

The Minds of Billy Milligan Study Guide

The Minds of Billy Milligan by Daniel Keyes

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Contents

The Minds of Billy Milligan Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Part One, The Mix-Up Time.....	4
Part Two, Becoming the Teacher.....	9
Part Three, Beyond Madness; Epilogue and Afterword.....	14
Characters.....	17
Objects/Places.....	20
Themes.....	22
Style.....	25
Quotes.....	27
Topics for Discussion.....	29



Plot Summary

On October 11, 1977, Chief John Kleberg of the Ohio State University police department has increased patrols and issued alerts on campus after two women were attacked, raped, and robbed. The attacker has been dubbed the "campus rapist" by the media. The two victims, Carrie Dryer and Donna West, are both in medical training. When a third victim, Polly Newton, is attacked, police step up the investigation and West chooses William Milligan from mug shots. He is arrested and subsequently charged with the rapes and robberies of the two women. His attorney, Judy Stevenson, insists on a mental evaluation and Dorothy Turner agrees to talk to Billy. She soon discovers that the person she is talking to is Danny, one of Billy's personalities and that there are several others. After only a brief time, she is convinced he's telling the truth and begins pleading with the personalities she'd met up to that point for permission to share the news with Judy.

Judy is quickly convinced as well and begins working on an insanity plea along with trying to arrange for the best possible treatment program. The various personalities take "the spot" or spotlight, with Billy now acting as a completely different person. As Billy begins treatment, he becomes "fused" with most of the personalities and tells his story. His father committed suicide when Billy was a toddler. His mother eventually married a man named Chalmers who physically and mentally abused Billy. Billy had already known imaginary playmates but then he split fully. He lost great blocks of time and Danny was created to handle the episodes that involved pain. Arthur, an English gentleman with a high IQ, becomes the leader who helps keep the chaos to a minimum, though he never has full control. Ragen becomes the keeper of the rage, powerful and able to defend the body whenever threats appeared. Baby Christene, only three years old, was the younger sister of Christopher and was the child who could play with Billy's younger sister, Kathy.

Over the years, some of the personalities create problems, deal with and take drugs, and commit robberies and other crimes. Once, Billy plans to kill himself and Ragen takes over. Arthur and Ragen come to the conclusion that Billy is a danger to himself and they put him to sleep. Eventually, Ragen plans to rob a college student in order to pay some bills, but Adalana, a lesbian who craves physical attention, takes over the role and the woman declares that she's been raped. Arthur takes the spot and pays some bills. Ragen returns to find the money gone and fearing the bills haven't been paid, robs again. By the third time, Billy is captured and charged, though he later says his arrest was a rescue because it put him in touch with those who could help him. The legal battle rages on for years with media attention and public opinion forcing courts and doctors to take steps that were not in Billy's best interest. After fighting the system for months, the writer working with Billy on a book of his story receives a letter, indicating that Billy has again gone to sleep.

The writer offers up an epilogue and afterword, explaining that Billy eventually returns to the care of a psychiatrist who has experience with multiple personality disorder.



Part One, The Mix-Up Time

Part One, The Mix-Up Time Summary and Analysis

On October 11, 1977, Chief John Kleberg of the Ohio State University police has increased patrols and issued alerts on campus after two women were attacked, raped, and robbed. The attacker has been dubbed the "campus rapist" the media. The two victims, Carrie Dryer and Donna West, are both in medical training. When a third victim, Polly Newton, is attacked, police step up the investigation and West chooses William Milligan from mug shots. He is arrested by a SWAT team leader posing as a pizza delivery man and credit cards belonging to Dryer and West are found in his apartment. Billy had warned his victims that other people would come after them, indicating he is part of an organization. He is uncooperative after being in custody, repeatedly saying that he hopes he didn't hurt anyone. On the way to jail he slips out of his handcuffs and remains on the van until officers order him out. Later, he tells another man that he's been to jail before and that's why he wants to get out.

When the public defender's office learns of the arrest, they know there's going to be an immediate push to get Billy to confess. When Billy asks for a "lady lawyer," Gary Schweikart agrees to assign the only woman on staff, Judy Stevenson, to the case. On Monday, Billy participates in a line up and of those asked to identify him, only Polly Newton positively identifies Billy though Carrie Dryer says Billy "looks familiar."

Prosecutors Terry Sherman and Bernard Zelig Yavitch are assigned to prosecute the case. Though it's a solid case, Yavitch realizes that the defense can still claim insanity. Judy insists on a psychiatrist's evaluation and Billy attempts suicide by banging his head against a wall of his cell. At the hearing for parole violation which would send Billy back to jail, Schweikart argues that the gun hasn't yet been fired and so it can't be proven that the gun is a legitimate firearm, winning the opportunity to keep Billy in the local jail instead of having him return to the penitentiary. Billy next destroys a toilet bowl with his fist and uses a piece of the porcelain to slash his wrists in another attempt at suicide.

Chapter two begins as the first psychologist to examine Billy describes schizophrenia and says Billy is not competent to stand trial. The next, Dorothy Turner, expects to find a young man trying to fake an insanity plea. She asks Billy for his social security number and he says he doesn't know it. She then tells him the number and he says that it isn't his, but must be Billy's. It's here that Dorothy encounters the first of Billy's alternative personalities: An eight-year-old boy named David who says that he doesn't know all the "others," that his job is to come into "the spot" or spotlight whenever there's pain to be endured, that he's afraid, and names another of the personalities as Arthur. David explains that Billy is asleep in here, pointing to his chest. He says that the personality not currently in "the spot" sleeps. The next day Dorothy meets Christopher, a thirteen-year-old from England who says David is in trouble for having told her "the secret." He says he has a three-year-old sister named Christene. The next day she meets Tommy, sixteen and sullen, who refuses to talk. Despite her promise to David that she wouldn't



tell anyone about him, she calls Judy with a word of advice: get a copy of the book "Sybil," and read it carefully.

