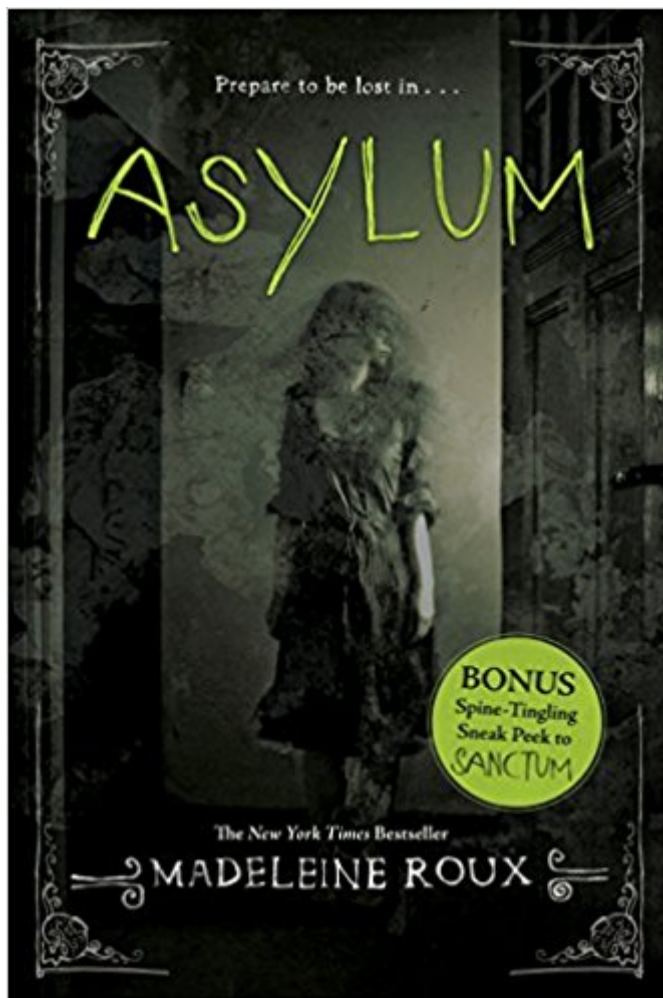


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# Asylum



## Synopsis

Madeleine Roux's New York Times bestselling *Asylum* is a thrilling and creepy photo-illustrated novel that Publishers Weekly called "a strong YA debut that reveals the enduring impact of buried trauma on a place." Featuring found photographs from real asylums and filled with chilling mystery and page-turning suspense, *Asylum* is a horror story that treads the line between genius and insanity, perfect for fans of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. For sixteen-year-old Dan Crawford, the New Hampshire College Prep program is the chance of a lifetime. Except that when Dan arrives, he finds that the usual summer housing has been closed, forcing students to stay in the crumbling Brookline Dorm—formerly a psychiatric hospital. As Dan and his new friends Abby and Jordan start exploring Brookline's twisty halls and hidden basement, they uncover disturbing secrets about what really went on here . . . secrets that link Dan and his friends to the asylum's dark past. Because Brookline was no ordinary mental hospital, and there are some secrets that refuse to stay buried. Don't miss Madeleine Roux's all-new gothic horror novel, *House of Furies*.

## Book Information

Series: *Asylum* (Book 1)

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (August 26, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062220977

ISBN-13: 978-0062220974

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 645 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,912 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences](#) #47 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

MY TOP 5 ASYLUMS By Madeleine Roux While writing ASYLUM, I turned to some of the following hospitals and institutions for inspiration, to bring in that real world touch. Some of the stories and histories I stumbled across were almost too intense and gruesome to be believed. I. Norwich State Hospital for the Insane Preston, Connecticut 1904 — 1996 When most people think of an

asylum, they probably picture a giant looming mansion that looks something like Norwich State Hospital for the Insane. It has one of those iconic, red brick exteriors with columns and a steep roof. The hospital is also notable for its maze of underground passageways. It's considered by creep and ghost aficionados to be extremely haunted. Several shows have featured the hospital, including the popular series Ghost Hunters.

II. Whittingham Asylum Lancashire, England 1869 - 1995 Whittingham Asylum, charming and even quaint on the outside, makes the list if only for its sheer size. Whittingham was virtually a miniature city, and its expansive grounds included a brewery, post office, and even its own brass band. It was also the sight of some seriously scary allegations, with an inquiry in the 1960s that included reports of cruelty and fraud, complaints that were kept quiet with threats. Reportedly, some wards were infested with vermin, while others were left freezing cold. There were even rumors of a "wet towel treatment" involving a cold, wet towel wrapped around the patient's neck until they passed out.

III. Waverly Hills Sanatorium Louisville, Kentucky 1910 - 1962 The architecturally stunning Waverly Hills was built to house a sudden influx of tuberculosis patients in the county, but closed after only fifty years when medical advances rendered the facility obsolete. Considered to be one of the most haunted hospitals in the eastern United States, it has played host to scores of reality TV shows about the paranormal, including Scariest Places on Earth and Ghost Hunters. It gets creepier - there are currently plans to renovate the hospital into a hotel for those looking to have a spooky spot to stay.

