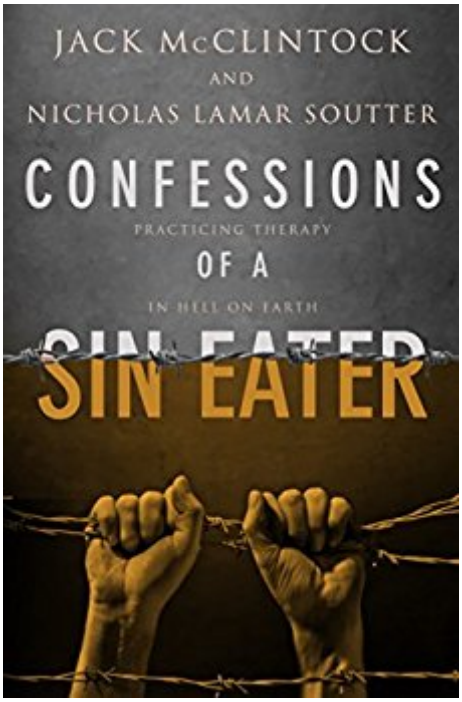
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Confessions Of A Sin Eater: Practicing Therapy In Hell On Earth



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Synopsis

John Henry Greaney is in maximum security, but heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s not an inmate; heÃ¢â ¬â„¢s a psychologist, there to provide care and comfort to the worst monsters society ever created. Eager to help his patients, he listens to their stories of rape and murder, plots of riots and bloody revenge, unaware that with every prisoner he treats, he's damaging himself. Trying desperately to adapt, he gradually goes from a free-spirited healer to a self-destructive nihilist more frightening than most of his patients. Looking for redemption in his work, he reaches a stark conclusion: The American prison system is not only a catastrophic failure, but a factory that breeds monsters, almost all of whom end up back on city streets. MailerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s In the Belly of the Beast and BissonetteÃ¢â ¬â„¢s When the Inmates Ran Walpole each gave society a disturbing look at life inside American prisons. Confessions of a Sin Eater shows, for the first time, prison through the eyes of the people who work there, living in the margin between civilization, and the violent wasteland know as maximum security. GreaneyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s firsthand account challenges the wisdom of punishing criminals and questions the way society differentiate between them and the mentally ill. It illuminates the world behind the walls, and illustrates the effects prison hasÃ¢â ¬â •not just on the inmates, but on everyone who works there, and on society as a whole.

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Customer Reviews

"Prisons make monsters of men," says one of Greaney's patients. And after reading Confessions of a Sin Eater, no one will disagree. Trying to adapt and survive in such a hell-hole is hard enough if you're a prisoner, but even the best psychologists are not immune to the destructive effects of spending day after day inside the minds and experiences of murderers, rapists, pedophile, and cannibals. The purpose of clinical therapists is to heal the emotionally wounded or deranged, but who heals the healer? That question may seem strange. After all, professional psychologists are trained to know what they're doing. They maintain scientific objectivity, and appropriate professional distance from their patients. Even so, a psychologist's job is to diagnose and treat; not just to fill in the blanks in the patient's history and monitor his response to medication. The protagonist in Confessions of a Sin Eater has more ambitious intentions. Greaney's goals are not tidy case notes and chemical pacification, he wants to understand the experiences of even the cruelest and most volatile in order to help his patient gain insights that will make possible self-forgiveness and reconciliation. True healing always begins inside the mind of a human being, but are Greaney's patients really human? And what becomes of someone who gets too close to them? Healing requires more than compassionate intentions, it requires empathy: the willingness to inhabit a patient's experience and try to see it and feel it from his point of view. But when a healer opens himself to that extent, there is the constant danger that he will be affected by what he empathizes with and seeks to understand. If his patients are middle class suburbanites the healer has little to worry about; but when his patients are monsters who have committed some of the most hideous crimes imaginable, then crawling inside their minds can affect even the most stoic healer. Thanks to both of these authors, for a truly believable look into the world of psychopathology.

Using his extensive experience as a psychotherapist at a U.S. maximum security prison, Jack McClintock writes an eye-opening expose of survival inside for prisoners, correction officers, and professional staff from a care-giver's eye-view. A must-read for politicians who influence the justice system, death sentence opponents and proponents, criminal justice and therapy students and professionals, and anyone touched by crime. It's couched as fiction for protective reasons, but read it and weep as you ponder the ethics and effectiveness of incarceration. Can't wait for the movie.

Profound is an over used word, but I can’t think of any word better. This book will change how you think about prison in America. It may change how you think about humanity and about yourself. Well worth reading.

Very well written!! Easy to read, in fact I couldn’t put it down. It has a nice surprise ending. That is one job I definitely wouldn’t want and have a new respect for those that do. Highly recommend reading this one.

Knowing that Nicholas Lamar Soutter had co-written this book was enough to make me want to buy it. I had earlier read Nick’s important science fiction work, The Water Thief, that describes a not-so-farfetched and not-so-far-off time in America when capitalism has succeeded in taking over ownership of every resource, including its citizens. The Water Thief is a master work that deserves to be ranked alongside the works of Philip K. Dick, Arthur C. Clarke, George Orwell and Aldous Huxley.In Confessions of a Sin Eater, Nick’s thoughtful and clear prose shines through, as it lays out the shocking, true story of a psychologist who works in a maximum security prison in Massachusetts. Nick was so impressed by his co-author’s story that he felt drawn to lend his expert hand at writing the book. The combined effect of a stunning and upsetting glimpse into what actually goes on behind the walls of a maximum security prison, and a masterful narration of that story by a seasoned author, is powerful. One feels that this book should be read by every voting American, every judge, and every politician. When society, through its judicial system, sends an individual to prison it seems as if the problem has been dealt with, when in fact the person is being sent to a place that prison psychologist Jack McClintock says breeds monsters. For some gang members, a prison stay is like a rite of passage, and perceived as a stay at a prestigious hotel. Confinement in a place that fosters a pecking order of murderers, sexual sadists and gang leaders makes men worse not better, the book alleges.The book’s narration is written in a seamlessly smooth style by master writer Ncholas Lamr Soutter, who gives a clear rendition of the story of Jack McClintock, prison psychologist. Highly recommended!

Fascinating; couldn’t put this book down.

What is it like in a high security prison? How are prisoners, guards and staff affected by the daily brutality of so raw a place? Are federal and state policies built to reform inmates or further corrode

their souls? "Confessions of a Sin Eater" is a mesmerizing analysis of all that is wrong with our penal system on a state and federal level. This fictional account of one psychologist is a real page-turner as we meet one horrific monster after another and try to glimpse into the heart of murderers, rapists and child molesters. No one escapes the raw acid caused by working in prisons or living in them. This book is a serious eye-opener for anyone who works in the criminal justice system.

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