

“*The Buddha and the Borderline* is a strikingly candid and comprehensive account of the author’s personal experiences of the effects of borderline personality disorder spanning more than two decades. Van Gelder is a very well informed, engaging, and talented writer. She reveals the multiple and complex symptoms of borderline disorder as manifested in her life with great honesty, revealing the devastating pain with moving and insightful vignettes that are tempered on occasion with a finely tuned sense of humor. This is a must-read for people with this disorder, their families and loved ones, and mental health professionals.”

—Robert O. Friedel, MD, author of *Borderline Personality Disorder Demystified*

“*The Buddha and the Borderline* is a masterpiece. Kiera shares her road to recovery in a captivating way that brings a unique understanding to a confusing, challenging, and controversial disorder. Having the privilege to personally know Kiera, I applaud her on so many levels, least of all this must-read book. She is an inspiration to all who strive and hope for recovery from borderline personality disorder.”

—Perry D. Hoffman Ph.D., president of the National Education Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder (NEA-BPD)

“Kiera’s book is destined to become a classic in the growing literature on borderline personality disorder. I expected to get a somber account of a transformation from suffering to enlightenment, but the book I read was not only entirely entertaining and revealing, but also had me up way past my bedtime in stitches. *The Buddha and the Borderline* is seriously funny, authentic, and sublime in its wisdom. The book embodies the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and integrates the world of core unrelenting suffering with the world of freedom from suffering. Transcendent stuff.”

—Blaise Aguirre, MD, medical director of the Adolescent Dialectical Behavior Therapy Residential Program at McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA

“Kiera creates a window into the soul of one coming to grips with severe mental illness. Fully exposed, she shows us the pain, pleasure, and finally, the redemption of the borderline experience. Her gripping story sheds new light upon one of the most misunderstood and stigmatized of all human conditions, and for that, I am deeply grateful. Her words will quite possibly be shocking to some, but will validate and comfort those with the disorder and those who are trying to understand them. Welcome to our world: the pain, shame, and pleasure, and then, finally, the insight and skill-building that leads to healing, love, and happiness. Kiera captures the experience brilliantly.”

—Tami Green, internationally recognized speaker, life coach and advocate for those in recovery from mental illness.

“*The Buddha and the Borderline* is a gripping, authentic, and ultimately inspiring portrayal of one woman’s triumph over borderline personality disorder. An intriguing, riveting, and compelling read, the depth and complexity of both character and story are to be savored. Kiera Van Gelder has shared the private depths of her heart and soul and, in doing so, has bestowed upon the reader a great and sacred gift.”

—Roy Krawitz, author of *Borderline Personality Disorder: The Facts*

“A very educational and insightful look into the inner world of borderline personality disorder and its treatment. Kiera Van Gelder’s witty tone and engaging journey brilliantly chronicles the dialectic of profound suffering and how that suffering can be transformed into a life worth living.”

—A. J. Mahari, author of *Life Coach* and *Mental Health Coach*

“*The Buddha and the Borderline* by Kiera Van Gelder is captivating, literary, and insightful. Van Gelder’s use of metaphor enhances the haunting nature of her journey through life. As I read the book, I recognized her pain, and cheered her on. Her insights led me to a better understanding of myself and the nature of borderline personality disorder.”

—Lisa Dietz, owner of www.DBTSelfHelp.com

“Out of a profoundly painful experience, Kiera Van Gelder has written a brave and hopeful book exploring her recovery from borderline personality disorder. Kiera’s story will undoubtedly touch countless lives and be a source of inspiration to those who have been diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, their families, and the mental health professionals who play a crucial role in the complex nexus of education, treatment, and support. *The Buddha and the Borderline* is a compelling and invaluable narrative for anyone wanting to learn more about the difficult, yet ultimately rewarding, process of recovery.”

—Amanda L. Smith, Florida Borderline Personality
Disorder Association

“*The Buddha and the Borderline* is a cross between *Girl, Interrupted* and *Bridget Jones’s Diary*. While reading it, I found myself admiring Kiera’s talent for vividly describing borderline hopelessness and pain while keeping me laughing with her tales of life as a ‘lonely and increasingly horny receptionist.’ While this book has something for everyone, Kiera’s detailed account of how she recovered from this deadly disorder will be enormously inspiring to people with borderline personality disorder and their family members.”

—Randi Kreger, author of *Stop Walking on Eggshells* and
The Stop Walking on Eggshells Workbook

“Kiera Van Gelder’s *The Buddha and the Borderline* is a remarkably clear, coherent, and candid description of the author’s turbulent internal world and chaotic life, as well as a mental health system that can be inconsistent and contradictory. As she searches for a path to recovery, she finds that the way has not been well established and shares her journey of building the very road that she wishes to travel. This groundbreaking book provides a much-needed and highly personal example of how recovery can occur, making it a very generous and significant contribution to the field.”

—Seth R. Axelrod, Ph.D., associate professor in the department
of psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine

“With a unique blend of wit and raw honesty, Kiera Van Gelder draws her readers into the world of borderline personality disorder. Seeing Kiera’s roller coaster of emotions and experiences helps those of us without borderline view the world through the eyes and mind of someone grappling with an illness that can be devastating. Her constant hard work toward recovery can open minds and doors, helping to eliminate the stigma attached to borderline personality disorder and serve as a beacon of hope to those living with it.”

—Jennifer Fisher, mental health patient advocate and former manager of the Borderline Personality Disorder Resource Center

“With wit, clarity, and candor about her sex life, Kiera chronicles her coping with the pain and emptiness of borderline personality disorder while proving that the road to recovery is usually under construction.”

—Jim Payne, board member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness

“Brilliant and illuminating. Kiera Van Gelder pulled herself out of the devastation that is borderline personality disorder, an illness so difficult, most therapists won’t treat it. Her remarkable journey to find stability and purpose in her life is insightful and inspiring.”

—Bill Lichtenstein, president of Lichtenstein Creative Media in Cambridge, MA