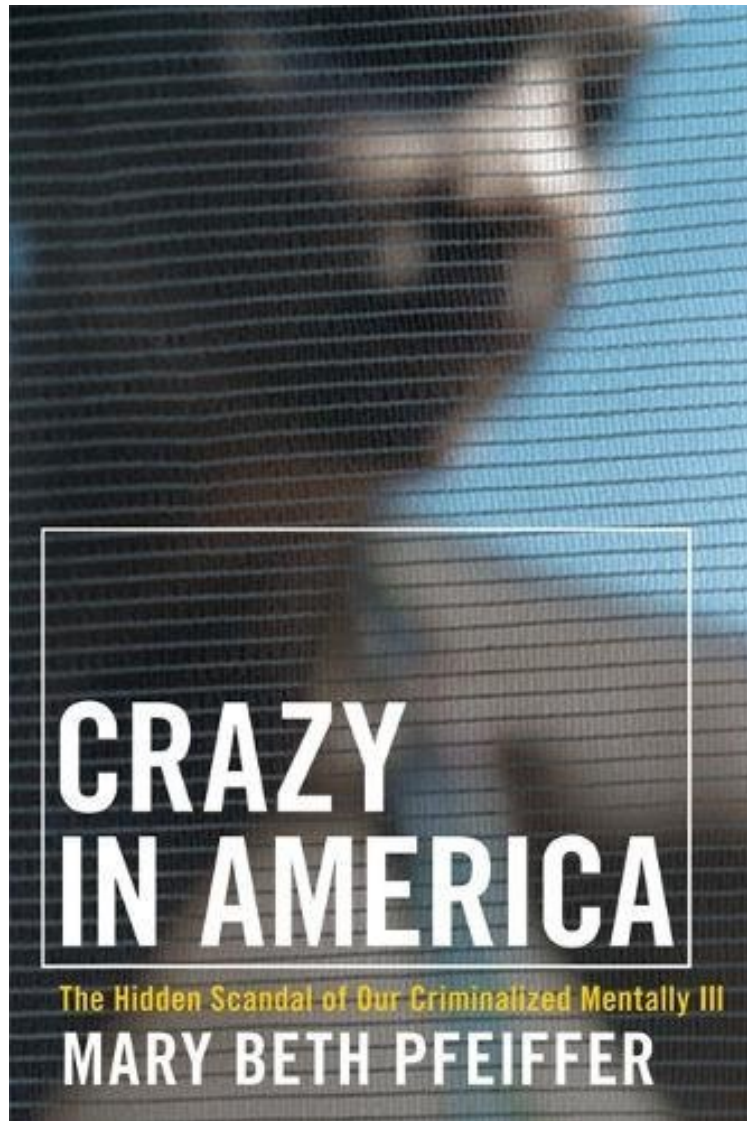


(Get free) Crazy in America: The Hidden Tragedy of Our Criminalized Mentally Ill

Crazy in America: The Hidden Tragedy of Our Criminalized Mentally Ill

Mary Beth Pfeiffer

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#662303 in Books Mary Beth Pfeiffer 2007-05-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .75 x 5.631, .80
#File Name: 0786717459312 pages Crazy in America The Hidden Tragedy of the Criminalized Mentally Ill |
File size: 20.Mb

Mary Beth Pfeiffer : Crazy in America: The Hidden Tragedy of Our Criminalized Mentally Ill before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crazy in America: The Hidden Tragedy of Our Criminalized Mentally Ill:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Dark ages in America, \$4ULUV...By Rarely inspiredFirst, this book

is well written and is a page turner. Second, conservative or not if this book doesn't make you re-think your faith, you could be six feet under and not know it. Third, why do we treat our most vulnerable worse than animals?. Fourth, the word tolerance refers to diversity in good, NOT evil. Fifth, Vampires and Zombies metaphorically speaking are real, just look in the mirror and if you're that vain that you take this comment personally, then it's probably true. Sixth, whether you burn a witch at the stake or you torture and kill it slowly, you're still doing the same thing, demonizing an innocent and satisfying your blood-lust. Finally, the sad truth is that over 99.99% of our country will never read this book; arrogance is ignorance is bliss is villainy. Also check out: *Surviving Justice: America's Wrongfully Convicted and Exonerated*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very good read! By CustomerAwesome book! I actually got to meet one of the people in the book, so it was even more of an interesting read, but very well-written and informative overall. Highly recommend! 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A must read for those concerned about the who believe that mental illness is not a crime. By Jean Basinger For decades we have been talking about the tragic decision that was made in the 1960's when thousands of mentally ill people were turned out of America's institutions and left with no where to go for basic everyday services and mental health care. In her new book, "Crazy in America," Mary Beth Pfeiffer tells us the heart breaking stories of what happened as a result of that decision. We did not build facilities in our communities to care for these people, we did not train people who were capable of working with them and their families and providing the services they needed. What we did do was build more and more prisons where they were locked up for years, often in isolation and treated like criminals of the worst kind. Pfeiffer gives us in depth case studies of six people with mental illness and their tragic encounters with the criminal justice system. Only one, Shayne Eagan of Iowa, is still alive. She gouged her eyes out while under care of state. Over and over Pfeiffer demonstrates how deadly the use of isolation is, not only for the mentally ill, but also for all human beings. Yet this is the response of choice of those in corrections. The author gives us her list of 10 things that must be done to address this tragic situation. Reading her book should motivate many of us to contact our legislators and urge them to take the steps that are needed to address this scourge on our land and to personally monitor what is happening regarding mental health services and criminal justice in our own states and communities. If you do nothing else: speak out against the building of more prisons.

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.

From Booklist Investigative reporter Pfeiffer takes a critical look at the lack of treatment for the mentally ill that often lands them in prison, where their behavior is misinterpreted and they are vulnerable to abuse by other prisoners. Profiling six such people, Pfeiffer examines the circumstances that led to their incarceration, the inadequacy of plans upon their release, and the strains on their families. Among her subjects is Shayne, a schizophrenic who has been institutionalized since the age of 14 for mental illness and drug addiction and was jailed for a time for stabbing the local sheriff; she eventually blinds herself by plucking out her eyes. Luke, who suffers bipolar disorder, lands in a Texas prison after his behavior escalates into violence and drug abuse. Pfeiffer intersperses her reports of the facts of her subjects' lives with communications from them to their families, highlighting the growing confusion and pleas for help. Pfeiffer puts her subjects in the broader context of the nation's woeful lack of concern for treating the mentally ill. Bush, Vanessa Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Mary Beth Pfeiffer is a Soros Justice Media Fellow who has written articles on prison conditions and the treatment of mentally ill inmates for numerous publications. A journalist for twenty-five years, she has been an investigative writer and editor for the *Poughkeepsie Journal* for the last decade. Her prison reporting has won her two National Headliners Awards, an Outstanding Achievement Award, a national Council on Crime and Delinquency citation, and six awards from the state Associated Press and state Publishers Association. In 2004 she was awarded a fellowship from the Open Society Institute to research articles on the imprisoned mentally ill.