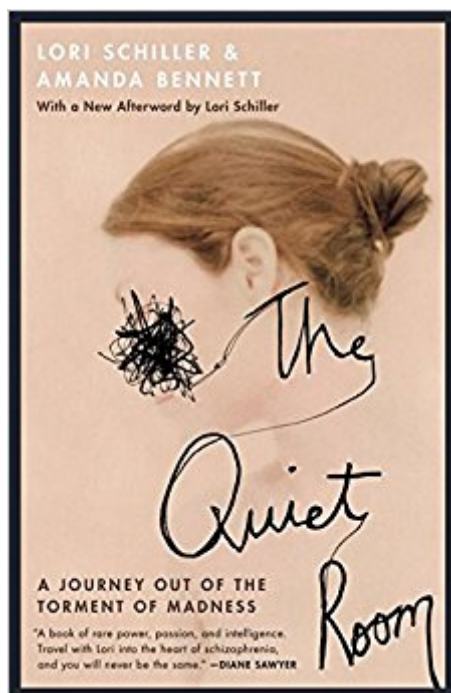


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# The Quiet Room: A Journey Out Of The Torment Of Madness



## Synopsis

Moving, harrowing, and ultimately uplifting, Lori Schiller's memoir is a classic testimony to the ravages of mental illness and the power of perseverance and courage. At seventeen Lori Schiller was the perfect child—the only daughter of an affluent, close-knit family. Six years later she made her first suicide attempt, then wandered the streets of New York City dressed in ragged clothes, tormenting voices crying out in her mind. Lori Schiller had entered the horrifying world of full-blown schizophrenia. She began an ordeal of hospitalizations, halfway houses, relapses, more suicide attempts, and constant, withering despair. But against all odds, she survived. In this personal account, she tells how she did it, taking us not only into her own shattered world, but drawing on the words of the doctors who treated her and family members who suffered with her.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Schiller, raised in a loving, affluent family in a New York City suburb, was 17 when she first heard the "voices" that would take over her life. Willing herself to appear normal, she resisted the brutally disparaging voices that urged her towards violence and suicide, and she succeeded in graduating from college. But early in 1982, at age 23 and after a suicide attempt, she was persuaded by her parents to admit herself to a mental hospital. For the next seven years, Schiller's auditory hallucinations worsened, and she repeatedly attempted suicide. Diagnosed with schizo-affective disorder, she underwent shock therapy and was treated with antipsychotic drugs. As the symptoms of her disease waxed and waned, Schiller was in and out of hospitals and treatment programs; her

weight soared and she became dependent on cocaine. Entering a program at New York Hospital, she suggested to her therapist that she try a new drug, clozapine, which gradually helped her to cope with her illness. Schiller now works at a halfway house. With Wall Street Journal reporter Bennett, she presents her stunning story of courage, persistence and hope. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

When Schiller was 17, her life was taken over by "voices" that she heard as clearly as she would hear a telephone or a doorbell. The voices changed her life from the ideal American Dream experience to the desolation and despair of a long-term mental ward. While the voices urged her to self-destruct, Schiller courageously fought her disease, which was later diagnosed as a schizo-affective disorder. A last chance drug treatment, intensive therapy, and her own strong will to live resulted in Schiller's triumph over mental illness. The story, told by her mother, father, roommate, and by Lori herself, is narrated by Mary Beth Hurt with passion and compassion. Recommended. Joanna M. Burkhardt, Univ. of Rhode Island Coll. of Continuing Education Lib., Providence Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book scared me as it helped me identify similar issues I have experienced. Though it was also helpful and gave me a sense of relief that there are others who suffer from voices in your head. A painfully accurate, but tremendously powerful story

I bought this book along with *Detour: My Bi-Polar Road Trip*, and I must say, I was very pleasantly surprised when I read this book. I was concerned that since the subject matter was schizophrenia, I would not be able to feel emotionally attached to the story because I wouldn't be able to relate. Lori Schiller showed me just how wrong I was. This book was an excellent depiction of schizophrenia in a way that anyone can sympathize if not empathize. It did a fantastic job describing the symptoms and the attitudes of someone that does not admit they have schizophrenia. The best part though is the inclusion of chapters from the family and friends that were involved in Lori's life during her schizophrenic episodes. Their feelings and thoughts give a complete view of the effect of schizophrenia on a personal level, and on the family system. In short, I loved this book and could not put it down. This book is an excellent addition to any book collection.

I purchased this book to gain a better understanding of the debilitating disease which is

schizophrenia; I simply wanted to gain perspective in order to better empathize with someone who was suffering through the burdens of this traumatic condition. This book genuinely helped me to gain insight and allowed me to better communicate and relate and thus, gave me the opportunity to better help the who needed my assistance in this regard. Worth the read whether you personally are affected by this ailment or not; even if you don't know anyone who has been diagnosed as schizophrenic, this book can still help to offer you perspective on the disease.

I was looking for a book that would help me understand what a very close family member with schizophrenia was feeling, and how to help. This book exceeded my expectations. I found many behavioral commonalities and for the first time ever understood a little better how it must feel. I began to understand what might be happening in their head that caused the behavior. I deeply appreciate the effort it must have taken to write this book. It brought me comfort and renewed my hope that life with schizophrenia was possible. If, like me, you are feeling lonely and afraid as you struggle to understand and help someone you love, I recommend you add this book to your reading list. And I wish you peace and hope.

I read this for an assignment, a very candid account of the experience of schizophrenia for Lorrie, and how her condition affects her job, home life, and relationships. Its great that some of the chapters are written by those in her life at the time, seeing the experience through two or more pairs of eyes is very insightful. Well written, and memorable.

Wonderful glimpse into the struggles of people with mental health diagnoses. The perspectives from the author, parents, siblings, and professionals really give a great look at the day to day struggles. Would definitely recommend to any professional in the mental health field. Important for the family members of those suffering as well! The happy ending is quite fulfilling as well :)

My daughter just started hearing voices in January. I can't believe I found this book so soon after this tragedy struck our family. It helped me so much to read how the young woman, Lori Schiller, felt while she suffered from breakdowns and had to be hospitalized, and ultimately was helped tremendously by the right medication. It gave me so much hope for my daughter's recovery, but also helped me to understand what my own daughter was going through, so I could respond compassionately and appropriately.

I purchased this book to learn about a loved one's mental illness. I highly recommend this book to anyone living with a loved one who has this mental illness. This is a true story of a woman's battle with mental illness and lived through her many years of struggles in a psych ward with the disease for many years. With the help of doctors, she is on a medicine that controls her illness. After many years, she was to live on her own. She has a career and is married to a great man.

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