Dorothy encounters David again and asks if she can tell the secret to Judy. David flatly refuses and the personality named Arthur comes into the spot, saying that Dorothy can't break a promise to David. Then eighteen-year-old Allen appears, saying that Billy has been asleep for a long time. Another is Regan who is defined as "keeper of the rage." Dorothy eventually gets permission from all the personalities to share the information with Judy and then with Gary. Both are skeptical but come to believe in the multiple personalities. The interaction becomes clearer. Regan is "in charge" when survival is principle and Arthur reigns otherwise. Danny and Allen are usually "on spot" when dealing with other people. Regan admits to having committed robbery in order to pay the bills but denies the rapes. He then says that if "they" go to jail, he will euthanize the youngsters of the personality. It's also explained that Billy always tries to commit suicide and that's why he is kept asleep. On the most recent suicide attempt, he'd been allowed to wake because Christene had made him a birthday card.

By now, Gary and Judy have heard of nine distinct personalities - Arthur, Allen, Tommy, Ragen, David, Danny, Christopher, Christene and Billy - and had met all but Christene and Billy. Then Judy and Gary discuss the fact that Billy is likely going to be sent to a mental hospital for the criminally insane and that Billy probably won't survive there. They find a statute that indicates that Billy could be sent to another hospital and come to believe that Harding Hospital, operated by a conservative named George Harding, Jr., is the answer. Billy has no money and Judy realizes the way to have him admitted there is to pique Harding's interest. He's invited to an examination by a noted psychologist in the field of multiple personalities named Cornelia Wilbur and agrees. There, Wilbur urges the others to allow Billy to wake and he is finally allowed to do so, but is immediately afraid. He says that he can't talk to doctors because his stepfather, Chal, will be angry, and then seems confused when he's told that Chal and his mother are divorced. Billy grows more agitated until Wilbur tells him he can go rest now and Tommy reappears. A few days later, a judge grants permission for Billy to be housed at Harding Hospital for further evaluation. As Tommy, he promises he won't try to escape. Just prior to the transfer, Dorothy tells Judy that another personality has appeared - a girl named Adelana who is known only to Arthur and Christene who is a nineteen-year-old lesbian and is the one who "stole" the time from Ragen and performed the rapes.

Chapter three begins as Billy is moved to Harding Hospital early and there is told that he'll have to undergo a rectal exam. Danny says that "might mess Billy up" because that's where Billy had been raped four times by his stepfather. Under Dr. George's care, Billy's sessions are taped and several of the personalities come to talk to each other. There is a huge argument between Arthur, Adelana and Ragen. The end result is that Arthur maintains control and tells Ragen that the rapes, though performed by Adelana, are his fault because his use of drugs and loss of control allowed Adelana to take control. Ragen essentially failed in his duty as protector. Arthur relegates Adelana to the back, telling her that she's never again allowed in the spot.



One day, an employee of Harding Hospital named Rosalie Drake sees Billy catch a butterfly and then cry when he realizes that he killed it. She knows that it's none of the personalities she's dealt with before and says that she's waited a long time to meet Billy. One day Billy takes the spot and molds a head of clay. Allen takes over but his hand slips and he stabs himself. He knows he wasn't that clumsy and that it was Ragen. Ragen says that Allen is trying to get attention and that it's Billy and the younger ones who need attention. Arthur says that he's been considering allowing Billy to move to the front more often and that he plans to let Billy meet all of them once he's met Dr. George. That meeting occurs and the first time Billy mentions his father and then disappears. The new personality says that Billy went to sleep on his own. Later, Billy and Dr. George talk again and this time Billy meets Arthur who tells Billy that he'd not learned about the others because until now he hadn't been ready.

Under Dr. George's therapy, Billy is given an additional three months of therapy by the courts and begins the process of fusion. Arthur explains it as making Kool-aid. The individual grains of Kool-aid make up the powder and when mixed with water form the liquid version. If allowed to evaporate, there would be a solid mass - the same grains but fused as a single portion. They fuse seven of the nine known personalities, leaving Arthur, Ragen and Billy. The fused personality lasts for longer and longer periods, though there are problems such as when one fears a particular thing that gives another no fear and when one says he feels as if he's stealing talent from another.

Meanwhile, the question of defense is again raised. Arthur is angry at being told to offer an insanity plea and Billy attempts to fire his attorneys several times but they ignore him. Knowing that multiple personality disorder is not considered a psychosis and is therefore not an accepted insanity defense causes Dr. George some worry. He eventually writes a report that indicates that he believes Billy capable of standing trial but that he doesn't believe him responsible for his actions prior to the fusion of his personalities.

The trial maneuvers begin and Billy is one day seen in his cell, drawing Raggedy Ann with a rope around her neck. He's re-evaluated and it's determined that he remains stable but fragile. It's also reiterated that Ragen and Arthur have not been fused with the other personalities. Gary and Judy begin to look for alternatives and find Dr. David Caul from the Athens, Ohio, Mental Health Center willing to take Billy as a patient, if found not guilty because of insanity. That occurs and Billy is sentenced to the custody of Dr. Caul. On the way, he can't keep himself in control and eventually Danny comes to the forefront, wondering why he's on the bus and where he's going. Chapter five begins with the arrival at the new hospital. It's Danny who answers Dr. Caul's questions and Dr. Caul says he isn't surprised because of Billy's fragile state prior to the trial.

Billy soon comes out again and meets with Dr. Caul. Arthur also meets with him. One nurse is aggravated that she shows Danny around the hospital but then is asked to show Billy around later. Billy begins drawing again and there are offers for his art work. He's also confronted with offers to write his life story and to appear on television shows. He says that he would like to have the money since he doesn't know how he could support himself once he's released, and that having his story told could have an



educational impact on child abuse. Billy's mother now says that she knew there were "others," but that no one believed her. She says that when he was fourteen he had a knife under his pillow and told his mother that he'd expected her husband to be dead by that morning. It will later be revealed that Ragen took the knife and Allen made that comment.

Billy agrees to a book contract with a writer Dr. Caul recommends though there is some argument from Ragen initially. He also agrees to an interview from local news media and meets Billy, Regan and Arthur. As they leave, Dr. Caul says he believes the writers believe in Billy's multiple personalities. Billy meets later with the writer and briefly describes the early abuse at the hands of his father. He says that he now realizes that the day he was taken into custody wasn't the day he was arrested but the day he was rescued.

Billy has a meeting later with the writer and says that he has a watch that he doesn't remember buying, and that he doesn't think it's right that someone else is spending the money he's earned from paintings. He then says that he keeps thinking of the names Phillip and Kevin, though he doesn't know who they are. Later, Dr. Caul hears his receptionist having an argument with someone and discovers that it's a yet-undiscovered personality who drops a piece of paper on his desk and then leaves. The paper contains a list of twenty-four names including "The Teacher."

