



## **True Center Publishing**

~Integrative Works in Psychology and the Arts~

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### **Award Winning Novel Immerses reader into the World of a Psychology Intern**

**Doylestown, PA** - *MADMAN: Strange Adventures of a Psychology Intern*, winner of the 2010 Next Generation Indie Book Award for First Novel, immerses the reader into the world of a psychology intern working on the psychiatric unit of a modern teaching hospital.

Written by John Suler, PhD, a professor and pioneer of emerging fields in psychology, this mischievous work of literary fiction dives into deep territory while the reader gets to buckle up and enjoy ride. With irreverent humor, a surreal imagination and undercurrents of eastern philosophy, this coming-of-age novel perfectly captures the point of view of a young clinical psychologist, Thomas Holden. A keen observer with a comic eye, Holden's ongoing internal musings and his strange experiences with patients and staff expose both the absurdity and the idealism inherent in psychotherapy.

A depressed patient Holden just discharged was run over by a mail truck. Is he responsible for her death? Another patient, a violent schizophrenic who drowns baby birds, thinks that men in raincoats are trying to kill him. If that isn't enough, Holden is assigned yet another difficult patient - a "John Doe" who apparently has no memory or identity. The police found him wandering the highway, collecting and burying road kill. Is this John Doe truly crazy, or is there something he's hiding, something insidious he's deliberately trying to do to Holden?

Just when Holden feels he has reached his limits, his beloved journal, the record of all his thoughts and feelings, mysteriously disappears. Then a sharp pair of scissors from the occupational therapy room disappears... And then Doe disappears.

Anyone who is interested in the world of psychology or fascinated by the mind of the psychotherapist will enjoy the rich immersive experience of *MADMAN*. From the beginning it draws you in and makes you feel like you're really there.

Thinking of psychology as a college major? College and high school students are reading *MADMAN* in their psychology classes, gaining an insider's perspective of the field of psychology. Their career choices are informed by deeper knowledge of the adventures that would await them in their graduate training, internship, and clinical practice. "A breathtakingly accurate depiction of the challenges and disturbances facing psychology interns" said Merle Molofsky, a psychoanalyst and co-editor of the journal *Other/wise*.

The author, John Suler, Ph.D., is a founder of the field of Cyberpsychology, one of the earliest writers on eastern philosophy and psychology, an academic star and a rebel. Suler decided to leap frog over much of

academic publishing by putting his work on the web and in the process generated a world wide following. His groundbreaking work *The Psychology of Cyberspace* is one of the first and most widely cited online hypertext books. With his novel *MADMAN*, Suler has once again done an end run around traditional academic publishing.

Before becoming a cyberspace phenomenon, Suler published scholarly works the traditional way. For instance, he published widely on the integration of eastern philosophy and psychoanalysis. His collected writings on the subject can be found in his book *Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Eastern Thought* (State University of New York Press), a tour de force showcasing Suler's talent for dazzling integrative thinking combined with an experience-near writing style. That style has evolved into the literary fiction of *MADMAN* where his writing, unleashed from academic formality, reflects the imagination of Vonnegut, the coming-of-age storytelling of JD Salinger, and the penchant for sidebar essays reminiscent of Robert Pirsig.

Suler's popular websites include *Zen Stories to Tell Your Neighbors* and the open-access guide *Teaching Clinical Psychology*. Most recently, his lifelong passion for photography and the role of images in identity expression has led him to pioneer in another field, Photographic Psychology. Suler's study of how we create, share, and react to images in this modern era of digital photography and online photosharing is published in his online book *Photographic Psychology: Image and Psyche*.

John Suler's work has been translated into a dozen languages and reported widely by national and international media, including the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the BBC, CNN, MSNBC, and The Chronicle of Higher Education. The author currently lives with his wife, two daughters, and a cat named Frida, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



**Book Ordering Information:**

**MADMAN: Strange Adventures of a Psychology Intern, by John R. Suler, paperback, 5X8, 346 pages, ISBN 978-0-9842255-3-8, the publisher is True Center Publishing, Date of Publication: June 1st 2010. Available from Amazon or bookstores can order from Ingram.**

**For further information and images:**

**Go to [truecenterpublishing.com](http://truecenterpublishing.com), email [debra@truecenterpublishing.com](mailto:debra@truecenterpublishing.com) or call us at 215-340-0525.**

**The author can be contacted directly at [suler@rider.edu](mailto:suler@rider.edu)**

## Reviews:

*"Madman is a genuine tour de force, maintaining an emotionally powerful grip on the reader while presenting an intellectually sound introduction to the world of clinical psychology. In the context of an action-packed suspenseful novel, Professor Suler presents the fundamental theoretical and historical foundations of clinical psychology side by side with the real-world practical problems that challenge the wisdom of the theories. This is a good read for all mental health professionals and anyone who is contemplating becoming one. I couldn't put it down until it ended, and I had a hard time letting go when it did."*

- Edward S. Katkin, Leading Professor Emeritus of  
Psychology and Psychiatry, Stony Brook University

*"MADMAN is a delightful "must-read" for students who are training to become mental health professionals. Suler's prose is engaging and filled with dialogue that makes for an easy identification with Thomas Holden, the intern and protagonist, who discovers parts of himself through interactions with cagey, cranky, and caring staff, and a caseload that challenges Holden's compassion, insight, humor, and humanity.... There are "teaching points" embedded throughout the dialogue as Holden struggles to understand his clients, his colleagues, and his own experiences. This is the type of book that can kick-start classroom discussions and provide a very nice adjunct to standard psychotherapy texts."*

