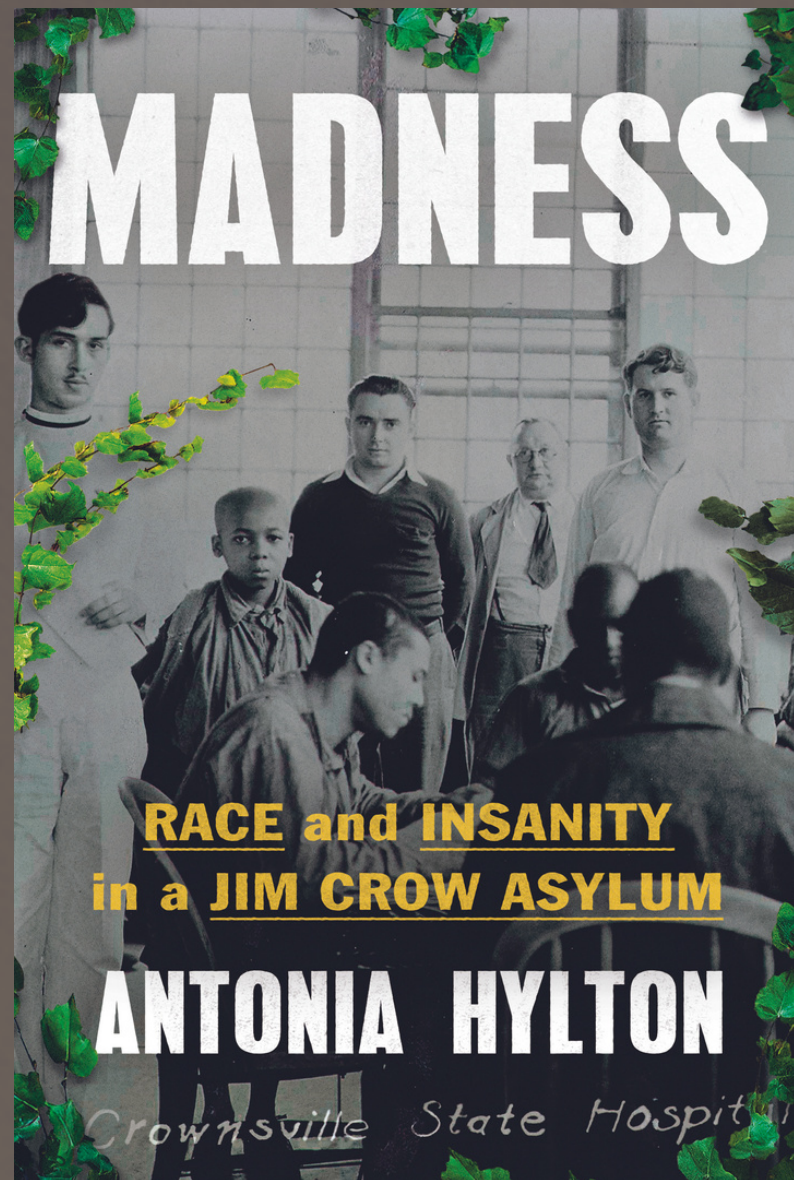


MADNESS

Race and Insanity in a Jim Crow Asylum



When we learn about the global history of mental healthcare and the birth of institutions like the asylum, Black patients are conspicuously absent from the history books, excluded from the narrative of recovery. Nowhere is this truer than in the history of Maryland's Crownsville Hospital for the Negro Insane.

In *Madness*, Emmy award-winning news correspondent, Antonia Hylton explores Crownsville's history and how the legacy of slavery and racist stereotypes ultimately pave the way to the criminalization and stigmatization of Black patients. Using journalistic investigation, photographs, original research, interviews, primary sources, and newspaper records she raises questions about our country's incomplete narrative. Hylton beautifully moves between anecdotal accounts from within Crownsville and wider-lens perspectives to paint a portrait of the American legacy of care and empathy for Black people — or lack thereof.

Key Takeaways

- The untold story of one of the few American segregated asylums with surviving records
- Archival never-before-seen research and interviews
- Traces the institutional history of Black mental health from slavery to Reconstruction to the Civil Rights era to modern times.
- Personal author connection to Crownsville Hospital and mental health industry

Antonia Hylton is a Peabody and Emmy-award winning correspondent at NBC News and NBC reporting on politics, race, and justice. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, where she received prizes for her investigative research on race, mass incarceration and the history of psychiatry. She lives in New York.



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Antonia Hylton
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