



**Title:** 13 Reasons Why  
**Author:** Jay Asher  
**Imprint:** Razorbill  
**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers  
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**Format:** Paperback  
**Age Range\*:** 12 Up  
**Grade Range:** Gr 9 Up

## BOOK RESUME: 13 REASONS WHY

### BOOK SYNOPSIS

*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.

### REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "[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

"Breakneck pace and dizzying emotion." —*School Library Journal*

"Readers won't be able to pull themselves away." —*Publisher's Weekly*

"Hannah Baker is determined to have the last word—but she doesn't get it. Before committing suicide, she sends a tape of 13 joined stories to those who she believes were instrumental in her death. One of the recipients is Clay Jenkins, who once had a crush on Hannah; he would have helped her if he could and listens brokenhearted. The novel makes a perfect transformation to audio. Debra Wiseman narrates Hannah's story with a blend of dispassion, disgust, and defeat. Joel Johnstone portrays the grieving Clay, who chimes in uncertainly from time to time to protest Hannah's words, his comments marked with desperation. The interplay of the two is perfectly choreographed in this powerful audio." —*AudioFile Magazine*

"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's "All Things Considered"

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\*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

"A story whose message is universal."—*The Guardian*

"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*

"Asher's ability to convey the anguish of someone who was left behind is truly remarkable."—*Book Page*

#### **AWARDS AND ACCOLADES**

- #1 USA Today bestseller
- Publishers Weekly bestseller
- California Book Award Winner
- Best Books for Young Adults (YALSA)
- Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers (YALSA)
- Selected Audiobooks for Young Adults (YALSA)
- Borders Original Voices finalist
- Barnes and Noble - Top 10 Best for Teens
- International Reading Assoc. - Young Adults' Choices
- Kirkus Reviews Editor's Choice
- Book Sense Pick - Winter
- Chicago Public Library Best Books
- Association of Booksellers for Children - Best Books
- Heartland Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature
- New York Public Library's "Book for the Teen Age"
- Grand Canyon Reader Award, Teen category (AZ)
- Delaware Diamonds Award (DE)
- Florida Teens Read (FL)
- Georgia Peach Book Awards for Teen Readers (GA)
- Abraham Lincoln High School Award (IL)
- Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award (IN)
- Indiana State Library Book Kits (IN)
- Iowa High School Book Award (IA)
- Kansas State Reading Circle's "Recommended Reading List" (KS)
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award (KY)
- Kentucky Bluegrass Award, High School (KY)
- Gateway Readers Award (MO)
- The Flume: Teen Reader's Choice Award (NH)
- Garden State Teen Book Awards – Fiction (NJ)
- 3 Apples Teen's Book Award, Grades 7-12 (NY)
- Teen 3 Apples Book Award (NY)
- Teen 3 Apples Book Award, Grades 7-12 (NY)
- Sequoyah Book Awards, High School (OK)

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- Oregon Battle of the Books (OR)
- Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Awards (PA)
- SCASL Young Adult Book Awards (SC)
- Tayshas Reading List (TX)
- Tayshas Reading List (TX)
- Virginia Readers' Choice, High School (VA)
- Evergreen Young Adult Book Award (WA)
- Battle of the Books - Senior Division (WI)
- Soaring Eagle Book Award (WY)

#### **MEDIA AND RESOURCES**

- [Penguin Young Readers Anti-Bullying Guide](#)
- [Penguin Publishing Group Lesson Plan](#)
- [Teachingbooks.net resources](#)
- [BookTrib Interview with Author](#)
- [Book Journey Interview with Author](#)
- [Children's Book Review Interview with Author](#)
- [Entertainment Weekly Interview with Author](#)
- [School Library Journal Interview with Author](#)
- [Bildungsroman Interview with Author](#)
- [The Stretched Counselor Discussion Guide](#)
- [Storyboard That Teacher Guide](#)

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