

V I N T A G E

eBooks



Girl, Interrupted

SUSANNA KAYSEN

Acclaim for Susanna Kaysen's

Girl, Interrupted

“A bitter, funny, insightful memoir ... A minimalist relative of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Kaysen's spare, elegant book raises angry questions about just who's crazy, and who's in charge of figuring it out.”

—*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Written [in] bare-bones prose, funny, readable and true. The great success of *Girl, Interrupted* is that it avoids the romantic inflation that most other sufferers of psychosis fall into when they describe their experience. Kaysen simply lets us know, with spare poetry, what it is like to have a life interrupted by madness.”

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“In piercing vignettes shadowed with humor [Kaysen] brings to life the routine of the ward and its patients.... Kaysen's meditations on young women and madness form a trenchant counterpoint to the copies of her medical records that are woven into the text.”

—*The New Yorker*

“An eloquent and unexpectedly funny memoir.”

—*Vanity Fair*

“At turns wry, sardonic, witty ... an unusual glimpse of a young woman's experience with insanity. Kaysen presents a meaningful analysis of the dual and contradictory nature of psychiatric hospitalization as both refuge and prison.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Nothing short of astonishing ... unusually frank and thoughtful ... *Girl, Interrupted* [gives] a piercing sense of how very short is the journey from humor to outright horror ... remarkable.”

—*Mirabella*

“Memorable and stirring ... fascinating. A powerful examination not only of Kaysen’s own imperfections but of those of the system that diagnosed her.”

—*Vogue*

“*Girl, Interrupted* is a writer’s book, crafted by an author of extraordinary acuteness and skill. Kaysen takes us across the boundaries of ‘normalcy.’ *Girl, Interrupted* is about the borders between the world inside the hospital and the world outside, between sanity and insanity, between freedom and captivity, between self and other, between dignity and shame, between power and powerlessness.”

—*Boston Phoenix Literary Section*

“Remarkable ... In prose lean and mean, Kaysen’s memoir brings us inside [McLean] and paints a picture of madness that is both disturbing and compelling.”

—*Detroit News*

“Using herself as a troubled—and troubling—example, Kaysen demonstrates with excoriating humor the severe problems with diagnosis, the phenomenon of psychiatric hospitalization and the callousness of even the most sophisticated of families and hospitals. *Girl, Interrupted* is more than a ’60s period piece. It is a cautionary tale for our time, for any era struggling to balance on the razor’s edge between sanity and insanity.”

—*St. Louis Post Dispatch*

“Susanna Kaysen’s candid memoir of her stay in a psychiatric hospital breaks the mold. It is both funny and frightening. Kaysen’s account is provocative, concise writing with an occasional edge of black humor. It makes us examine our own minds and wonder just who has the right to decide if someone has gone mad.”

—*St. Petersburg Times*

“*Girl, Interrupted* is Ms. Kaysen’s sly, witty memoir [in] which she writes vividly of the McLean community in the late ’60s: beleaguered nurses, ineffective doctors, obsessed patients. Kaysen finds her reality in writing, inside.”

—*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*



Susanna Kaysen

Girl, Interrupted

Susanna Kaysen is also the author of the novels *Asa*, *As I Knew Him* and *Far Afield*. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Books by Susanna Kaysen

Asa, As I Knew Him

Far Afield

Girl, Interrupted

CASE RECORD FOLDER

1. INSTITUTION McLean Hospital		2. LAST NAME KAYSEN		FIRST NAME Susanna		MIDDLE INITIAL N.		3. REGISTER NUMBER	
4. LEGAL STATUS AT ADMISSION Voluntary		5. LOCATION FROM WHICH ADMITTED 64 Wendell Street, Cambridge, Mass.						6. DATE ADMITTED April 27, 1967	
7A. ESTABLISHED LEGAL STATUS		B. DATE		8. RECENT ADDRESS SAME				9. SEX F.	
11. ALIEN REG. NO.		12. TIME AT USUAL ADDRESS Since 9/66		13. USUAL ADDRESS [REDACTED] Lane, Princeton, N. J.				10. COLOR W.	
14. RELIGION Jewish		15. MARITAL ST Single		17A. CITY OR TOWN OF BIRTH Boston		B. STATE OR COUNTRY OF BIRTH Mass.		16. BIRTH DATE 18 yrs. Nov. 11, 1948	
18A. PORT OF ENTRY, IF FOREIGN BORN		B. DATE		17A. CITY OR TOWN OF BIRTH Boston		B. STATE OR COUNTRY OF BIRTH Mass.		16. BIRTH DATE 18 yrs. Nov. 11, 1948	
18A. IF NATURALIZED, PLACE		B. DATE		20A. FATHER'S NAME Carl Kaysen		B. FATHER'S BIRTH PLACE Philadelphia, Pa.		21. U.S. MILITARY SERVICE	
22. EDUCATION High School Graduate		25A. MOTHER'S MARRIAGE NAME Annette Neutra		B. MOTHER'S BIRTH PLACE Philadelphia, Pa.		24. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. Unknown			
25. USUAL OCCUPATION OF PATIENT None		26A. PERSON TO NOTIFY IN EMERGENCY Mr. & Mrs. Carl Kaysen						B. RELATIONSHIP Parents	
27. USUAL OCCUPATION OF FATHER (PATIENT A MINOR)		C. ADDRESS [REDACTED] Lane, Princeton, N. J.						D. TELEPHONE -AC609- Bus: Princeton Inst. for Adv. Studies (Director) AC609-	
28. USUAL OCCUPATION OF MOTHER (PATIENT A MINOR)		26A. PERSON TO NOTIFY IN EMERGENCY Dr. & Mrs. Sanford Gifford						B. RELATIONSHIP Friends	
30. DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSION AT ADMISSION 1. Psychoneurotic depressive reaction. 2. Personality pattern disturbance, mixed type. R/O Undifferentiated Schizophrenia.		C. ADDRESS [REDACTED] Cambridge, Mass.						D. TELEPHONE Un-[REDACTED]	
29A. ESTABLISHED DIAGNOSIS, MENTAL DISORDER Borderline Personality						29. ESTABLISHED DIAGNOSES, OTHER CONDITIONS			
B. QUALIFYING PHRASE									
34. HISTORY OF TIME ON BOOKS OF INSTITUTIONS CARING FOR MENTAL DISORDER									
A. NAME OF INSTITUTION		B. LOCATION		C. MONTH		D. YEAR		TO E. MONTH F. YEAR	
None									
35. HISTORY OF OTHER HOSPITALIZATION									
A. NAME OF HOSPITAL		B. LOCATION		C. YEAR		D. REASON			
Mt. Auburn Hospital		Cambridge, Mass.		1965		(Stomach pumped)			

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Portions of this book, in slightly different form, appeared in *Agni*, *The Boston Review*, and *Ploughshares*.

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Though this book is nonfiction, some of the names and distinguishing traits of patients, doctors, and staff have been changed.

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