Dr. Caul shows Billy a video of himself and it's there that Billy realizes that what he's been told about the multiple personalities is all true. He's accepted the word of others until now, but now fully understands. Alone later in the lobby, he feels a transformation. When Dr. Caul sees him there sometime later, he realizes what's happened and greets him as "The Teacher."

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Stevenson, having met with Billy several times, insists that he be examined by a psychologist. She notes that he seems like a different person sometimes. This is a foreshadowing that there really is something wrong with Billy that others can see. At one point, Judy tells Billy that her opinion of his guilt doesn't matter, but that they have to find a way to explain the firearms and the items belonging to the victims that were found in his apartment. Billy immediately withdraws and writes Judy a letter the following day saying that he doesn't need an attorney and that nothing matters if she believes him guilty. A psychologist declares Billy schizophrenic and a court-appointed psychologist is called in. Billy, to prevent additional suicide attempts, is placed in an infirmary cell and restrained in a straight jacket. When jailers check on him later, he's using the straight jacket as a pillow and is asleep.

The staff at Harding has trouble dealing with Billy. They refer to him only as Billy and the personalities that are present at the time grow angry. When they are praised, they are angry that "Billy" gets the credit. When they are chastised, they claim that it was some other personality and refuse to take responsibility. It seems that, having always answered to Billy and having never been individually recognized, they now grow angry



when they aren't individually identified. Dr. Harding is also frustrated, feeling he isn't making progress as quickly as he should with the time limit imposed by the courts. It's interesting to note that Billy's condition will not be recognized as psychosis but as a neurosis, meaning he could be convicted despite the fact of the diagnosis. Later, Wilbur acknowledges this, saying that once the "secret is out," the others crave notice.

There is a very complicated session in which Ragen says that the personality known as "The Teacher" is really Billy, but a whole Billy rather than the disjointed personalities that manifest. Ragen can't seem to fully explain but says that he believes Billy couldn't handle that information, that it would destroy him. When asked if he realizes that he has a problem and needs help for it, Ragen says that he doesn't "have" a problem, but that he "is" the problem. This isn't further examined at this point but a short time later Ragen announces that he and Arthur have argued the point and that they believe that Billy should know that he is The Teacher. It's interesting Ragen says Billy was "a child prodigy." It seems that he was likely a good artist, musician and had a knack for electronics because various of the personalities seem gifted in those areas. Now, Ragen indicates that "The Teacher" has taught them all these things. When Billy later realizes that this is the case, that he is the one with all the talents, he also accepts that he is the one who created the alternative personalities and therefore is responsible for their crimes.



Part Two, Becoming the Teacher

Part Two, Becoming the Teacher Summary and Analysis

Part Two, "Becoming the Teacher," begins with chapter seven. At six months, Billy was hospitalized for a blockage in his airways. He has an older brother, Jim, and his parents are in show business though his father, Johnny, is on the downhill slide. His sister, Kathy Jo, is born and on Jim's fifth birthday, Johnny is released briefly from the hospital for alcohol addiction and overdoses. It's then that Christene appears, growing close to Kathy though Christene and Billy are both afraid when they lose chunks of time to each other. Billy has also seen a young boy by now, though this youngster has no name. When Johnny succeeds in his next suicide attempt, Billy's mother, Dorothy, takes the family to Ohio. One day Billy breaks a cookie jar and, fearing punishment, goes to sleep. A boy named Shawn comes to consciousness and is punished. The retreat becomes common and Billy always goes to sleep when punishment is forthcoming.

In 1962, Dorothy has remarried her first husband, having not been married to Johnny. She leaves him and loses a lot of money to a con artist who convinces her to join him in a business deal. She then meets Chalmer Milligan who has a daughter Billy's age named Challa. Chalmer has a farm and tells the boys there will be a lot of work to do to prepare the land for spring planting. Chapter eight begins as Dorothy sees the unusual strictness in her new husband. Later, Chalmer takes Billy to the farm and rapes him. It is apparently at this time that Billy develops the full cast of personalities. One day Christene, the "corner child," wants to take an apple to her teacher. It's while she's trying to reach an apple that she becomes aware of Regan. When a boy later is mean to her, Christene refuses to allow Regan to take control and fight the boy. One day he wakes as Arthur and scoffs at a math test. When he later awakes as Billy, he's amazed that he knew the answers to the math problems and the teacher tries to find that he's somehow cheated. He continues to have trouble in school and when he figures out that not everyone loses great chunks of time, decides he must be insane and hides it as best he can.

One day Chalmers sexually abuses him and buries him with a pipe over his face for air, urinating into the pipe before releasing the boy. It's "Danny" who then becomes afraid of the earth. Chalmers reinforces this fear by saying that he'll bury Billy alive and tell Dorothy that he ran away. When Chalmers calls him "sissy" and "queer" for helping his mother with flowers and his art and poetry, he stops those activities, allowing Adalana to do them instead. Tommy emerges more fully, studying electricity and electronics and later the human hand so that he knows how to escape.

Arthur becomes aware that he sleeps more than most people and when Jim or Kathy describe his actions, he's often confused. It's through this deduction that he realizes there must be "others." He eventually discovers twenty-three and learns their personalities. He learns that Christene already knows about the others and it takes



Arthur some time to figure out how to control the time so that he knows what's going on when he isn't in control. He also comes to believe that he has to figure out some logical method of control, realizing that chaos is currently ruling. Soon after, a boy named Kevin with a Brooklyn accent joins up with Phillip and they break windows at school.

