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13 Reasons Why



Synopsis

THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER Featuring cover art from the Netflix original series executive produced by Selena Gomez, with exclusive interviews and photos inside! • “Eerie, beautiful, and devastating.” • Chicago Tribune • “A stealthy hit with staying power. . . . thriller-like pacing.” • The New York Times • “Thirteen Reasons Why will leave you with chills long after you have finished reading.” • Amber Gibson, NPR • “All Things Considered” • “You can’t stop the future. You can’t rewind the past. The only way to learn the secret . . . is to press play. Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a strange package with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker • his classmate and crush • who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah’s voice tells him that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he’ll find out why.

Clay spends the night crisscrossing his town with Hannah as his guide. He becomes a firsthand witness to Hannah’s pain, and as he follows Hannah’s recorded words throughout his town, what he discovers changes his life forever. Need to talk? Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) anytime if you are in the United States. It’s free and confidential. Find more resources at 13reasonswhy.info. Find out how you can help someone in crisis at bethe1to.com.

Book Information

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Social & Family Issues > Death & Dying

Customer Reviews

When Clay Jenson plays the cassette tapes he received in a mysterious package, he's surprised to hear the voice of dead classmate Hannah Baker. He's one of 13 people who receive Hannah's story, which details the circumstances that led to her suicide. Clay spends the rest of the day and long into the night listening to Hannah's voice and going to the locations she wants him to visit. The text alternates, sometimes quickly, between Hannah's voice (italicized) and Clay's thoughts as he listens to her words, which illuminate betrayals and secrets that demonstrate the consequences of even small actions. Hannah, herself, is not free from guilt, her own inaction having played a part in an accidental auto death and a rape. The message about how we treat one another, although sometimes heavy, makes for compelling reading. Give this to fans of Gail Giles psychological thrillers. Dobrez, Cindy --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

“Heavy but compelling. . . . Asher’s novel asks us to look at how petty cruelty can deal crushing blows.”
• Miami Herald
“Wonderfully realistic in his writing, Asher offers teens and parents alike a great story on an important topic.”
• Green Bay Press-Gazette
“It is a brilliant debut that will leave readers feeling a sense of remorse for Hannah, guilt for Clay, and hope for the lasting lesson of the story.”
• Bookazine
“Breakneck pace and dizzying emotion.”
• School Library Journal
“[Hannah’s] pain is gut-wrenchingly palpable. . . . Asher has created an entrancing character study and a riveting look into the psyche of someone who would make this unfortunate choice. A brilliant and mesmerizing debut from a gifted new author.”
• Kirkus Reviews, starred review and Editor’s Choice
“Readers won’t be able to pull themselves away.”
• Publishers Weekly
“Asher’s ability to convey the anguish of someone who was left behind is truly remarkable.”
• Book Page WINNER OF Association of Booksellers for Children’s
“Best Books”
• American Library Association’s
“Best Books for Young Adults” and
“Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers”
• Heartland Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature Florida Teens Read Award California Book Award Kentucky Bluegrass Award Book Sense Pick International Reading Association’s
“Young Adults’ Choices”
• Finalist Chicago Public Library’s
“Best of the Best Books”
• Kansas State Reading Circle’s
“Recommended Reading List”
• New York Public Library’s
“Book for the Teen Age”
• 16 State Award Master Lists
“Thirteen Reasons Why is a mystery, eulogy, and ceremony. Twenty or thirty times, I

snapped the book shut when a sentence, an image, or a line of dialogue was too beautiful and painful. But I, afraid and curious, would always return to this amazing book. I know, in years to come, I will often return to this book.

• Sherman Alexie, bestselling author of *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* “Every once in a while you come across a book that you can’t get out of your mind, one you have to rush back to if you must put it down for some reason. Jay Asher’s *Thirteen Reasons Why* is one of those books, and is at the very top of my personal Must-Read list.

