tarnish in Cartwright’s mesmerizing and urgent new translation. The story of Christiane F., a heroin-addicted teenager living in 1970s Berlin, begins with her family’s move from the country to a fractured and confusing existence in the Berlin projects.

Christiane’s bleak circumstances (her father is physically abusive, her mother permissive and absent, her teachers cold and uncaring) lead the 12-year-old to experiment with drugs. She begins with pot and alcohol – rapidly moving on to pills, acid, and finally heroin – finding excitement and intense companionship with a group of David Bowie-worshipping teenagers who populate the city’s underground club scene. Eventually, Christiane resorts to working alongside her boyfriend as a prostitute at the Bahnhof Zoo train station to support her addiction.” – Publishers Weekly  
“Drug memoirs have long been a reliable mix of cautionary content, salacious detail, and voyeuristic thrill, and this new translation of Christiane F., first published in 1978 and something of a cult classic, delivers on every front” – Booklist  
“An amazing story. . . . Her story is so intriguing, and all the more so for being true. Pictures in the middle of the book helped place faces with the names, making it even better. Though definitely not for the younger crowd . . . high school students . . . will definitely enjoy this memoir.” – School Library Journal Teen

Great book! I first saw the film Christiane F. on YouTube (with English subtitles) and really enjoyed the film for how honest it was. It was definitely difficult to watch but nevertheless it was a very well made film. It was also nice to see Bowie in it. ;) After watching the film I knew I had to read the book. I was happy to see that there was an English translation so I bought it asap. It is a VERY graphic book, perhaps more graphic than the film, and it is absolutely brutal at times, but it is a great read for any fans of the film and for those who are into 'drug stories'. I especially recommend this book to fans of the film because obviously because it's a book, it goes more in depth as to why Christiane got into drugs. She describes her relationship with her mother and her father, her childhood in Gropiustadt, her stay at NarcAnon, and of course her friends from the film, Detlef, Stella, Axel, Babsi

etc. There is even some pages where her mother tells her side of the story which is heartbreaking. The film mainly touched upon her time when she first started going to The Sound and trying drugs whereas the book starts from when she is a child. Anyways, this is definitely one of my favorite books I've read so far!!

What an unbelievably sad documentary of this girl's innocence lost to Berlin's underground heroin and child prostitution scene circa 1978. Even though this story was translated from German to English, the details and prose are not lost and are plenty sufficient to get into the mind of this girl and her tragic life. One has to step away from this memoir and lay blame where it belongs. Regardless of the struggles and financial hardship of her mother, there is certainly no conceivable excuse for her allowing a 13 year old girl to wander the streets, subways and clubs of Berlin or to start sleeping with a 16 year old boyfriend in their own home. No amount of secular parenting at any level could conceive of such permissiveness, especially 35 years ago. That her mother tepidly acknowledges the error in her ways will never bring back the childhood innocence that Christiane never gets to experience. This is a harrowing account of one girl's desire to be accepted and loved and her willingness to risk anything for it. It's a disturbing read that one must be at least partially prepared for.

Got this book last week and already reading through for a second time. As a 23 year old male heroin addict whos been addicted for several years there is nothing that I've seen or read that comes close to this. Its a great read and especially the times when wed here Christianes moms side of the story it really hit close to home. I cant say it makes me motivated to get clean but my lifelong bestfriend died 3 days ago from an overdose and like Christiane I've also beat the odds while many around me died. Everyone should read this to get an idea and some insight into the addicts mind. 5 stars for both the book and movie.

Excellent book. I bought it used and it was in decent shape .story itself was better than movie , ofcourse. They always are but I am so impatient waiting for her second story to be printed in English now. It is a little close to home. Zoo station right here in my home town except I was 15 and my path started at 11 in the suburbs of a middle class neighborhood. I couldn't believe "I was reading my own thoughts and feeling ". I am writing my own book . This has giving me more inspiration. I am clean and sober now but have health issue from my unhealthy life but I have found recovery .I really hope Christiane finds Sovaldi , it's a miracle drug. If so, Maybe she will write a third book about her

recovery.

Like oh my God, gag me with a spoon that dealer I copped from was like a major well you know MOFO...gag me with a spoon. Gag the translator of this latest edition of a classic drug chronicle with a spoon as well. A German fraulein growing up in postwar Berlin now comes across as a 90s American teenager on Ventura Boulevard. Fantastic and riveting read marred by an unnecessary and unauthentic new translation. Still powerful and recommended.

My 15 year old son thought the book was very shocking and depressive. He felt the book showed all the evil sides of being addicted to drugs and the evil that surrounds the addict and the people around them. He felt this story was a life lesson that he will not forget. I can attest to this, I read the book at the age of 14, and I was never tempted to try any hard drugs, EVER!!!!!! The book is explicit, dark and sad.

Really great book, had to rewatch the movie again after reading it! It is now a personal favorite of mine, anyone who's even considering getting into hard drugs should read it as well as watch the movie!

Good book to read. Able to shed light on what addicts feel and go through once they're high. Can't imagine the despair and isolation that the addicts and their families feel. It is very honest and raw, and at same time sad.

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