Chapter nine begins when a principal notices Billy's trances and refers him for psychiatric care. Later, he's hospitalized and he believes that his mother has decided to "keep Chalmer and give him away." Jason manifests as the one able to let off steam and it's his actions that gets Billy put into seclusion and on suicide watch. Billy is released eventually back into his mother's care. Billy gets a job at an IGA grocery store and, thinking that things had gone well over the holiday, buys Chalmer a steak with his first paycheck in an effort to build a better relationship. When Billy arrives, he finds the entire family gathered around his mother. Chalmer pulled out a hunk of her scalp and threw her through the back door. That night, Ragen takes over, puts a knife under his pillow and pledges to kill Chalmer. The next morning, Allen tells his mother that he had intended for Chalmer to die that day. It's during this time that Billy's classmates realize he's been in a mental hospital and tease him unmercifully. He is attacked in the girl's restroom and unwilling to hit the girls, they steal his pants. A teacher finds him and returns them. Billy then goes up onto the roof, writes a brief suicide note in his book, and takes a run toward the edge of the building. Ragen slams him to the ground just before he jumps. Ragen and Arthur then discuss the situation and realize that it's too dangerous to allow Billy on the spot. They agree that Allen will do most of the talking, Arthur will be in control when reason demands it, and Ragen when there's a threat. Arthur explains it to the children, warning that they'll take turns in the spot, that no one can ever reveal the secret that there are others, and Allen heads back to class as chapter ten opens.

Over the coming year, Billy holds a job at a florist until the owner makes a pass at him, and then later closes the store. He then works at a nursing home where Arthur is enthralled with the biology of the situation and often sits with patients but is fired when it's discovered he is only sixteen. At seventeen, just as Jim is leaving for the Army, Tommy and Allen join the Navy. Chapter eleven begins with the one-month stint in the Navy that ends with an honorable discharge. Billy, as Phillip, heads next to New York. After several days, Danny takes the spot, then Allen, who thinks he's still in Chicago.

Back in Ohio, Billy becomes a salesman and when he is involved with leaving two girls in a remote wooded area, is charged with kidnapping and rape. He turns eighteen in jail, is found guilty and turned over to the youth authority. Dorothy, at the urging of the two girls remaining at home, divorces Chalmer. In chapter twelve, Billy, usually as Tommy or Allen, spends time in jail and finds that his mother has a new boyfriend when he's furloughed for a weekend. The man has a son Billy's age and they immediately connect, making plans to live together after Billy's release. However, the boy, Stuart, is killed in a motorcycle crash.

Chapter thirteen begins with Billy remaining at home only a short time after his release and Arthur begins planning for them to live on their own. He institutes rules of behavior and decides that anyone who disobeys will be banished forever from the spot. The rules



include that no one can lie, everyone must come to the aid of children and women in distress, and no one can perform any criminal activity that might land them again in jail. The exception to the final rule is Ragen who serves as protector. They are also required never to waste time but are to study and hone their particular skills. One day Samuel sells paintings by the others and Arthur banishes him because of this "theft." Arthur later admits that he might have been hasty in his decision because Samuel is the only one of the family who believes in God, but stands by it.

Arthur discovers a girl named April who is constantly arguing with Adalana. April convinces Regan to kill Chalmer but Arthur points out the plan to Christene who has a fit and convinces Regan not to do a "bad" thing. Regan unloads his gun, takes aim and pulls the trigger, knowing that he could have killed Chalmer but didn't. Arthur banishes April.

A young woman named Marlene becomes a fixture at Billy's apartment. She is sometimes worried about his mood swings, but believes he needs to get off the drugs and to be loved. One day, Tommy is put on the spot while he and Marlene are in bed together and he tries to reach Arthur to say that he isn't the one who broke the celibacy rule, but is unable to reach Arthur. Regan finds himself winning a job "riding shotgun" with drug and gun deliveries. He loses pieces of time and worries that one of the others is taking hard drugs but is unable to find Arthur to help regain control. At a Communist Party meeting, Ragen is unable to stay awake and Arthur finds himself on the spot. He is angry at the situation and leaves. He sees an accident on the way home and uses an ink pen to create an airway for a woman choking on her own blood until an ambulance arrives.

As chapter fourteen opens, Marlene is around more and more as Billy almost overdoses twice and she pledges to remain at his side. Arthur buys a ticket to London and Allen wakes in a small room over an English pub. He bluffs his way into a return ticket and when Arthur realizes he's no longer in England, sulks. The personalities begin having problems and Arthur seems no longer in control. He blames Marlene who soon gives up on the relationship until Tommy calls her to come for a visit and rekindles the flame. Chapter fifteen begins as Walter takes the spot and goes hunting, killing a crow, which prompts Arthur to banish him.

Phillip begins robbing homosexuals who hang out at rest stops but Kevin tells. The family finds out and there's a huge mix up as Kevin, Danny and others come in and out of the spot at very inconvenient and confusing times. Chapter sixteen begins with the story of Kevin planning the robbery of Gray's Drug Store carried out by two other men, though Kevin is later arrested for his role in the crime as well as for the rest area robberies. In chapter seventeen, he's sent to jail and Ragen realizes that he's now in full control. The time in jail is chaotic with several "undesirables" being banished for their various actions. Marlene continues to visit, often bringing items needed by one or the other. Arthur works for awhile in a medical lab but is transferred to protective custody after he pours out a large amount of cocaine and is later transferred to a mental facility. He's eventually released and changes spots quickly between Tommy, Arthur and others.



As chapter eighteen opens, Billy meets a woman named Bev through his sister, Kathy, breaks up with Marlene and eventually moves in with Bev though he tells her he's impotent and they are nothing more than friends. Another friend, Steve Love, lives with them as well as Bev's two children. Steve notes Billy's erratic moods and Bev, who has been paying the bills, suggests that the two get jobs. Billy is soon ordered by his parole officer to move back home then applies for a job as a maintenance man. He puts his stepfather, Del, as a previous employer and Del gives a glowing review and Billy gets the job. He's soon given an apartment of his own in exchange for being on call all the time. They settle in with each making time and place for themselves then Ragen robs a white pimp, giving the money to black children who were without shoes. Arthur is upset and realizes that Ragen wants to go back to jail so that he will be in control. The job doesn't last long and on an October day, Ragen realizes that there are bills to be paid and no money. He heads for the OSU campus.

As chapter nineteen opens, Ragen takes Carrie Dryer at gunpoint. Adalana, anxious for tenderness, lays on the ground with her and then takes money so that Ragen won't be mad. Over the following weekend, others spend the money and when Ragen takes the spot again, several days have passed and the money is all gone. Next he kidnaps and rapes Donna West, ordering her to withdraw money from her bank and credit card accounts, then goes to sleep to discover that the others have again spent the money. Ragen robs again, this time the girl named Polly Newton. There are several changes of position along the way and after the robbery Ragen discovers that Arthur actually paid most of the bills with the money from the first robbery, meaning he didn't have to continue robbing. Arthur demands that no one leave the house until he can figure out who is stealing time from Ragen. David is alone a day or so later and discovers that he's afraid and that no one else will answer him. It's Danny who is on the spot when the police arrive, the first officer carrying a pizza box and pretending to be a delivery man.

