

**IMPACT OF THE PROTAGONIST'S DEPRESSION IN
JAY ASHER'S NOVEL *THIRTEEN REASONS WHY***

A THESIS

By

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APPENDICES

Appendix I

Author's Biography

Jay Asher is an American novelist and author. He is the author of the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why*, which became a bestseller in 2007. Asher was born on September 30, 1975 in Arcadia, California. He grew up in a family that supported all of his interests, including playing guitar and writing. After graduating from San Luis Obispo High School, he attended Cuesta Community College. In it Asher wrote his first two children's books for his Children's Literature Appreciation class. This experience sparked her passion to write books for young readers. It was this passion that led Asher to leave school in his final year to pursue a serious career in writing. He spent years trying to write picture books for children. At that time, Asher worked in libraries, bookstores, shoe stores and trophy shops.

Information regarding Jay Asher's personal life, including his marital status, is not widely known. Several sources say that Asher married Joan Marie on September 7, 2002.

Asher has published four books: *Thirteen Reasons Why*, a 2007 New York Times bestselling young adult fiction novel; *The Futur of Us*, co-written by Carolyn Mackler; *What Light*; and *Piper*. Asher has also written several picture books and a high school humor novel.

Thirteen Reasons Why won several awards and received five stars from Teen Book Review and was adapted into a Netflix Series for 2017. It also received high praise from fellow authors such as Ellen Hopkins, Sherman Alexie, Chris Crutcher, and Gordon Korman.

Appendix II

The Summary of the Novel

Clay Jensen receives an unknown package containing a series of cassette tapes at the beginning of the story. The tapes were recorded by Hannah Baker, Clay's friend who committed suicide two weeks ago after swallowing a handful of pills. Clay listens to the tapes, and Hannah describes how various people at their school, including Clay, played a role in her suicide decision. The plot alternates between the past as recorded on tape and the present.

Side A of the first cassette relates Hannah's story with Justin Foley. Justin is a well-liked student at school. Hannah saw Justin's actions as the beginning of her trouble. Justin took a photo of Hannah when she was sitting on a swing without her consent. The photo was later taken by Justin's friend Bryce Walker and widely circulated at school as a false nude shot of Hannah. Hannah felt alone and humiliated as a result of her other friends' negative reactions.

After that, Hannah involved her friends Alex Standall and Jessica Davis in the next tape. Previously, Hannah was good friends with them, but their relationship became complicated when Alex and Jessica, who were in a relationship, broke up. Alex made a list called the "Hot List," which is a ranking list of the physical appearance of female students at school. Alex compared Hannah with Jessica by writing that one part of Hannah's body was better than Jessica's on his "Hot List" as a way of expressing his pain for Jessica. When Jessica found out about Alex's "Hot List," she slapped Hannah and ended her friendship with her.

Hannah reveals Tyler Down's role in her suicide decision in the following recording. Tyler is a photographer at school. Tyler took a photo of Hannah without

her permission through the bathroom window. This incident triggered feelings of discomfort and disturbance in her. Tyler's actions were also a significant invasion of privacy and wrongdoing, which ultimately contributed to the reason Hannah chose to end her life.

Next, Hannah involved another friend named Courtney Crimson, a popular student at school who had a good image. In the story, Hannah notes that Courtney pretended to be her friend to hide her sexual orientation. Courtney is gay but she doesn't want people to know because it would destroy her positive image. Courtney feels that her friendship with Hannah could harm her reputation. Courtney creates scenarios that shock Hannah while the two of them are together. Courtney also slandered Hannah by telling their other friends that Hannah's previous scandal was true, and this behavior takes a toll on Hannah's emotional state.

In the next recording, Hannah reveals that she once dated Marcus Cooley, a famous student at school. Marcus, on the other hand, was disrespectful to Hannah and attempted to commit an indecent act during their date. Marcus committed this heinous crime without Hannah's permission or consent, and this incident was very detrimental and damaged Hannah's self-esteem.

In the following tape, Hannah revealed her story with an athlete who was also popular at school named Zach Dempsey. Zach steals some personal notes left in a drawer in class by Hannah. These messages were incredibly significant to Hannah because they were her way of coping with her loneliness and struggles. Hannah felt even more lonely and ashamed as a result of Zach's behavior.

Furthermore, another friend of Hannah's named Ryan Shaver was also involved as the reason Hannah ended her life. Ryan is a smart student and talented in

literature. Hannah revealed that she trusted Ryan and shared the very personal poems she wrote with him. However, his trust is shattered when Ryan decides to publish one of Hannah's poems without permission and identifies Hannah as the author.

