



The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression

By Andrew Solomon

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The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression By Andrew Solomon

A Scribner Classics edition of Andrew Solomon's National Book Award-winning, bestselling, and transformative masterpiece on depression—"the book for a generation, elegantly written, meticulously researched, empathetic, and enlightening" (*Time*).

Winner of more than a dozen awards, *The Noonday Demon* "takes readers on a journey of incomparable range and resonance" (*O, The Oprah Magazine*), revealing the subtle complexities and sheer agony of depression. Andrew Solomon interviews patients, doctors and scientists, policy makers and politicians, drug designers and philosophers to describe the vast range of available medications, the efficacy of alternative treatments, and the impact the malady has on various demographic populations—around the world and throughout history. He also explores the thorny patch of moral and ethical questions posed by emerging biological explanations for mental illness.

With uncommon humanity, candor, wit, and erudition, *The Noonday Demon* "is a considerable accomplishment. It is likely to provoke discussion and controversy, and its generous assortment of voices, from the pathological to the philosophical, makes for rich, variegated reading" (*The New York Times*).

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Sometimes, the legacy of depression includes a wisdom beyond one's years, a depth of passion unexperienced by those who haven't traveled to hell and back. Off the charts in its enlightening, comprehensive analysis of this pervasive yet misunderstood condition, *The Noonday Demon* forges a long, brambly path through the subject of depression--exposing all the discordant views and "answers" offered by science, philosophy, law, psychology, literature, art, and history. The result is a sprawling and thoroughly engrossing study, brilliantly synthesized by author Andrew Solomon.

Deceptively simple chapter titles (including "Breakdowns," "Treatments," "Addiction," "Suicide") each sit modestly atop a virtual avalanche of Solomon's intellect. This is not a book to be skimmed. But Solomon commands the language--and his topic--with such grace and empathy that the constant flow of references, poems, and quotations in his paragraphs arrive like welcome dinner guests. A longtime sufferer of severe depression himself, Solomon willingly shares his life story with readers. He discusses updated information on various drugs and treatment approaches while detailing his own trials with them. He describes a pharmaceutical company's surreal stage production (involving Pink Floyd, kick dancers, and an opener à la *Cats*) promoting a new antidepressant to their sales team. He chronicles his research visits to assorted mental institutions, which left him feeling he would "*much* rather engage with every manner of private despair than spend a protracted time" there. Under Solomon's care, however, such tales offer much more than shock value. They show that depression knows no social boundaries, manifests itself quite differently in each person, and has become political. And, while it may worsen or improve, depression will never be eradicated. Hope lies in finding ways--as Solomon clearly has--to harness its powerful lessons. --*Liane Thomas*

From Publishers Weekly

Calling depression the "flaw of love," 2001 National Book Award-winner Solomon (*A Stone Boat*) brings a stunning breadth of research to this widely misunderstood and often stigmatized illness. At least 19 million Americans suffer from chronic depression, and Solomon concedes its diagnosis and treatment are as complex as the illness. The eloquent, cerebral prose distinguishing his book (the writing of which, he says, consumed his life for five years), is mirrored in Solomon's equally articulate and refined reading style, marked by traces of a crisp British accent and a consistent, soothing tone. While outlining the major treatments, Solomon's discussion covers brain chemistry, the classes of antidepressants and their possible effects and efficacy rates, as well as the successful resurgence of electroshock therapy, talk therapy, surgical options and alternative therapies (e.g., herbal, homeopathic and hypnosis). Some laypersons may find the audio format ill-adapted for this technical portion. However, Solomon's unequivocal candor about his own at times incapacitating struggle with depression, and the compassionate, hopeful perspective he conveys more than makes up for this. Loaded with personal anecdotes, snippets of letters, interviews and recalled conversations with fellow sufferers, this audio creates a sense of intimacy many listeners may find therapeutic.

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From Library Journal

In addition to the self-help and parental advice genres is the literary and philosophical study of depression that harks back to Richard Burton's *The Anatomy of Melancholy*. *The Noonday Demon*, based on an article that Solomon wrote for *The New Yorker* in 1998, is such a book. The backbone of this superb work is the author's narrative of his own struggles with severe depression. His musings on its multifarious causes and on the role that his privileged socioeconomic status has played in its successful management. Solomon also interviewed scores of other depression sufferers about their trials with treatment and visited Africa,

Greenland, and Cambodia in search of different cultural perspectives. This journalistic approach allows Solomon to convey a great deal of information in the form of fascinating, if sometimes horrific, life stories. This compassionate work that never simplifies complex matters is essential for all collections. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Diane Russel:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression. Try to stumble through book The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunated for you. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let's make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Carol Hamilton:

Reading a publication tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With reading through you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world may share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your young ones, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors in this world always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some study before they write to their book. One of them is this The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression.

Anthony Alfaro:

The book untitled The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. You can read this book because you can keep reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice go through.

Dennis Sellers:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The particular book that

recommended to you personally is *The Noontday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression* this guide consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book acceptable all of you.

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