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It's noted that Shawn sees that people are talking but doesn't hear. He is, in fact, apparently deaf and on one occasion moves very close to a television in order to feel the vibrations, a step that a deaf child would likely have taken. When Chalmer is beating Dorothy, Shawn takes over so that Billy doesn't have to hear. Over the time Billy is hospitalized as a teen, the personalities begin to realize the existence of each other. Danny, keeper of the pain, finds David and the two spend happy time together. Arthur begins to listen in to all the other personalities so that he's learning about Billy and Billy's life prior to his own consciousness. The personalities are also becoming more individual. For example, Danny refuses to sign Billy's name to his drawings though the others do.

Tommy and Adalana take the spot to hold a job in a florist's shop but the owner makes a pass at Billy and then, apparently fearing he'd be revealed as a homosexual, closes the door and flees. It's interesting that Tommy, who was not on the spot when the pass occurred, is surprised at the outcome. This is evidence that not all the personalities realize what's happening to the others. At one point, Allen doesn't know how he got from Chicago to New York and has to struggle to get back to Ohio. He notes that someone



"stole time" from him but is unable to reach either Arthur or Ragen for advice or to voice his complaints. He refers to this as another "mix up time."

The scene in which Billy is charged with rape becomes very confusing in that it's never truly explained whether Samuel Garrison - a "coworker" - is a real person or is the Samuel who is one of Billy's personalities. The Samuel who is part of Billy claims to be an Orthodox Jew and "discovers" that Billy's father was also Jewish. It's noted that he's the only one of the personalities who believes in God and when Billy is sent to jail, Ragen tells Samuel that his prayers haven't helped and that it's obvious that there is no God.



Part Three, Beyond Madness; Epilogue and Afterword

Part Three, Beyond Madness; Epilogue and Afterword Summary and Analysis

Billy begins to improve in chapter twenty and is allowed to leave the hospital building, first with an escort and then alone, eventually being allowed a furlough. While visiting his sister Kathy, he asks about his father's suicide note. She reluctantly hands it over and that note paints a very different picture about Johnny Morrison from the stories told by Dorothy. Johnny indicates that it's Dorothy who is hanging out with the wrong crowd and hints that she is cheating on him. He says that he tried several times to get her to marry him in order to legitimize the children, but that she refuses, saying that the tabloids might pick up the information. The letter requests that a Mr. Rau look into protecting the children from Dorothy. Billy immediately begins trying to confirm the letter's contents and finds a former employer who remembers that Dorothy was wild and that she controlled Johnny. On February 28, 1979, Billy alerts his attorney that he doesn't want his mother at his commitment review hearing slated for the following day. Chapter twenty-two begins with the news that Billy has another six months at the Athens Mental Health Center. He knows that when he's cured and released, he's likely going to be sent back to jail to serve the remainder of his sentence, and that he may very well be sentenced to additional years for parole violations. Then the local newspaper begins running articles about the fact that Billy, a confessed rapist, was able to come and go as he pleased.

A young technician named Mike Rupe notes that Billy looks upset and takes time to talk to him. He soon discovers that he's talking to Danny who says that Arthur believes Rupe to be trustworthy. Danny says that Regan is threatening suicide. Billy eventually begins talking to Rupe as well and Rupe realizes that Billy believes himself being punished for something someone else has done. Billy mentions taking medication and is taken to the hospital to have his stomach pumped in case of an overdose. He hasn't taken medications but is then angry because he has to be locked up due to the press coverage. He is given Thorazine though he knows that is not a good option for multiple personalities, and by the time he arrives in a lock-down cell, Arthur has lost all semblance of control. Billy gradually gains back some degree of freedom but is not allowed to leave the grounds without an escort.

A local bank agrees to post some of Billy's art and he chooses carefully though he says he hopes those who come to see it will be interested in art rather than analyzing the work of a multiple-personality rapist. By now, a "fused" personality known as The Teacher is remaining active most of the time. Billy is dealing with the complexity of emotions that had previously been handled by the various personalities and is exhibiting the talents of all. A newspaper article suggests that Billy might find that the hostility



against him is strong when he's released. Days later, The Teacher is about to walk across a small bridge at the edge of the hospital grounds on his way to buy cigarettes when he's shot at. The Teacher freezes and Ragen takes over. Billy's work is immediately undone and he's defused. Arthur and Ragen tell Dr. Caul who is still in charge of Billy's therapy and The Teacher doesn't put in another immediate appearance.

The Teacher does return as they go for another hearing arguing that Billy had not been competent of standing trial when convicted for the drug store and rest stop robberies. A few days later, waiting for the result apparently causes Billy to defuse further and he - as Steve - goes off the hospital grounds and tries to jump from a roof but a nurse stops him.

Days later, Billy and an acquaintance from prison, Gus Holston, are accused of attacking two girls. Though the staff immediately realizes there has been no rape, the accusation causes an investigation and Billy becomes even more defused. He's held on lock down for awhile and misses his sister's wedding - an event he's been excited about and has planned for. He agrees to an interview with a reporter who asks his name and is told that he doesn't think he has one. Billy and Gus, fearing that they're about to be taken back to prison for a rape they claim not to have committed, break through a door and attempt an escape. They are subdued and a judge, hearing the story and agreeing with the security personnel that Billy can't be contained at Athens, orders him to Lima Mental Facility for the Criminally Insane. Billy is summarily shipped off.

Chapter twenty-three begins with Billy's hearing. He greets the writer as The Teacher and is ordered to return to Lima for six weeks though he objects that it's not the best place for treatment in his case, citing the fact that the doctors there don't believe the diagnosis of multiple personalities. The Teacher talks to the writer later at Lima. The writer notes that he was initially given permission for a tour of the hospital but then was denied, first being accused of having provided drugs to Billy and then being told it was not in Billy's best interests.