IV. Lier Mental Hospital Buskerud County, Norway 1926 - 1986 Perhaps the scariest thing about Lier Mental Hospital is its murky involvement in experimentation linked to pharmaceutical companies from the United States. This postwar hospital was used for experimentation and research into lobotomies, LSD, electroshock therapy and more.

V. Topeka State Hospital Topeka, Kansas 1872 - 1997 Topeka State Hospital may look cute and charming on the outside, but on the inside it was home to some unbelievably dark rumors. By far the creepiest allegations leveled against the hospital? (Brace yourself, it's pretty gross.) There are stories of patients strapped down for so long that their skin began to grow around the straps. Yeesh. Nowadays, you can sometimes hear music playing from inside the abandoned hospital and spot shadows peering out at the windows.

Heather Brewer Interviews Madeleine Roux HB: The imagery was so vivid in ASYLUM and the photographs throughout were just gorgeous - was it based on anywhere you've visited personally? MR: The admittedly limited travel I've done in Europe included some incredible ruins and castles. There's a feeling you get in those places, a sort of wonder and terror that you just don't feel in new buildings. I tried to draw on those memories for Brookline. I also grew up

in an old Victorian farmhouse, and . . . I don't want to say it's haunted but there were certainly times it felt haunted. To this day, when I visit my parents, I feel eyes on me at night in the hallway. The hairs on the back of your neck go up and you can sense there's history there present with you. I wanted that same feeling to come through with Brookline. HB: I felt really connected to Dan Crawford, your main character. What part of your fabulous mind did he come from? MR: I was kind of a weird kid. I loved school. I wasn't so much a loner as a gigantic nerd, always with my nose in a book or writing my own scripts and stories. There's a good bit of my own insecurities and childhood memories in Dan; that same geek pride mixed with a constant fear that maybe life would be easier if I veered more toward the mainstream. Writing a male perspective is intimidating in the sense that I wanted it to feel authentic, so I would stop every once in a while and ask a friend if it was reading correctly to them. Having honest buddies helped, it always does for writing. They weren't shy about saying, "I'm sorry but no guy would do/think/act that way, try again." HB: Has horror always appealed to you? If not, why now, why this story? If so . . . well . . . same question. MR: The first two novels I did had a certain creep factor, too, since they were about zombies and survival. The irony here is that I'm a huge wuss when it comes to scary movies. I spent most of Cabin In the Woods whimpering in someone else's lap. I'm not good with scary movies or gore or anything like that, but I find myself drawn to that kind of story again and again. It's like I know it's going to keep me up all night but I can't help myself. I think that's probably common, though . . . We all test ourselves now and again, see where our boundaries and limits are. I get a kick out of pushing those limits for myself and exploring the darker parts of my imagination. My life isn't all that adventurous, so writing darker stories gives me a chance to indulge in the more morbid thoughts that cross my mind. HB: I know you probably get asked this a lot, but what's your favorite piece of writing advice for the writers out there? MR: It comes from Neil Gaiman and is infuriatingly straightforward and simple. "How do you do it? You do it. You write. You finish what you write." And it's true. As I'm sure you know, there's no magic button. Sometimes you can't write a sentence and other times you can't stop, but just sitting down and making yourself do it is the key. You have to practice. You have to do the work, over and over. He also has another great piece of advice somewhere (I'm an unabashed Neil fangirl, I can't help it) about getting out and living life, and not feeling upset or pressured if you don't have a huge well of experience to draw on. The best inspiration comes from falling in love, falling out of it, getting your heart broken, just being present and showing up, you know? You won't have anything to

draw from if you guard yourself too closely. You have to risk life changing you in order to have something there to write about. HB: What's next from the shadowed mind of Madeleine Roux? What are you working on, and when can I have it? :) MR: I'm notorious for starting new projects and then abandoning them, but I've had a gritty YA fantasy series cooking in my head for a while now. I've been taking down tons of notes for it and I've even started a few chapters, so right now I hope that has wings and takes off. You can have it the second I manage to get it all down!

Horror author Roux makes a strong YA debut with this creepy tale of a haunted asylum and the teenagers who are drawn to it. When Dan Crawford attends a summer program at New Hampshire College, he ends up housed in Brookline, a former asylum now being turned into a dorm. Along with fellow students Abby and Jordan, he starts exploring the basement of the dorm, where (conveniently) old records are stored. As they investigate, the students are plagued by horrifying dreams, and Dan starts to have blackouts, discovering strange unsent texts and emails and learning about conversations that he doesn't remember. Students are being attacked in the dorms, and as Dan begins to unravel his own ties to the asylum, he wonders if he might be responsible for the crimes. Roux (aided by unsettling photo illustrations of abandoned asylums and tormented patients) creates an entertaining and occasionally brutal horror story that reveals the enduring impact of buried trauma and terror on a place. Open questions at the end invite a sequel, though there's also a good sense of closure. Ages 14-up. Agent: Kate McKean, Howard Morhaim Literary Agency.

