

Thirteen Reasons Why  
By Jay Asher  
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Fiction  
288  
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To Be or Not to Be

All anyone can do is wonder why.

Why did Hannah take her own life? At least that's the only thing running through Clay Jensen's head and his answer arrives in the form of seven tapes. Seven tapes where Hannah explains everything. But does he want to listen? No, he wants nothing to do with them. But he has to know in what way, if any, might he be at fault for her suicide. And thus the reader is delved into two journeys, Hannah's journey to depression and Clay's journey to discovering what exactly made her end it.

*Thirteen Reasons Why* shows how one simple innocent story can be twisted whichever way all for the sake of a juicy High School rumor. You discover in the very first tape that back in Freshman year, Hannah had met up with her crush, Justin Foley, at the local playground. That night Justin became Hannah's first kiss. But when they get back to school, Justin claims that a lot more than kissing went down which ignites the fire of rumors that tarnish Hannah's reputation for the rest of her High School career until she finally decides that the only escape from her living hell is to quit living. And once Hannah has given up, you can see that inside she's still fighting for the hope that someone might be able to save her which, of course, never happens.

Being Asher's debut novel, *Thirteen Reasons Why* has done particularly well. Not only has it gotten exceedingly good reviews but it also has won several awards. And it's pretty easy to see why.

Asher does an amazing job pulling the reader in and shows you how everything that happens in the book is connected in some way. Right when you think that you've gotten everything figured out, he throws in another complete plot twist, which keeps the reader on their toes and turning the pages for more. Unlike many other teen fiction novels, the depressed teen has already done the deed and the reader slowly discovers as to why she committed suicide during the aftermath of her death. Also, Asher smashes the common idea that all depressed teenagers are merely just attention seekers by showing that all Hannah really wanted was someone to trust.

High Schoolers would especially enjoy reading this book because depression is something that is all too familiar to many teens. Being that High School is the time for teens to discover themselves, the rumors and gossip only worsen this awkward stage in everyone's life. *Thirteen Reasons Why* shows that you shouldn't always believe the gossip as juicy as it may seem and how it really affects the concerning parties.

Overall, *Thirteen Reasons Why* is an amazing book, which everyone should read especially if they are interested in knowing what makes people tick. It is told in the point of view of both Clay Jensen and Hannah Baker so the reader gets a good mix of the thoughts and feelings of both sexes. I highly recommend *Thirteen Reasons Why* to any teenager looking for a particularly short read (it's only 288 pages).