



NEWS RELEASE

September 29, 2009

Meet Bestselling Author, Jay Asher, at the Public Library on October 9

Jay Asher has found incredible success with his first novel for teens, *Thirteen Reasons Why*. Published in late October 2007, his book has been on the New York Times Best Seller List for over 30 weeks. *Thirteen Reasons Why* is the story of Hannah Baker, a teenage girl who chose suicide because of the actions of 13 people in her life. This bitter, honest novel is at once heartbreaking and inspiring.

Come to the Altrusa Children's Theatre in the Santa Maria Public Library on Friday, October 9, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., to meet the amazing Jay Asher and learn about his experiences as an author. Bring your copy, or purchase a copy of the book in the Library Shop and have it signed. Light refreshments will be served.

Asher lives right here on the California Central Coast. He was working at the San Luis Obispo Public Library when he first received the news that his book would be published.

Asher's writing career began 12 years ago, with a number of picture books and early chapter books which remained unpublished. The first 10 pages of what would become *Thirteen Reasons Why* were written while he was in Montana. His inspiration for this book came from two places; an audio tour of King Tut's Tomb, and a close relative's attempted suicide.

Since publishing his novel, Asher has been a keynote speaker at many suicide prevention workshops. He has become an unwitting insider into the suicidal teen's mind. He regularly receives letters from teens around the world who are or were suicidal. Many of them tell Asher that his book has shown them the unfairness of suicide.

Questions may be directed to the Public Library, 925-0994 ext. 821.

Department:	Public Library
Contact Person:	Ms. Winston, Librarian I
Telephone Number:	(805) 925-0994 ext. 821
Email Address:	jwinston@ci.santa-maria.ca.us