
Discussion Questions for *Girl, Interrupted* (1999)

127 minutes (2 hours, 7 minutes), R-rating for strong language and content relating to drugs, sexuality, and suicide

Summary: Winona Ryder plays Susanna, a young woman with borderline personality disorder, who is sent to a psychiatric hospital after a suicide attempt in the late 1960s. She befriends Lisa (Angelia Jolie), who carries a diagnosis of sociopathy (antisocial personality disorder). Initially, Susanna is in denial about her mental condition and is not open to treatment. However, she reaches a turning point after a tragedy.

1. **At the beginning of the film, a doctor told Susanna that she is hurting everyone around her. How does a person's mental illness or substance use disorder hurt those closest to them?**

2. **What is your understanding of borderline personality disorder? Does the movie accurately portray it? Why or why not?**

3. **Is it helpful or harmful for someone to know their mental health diagnosis? Why?**

4. How did Susanna and Lisa's friendship negatively impact Susanna's treatment?

5. The head nurse tells Susanna that she needs to talk about her pain. How does talking help a person to heal?