Asylum is a chilling, creepastic novel about Dan, a high school student attending a summer program for gifted students at a college in New Hampshire. The college used to be an asylum, and parts of the basement still hosts the old chambers. Dan is geeky and a bit of a loner, so he's thrilled to meet gorgeous, outgoing Abby, and her friend, Jordan. The three of them form a close bond, and they even take some classes together. But one night they go exploring in the basement of the asylum, and that's when things start to go wrong. Dan is tormented by nightmares, people get hurt, and the three of them receive strange messages that could be from the beyond. On top of that, we see a glimpse of Dan's past, his visits to a therapist, and some reasons are alluded to, but unfortunately never fully explained. The creepiness is high in this one, and the author does a great job describing the creepier scenes. However, the characters were problematic. Dan has so many secrets shrouding his past it's difficult to connect to him. For a large part of the book, I thought he would be an

unreliable narrator, and this also kept me distant from him, but at the same time, heightened the mystery. Jordan and Abby felt a little underdeveloped, and their behavior was all over the place. Some thanks to the asylum, some of it seemingly random. I felt like a lot of things weren't explained yet and some issues could've been explored further, but overall, I had a fantastic time reading this. Plus, the photographs gave the book a nice touch.

If you like reading books by Dan Pablocki and books such as F. E. Higgins "Tales of the Sinister city" series, then this is going to be a great read for you. The pictures are neat and add a really nice touch to making the book scary, and I found the writing to be clean and easy to follow. Some may not like the simplicity of the writing style, but be reminded this is a young adult book. If you're looking for something heavier I'd suggest the adult thriller/horror section. For me, this book was perfect. There was even a moment where I closed the book saying, "Nope. Nope. Time for a coffee," because of a particular moment in which our main character gets one really disturbing note. I explained what had happened to my husband (who was curious about my outburst), and now he wants to read the book. The book is about these 3 high school students who attend a prep program for gifted children who become friends. However, it turns out 2 of them may have deeper ties to the asylum-turned-dorm than they could have ever imagined. Add a serial killer, ghosts, people being possessed, and the slight possibility of reincarnation, and you've got yourself a great and thrilling read. I really recommend this book for people and kids who like a scary read. It's a lot of fun, and I look forward to reading the next two books in my kindle. Fantastic read for teens and adults alike.

I could not put this book down. It's a very interesting mystery for young adult readers. One problem; it was fairly difficult to read because of the style the author uses. It's almost too "slangy." I had to read sentences over and over again because it didn't make sense what was going on. All in all; buy this book for your teens!! It's a cool idea and addicting to read. Have patience while reading it...  
Kuddos!!!

I like trying new authors and recommending books for young readers. The book was purchased because the cover reminded me of Miss Perrigrines Home for Peculiar Children and Hollow City by Ransom Riggs. Riggs gathers pictures from flea markets, paper shows and collectors. He weaves and creates very "out of the ordinary", unusual, fascinating stories using the pictures for inspiration. Riggs is a great author. The similarity was that Roux also had some eerie photos of actual asylums

featured in the book to support her story line. While Riggs two books were obvious fantasies, Roux' s story was believable. I could picture the dorm rooms at school and feel the chilling, soul penetrating darkness in the off-limits basement of the asylum. A trio of college students went to the locked basement out of curiosity, then couldn't stay away although they knew it could mean getting kicked out of school if caught. Maybe the past is still alive or maybe it's not living, just following so close behind that cold, wet breath can be felt on the back of your neck. Do the dead have the ability to text eerie messages on your cellphone? Is madness inherited? Don't give up and read the ending. Wait, even if impatiently, flipping pages for the conclusion. Prepare to be lost in the Asylum. The end. Or is it?

I absolutely loved this book. I intended to start reading it today for a few hours and finish it through the rest of the week. My brain, though, thought otherwise. I read the entire book in one sitting. And ordered #2 in the series (which I shall start reading in a few minutes).An engrossing read about high-school-aged kids taking college-prep classes that have them dorming in, of all places, an old asylum owned by the college. Three of them -- Dan, Jordan, and Abby -- become close and, as a result of sleuthing and curiosity, more involved with the history of the asylum than any of them thought possible. More serious themes (growing up in the foster system, homophobic parents/coming out, relatives hidden away) are present, but the book never appears preachy. Instead, all are cleverly entwined with the kids' discoveries regarding not only the asylum, but each other. The addition of black and white pictures detailing the asylum's sordid past made it an even better read.

I saw the last book in this series at a local bookstore and flipped through it, reading a passage or two. It looked like something I would enjoy so I started with book 1 on my Kindle. OMG - I stayed up all night to read it, but left the final section to read in the morning. It was better to read the ending in the light of day. I definitely will read the entire series. This is a book that Stephen King would have been proud to call his own.

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