



# 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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## **The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression** By Andrew Solomon Bibliography

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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

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#### Marjorie Ingram:

Now a day those who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources inside can be true or not call for people to be aware of each details they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the solution is reading a book. Studying a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression book because this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the data in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

#### James Brown:

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#### Starr Place:

The reason why? Because this The Noonday Demon: An Atlas Of Depression is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret that inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such incredible way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have got such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I were being you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

#### Janet Thaxton:

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