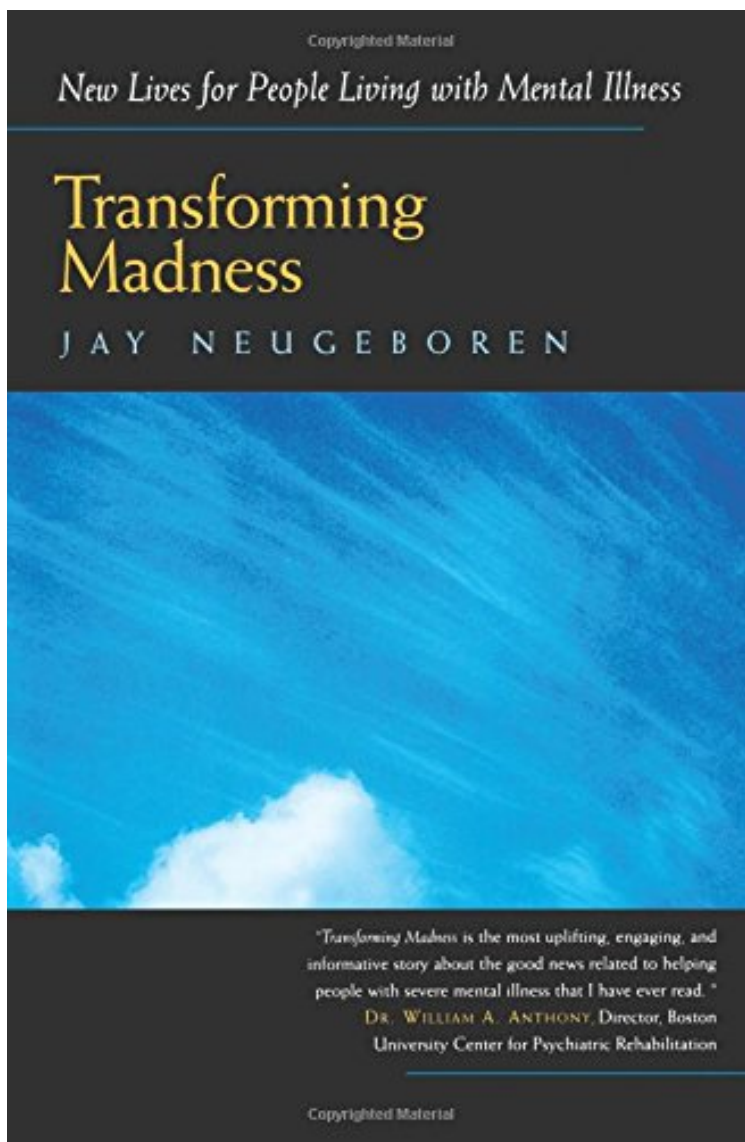


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Transforming Madness: New Lives for People Living with Mental Illness

Jay Neugeboren

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#1335353 in Books Jay Neugeboren 2001-05-07 2001-05-07 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.80 x 1.00 x 5.801, 1.22 #File Name: 0520228758400 pages Transforming Madness New Lives for People Living with Mental Illness | File size: 77.Mb

Jay Neugeboren : Transforming Madness: New Lives for People Living with Mental Illness before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Transforming Madness: New Lives for People Living with Mental Illness:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Customer Great book! It's a little slow at times but the

message is beautiful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gives a good outline on the problems facing mental health care in ...By Alexy Gives a good outline on the problems facing mental health care in the US. Good starting point for anyone involved in these issues but maybe too much for the average reader to follow with interest 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mental Health Services By Rob Jazz This book gives a great synopsis of the constant flux the mental health services industry is in. Neugeboren writes in beautiful prose about the triumphs and travails of his brother and his personal experiences.

In *Imagining Robert*, Jay Neugeboren told the sad, deeply personal, often harrowing story of one man and one family's struggle with chronic mental illness. Now, he presents an overview of the entire field: a clear-eyed, articulate, comprehensive survey of our mental health care system's shortcomings and of new, effective, proven approaches that make real differences in the lives of millions of Americans afflicted with severe mental illness. A book for general readers and professionals alike, *Transforming Madness* is at once a critique, a message of hope and recovery, and a call to action. Filled with dramatic stories, it shows us the many ways in which people who have suffered the long-term ravages of psychiatric disorders have reclaimed full and viable lives.

From Publishers Weekly A quiet revolution is taking place in the care and treatment of the mentally ill, observes Neugeboren in this invaluable state-of-the-art report. Within the last five to 10 years, antipsychotic medications have become much more effective and their side effects less debilitating. Just as important, he notes, is the emergence of recovery programs, peer support centers and community treatment facilities that make it possible for the severely mentally ill to go to college, hold down jobs, marry and raise children—even without being fully cured. There is a downside, though: general hospitals, now the primary providers of inpatient psychiatric care in the U.S., are as dreadful as they were a quarter-century ago, the author opines. In his moving 1997 memoir, *Imagining Robert*, Neugeboren, who is also a novelist (*The Stolen Jew*) and teaches at UMass Amherst, discussed his brother's three decades of breakdowns and hospitalizations. This deep personal involvement with psychiatric illness propels the present book, an open-ended odyssey in which the author astutely probes a profession deeply divided between psychotherapeutic and pharmacological approaches. While acknowledging the value of drugs, Neugeboren makes a strong case for psychotherapy in the treatment of schizophrenia, other psychoses and mood disorders. Though the narrative at times feels padded, the searing profiles of people who have recovered and built new lives, often after having been pronounced medically hopeless, along with Neugeboren's selective evaluations of treatment programs, will make his journey enlightening to patients, their families and caregivers, as well as to general readers. Author tour. Agent, Richard Parks. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal "Drugs are not enough" might telegraph the message of this major survey of our mental health system, its virtues and sins, and its patients, therapists, and managers. Neugeboren, a novelist, guardian/biographer of his mentally ill brother (*Imagining Robert*, LJ 11/1/96), and teacher (Univ. of Massachusetts), brings out the possibilities for life after—and with—a serious mental illness. He tells the stories of many individuals who are living well despite terrible psychiatric histories, thanks to programs that include good psychotherapy and social support along with psychiatric medication. Unfortunately, many programs lack an essential human element, and the drive for pharmaceutical research to make psychosis medically curable just like other illnesses leaves psychotherapy, rehabilitation, and follow-up care in the shadows. Neugeboren provides a literate, lively guide, rich in history, biography, and economics as well as psychology and neurochemistry. This should be on the short list of books on mental health that can be called great. Recommended for all libraries. AE. James Lieberman, George Washington Univ. Sch. of Medicine, Washington, DC Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Neugeboren surveys the mental health care system, discussing what he sees as its faults and the possibilities for the future. Because his brother suffers from mental disease, it's no academic matter for the author. The problems Neugeboren found go beyond the social stigmas attached to mental illness. He argues, among other things, that many treatment programs incorrectly separate the mentally ill from society, to the detriment of patient, family, and community. Using the testimony of patients and mental health professionals, he concludes that drug treatment, though at times the best option, is frequently overused. But Neugeboren also discovered innovative, successful programs. One, for example, places increasing responsibility on the mentally ill for getting better, making them an active part of the process. The case histories and stories of his brother's struggle to get better create a compassionate overview of an issue the U.S. is just beginning to look at squarely. Brian McCombie