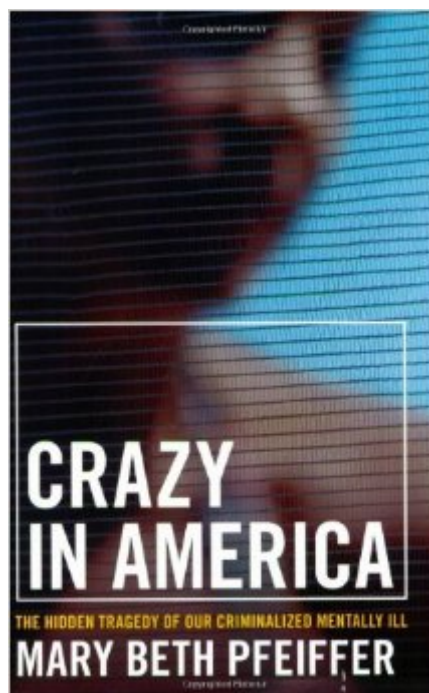


The book was found

Crazy In America: The Hidden Tragedy Of Our Criminalized Mentally Ill



Synopsis

Crazy in America shows how people suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, and other serious psychological illnesses are regularly incarcerated because alternative care is not available. Once behind bars, they are frequently punished again for behavior that is psychotic, not criminal. A compelling and important examination of a shocking human rights abuse in our midst, Crazy in America is an indictment of a society that incarcerates its weakest and most vulnerable citizens — causing them to emerge sicker and more damaged.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #440,449 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #211 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Mental Illness #707 inÂ Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Mental Illness #1065 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Psychology & Counseling > Pathologies

Customer Reviews

The author of Crazy in America introduces us to 6 of our brothers and sisters whose lives were devastated by mental illness along with the families that care deeply about them. Three committed suicide while in isolation cells in both jails and prisons. Luke in a Texas jail, Jessica in the New York prison system and Joseph in the California Youth Authority Facility. Two more, Alan and Peter died in separate incidences at the hands of Florida police officers whose very presence exacerbated the symptoms of their illness. The pain and anguish of the five individuals and their families unfolds before your eyes as you read their stories. The sixth person the author writes about is Shayne, my niece, the focus of my advocacy work and truly a special person and survivor. As I read Shayne's story I grieved for the horror that was unfolding once again before my eyes. The anguish of not being able to stop the crime that landed her in jail and eventually an Iowa prison. The self mutilations of her right eye and two years later her left eye. Six months after blinding herself she

dislodged four of her teeth trying to bite off her finger. Visions of this vulnerable and sick woman destroying herself one digit at a time terrified my thoughts as I pleaded and begged for help from whomever would listen. Four months later Shayne tried to bite a whole through her cheek and I wondered if it would ever end. All of these incidences happened while in isolation cells. Shayne has proven, at least to me, that isolation is not treatment. The prison environment was too stressful for her coping skills and she started a downhill slide 1 year into what would be 5 years behind bars. It is hard to write a review of a book that causes you to feel so much pain and suffering.

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