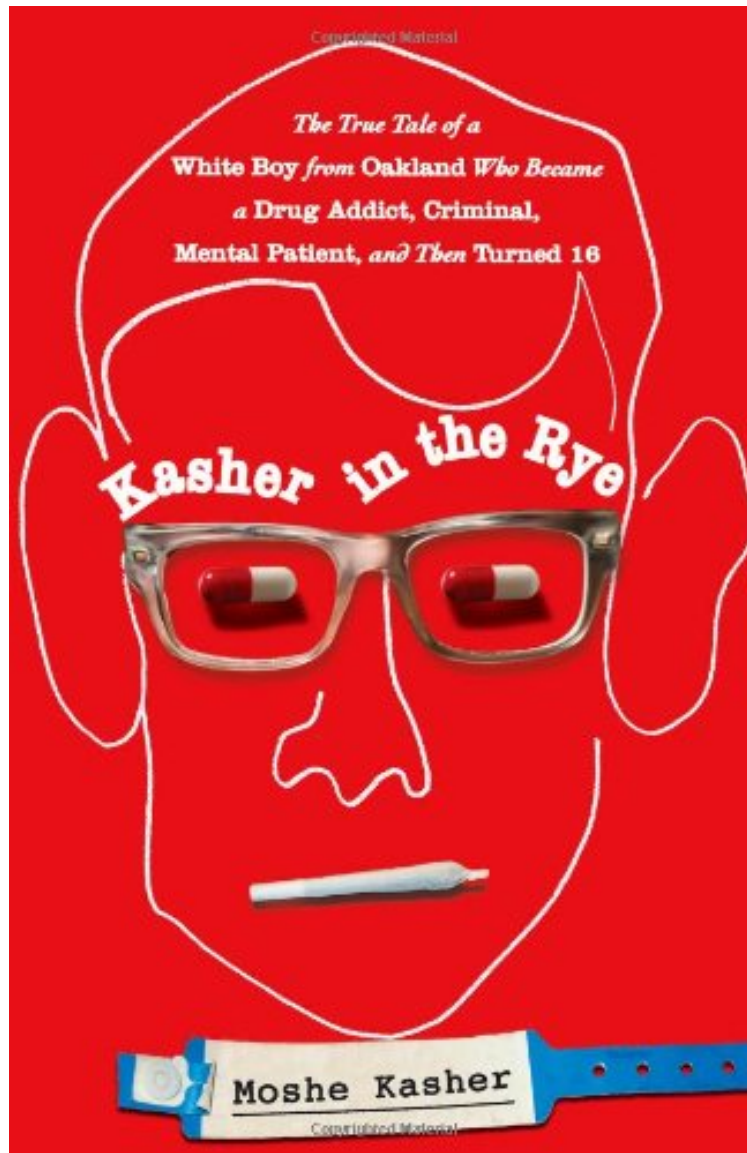


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# **Kasher in the Rye: The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland Who Became a Drug Addict, Criminal, Mental Patient, and Then Turned 16**

*Moshe Kasher*

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**Moshe Kasher : Kasher in the Rye: The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland Who Became a Drug Addict, Criminal, Mental Patient, and Then Turned 16**

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kasher in the Rye: The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland Who Became a Drug Addict, Criminal, Mental Patient, and Then Turned 16:

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Often obnoxious, always relatable, and thankfully heart-touching  
By Customer  
I wonder if I would have liked this book as much if I hadn't already been familiar with Moshe Kasher as a stand-up. I wonder if I would have liked this book as much if I hadn't related so strongly to the boy it described, who couldn't stop himself from screwing up no matter how much he wanted to. But those questions are moot. I was already familiar with Kasher, and enjoy his stand-up quite a bit. I find him incredibly intelligent, and very good at subverting what seems like fairly standard, offensive/un-PC humor. And man do I relate to that boy that Moshe Kasher was. I may not have been raised by deaf parents, nor am I Jewish with an ultra-religious father, and I didn't slide as far as Kasher, but I very easily could have, very nearly almost did. Additionally, Kasher is only a couple years older than I am, so a lot of the cultural touchstones mentioned here are the same I experienced. I felt like I was Kasher, or could have been. I knew him. He was just like some of the kids I was hanging with, sharing forties and smoking weed and taking pills. Screwin' up. It's probably because I related so strongly that I was able to overlook most of the problems of the book, some of which are fairly glaring. The biggest issue is that Kasher doesn't go out of his way to separate his voice from the voice of his 13 through 17 year old selves, so a lot of times he comes across as, well, a dumb kid who is acting out. He says offensive things, and we don't really get much of that intellect that Kasher injects on stage to defuse or flip the obnoxiousness. Still, that's not to say that the book is without insight, and the further you get in to the book, the better it gets. By the end, it's actually quite touching, and I'm not afraid to admit that I teared up quite a bit once Kasher finally found himself and started to heal rather than just numb the pain.  
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Kasher in the Rye: The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland... (Filled with tragic relevance which made me laugh-I hate myself)  
By Deborah Katz  
Kasher in the Rye: The True Tale of a White Boy from Oakland Who Became a Drug Addict, Criminal, Mental Patient, and Then Turned 16  
Kasher, a stand up comic by all appearances, but in reality so much more-a moving, breathing, example of resilience, love, compassion, wit, intelligence, and energy. In person, he is a walking flame, spewing I.Q. points and tearing down ALL barriers and stereotypes (so stop with that whole "flame" construct), and on the page, he has the time to move into your soul and settle down while rearranging your nicely appointed views. Put this book in every "F" grade high school, along with classes on how to render service. Good lord, Moshe Kasher has crossed over into the spiritual... I was laughing and crying too hard to see it happening. Buy the book. Buy a few of them and donate them to a school library, a boys/girls club, that kid down the street, your mother, Coach...  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable, vivid read... thanks, Moshe :-)  
By nocutename  
I am a fan of his comedy and had no clue about his background, so bought the book on a whim ... thoroughly enjoyed it ... so glad Moshe survived to share his story.

