GIRL INTERRUPTED
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Exposition

Protagonist- Susanna Kaysen

This book does not have an Antagonist
Susanna constantly finds herself in a war with herself. She battles with her depression and has moments where she feels as if she is not real person. Susanna wakes up one morning and decides to try and kill herself. She swallows a half of a bottle of aspirin and passes out on the sidewalk outside.
Conflict

Susanna’s conflict would be Man Vs. Man.
Susanna is sitting in her doctors office being evaluated. She realizes she had went to far this time but didn’t think that she deserved to go to a mental hospital for it. Susanna’s doctor admits her into McLean with borderline personality disorder and psychoneurotic depressive reaction.
Rising Action

Susanna’s first day in the institution was rough. She didn’t believe that she was as crazy as the other patients. Her roommate was a sociopath and would constantly smear her BM around on the walls and on herself. There was another patient named Daisy. She lived across from Susanna but one day she was realized and committed suicide a few days later. Susanna was sitting in her room one day and simply flexed her hand back. In her mind she thought as if she wasn’t human or really there so she began to bite herself until she saw blood. Susanna then peeled back her skin just to see if she could see a bone.
Climax

A few months had passed and Susanna had received a visit from her ex boyfriend who she had broken up with right before she was admitted into McLean. He came to visit her but told her he could take her away right not to London. He tried to tell Susanna that she didn’t belong in a place like that. Susanna thought back and was really beginning to think that maybe her being in there was simply an misunderstanding. She thought about how her roommate rubbed around her BM and Susanna knew that she wasn’t like these other girls or how Daisy hung herself in her bathroom. Yet soon as he tried to grab her by the hand she thought about the fact that she
Swallowed half of a whole bottle of aspirin and how she had tried to pill her skin back and knew that something wasn’t completely right in her mind. Susanna knew that being at McLean wasn’t going to do anything but help her in the end.
Falling Action

Susanna spends her time in McLean and ends up receiving a job selling gourmet dishes. While out one day at an art gallery she meets Dave. Susanna knew that if she wanted to be in a serious relationship with Dave she would have to tell him that she’s been in a mental hospital for a few months now. Dave didn’t even mind that Susanna had been in McLean. He said it didn’t change his feelings for her.
By Susanna’s surprise Dave proposed to her a few months later. At Mclean if a woman receives a marriage proposal she instantly can check out. Excited, Susanna goes back to tell the head nurse and her doctor the news. Susanna’s doctor signs the papers to release her a few days later. Dave takes Susanna to one of her favorite art galleries. While there Susanna see’s a painting that catches her attention. It was girl sitting in a mist of bright colors. The painting was titled “Girl Interrupted”
Susanna Kaysen- (main Character) Susanna is a 18 year old girl from New jersey who finds herself being admitted into McLean mental institution for swallowing a half of bottle of asprin.

Georgina- Susanna’s roommate. Also is know for smearing her BM all around the place

Dave- Susanna’s fiancee
Summary

Girl Interrupted is an self written novel about an 18 year old girl name Susanna who is put in McLean mental hospital for evaluation on her depression. One day Susanna just felt like committing suicide. She swallowed half a bottle of aspirin and walked outside and passed out on the side walk. Susanna has borderline personality disorder which is the cause of her suicide thoughts. She constantly believes herself as not being a real person or not truly being there in person. Susanna is then evaluated by her doctor who decides that it was best for her to be admitted into McLean hospital. Susanna finds herself in a place where she feels that she completely doesn’t fit it. Susanna is room mating with a girl name Georgina. Georgina is in for continuous attempts of suicide and cutting her wrist. Susanna and Kaysen become very good friends since they both share
Summary (part II)

the same disorder. Susanna has a friend name Mike who was her boyfriend before she was put in McLean. He constantly comes to visit her and one day Mike tells Susanna she doesn’t belong in a place like this. He feels Susanna is not as crazy as some of the other girls in McLean. He tries to sneak Susanna out and flea to London but she starts to feel that maybe she is where she belongs. 6 months have passed and Susanna receives a job selling gourmet dishes. Susanna likes the job because its money but doesn’t feel like this is what she wants to do with her life. Susanna became very interested in art. She begins to go to numerous art galleries which is where she meets a guy name Dave who shares the same interest as her. Susanna knew that if she wanted this to be a successful relationship she would have to tell him that she is in a mental hospital. Susanna sits Dave down to tell him the truth.
By Susanna’s surprise Dave is completely understanding. A year later Dave proposes to Susanna. Susanna doesn’t know whether to be extremely happy or scared. In McLean if you receive a marriage proposal you instantly are able to check out of the hospital. Susanna goes back to McLean to tell the head nurse and her doctor that she just got engaged. Susanna realizes this is her chance to get a start to a normal life. As a marriage gift Dave takes Susanna to a new art gallery that had just opened. While there Susanna is quickly drawn to a painting of a girl surrounded by bright flashes of colors. She tells Dave that this represents her. The painting was titled “Girl Interrupted”.

Summary (Part III)
Susanna Kaysen was born in Cambridge Massachusetts and spent her childhood like a normal child. She attended the Commonwealth school in Boston until she was sent to Mclean hospital in 1967 for psychiatric treatment for her depression. Susanna was diagnosed with borderline personality disorder. She was released after 18 months due to a marriage proposal she received. Kaysen decided to make her life story into a book with her memoir “Girl Interrupted”. The title of her novel came to her when she went to an art gallery show and a painting caught her eye titled “Girl Interrupted”
Recommendation

I really liked this book. The way Kaysen described herself in the book really makes you think about your own mental evaluation. I liked how Susanna explained the scene when she was at the ice cream parlor and saw the black and white checkered board floor and in her mind it made her confused. It made her think of this & that, night & day or up & down. For someone like her who had borderline personality disorder it just made life harder to comprehend. I would tell someone to read this book and see if they find themselves questioning there own sanity.


Resource

Susanna has only one book in our library which is “Girl Interrupted” (921 Kay).

Kaysen has also written books like “The Camera my mother gave me” (2001) “Far Afield” (1990) and “Asa, As I knew him” (1987)

“Girl Interrupted” talks a lot about ones self image about different things. Susanna would constantly question are existence believing that maybe she was not really human. Susanna’s disorder was called borderline personality. There is a website called http://www.borderlinepersonalitydisorder.com which is a website that allows people who have the disorder or know someone who has it to better understand it.