During the next hearing to consider Billy's current situation and next step, the Lima psychiatrist says he doesn't believe Billy has multiple personality disorder. The psychiatrist goes on to talk about the few hours he'd spent with Billy on previous occasions, and noted that he hadn't progressed at all, and suggested that Billy is simply angry and manipulative. Dr. Caul responds through a previous deposition, saying that a doctor who treats a person with multiple personality disorder must believe that the disorder exists and must be willing to deal with each of the personalities. The judge rules several days later that Billy does suffer from multiple personality disorder, that he does require maximum security, and that he remain at Lima to be treated for the illness. The psychiatrists at Lima create a plan of action that still don't acknowledge the multiple personality disorder. Instead, they addresses antisocial, sociopathic and hysterical issues. Billy's attorneys, Alan Goldsberry and Steve Thompson, file contempt of court charges against Lima.

The writer gets a letter from Billy describing the horrible situation, then a letter from another source who says Billy has been moved to maximum security, is denied most



outside contact, and is under pressure to fire his attorneys and to stop working on the book. The next letter is from Ragen, indicating that Billy is again asleep and that he is fine.

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After reading his father's suicide note, Billy becomes depressed and The Teacher is not present when the writer next arrives to interview Billy. Billy confides that he's have trouble remaining fused and that it might be easier to simply give in to the prison authorities and return to prison. He also says that he's now trying to keep up all the activities that had previously been performed by individuals of the group, and that it's exhausting.

The constant battles of fusing and defusing, and the fragmentation that occurs so often when there are hostile or upsetting situations, are exhausting to the reader and must have been more so to Billy, his therapists and his attorneys. At one point he's sued for the treatment from Athens with officials citing the "private" care afforded to a criminal. When he's moved to another correctional facility and housed with others who are diagnosed with multiple disorder, the press alleges that Billy is receiving preferential treatment in that he gets to choose who he lives with.

There follows an Epilogue and Afterword. Two and a half years pass with Billy further defusing to the point that the writer no longer encounters The Teacher at all. Sometimes, the personalities seem to be partially fused personalities and claim to have no name. There are descriptions of "feeling hollow" and of looking at the older personalities in coffins, waiting to die, though some of the younger ones cling to life. Billy is eventually returned to Athens to Dr. Caul where all realize that it will take lots of time to undo the damage done by those who didn't believe in the disorder.



Characters

William

Billy is a young man accused of raping and robbing several young women from Ohio State University. He has alternative personalities including David, who is "eight going on nine," and Arthur who is English seems to explain things to the other personalities and is often dominant. Others include Tommy, sixteen and sullen, who refuses to talk at all, Christopher who speaks with an English accent and claims to have a three-year-old sister named Christene, Ragen who is charged with protection, and fourteen-year-old Danny. Billy has already been in trouble for robbery and is on parole at the time of his arrest for the rapes and robberies. It's while he is being evaluated by a psychologist that the alternative personalities are discovered. Prior to that time, those who realized they were multiples had simply done their best to hide the fact.

As a youngster, Billy is raped and abused by his stepfather which triggers the emergence of a personality who will take the pain in any situation. When these alternates take "the spot," Billy is simply unaware of his actions and typically wakes in a different place without understanding how he got there. When the situation becomes too much for him to stand, he decides to kill himself by jumping off a roof. Ragen interrupts the action, taking control of the spot and holding it against Billy's return. Ragen and Arthur then discuss the situation and realize that Billy can't withstand the strain. They make the decision to keep him asleep and he remains so for seven years, waking for the first time after he is in jail for the rapes and robberies.

Dorothy Turner

The first to encounter Billy's alter-personality named David, Dorothy is asked to evaluate Billy and agrees to do so. When she asks for his social security number, "Billy" doesn't answer. When she calls off a number and asks if that is his social security number, she's told that it "must be Billy's." Dorothy, instead of stepping out in anger, asks what for her is the next logical question - his name. He tells her he is David, and then pleads with her not to tell anyone. Dorothy soon understands that she's dealing with multiple personality disorder. While she's promised David she won't tell, Dorothy knows that his attorneys need to know. She doesn't exactly tell Judy the facts, but recommends that she pick up a copy of the book, "Sybil," about a young woman with the same disorder. While Dorothy doesn't become one of Billy's primary treatment providers, it is she who takes the lead in making Billy's condition known among those who would later come to work on his behalf.

Judy Stevenson

The "lady attorney" on staff with the public defender's office who is assigned to represent Milligan. Judy quickly becomes Billy's hero though on several occasions he



tries to fire her, once because he believes she considers him guilty. Judy remains with Billy's case as long as the public defender's office has any jurisdiction.

Bernard Zelig Yavitch

A thirty-five-year-old prosecuting attorney assigned as co-prosecutor of the Milligan case. It's Yavitch who realizes that the only real option available to the defense is an insanity plea. It's noted that Yavitch is present when several of Billy's personalities are revealed to a group and that he finds himself believing the diagnosis of multiple personality disorder.

Dr. David Caul

A psychiatrist noted for his work with multiple personalities and medical director at the Athens Mental Health Center in Athens, Ohio. Dr. Caul takes extensive criticism and abuse regarding Billy's presence at the hospital and in the treatment being used by Caul, but Caul refuses to give in to public opinion. It's noted that Billy trusts Caul and wants to return to therapy with him.

Johnny Morrison

Billy's biological father who commits suicide when Billy is a toddler. Billy grows up believing that his father had been irresponsible with money and abusive to his mother but later reads the suicide note indicating that wasn't entirely true. Morrison was Jewish, probably prompting the appearance of Samuel, a Jewish personality of Billy who is noted as the only one of the group to believe in God.

Chalmer Milligan

Billy's stepfather and the man who rapes and abuses Billy, prompting the split. Milligan denies the abuse though others corroborate Billy's story.

Arthur

An Englishman who is something of a snob and is among the more dominant of Billy's personalities. Arthur is smart but refuses to take an IQ test. It's Arthur who, along with Ragen, decides that Billy must sleep because he is a danger to himself. When Billy moves into a place of his own, Arthur insists that everyone be involved in constructive activities but seems himself to often become distracted so that he doesn't enforce the rules.



Ragen

The "keeper of the rage," Ragen is the only one allowed to handle firearms though he is very conscious of the need to keep them out of the reach of the younger children. Ragen has a Russian accent, works out and is very strong. Ragen takes control from Arthur during times when survival is top priority - such as while Billy is in prison. Arthur comes to believe Ragen wants to be jailed again so that he has that control.