Next, Clay hears his name mentioned by Hannah in the fifth tape, side A. Unlike many of the other people on the tapes, Clay is not someone who directly harms or violates Hannah in any significant way. Hannah reveals that Clay is on the list because he hasn't done anything wrong; instead, he is there to understand the reasons behind his decisions.

Hannah involved Justin again in the following tape. Hannah witnessed a drunk Jessica being led by Justin into a room where Hannah was also present. Hannah was hiding in a cupboard, so Justin and Jessica had no idea she was there. Hannah noticed Justin abandon Jessica and let Bryce to rape Jessica, who was unconscious due to intoxication. Justin's girlfriend is Jessica, and Bryce is Justin's friend; how could Justin allow his friend rape his girlfriend? Hannah was deeply traumatized as a result of this experience.

Hannah then resumed her story on the next tape. When she decided to leave the party that night, Jenny Kurtz, one of the guests at the party, approached her and offered her a ride home. Jenny, who refused to admit she was drunk, hit the stop sign, resulting in a deadly accident the next day. News spread that an old man had died at the location where Jenny hit the stop sign that night. Hannah saw the accident as contributing to her feelings of overwhelm and depression.

The most tragic thing was when Hannah was raped by Bryce, a school friend who Hannah told about in the sixth side B cassette. This incident so damaged her mental health that it made Hannah start to think about committing suicide.

In the last tape, Hannah revealed that she tried to seek help from a school counselor, Mr. Porter, but the conversations didn't provide the support she needed. Finally, Hannah decided to end her life. She left behind tapes explaining thirteen reasons why she made that decision.

After Clay heard all the tapes left behind by Hannah Baker, he was devastated and shaken by the experience. Clay feels very guilty and regretful at the end of the story because he was unable to avoid the events that led Hannah to make the tragic decision to take her life. Clay is angry and frustrated with everyone in Hannah's life, including himself. Clay feels very guilty and regretful at the end of the story because he was unable to avoid the events that led Hannah to make the tragic decision to take her life. Clay is angry and frustrated with everyone in Hannah's life, including himself.

Appendix III

The Characters of the Novel

→ Hannah Baker- The protagonist records a tape to explain the reasons behind her decision to commit suicide. Hannah is a high school student who initially looks happy and excited after her family moves to a small town in California. However, Hannah became the target of various incidents and degrading actions against her friends and environment at her new school. Despite trying to make social connections, she had difficulty maintaining friendships and felt isolated. Finally Hannah decided to end her life.

→ Clay Jensen- Hannah's school friend who has a kind, smart and soulful personality. Clay is the recipient of the tapes who listens to Hannah's story and becomes another main character in the story.

→ Justin Foley- A popular student with good looks and strong social appeal at his school. However, one of his actions was the beginning of Hannah's emotional problems.

→ Jessica Davis- Hannah's close friend at the beginning of the story. At first she was described as an energetic, friendly and enthusiastic student. However, over time, her friendship with Hannah was destroyed because of an event that hurt her emotionally.

→ Alex Standall- Hannah's friend created a "Hot List" and put Hannah and Jessica on his "Hot List".

→ Tyler Down- A quiet photographer and student. In the story, Tyler violated Hannah's privacy by taking photos without her permission or knowledge.

→ Courtney Crimson- A very popular and social student at school. In the story, Courtney commits several actions that create difficult situations for Hannah, including lying and hiding her identity as a gay by slandering Hannah to protect herself.

→ Marcus Cooley- A student who is active at school, including being involved in social activities and organizations. In the story, Marcus is involved in an unethical act involving Hannah during their date.

- Zach Dempsey- A popular student who is also an athlete at the school. He has a friendly and polite personality and appears to have a stable social life.
- Ryan Shaver- A creative student and involved in literary activities, especially writing poetry. In the story, Ryan engages in actions that demean and disappoint Hannah regarding her work as a writer by publishing Hannah's poetry without her knowledge.
- Jenny Kurtz- A popular and enthusiastic student at school. Jenny's role in this story is related to an incident involving a vehicle accident.
- Bryce Walker- A student who are popular, rich, and have a high social status at school. His character is often presented as confident, charismatic, but also has a manipulative and contradictory side.
- Mr. Porter- A professional school counselor who is the last person Hannah talks to in the hope of providing a solution to her problem. However, Hannah felt that she was not heard or did not get the support she needed during the counseling meeting until Hannah finally decided to end her life.
- Mrs. Jensen- Clay Jensen's mother.
- Mr. Jensen- Clay Jensen' father.
- Tony Padilla- The character Hannah trusted to oversee and ensure the tapes were passed along to the people involved.