

Susanna Kaysen

Quotes

Girl Interrupted, Crazy, Girl, Suicide, Thinking, Mean, Lying, Character, Depression, Insanity, World, Nurse, Cutting, Boredom, Clothes, Doctors, Mad, Feelings, Suicidal, Matter

Crazy isn't being broken or swallowing a dark secret. It's you or me amplified. If you ever told a lie and enjoyed it. If you ever wished you could be a child forever.

~Susanna Kaysen

The only way to stay sane is to go a little crazy.

~Susanna Kaysen

Every window in Alcatraz has a view of San Francisco.

~Susanna Kaysen

I am not a nurse escorting six lunatics to the ice cream parlor.

~Susanna Kaysen

I told her once I wasn't good at anything. She told me survival is a talent.

~Susanna Kaysen

I know what it's like to want to die. How it hurts to smile. How you try to fit in but you can't. You hurt yourself on the outside to try to kill the thing on the inside.

~Susanna Kaysen

My chronic feelings of emptiness and boredom came from the fact that I was living a life based on my incapacities, which were numerous.

~Susanna Kaysen

Smile and the world smiles with you, cry and you cry alone.

~Susanna Kaysen

An observer can't tell if a person is silent and still because inner life has stalled or because inner life is transfixingly busy.

~Susanna Kaysen

As far as I could see, life demanded skills I didn't have.

~Susanna Kaysen

A thought is a hard thing to control.

~Susanna Kaysen

The girl at her music sits in another sort of light, the fitful, overcast light of lie, by which we see ourselves and others only imperfectly, and seldom..-Girl, Interrupted

~Susanna Kaysen

Our hospital was famous and housed many great poets and singers. Did the hospital specialize in poets and singers or was it that poets and singers specialized in madness?

~Susanna Kaysen

This behavior may...counteract feelings of 'numbness' and depersonalization that arises during periods of extreme stress.-153 Girl, Interrupted

~Susanna Kaysen

I had an inspiration once. I woke up one morning and I knew that it was my task to swallow fifty aspirin. It was my task: my job for the day.-17 Girl Interrupted

~Susanna Kaysen

Not everything has a happy ending, and not everything has an ending. Some things just kind of dribble away or cut off abruptly.

~Susanna Kaysen

Mental illness seems to be a communication problem between interpreters one and two.

~Susanna Kaysen

I think many people kill themselves simply to stop the debate about whether they will or they won't.

~Susanna Kaysen

When I was supposed to be awake, I was asleep. When I was supposed to sleep, I was silent. When a pleasure offered itself to me, I avoided it.

~Susanna Kaysen

When women are angry at men, they call them heartless. When men are angry at women, they call them crazy.

~Susanna Kaysen

It's one of the reasons I became a writer, to be able to smoke in peace.

~Susanna Kaysen

The world didn't stop because we weren't in it anymore.

~Susanna Kaysen

Was insanity just a matter of dropping the act?

~Susanna Kaysen

A successful suicide demands good organization and a cool head, both of which are usually incompatible with the suicidal state of mind.

~Susanna Kaysen

My family had a lot of characteristics - achievements, ambitions, talents, expectations - that all seemed to be recessive in me.

~Susanna Kaysen

Whatever we call it - mind, character, soul - we like to think we possess something that is greater than the sum of our neurons and that animates us.

~Susanna Kaysen

It's a long way from not having enough serotonin to thinking the world is "stale, flat and unprofitable"; even further to writing a play about a man driven by that thought.

~Susanna Kaysen

If I could have any job in the world I'd be a professional Cinderella.

~Susanna Kaysen

Tell me that you don't take that blade and drag it across your skin and pray for the courage to press down.

~Susanna Kaysen

Maybe I was just flirting with madness the way I flirted with my teachers and my classmates.

~Susanna Kaysen

We say that Columbus discovered America and Newton discovered gravity, as though America and gravity weren't there until Columbus and Newton got wind of them.

~Susanna Kaysen

... now I was safe, now I was really crazy, and nobody could take me out of there.

~Susanna Kaysen

When you're sad you need to hear your sorrow structured into sound.

~Susanna Kaysen

It was my misfortune-or salvation-to be at all times perfectly conscious of my misperceptions of reality.

~Susanna Kaysen

There is thought, and then there is thinking about thoughts, and they don't feel the same.

~Susanna Kaysen

You have to have a somewhat cold heart to be a writer.

~Susanna Kaysen

Maybe, there's a moment growing up when something peels back... Maybe, maybe, we look for secrets because we can't believe our minds...

~Susanna Kaysen

With wild eyes that had seen freedom.

~Susanna Kaysen

It was a spring day, the sort that gives people hope: all soft winds and delicate smells of warm earth. Suicide weather.

~Susanna Kaysen

Emptiness and boredom: what a complete understatement. What I felt was complete desolation. Desolation, despair and boredom.

~Susanna Kaysen

Disease [is] as one of our languages. Doctors understand what disease has to say about itself. It's up to the person with the disease to understand what the disease has to say to her.

~Susanna Kaysen

It's a fairly accurate portrait of me at eighteen, minus a few quirks like reckless driving and eating binges. It's accurate but it isn't profound.

~Susanna Kaysen

Confuse was the nurses' word for abuse.

~Susanna Kaysen

Freedom was the price of privacy.

~Susanna Kaysen

Something about the goat dancing made me want to cry.

~Susanna Kaysen

What is it about meter and cadence and rhythm that makes their makers mad?

~Susanna Kaysen

I needed to be alone, I felt. I wanted to be going on alone to my future.

~Susanna Kaysen

I'm your mind", it claims. "You can't parse ME into dendrites and synapses

~Susanna Kaysen

Insanity comes in two basic varieties: slow and fast. I'm not talking about onset or duration. I mean the quality of the insanity, the day-to-day business of being nuts.

~Susanna Kaysen

All my integrity seemed to lie in saying No.

~Susanna Kaysen

And in the end, I lost him. I did it on purpose, the way Garance lost Baptiste in the crowd. I needed to be alone, I felt. I wanted to be going on alone to my future.

~Susanna Kaysen

Being crazy doesn't mean to be broken...It is you and me amplified",
Girl, Interrupted

~Susanna Kaysen

Was everybody seeing this stuff and acting as though they weren't?

Was insanity just a matter of dropping the act?

~Susanna Kaysen

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