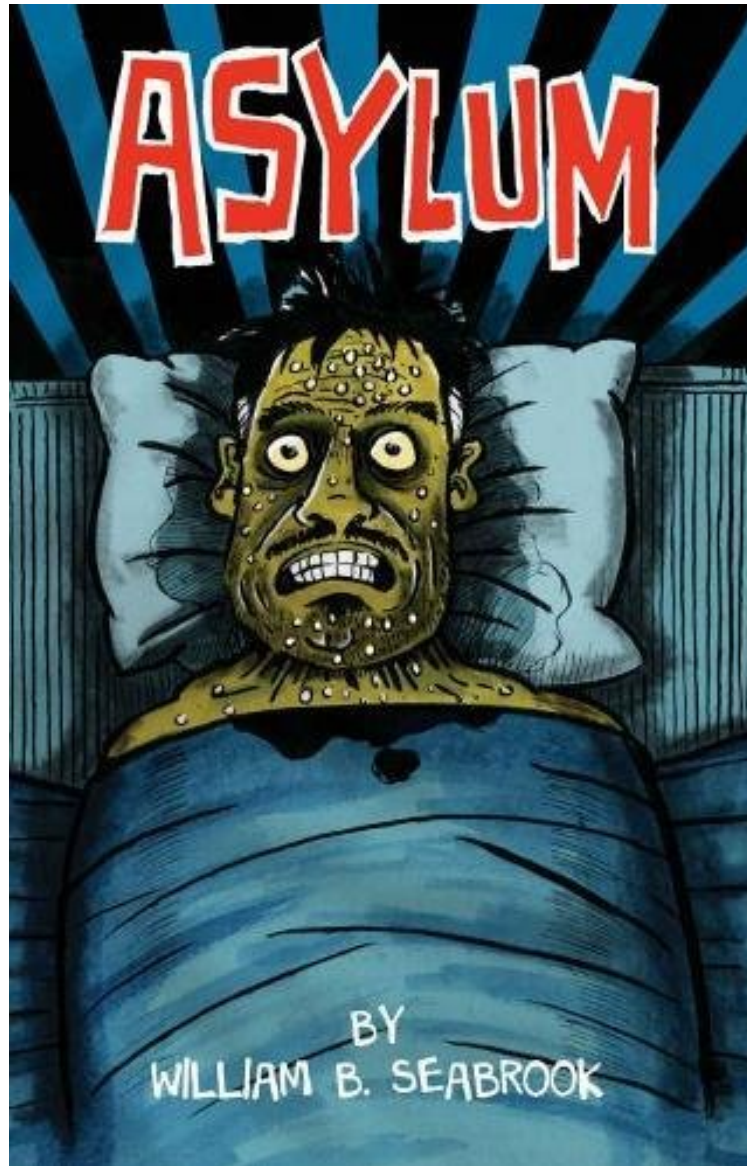


(Read ebook) Asylum

Asylum

William Seabrook

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



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#303654 in Books William Seabrook 2015-09-16 2015-08-19Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.40 x .80 x 5.40l, .69 #File Name: 0486798100288 pagesAsylum | File size: 59.Mb

William Seabrook : Asylum before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Asylum:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Tragic, lost storyBy rchIn F. Scott Fitzgerald's book The Crack Up, he mentions in passing the memoir of a man who had himself committed to an institution. Both he and Fitzgerald had cracked under the same pressure, or so Fitzgerald thought. The man was William Seabrook, a world-famous travel

