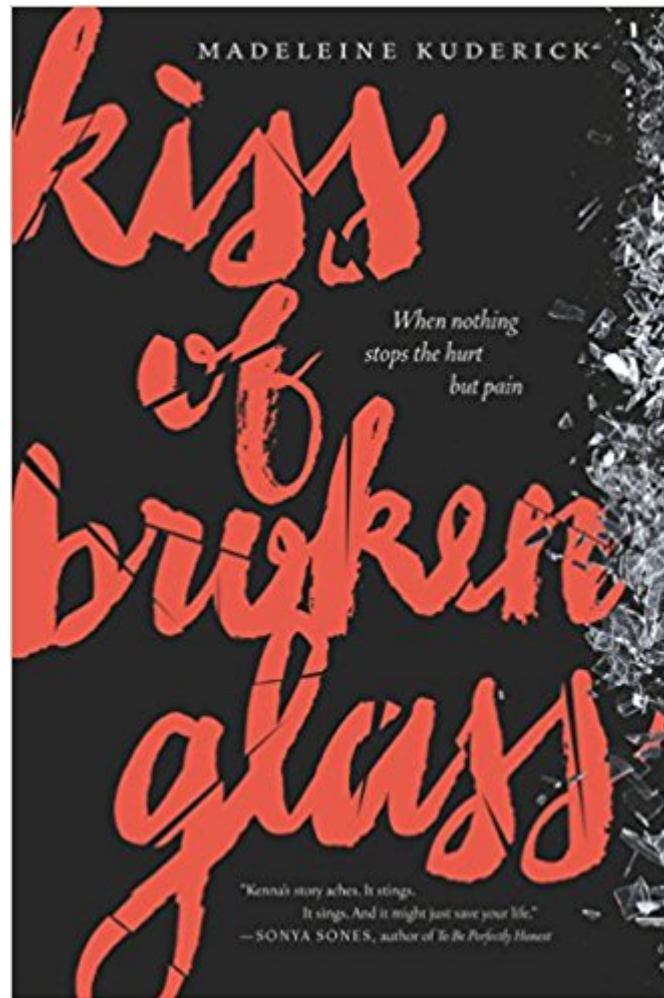




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# Kiss Of Broken Glass



## Synopsis

Madeleine Kuderick's gripping debut is a darkly beautiful and lyrical novel in verse, perfect for fans of Sonya Sones and Laurie Halse Anderson. Kiss of Broken Glass pulses with emotion and lingers long after the last page. In the next seventy-two hours, Kenna may lose everything—her friends, her freedom, and maybe even herself. One kiss of the blade was all it took to get her sent to the psych ward for seventy-two hours. There she will face her addiction to cutting, though the outcome is far from certain. When fifteen-year-old Kenna is found cutting herself in the school bathroom, she is sent to a facility for mandatory psychiatric watch. There, Kenna meets other kids like her—her roommate, Donya, who's there for her fifth time; the birdlike Skylar; and Jag, a boy cute enough to make her forget her problems . . . for a moment.

## Book Information

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[Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Depression & Mental Illness](#) #670 in [Books >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 9 Up—This novel in verse offers snapshots of a teen girl's thoughts and experiences while under mandatory psychiatric watch after being caught in the school bathroom cutting herself. As she struggles to come to terms with whether or not her problem can be classified as an addiction, Kenna tries to put her situation in perspective by comparing it to those of the other teens she meets in the hospital psych ward. In flashbacks, readers witness her strained family relationships and her difficulty in finding a group of friends at school, all triggers leading up to her self-harm issues. Each word of the narrative is carefully chosen and the imagery is vivid and descriptive, offering readers a moving story about a serious issue. Mild language and scenes of mutilation are included, adding

