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# Letters From The Looney Bin (Book 1)



## Synopsis

LETTERS FROM THE LOONEY BIN is a #1 Bestseller! In the late 1970s the Emerson Rose Asylum became completely abandoned - all the patients, doctors, staff, vanished and were never seen again. The events circling this mass exodus have been one of the most baffling disappearances in history. Until now. A stack of bundled letters was found inside a tattered asylum mattress during the Emerson demolition. These letters, all addressed to the pseudonym Dr. Quill, were written by the patients as they documented the demise of the Emerson Rose Asylum. The patients innocently convey their dire pasts while the events occurring hint toward dark happenings outside their doors. Haunting, their words conjure feelings both grim and promising, as they secretly conjure a plan of mass exodus from the volatile institution. The names have been changed, but the stories have not. Though their identities are protected, the essence of these patients' challenges, triumphs, corruptions, salvations, and most of all, their human spirit, remains untouched. Their journey will become your journey as the patients chronicle their final months in these, Letters from the Looney Bin. [www.LooneyLetters.com](http://www.LooneyLetters.com) Follow at: [www.facebook.com/LettersFromLooneyBin](http://www.facebook.com/LettersFromLooneyBin)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In the late 1970s the Emerson Rose Asylum became completely abandoned - all the patients, doctors, staff vanished and were never seen again. The events circling this mass exodus have been one of the most baffling disappearances in history...until now. For hidden deep inside a tattered asylum mattress a stack of bundled letters were found. These letters, all addressed to the pseudonym Dr. Quill, and all written by the patients as they document the final days of the Emerson Rose Asylum. A chilling assortment of shattered lives. I find the book very interesting. Letters from the Looney Bin does an excellent job with telling stories that are gripping and compelling. I can still call up, in vivid fashion, horrors described by these people of the asylum. Riveting first person descriptions allow you to peer into the dark corners of their past. The stories are generally depressing in nature due to their content but are very interesting. The bottom line is if you're interested in this subject then the book is worth reading. There are a lot of characters involved and all of the stories are very detailed. Thatcher C Nalley has written an amazing book here, and for anyone who hasn't read her work before - give Letters from the Looney Bin a chance, you will end up a huge fan!! The writer did a good job keeping the suspense until the end. I'm a fan of thrillers, mysteries and paranormal stories but I have to say this one is a winner on all fronts. I really enjoyed this book. There were so many twists and turns and was never slow reading. I liked the way in which it tied together. If you want to be scared this is a must read for you. Not for the weak at heart. Some of it was a bit creepy and bothersome but it did keep me reading and engaged for the most part. A truly wonderful and interesting plotline. It was dark and suspenseful and hard to stop reading. Thank-you for sharing your story with me.

I was really impressed with how this book, in a narrative form, brought to light something that has been important to question to me as a social worker. That is: what is the link between trauma and mental illness? The author keeps anticipation in this novel, with the characters writing letters from an asylum, and as we learn more about these characters, we see they have been diagnosed and mis-diagnosed as a result of some past trauma or misunderstanding. Thatcher really does a fine job of making a really important statement in mental health care, while at the same time telling a really good story. I would recommend this book to anyone for a good read as well as a book with something important to say. John O'Keefe Author of "So, You've Been Diagnosed with a Mental Illness...Now What?"

It ended fairly abruptly, a little unfinished so to speak. It seems the author is planning a sequel. Hopefully we can then get some kind of insight as to what ended up happening. I love how every

chapter is a patient's letter/story. They all read differently and that's a cool twist because if you don't like the way one is written, don't worry because the syntax and life story changes w each patient's account of how they ended up at Emerson Rose. As you read on you can see more of each patient through the eyes of others which helps to clarify things when your brain can't quite make the leap on its own (ie. The southern belle who believes she is beautiful is thought to look hideous to others).It's a good book; I'd recommend it with the warning that you don't get answers in the end- it's more a collection of patients life stories.

This is clearly a self-published novel. The editing is very poor in some places--there are actual page numbers left in from the manuscript or first edition. There are also a lot of irregular capitalization practices Thatcher Nalley needs to fire her editor. Those are very elementary, pathetic, shameful errors. There are places with spelling and grammatical errors--however, you have to take into account that the "chapters" are supposed to be "LETTERS"--and how many people have perfect spelling, grammar, and capitalization all the time in their writing? A quick scan of your Facebook news feed should point out that very few people do. And the people who have complained that the errors are so poor that they can't finish the book are either drama queens or have severe OCD. The errors are noticeable but not that bad. You can understand the story just fine despite the errors. The book does seem to end "suddenly"--but if you'll notice, this is listed as BOOK ONE. There's supposed to be a sequel, which would take care of the "unfinished" ending. There are two things that I think would add to the book. The first is use of different fonts for each "chapter" or "letter" to make them look more like actual letters. The second is a list of "patients" and "staff" to help readers keep track while reading. Overall, a VERY interesting read and an engaging story. You may need some interest or experience in the mental health field to really be drawn in.

This book is very difficult to rate. These are letters from individuals to family, etc., written while the individuals were incarcerated in a particular state mental institution. The letters are not easy to read, photos of the individuals and some personal items left behind are included; some of the patients were incarcerated for over 50 years. Having been an RN in a lock up ward I found the letters fascinating, and the backgrounds of these folks really complex and interesting, HOWEVER it is a sad and difficult read and NOT for everyone. I think you would have to be interested in the history of the mentally ill, and even then it is a very illuminating commentary on how we treated the mentally ill in the 1930s and forward, at least until most of the state institutions were torn down and drugs came into use. Lives wasted, brutality, sadness, lost souls. Left me with insight into how these folks

became locked up, what their lives were like (non lives), and the book is well put together, photos are fascinating, and letters carefully chosen but again - the book is not for everyone.

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