Rising young comedian Moshe Kasher is lucky to be alive. He started using drugs when he was just 12. At that point, he had already been in psychoanalysis for 8 years. By the time he was 15, he had been in and out of several mental institutions, drifting from therapy to rehab to arrest to...you get the picture. But KASHER IN THE RYE is not an "eye opener" to the horrors of addiction. It's a hilarious memoir about the absurdity of it all. When he was a young boy, Kasher's mother took him on a vacation to the West Coast. Well it was more like an abduction. Only not officially. She stole them away from their father and they moved to Oakland, California. That's where the real fun begins, in the war zone of Oakland Public Schools. He was more than just out of control-his mother walked him around on a leash, which he chewed through and ran away. Those early years read like part Augusten Burroughs, part David Sedaris, with a touch of Jim Carrol...but a lot more Jewish. In fact, Kasher later spends time in a Brooklyn Hasidic community. Then came addiction... Brutally honest and laugh-out-loud funny, Kasher's first literary endeavor finds humor in even the most horrifying situations.

From Bookforum  
The clever vitriol of the performer's fast-paced stand-up routine meets the vulnerable sincerity of a man who "gave a fuck very much" in Los Angeles comedian Moshe Kasher's first book. Kasher balances the heavier content of his memoir with playful turns of phrase, and continuous, effortless jokes, infusing the prose with an essential dose of levity. —Miriam Katz "Hysterical, heartbreaking, flat-out hilarious...after KASHER IN THE RYE, Moshe Kasher will no longer be known just as a brilliant, cutting edge young comic, but as a genuine monster writer of the highest order. Think Holden Caulfield on dope and bagels, with a side of crime and insane asylums. This is the kind of book that makes you want to wake up everyone you know at three in the morning and scream at them to read. Little Moshe Kasher lived a life no one should have to endure, and we're lucky he survived to write about it. He is living proof that whatever doesn't kill you makes you funnier. I fucking loved this book." --Jerry Stahl, New York Times bestselling author of Permanent Midnight  
"Moshe Kasher is a comic genius. In his memoir, KASHER IN THE RYE, he is able to perform an act of comedic magic which is reserved only for the true greats, such as Richard Pryor, Lenny Bruce, and Mitch Hedberg. Kasher's memoir will take you on a dark and hilarious journey of drugs, alcohol, and madness. But, by the time you reach the end of this book, you will be filled with hope and inspiration that even the

most vulnerable can find redemption and recovery." --Artie Lange, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Too Fat to Fish*"Out of all the Hip Hop Jewish kids I know with deaf Orthodox parents, Kasher is the funniest. This book is thoughtful, touching, a bit harrowing and hilarious. Don't shy away because his name is Moshe, it's not too 'Jewy'. Emmis." --Marc Maron, comedian and host of the WTF podcast"Travelling the hard road from teenage addiction to recovery, from lost boy to human being, Moshe Kasher tells it straight. His book over-brims with bravado and heart-breaking awareness, and with an authenticity that rings so true it's shattering. Frank and, above all, funny, this book is a marvel. I couldn't put it down." --M.A.C. Farrant, author of *My Turquoise Years* reviewer for *Toronto Globe Mail*About the AuthorMoshe Kasher is a stand-up comedian. He lives alone in Los Angeles. In 2009 he was named Comic of the Year by iTunes. He has been featured on Comedy Central's John Oliver's New York Stand-Up Show, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Chelsea Lately, and has performed at many international comedy festivals including the prestigious "Just For Laughs" festival in Montreal, "South By Southwest" and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.