authenticity to the characterization and the treatment of the subject. The ending is fairly open-ended making this story a great discussion starter for teens, families, and educators. Back matter includes a note in which the author discusses her inspiration for writing this difficult tale. A resources section with reliable websites and phone numbers for anyone struggling with self-harm issues is included. — Samantha Lumetta, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, OH --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book is very close to my heart and I hope it starts conversations, encourages empathy, and helps some readers feel less alone. As a debut author, I am honored by some of the early reviews. Here's what people are saying: "Readers will devour this . . ." - Kirkus Reviews "Vivid and descriptive . . . a moving story about a serious issue." - School Library Journal "Kuderick's keen diction and free-verse technique shine." - Kirkus Reviews "A fresh, honest, and ultimately hopeful story." - Horn Book --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Kenna is hospitalized under a mandatory 72 hour hold following cutting herself at school. *KISS OF THE BROKEN GLASS* tells the tale of a girl who begins to self-harm as a way to fit in with other girls. In the Author's Note, Madeleine Kuderick tells of her daughter's similar story. Kuderick did ample research on this little known form of self injury that starts for social reasons (although girls who aren't psychologically vulnerable won't fall prey to such peer pressure) and becomes addictive. Such behavior seems akin to pro-anorexia websites that encourage girls to become more ill. I enjoyed Kuderick's economical use of verse, not a spare word to be found, although at 220 pages *KISS OF THE BROKEN GLASS* was more novella length than novel. Such a short book in verse lacked character development as readers are only privy to Kenna's POV without the benefit of dialogue of other's or seeing her in the context of her family. I'd be more likely to recommend this book to adults who have or work with teenagers as a way to look out for teens' potential issues than I would be to teenagers.

This is truly one of the finest verse novels I've ever read - technically it's a true marriage of poetic craft and powerful storytelling and putting the two together gives the reader an emotional ride that reminds me of *Winter Girls*. It is painful to read, but it is also hopeful and Kenna's emotional journey is something every young reader can relate to and feel. And for some readers, I know it will be a lifeline and a way to get the dialog started in asking for help. This is an important, must read book.

I loved this book and the way it was written. I can definitely see the appeal for a younger reader (although I also enjoy young adult books). The story was short and I, like others, wanted to know more; but was very intriguing and really got into the mind of a person going through these issues. I would definitely recommend this book to any young reader - and to any family who is facing the same issue - hearing the story from the teen's side really opens your eyes.

This book is beautiful! As a past suicidal teen this book really spoke to me and I couldn't put it down! The writing style is a bit annoying but other than that would recommend to everyone I know

Kiss of Broken Glass was shocking to me - eye opening and heartbreaking at the same time. I like to think that I'm aware of what teens are dealing with today, but this book made me realize that I really don't have a clue. The author puts you right there in the middle of it, feeling all the intense emotions. I learned so much from this book, and I am so glad that I read it.

A poignant and timely novel that exposes the underlying reasons why girls may choose to cut. Not only is this YA voice authentic and perfect for teens, it is a must read for every mother of a tween or teenage daughter.

I love the premise of Kiss of Broken Glass. I've read a number of books on the issue of self-harm, but Kiss of Broken Glass is unique because of the main character's motivation. Kenna started cutting because of peer pressure, because her group of friends at school does it, which is a really interesting/scary idea and adds a whole new layer of complexity to the issue. That's what made Kiss of Broken Glass such an intriguing and fascinating read. I also loved Madeleine Kuderick's writing style. Verse is kind of hit-or-miss for me, but when it's well-done, I love it, and Madeleine Kuderick definitely did it well. Her writing style is beautiful and evocative; Kiss of Broken Glass is the kind of book where you have to stop every once in a while to really take in the beauty of a phrase, or how perfectly it captures the emotions it's trying to express. No matter my feelings about other aspects of the novel, the writing has ensured that I will definitely read whatever Madeleine Kuderick will publish next. But despite the great premise and beautiful writing, I had some issues with Kiss of Broken Glass. And honestly, most of those issues stem from it being really, really short. With 224 pages in verse, there just isn't enough space to really flesh out the story or the characters. It seemed more like a psychological character study than like a novel, really, because there's not all that much of a story arc. I get that, since it's set over just 72 hours, there obviously isn't going to be some kind of

miraculous cure, but I still wanted more from the story than I got. The secondary characters are especially underdeveloped. I've read a couple of books set at facilities like this one, and I think the setting has a lot of potential for interesting interactions between characters. But sadly, I didn't get enough of that in Kiss of Broken Glass - again, because it's so short. There are a couple of secondary characters, but because they're not fleshed out enough, they seemed more like plot devices than like real people. Especially the hint of romance seemed forced. The characters of Kenna's family members are underdeveloped, too, just because there isn't enough space to create complex secondary characters in such a short novel. The premise has a lot of potential, and I absolutely loved Madeleine Kuderick's writing. But because the novel is so short, there isn't enough space to fully develop a story arc or to flesh out any of the characters. That made it hard for me to really feel anything while reading the story. I really wish this novel had been twice as long, to fully develop the story and to create complex characters, because I think I could have really loved this one.

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