- Jed Yalof, PsyD, ABPP  
Professor & Chair Dept. of Graduate Psychology  
Coordinator, PsyD Program in Clinical Psychology  
Immaculata University

*"A breathtakingly accurate depiction of the challenges and disturbances facing psychology interns...This is a most dramatic, engrossing, and intellectually engaging novel. Suler makes the challenges of beginning work as a psychotherapist, particularly with a difficult and demanding population, fascinating and recognizable. The story line moves apace, we identify with Thomas, who is both lost soul and seeker of the holy grail, and the intellectual debates are important and cogent."*

- Merle Molofsky, psychoanalyst, co-editor Other/wise,  
Board of Directors, International Forum of Psychoanalytic Education.

## College Student's rave:

*"It pulled me in from beginning to end...hilarious! "*

*"One of the best novels I have read in college and a work of literature."*

*"I liked every aspect of the book, it kept me wanting to read more. I never wanted to put it down."*

*"I loved the character Thomas Holden. He's amazing. I would be reading along and then all of a sudden he would say something so outrageous or funny that I would have to highlight the sentence or reread it."*

*"This book really inspired me to continue my career in psychology."*

*"...this book seemed to suck me in, to be honest, after chapter 10 I couldn't put it down."*

*"From the beginning it draws you in and makes you feel like you're really there."*

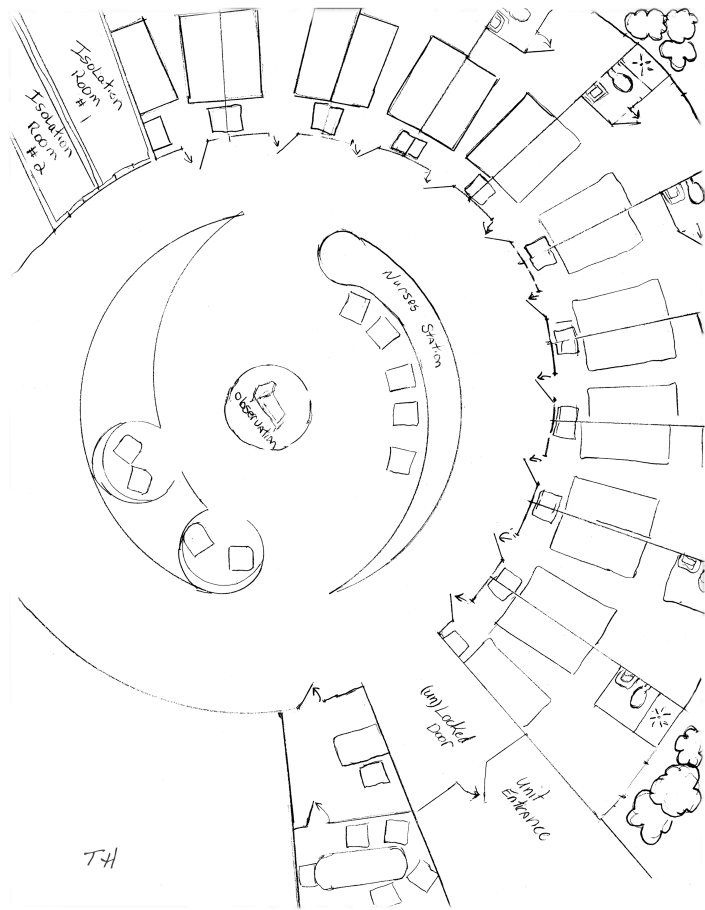
*"Realistic and authentic. Takes the reader through two continuous days on the unit and the thoughts running through the psychologist's mind."*

## Excerpts:

“THE PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT UNIT looked futuristic. The room was circular, with the exception of the entrance hallway that briefly disrupted its continuity, a short stem reaching to the outside world.”

“A green-carpeted walkway formed a ring that followed the contour of the circular wall. Dim track lights in the ceiling created a feeling of twilight, of being enclosed and contained... people suffering from agitated depression would take advantage of the unit’s circular design by pacing around on the outer walkway. Manic patients liked to jog...”

“Two apostrophe-shaped counters were located in the middle of the unit, their outer surfaces paralleling the walls of the circumference, their inner surfaces perfectly positioned so that the bulbous portion of one counter fitted neatly into the tapering tail of the other, like two fish swimming gracefully around each other.”



“The residents, huddled together, talking meds, belonged to an alien race destined to take over the world. And the medical students, lined up in a neat row wearing dark ties and clean shirts, were their offspring — young, white larvae awaiting further tissue differentiation.”

“A women was standing close in front of me. At first I paid no attention, but she swayed backwards slightly, almost touching me. A snap of static electric charge jumped from her wool sweater onto my arm... Slowly, she turned her head to look over her shoulder, right into my eyes. My insides froze. If there was any psychological gap between us, it collapsed. Her eyes were large and deep brown. I could swear I saw myself in them, looking with her at myself.”

“...how could the ritual morning report be complete without the caffeinated sacrament.. I looked around the lopsided circle of staff members. Everyone was holding a Styrofoam cup. The Chief drank several quarts of the stuff each day...embossed into his favorite mug were the words “Caffeine Psychosis.”

(See Suler’s Ode to Coffee,Pg 15)