• Ellen Hopkins, bestselling author of *Tricks*, *Identical*, *Crank*, *Burned*, *Impulse*, and *Glass* “A spectacular first novel. Jay Asher tells his story with such honesty and simplicity that the tragedy feels shatteringly real.

• Gordon Korman, author of *Son of the Mob* and *Jake, Reinvented*

This was a reread for me and I’m so glad I dived back in it. I first fell in love with this story in high school. For the longest time it was the only representation I had for mental illness, I connected with a dead girl because she had so many emotions I also shared sometimes to my own fright. Hannah’s story is tragic and heartbreaking. The ending always shook me because she wasn’t coming back, you had such a strong narrator for these tragedies but she wasn’t going to get up and say ha! It’s all a joke. She was gone, and that is one of the reasons I always came back to this book. I needed to know she was gone, that is the outcome of suicide that I didn’t want to see at 17, your story is finished. Now as an adult reading it, it’s still heartbreaking and terribly tragic and I still connect so strongly to this story. I loved this book and will always love this book. I read more into it now than what I did then. Clay was the perfect perspective to put it in because I can’t think good things about any of the other characters, as hard as the tv show wants you too. The tv show has recently released on Netflix and they’ve changed so much from the original book and part of me wonders is if it’s to make it make more sense. The thing is, suicide doesn’t make sense. That tragic act doesn’t have to make sense. It’s sad and scary, and we will ever understand even with 13 separate and valid reasons, it still doesn’t make sense. One this book did such a good job of showing is how small things, things we think inconsequential, can be detrimental to someone else. Something as simple as not saying goodbye given the opportunity, can change how someone feels. Now does this mean we have to walk on egg shells? No, that actually impossible. It means watch what your doing basically. If your having a bad day it isn’t okay to take it out on someone else, we can control the small things so the big things won’t spiral. This book will always hold a special place in my heart, and I’m sure once the shock of the show wears off it will too. I needed to reread this book, it’s good to remember what we do and who we are matters. Even when you think you don’t matter and no

one would care, you do matter. You matter so much! ♡

I don't know what I can say about this book that hasn't already been said. I read it after watching the Netflix series, and while there are definitely differences between the two, the combination left me reeling. It is deeply moving, poignant, and yet one of the most hopeful books I've ever read. The story revolves around Clay, who finds a box of cassette tapes waiting on his doorstep one day. As he listens to them, he is drawn into the story of Hannah, his crush that committed suicide just a couple weeks earlier. The tapes share the thirteen reasons why she made the choice that she did, one for each person that contributed to that decision. On the surface, it sounds like a horrifying premise for a read. It is a tough read at times, but no less important. Her point of creating the tapes, to be passed to each person on them, was not to be cruel. It was to make a point... the point that how we act toward one another, whether deliberate or not, makes a difference. Any one of those acts can be small in and of itself, but they can add up to push a person over the edge. Having seen the series and read the book, I have to say something I never thought I would. As much as I loved the book, I felt that the series really showed Hannah's angst just a bit more clearly. Admittedly, some of that was accomplished through changes in the plot and some details. Ideally, I would suggest indulging in both.

"Thirteen Reasons Why" is a novel that examines teen angst, bullying, suicide, and relationships, in the context of a story about a conflicted high school girl who chose to end her life, rather than continue confronting classmates whom she perceived to be her tormentors. This book very effectively emphasizes the critical importance of parental vigilance and empathy, with regard to the tremendous peer pressure and anxiety experienced by many teenage children, which, in the extreme, can lead to tragedy. It is such a valuable contribution to teenage literature because it reminds its readers of the overarching importance of maintaining open lines of communication between teenagers, their parents, their teachers, and their friends and classmates. It also highlights the fundamental relationship principle that an individual should treat everyone whom they encounter with the same respect and dignity that they would expect to experience in their interpersonal interactions. "Thirteen Reasons Why" is an excellent novel, which is relevant for readers of all ages, and which merits a five-star rating, along with a strong recommendation.

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