writer from the Lost Generation and the book was *Asylum*. In 1934, Seabrook knew he was slowly drinking himself to death and entered an insane asylum. There, from the perspective of a travel writer, he described his own journey through this strange and foreign place. Today, you can't read a page in the book without seeing him bump, unknowingly, into the basic principles of 12-step groups. On a regular basis, he says things so clear, so self-aware that you're stunned an addict could have written it - shocked that this book isn't a classic American text. I read three of Seabrook's books back to back so I'm unable to say where one stopped and another began. But you find that the deep, ceaseless fear that drove him to drink was that he'd die a mediocre writer, barely remembered. Ultimately, this is what happened. It was this fear and anxiety that drove Seabrook around the world. It's awful, really, because aside from the occasional strange phrase, there isn't a word in his books that couldn't have been just as easily written today. I mean the whole gonzo concept of Wolfe and Thompson was essentially done by Seabrook 30+ years prior and in a bolder way. He went to Africa while Thompson barely made it to Vegas. He was a Hearst syndicate writer, one of the earliest Americans to serve in the First World War, a horse bandit in the Middle East, the first Western writer to taste human flesh and describe it, the first to use the word 'zombie' in an English text. Yet all his books are out of print and hard to find. Two of my copies are first editions from 1931 and 1942. What you'll notice, in these books, is how he's always asking why and what for? Way too many memoirs are hampered by their own narcissism but Seabrook is honest and self-critical. *Asylum* is maybe the best book on addiction I've ever read and it breaks your heart, knowing that just a few decades later someone would have been able to help him. Read it first and then try *No Hiding Place: An Autobiography*. If you're skeptical, find the book review from *Time Magazine* in 1942 that talks about his lifelong fetish for women in chains. I also read *Jungle Ways* which was a good end to the trilogy. You may have a hard time finding them but try to pick them up from or a college library because they are awesome. It's nice to have books in your library that few people have even heard of.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Asylum* as Reintegration
By Travis S. Collier
This was an incredible book. Focused on the author's time in an asylum almost 100 years ago--it reads like it could have happened recently. Imagine being so torn by life--so driven by impulse and abandon--that you have a strong enough moment of clarity to commit yourself to a psychiatric asylum? How would you cope? Would you muster the courage, even if you knew it was the best answer? Seabrook's poison was alcohol--and he knew if he continued down that path, he wouldn't be able to keep writing. Adventure was his discipline, but liquor had blunted his judgment and insight. So he not only went cold turkey, he went into a facility where he had no control or ability to tempt himself with any vice. And he enjoyed it. Seabrook showed how life behind the walls isn't something to be feared or looked askance at, but something to be savored. His time in an asylum probably saved his life, and he walked away forever changed. There were his fair share of antics to endure and be amused by, but this honest look on the inside carries so much weight and perspective. You won't stop reading once you start.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *My Dad* illustrated the cover.
By Mary H Andres
I bought this book because my dad did the cover and I never saw it before. The book is interesting and describes the author's attempt to end his alcoholism. I haven't finished it so can't comment too much. It is an easy read and I have enjoyed following his adventures in an institutional setting.

"Perhaps the most honest and haunting accounts of the struggle for mental health in literature." — *Observer*
This dramatic memoir recounts an eight-month stay at a Westchester mental hospital in the early 1930s. William Seabrook, a renowned journalist and explorer, voluntarily committed himself to an asylum for treatment of acute alcoholism. His sincere, self-critical appraisal of his experiences offers a highly interesting look at addiction and treatment in the days before Alcoholics Anonymous and other modern programs. "Very few people could be as honest as Seabrook is here," noted *The New York Times*, "and it is honesty plus the talent Seabrook has already had that makes a book of this sort first-rate." This edition of the soul-baring narrative features a new graphic novel-style introduction by Joe Ollmann, who also created the cover art. "With zombies in vogue and his books coming back onto the market after decades out of print, maybe old Willie Seabrook, the lost king of the weird, can finally get the recognition and infamy he earned."
? Benjamin Welton, *Vice.com*

About the Author
Journalist and explorer William Seabrook (1884–1945) possessed a fascination with the occult that led him across the globe to study magic rituals, train as a witch doctor, and sample human flesh. In addition to publishing more than a dozen books, he wrote for *The New York Times*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Vanity Fair*.