Adalana

A lesbian of the group, Adalana says she is responsible for the "boys" being in trouble because she was in control at the time the rapes occurred. Adalana is the only one of the group able to "wish" someone else off the spot so that she can take control.

Lee

Lee is another of Billy's personalities. Arthur allows Lee to take the spot often while in prison because he provides a way for Billy and others to laugh, something Arthur feels is vital in that setting. Lee is in control when Billy is put into isolation for a prank and Arthur banishes him. It's noted that Lee chooses not to live in that limbo and apparently ceases to be among the personalities.

Danny

Danny is the "keeper of the pain." He is the one who comes onto the spot anytime Billy is being punished. Billy notes that as a child, he is expecting a spanking or other punishment, but then simply slips away and when he returns to consciousness, he'll have welts, bruises or scrapes but won't have felt the actual punishment.

The Teacher

A culmination of most of the personalities, it's The Teacher who is able to tell the story of Billy's life prior to his arrest. The Teacher is a fragile being and often slips away in times of stress.



Objects/Places

Ohio State University

Where the three victims had been attending school when they were attacked.

The Campus Rapist

The name given the attacker by the media.

Harding Hospital

The hospital run by Dr. George Harding, Jr., where Billy is held during the initial fusing of the personalities.

Athens Mental Hospital

Where Billy is sent after being found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Columbus State Hospital

Where Billy is admitted to the adolescent unit as a teenager.

Lancaster High School

Where Billy is teased about having been in the mental hospital and where he attempts suicide.

Chicago

Where Billy is in basic training and is discharged from the Navy.

Zanesville Youth Camp

Where Billy is sent after being charged with rape and kidnapping as a juvenile.



Gray's Drug Store

Kevin plans a robbery of Gray's Drug Store and though it's carried out by two other men, Kevin is arrested for his role in it.

Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane

Where Billy is taken after his escape attempt from Athens.



Themes

The Will to Survive

It's the will to survive that creates the multiple personalities in Billy's life. For example, David is "the keeper of the pain" and it's David who always takes the spot when there is punishment or pain to be endured. In this way, Billy is able to move past that point and to continue to survive whereas it's possible he would have given up his life had he been forced to endure the punishment at the hands of his parents and others.

That will to survive is also seen when Ragen and Arthur put Billy "to sleep." Billy, who has grown tired of losing the great chunks of time and has come to hate see his situation as intolerable tries to commit suicide by throwing himself off a rooftop. When this happens, Ragen takes control and throws "Billy" to the ground to stop the action. Ragen and Arthur then discuss the situation and come to decide that Billy can no longer be trusted. That same sort of situation can be seen when The Teacher emerges. In that case, there's a general agreement to the fusion of the personalities but Ragen and Arthur remain separate and it seems to be that they do so "just in case" something goes wrong. That happens when Billy, as The Teacher, is shot at and fails to react so that Ragen takes over.

The Need to Love and Be Loved

The need to be loved is evidenced most readily in the actions of Adalana and Tommy, both who seek out companionship though often the others don't realize the action or intention. In Adalana's case, the action results in Billy's charge of raping three women. She later apologizes but says that the boys don't understand her need to be held and to feel cared for. In Tommy's case, he has a girlfriend that several of the others don't approve of but continues to see her as often as possible.

There is another example of this need to be loved in the creation of Christene. Christene is a three-year-old girl and seems to have emerged when Billy's younger sister, Kathy, was about that same age. Christene is able to play with Kathy where Billy seems to be constantly scolded to be more careful with his younger sister. The Teacher recalls that Christene had once taken Kathy's doll, a natural action for a child of Christene's age but one that got Billy into trouble.

Billy's desire for companionship seems on the verge of being solved with the introduction of Stuart, the son of Billy's mother's newest boyfriend. It brings up the question of how Billy's life might have changed had Stuart been an influence in Billy's life.



The Quest for Self

There's little doubt that Billy, and most of his personalities, are on a constant quest to find themselves among the chaos that is typical of their lives. At one point as Billy's personalities begin to merge, he notes that he's trying to be the summation of all the personalities and that it's exhausting work. There has been a suggestion prior to that time that Billy, merged with all his personalities, would be something less than what could be accomplished by each of them individually. Those personalities include:

-Arthur, an Englishman who is smart, capable and generally level headed.

-Ragen, a Yugoslavian who is the "keeper of the rage" and who takes control whenever there is danger. He's the only one allowed to handle weapons and has a soft spot, as do they all, for women and children.

-Allen, a nineteen-year-old who is often at the forefront because of his ability to deal with people. It's noted that Allen is highly manipulative.

-David, the first of the personalities to be discovered and the one charged as "keeper of the pain." David says he is "eight going on nine," which seems to be the age Billy was when he was raped by his stepfather.

-Danny, a fourteen-year-old who enjoys painting still life and who is always afraid. He is often in the spot when dealing with people.

-Tommy is sixteen and is able to get out of any situation, including a straight jacket. He also knows a lot about electronics.

-Adalana is a nineteen-year-old lesbian who craves love, writes poetry and keeps house.

-Christene and Christopher are siblings with Christene, three, called "the corner child" and Christopher generally obedient.

-Samuel is Jewish and the only one of the group to believe in God.

-Mark is sixteen and is always the one who does the boring labor.

-April is nineteen and wants to kill Chalmers, prompting her banishment.

-Lee is twenty, is a prankster, and chooses not to remain after being banished.

-Phillip has a Brooklyn accent and becomes involved in drug dealing.

-Kevin is also a criminal and planned the drugstore robbery that caused Billy to be arrested.

-Timmy is a sensitive person who is accosted at a florist shop.



- Bobby is seventeen and a daydreamer with no ambition and no helpful skills.
- Shawn is four and is deaf. He manifests often at home when Billy is a child.
- Martin is a snobbish teen from New York.
- Jason serves as a way of letting off steam, often resulting in punishment but keeping those memories from the others.
- The Teacher is the culmination of them all, including Billy, and has a great deal greater recall than any single one of the others.



