SOFTWARE & TECH

What Tape Is Clay On In 13 Reasons Why

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795582501163227

What Tape Is Clay On In 13 Reasons Why?

If you have watched the Netflix series **13 Reasons Why**, you know that the story revolves around a set of cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker before her suicide. Each tape is dedicated to a person she holds responsible for her decision to end her life. One of the most emotionally charged moments in the series is when Clay Jensen finally listens to his own tape. The question **"What tape is Clay on in 13 Reasons Why?"** is one that many viewers ask, especially those trying to follow the complex order of the tapes. The answer is that Clay is on Tape 5, Side B, which corresponds to the tenth reason on Hannah's list. But understanding this answer requires a deeper look into the tape system, Hannah's motivations, and why Clay's tape stands out as unique among the thirteen reasons.

The Order of the Tapes: A Quick Recap

Hannah recorded seven cassette tapes, each with two sides, making a total of thirteen sides (or thirteen stories). The tapes are numbered, and each side features a specific person. To fully grasp **what tape Clay is on in 13 Reasons Why**, it helps to see the complete list of reasons in order:

- Tape 1, Side A: Justin Foley (Reason 1)
- Tape 1, Side B: Jessica Davis (Reason 2)
- Tape 2, Side A: Alex Standall (Reason 3)
- Tape 2, Side B: Tyler Down (Reason 4)
- Tape 3, Side A: Courtney Crimsen (Reason 5)
- Tape 3, Side B: Marcus Cooley (Reason 6)
- Tape 4, Side A: Zach Dempsey (Reason 7)
- Tape 4, Side B: Ryan Shaver (Reason 8)
- Tape 5, Side A: Sheri Holland (Reason 9)
- Tape 5, Side B: Clay Jensen (Reason 10)
- Tape 6, Side A: Bryce Walker (Reason 11)
- Tape 6, Side B: Mr. Porter (Reason 12)
- Tape 7, Side A (or the 13th side): The list itself (Reason 13)

So, to answer the question directly: **Clay is on Tape 5, Side B** — the tenth reason. This placement is significant because it places Clay in the middle of the sequence, yet his story is arguably the most heartbreaking and revealing of the entire set.

Why Does the Tape Order Matter?

The order of the tapes is not random. Hannah arranged her reasons in a way that builds a timeline of events leading to her suicide. Each person's actions, whether deliberate or accidental, contributed to a chain reaction of pain. Knowing **what tape Clay is on in 13 Reasons Why** helps viewers understand the pacing of the

narrative. Clay's tape comes after several cruel betrayals (like Sheri's hit-and-run or Marcus's humiliation) but before the ultimate violence of Bryce. This placement emphasizes that Clay's role is not one of malice, but of missed opportunity and sorrow.

The Symbolism of Tape 5, Side B

Clay's tape is the only one where Hannah explicitly states that the person did not deserve to be on the list. She says, *"You don't belong on these tapes, Clay."* Yet she includes him because his kindness and his failure to connect with her at critical moments contributed to her loneliness. The fact that Clay is on Tape 5, Side B — the tenth of thirteen sides — highlights that he is a turning point. After his tape, the reasons become darker and more directly abusive. In a way, Clay represents the last chance for Hannah to be saved, and his tape is a painful "what if" for both the characters and the audience.

The Content of Clay's Tape: What Hannah Says

Hannah's message on Clay's tape recounts two pivotal events: the party where they kiss and the later night when Clay comes to her room but leaves before she can let him in. The kiss at the party is a moment of genuine connection, but Hannah was too emotionally fragile to let it deepen. The night Clay shows up at her window, Hannah had already locked her door out of fear of being hurt again. She wanted him to stay, but he misunderstood her signals and left. On the tape, Hannah explains that Clay's presence could have changed everything — if he had persisted, she might have opened up and avoided the downward spiral.

This content is why **what tape Clay is on in 13 Reasons Why** is such a common question. The answer reveals the poignant irony: the person who cared the most is the one who inadvertently hurt Hannah by not doing enough. Clay's tape is the emotional core of the series, and its placement on Tape 5, Side B makes it a watershed moment in the listening experience.

How Clay's Tape Differs from Others

While most other characters on the tapes actively harmed Hannah through gossip, bullying, or sexual assault, Clay's sin is one of omission. He was a good friend, but he failed to see the depth of her pain. This difference is reflected in the fact that Clay is not blamed in the same way. When Clay listens to his tape, he is overcome with guilt, yet Hannah's tone is gentle, almost forgiving. The tape number — Tape 5, Side B — also sets it apart because it is the only tape where Hannah directly tells the listener that they are not the reason she died, but they are part of the story.

Visual and Narrative Cues

In the series, the moment when Clay plays his tape is visually distinct. The camera lingers on his face, the lighting is softer, and the sound of Hannah's voice seems more intimate. The fact that the tape is physically the fifth cassette, side B, adds a layer of symbolism: it is the turning side of the middle tape. By the time Clay hears his story, he has already processed the horrors of Sheri's accident and the casual cruelty of Ryan. His own tape forces him to confront his most painful memory — not of something he did, but of something he failed to do.

The Real-World Impact of the Question

Online forums and fan discussions frequently revisit **what tape is Clay on in 13 Reasons Why** because the answer helps new viewers organize the plot. The tape order is a source of confusion due to the nonlinear storytelling and the fact that Clay receives all the tapes at once. Knowing that Clay's story is on Tape 5, Side B also clarifies why his emotional breakdown occurs around episode 9 of the first season. This knowledge allows viewers to appreciate the show's structural choices, such as the contrast between the cruel jokes of earlier tapes and the raw sincerity of Clay's.

Furthermore, the question often leads to deeper discussions about Hannah's psychology. Why did she put Clay

on the list if she didn't blame him? The answer lies in her need to make him understand that even love can fail to save someone. By placing him on Tape 5, Side B, she ensures that he listens to the entire story before he hears his own, so he can see the full picture of her suffering. This is a deliberate narrative device that makes Tape 5, Side B — one of the most memorable in the series.

Comparing the Book and the Series

In Jay Asher's original novel, the tape order is identical. Clay is on the tenth side, which corresponds to Tape 5, Side B. However, the book places slightly more emphasis on the physical act of listening to each tape in sequence. The series adaption expands Clay's backstory and his interactions with Hannah, but the core answer to **what tape is Clay on in 13 Reasons Why** remains consistent. This consistency allows fans of the book to immediately connect with the show's timeline. It also underscores how faithful the adaptation remained to the source material regarding the tape layout.

Why Some Viewers Get Confused

A common source of confusion is the difference between "tapes" and "sides." When someone asks **"What tape is Clay on in 13 Reasons Why?"**, they may be thinking of the physical cassette. Since each tape has two sides, Clay's story is on the fifth physical cassette, but specifically on the B side. Some fans mistakenly believe he is on Tape 6 or Tape 7 because they count the sides incorrectly. A clear answer — Tape 5, Side B — helps eliminate this confusion. Additionally, the show sometimes splices the audio of different tapes for dramatic effect, which can blur the order in viewers' memories.

The Legacy of Clay's Tape

Years after the show's release, discussions about what tape is Clay on in 13 Reasons Why

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#what • #tape • #clay • #13 • #reasons

DIGITAL EDITION

what-tape-is-clay-on-in-13-reasons-why

DIGITAL EDITION

what-tape-is-clay-on-in-13-reasons-why

DIGITAL EDITION

what-tape-is-clay-on-in-13-reasons-why