Style

Perspective

Billy Milligan is written in third person, the only option available to the writer because the story is presented from the perspective of multiple people. The perspective becomes a serious issue at times and some readers may find they are confused about the "people" involved. Again, this seems the only option available to the writer. For example, when Billy's personality named Arthur takes over, there's an English accent and Billy - as Arthur - tends to make very rational, informed decisions and to excel at book work. When Billy is threatened, Ragen takes over. Billy - as Ragen - acts out aggressively, is strong and capable of defending himself. These aspects of Billy's personalities are very specific and are a vital part of the story. It seems the author's two options were to present the story as he did, saying that "Arthur" performed some action or "Regan" took some stand on an issue or to continually saying that Billy did so with some particular personality in control. Either would have been confusing but it seems this was the best possible of the two.

Tone

The book is written in a fairly straightforward tone. There are times of hope and periods of hopelessness and these are shown with great clarity. The sensitive reader may find himself feeling that hopelessness simply because of the sheer monotony of Billy's personality issues. The constant switching of characters leaves him in some serious situations and it is sometimes possible to see a vague hint of humor though the majority of these times are filled with uncomfortable feelings and sometimes even danger.

There is some foul language that some readers may find offensive. There are references to drug use and alcohol use, which some readers may also find offensive. One point is that even when The Teacher is offering up a version of events during a period Billy has little or no recall, there are gaps and points that make little sense. It's left to the reader to determine the importance - if any - of these gaps. They could point to additional personalities that are not revealed to the writer or doctors. It could be that The Teacher has less-than-perfect recall or that he hasn't tapped into the memories of all personalities. Again, that point is left to the reader.

Structure

The book is divided into three distinct parts. Part one is "The Mix-Up Time" and describes what happens just prior and just after Billy's arrest. Part two is "Becoming The Teacher" and describes a partial fusion by which a new personality - known as The Teacher - is able to tell the story of Billy's life at the hands of the various personalities. Part three is "Beyond Madness" and describes the legal battles following public outcry that Billy is being allowed freedom while in a mental health facility and the subsequent



imprisonment. These parts are each divided into chapters that are titled only by number. The chapters range in length dramatically and are basically divided into specific time periods or actions. The chapters are further divided into subchapters. These are also numbered and may start in the middle of a page rather than being set apart as the chapters are. These are smaller events and points within the larger picture and some are very brief.

There is also an epilogue and an afterword following the end of the book. The epilogue describes the next phase in Billy's legal battle and his reaction to being again incarcerated in Lima. The afterword includes documentation of the book and additional details of Billy's life after the writing of the first draft of the book.



Quotes

"He sat on the floor, staring dully into space. Then he saw cockroaches in the corner and his expression blanked and changed. Crossing his legs, he hunched up close, his chin cupped in his hands, and smiled childishly as he studied them running in circles." The Mix-Up Time, Chapter One, Page 13

"Ayers wrote in the medical history that frequently Milligan's lips moved and his eyes were diverted to the right, usually before responding to a question. Ayers noted that when he asked the patient why he did that, he responded that he was talking to some of the others, especially Arthur, to get the answers to the questions." The Mix-Up Time, Chapter Three, Page 63

"'I realize now,' Billy whispered, 'that when the police came to get me in Channingway, I wasn't really arrested. I was rescued.'" The Mix-Up Time, Chapter Five, Page 131

"When Billy wanders around, and one person after another switches in front of people, starting things and not finishing them, getting in scrapes that the others have to do mental handstands to get out of, I call that chaos." Arthur, Becoming The Teacher, Chapter Eight, Page 174

"The rest of us can go about our regular interests, study or sleep or talk or play. But whoever is out must be very careful he or she doesn't reveal the existence of the others. It's a family secret." Arthur, Becoming the Teacher, Chapter Nine, Page 187

"Several of Barry Hart's friends dropped by that afternoon for dope, but Allen didn't know what they were talking about. Some of them were belligerent, shoving money into his face, and Allen began to suspect someone in the family was dealing." Becoming the Teacher, Chapter Thirteen, Page 229

"Lee was banished. But rather than live in the limbo of the darkness around the spot, unable to face an existence without practical jokes and comic behavior, he made himself disappear completely. For a long time, no one laughed." Becoming the Teacher, Chapter Seventeen, Page 276

"Tommy took one of the walk-in closets for his electronic equipment, keeping it locked to prevent the children from getting into it. Allen set up a studio in the small dinette area facing the rear. Adalana kept the place clean and did the cooking. Ragen jogged around the neighborhood to keep fit. Life at the apartment and on the job was well-organized." Becoming the Teacher, Chapter Eighteen, Page 301

"I've seen myself struggling day to day, trying to achieve more and more and more. I try to do all the things every one of my personalities did, and it's very tiring." Beyond Madness, Chapter Twenty, Page 349



"I'm sorry I can't be more helpful. But I'll be all right when my Arthur and Ragen come back." - The Unfused Billy, Beyond Madness, Chapter Twenty-One, Page 363

"He was becoming the common denominator of all twenty-four personalities, and that made him not a Robin Hood or a Superman, but a very ordinary, antisocial, impatient, manipulative, bright, talented young man. As Dr. George Harding had earlier suggested, the fused Billy Milligan would probably be less than the sum of his parts." Beyond Madness, Chapter Twenty-One, Page 368

"We, I, am a freak, a misfit, a biological error. We all hate this place but it is where we belong." Epilogue, Page 415



Topics for Discussion

How do Billy's personalities initially manifest themselves? What is the action that initially prompts this split? What is the impact on the rest of Billy's life?

What is the impact of the multiple personalities on the rest of Billy's family and friends? List at least three incidents that occur because one of the other personalities take over.

What are the circumstances in which the personalities realize they have to keep their existence from everyone else? What are the circumstances in which their existence is revealed?

Why does Dorothy Turner go to such lengths to convince each of the personalities that she must tell someone else rather than just telling? What effect does this have on the personalities? What are other instances in which trust plays a major role in Billy's life and treatment?

Who is Arthur? Regan? David? Danny? Adelana? Kevin? Lee? Choose one of the personalities and compare them in depth to the others.

Why are some personalities banished? What other actions are taken at one time or another for the protection of the family?

What is "the spot?" How is it that the various personalities come to hold the spot? What power do some have regarding the spot? Name three instances in which someone takes the spot, coming into a foreign situation that they don't understand.