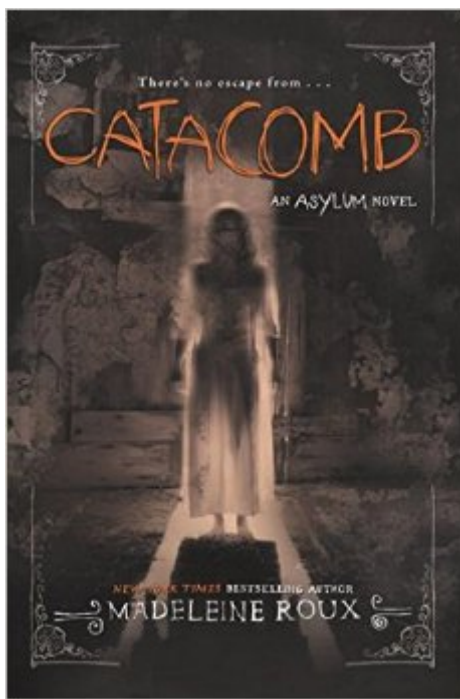


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Catacomb (Asylum)



Synopsis

The heart-stopping third book in the New York Times bestselling Asylum series follows three teens as they take a senior-year road trip to one of America's most haunted cities, uncovering dangerous secrets from their past along the way. With all the thrills, chills, and eerie found photographs that led Publishers Weekly to call Asylum "a strong YA debut," Catacomb is perfect for fans for Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. Sometimes the past is better off buried. Senior year is finally over. After all they've been through, Dan, Abby, and Jordan are excited to take one last road trip together, and they're just not going to think about what will happen when the summer ends. But on their way to visit Jordan's uncle in New Orleans, the three friends notice that they're being followed . . . and photographed. Then Dan starts receiving messages from someone he didn't expect to hear from again—someone who died last Halloween. When the trio arrives in New Orleans and the strange occurrences only escalate, Dan is forced to accept that everything that has happened to him in the past year may not be a coincidence but fate—a fate that ties Dan to a group called the Bone Artists, who have a sinister fascination with notorious killers of the past. Now Dan's only hope is that he will make it out of his senior trip alive. Don't miss the spine-tingling prequel, Escape from Asylum. Fans can read an exclusive sneak preview in the Catacomb paperback edition.

Book Information

Series: Asylum (Book 3)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (June 14, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062364065

ISBN-13: 978-0062364067

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (97 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #12,376 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #16 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > New Experiences](#) #31 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Fantasy & Supernatural](#) #52 in [Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Mystery & Detective](#)

Customer Reviews

My Review: In this third installment of the Asylum series, Dan, Jordan, and Abby are taking a road trip to New Orleans before everyone goes off to college. But with Dan's past, nothing ever goes as planned, and before the trio now, they are elbow deep in a new mystery surrounding Dan and his parents, Micah and a host of new characters. I love this series, there's always mystery when it comes to Dan and his past, and that past keeps popping up no matter where he is. This series always takes readers for some loops, however, for me personally, the loops in the book seem to confuse me, having me ask more questions than I got answers. There is a book out called Scarlets that I have yet to read, and is supposed to talk about events taking place before the series. While you do not have to read that book to read the Asylum series, I wonder if that would help me understand of how the cult and Dan are related, unless he and his friends just happened to stumble across it at NHC. The same is true with Felix and Professor Ryes. They both appeared to be completely nuts, and after their fates, you don't hear too much about them, just a mention here and there. I would think those characters who cause major havoc in the first two books, would somehow be related to all this. Finally, Warden Crawford, yet again, a character that has a big part in one of the books, and then all of a sudden you only get a few mentions here and there. I understand each book is a new adventure and mystery for Dan and his friends, but I would think the book would address some of those stories in this book. The only real follow up we get is Micah. Despite my personal irritants thinking all of this has to fit together somehow, I did enjoy this book. Set in New Orleans, with a ton of conspiracy and freaky moments, you have a great book to get into a spooky state of mind. The last few chapters of the book are, in my opinion, the best out of the whole book. Even though they are short, they are kind of mind blowing.

Positive Elements: It may seem that Dan is in a very bad place, with everything that has been going on since they arrived in New Orleans, even he and his friends getting into a major fight. Despite all that, Abby and Jordan still look out for Dan, and come to his aid when he needs them the most.

Negative Elements: Like the first two books, this one does include some underage drinking, and swear words. The worst swear you hear is the F-Word, which is used only once, s**t a hand full of times, and then the words that you typically hear on television.

Spiritual Elements: God's name is misused throughout the book.

Other Thoughts: I'm hoping there is another book on the way to follow up on some of my unanswered questions.

I've had it with the Asylum series. When I picked up Catacomb, I at least expected it would somehow be connected to the other books, but apart from having the same main characters, there is no connection at all, except an extremely loose one. The mystery doesn't build on upon

the storyline already set out in book one and two. Instead, we get a new location, a new villain, and whatever ties there still are to Brooklyn and the asylum, they're so disjointed they make no sense and make for some extreme coincidences that aren't believable at all. Since this is fiction, I'm willing to stretch my imagination but this is too far-fetched, even for me. On top of that, we find out more about Dan's past and it's so utterly and totally ridiculous. Dan sure is some special cookie "now he has a crazy great-uncle who did terrible experiments on people in an asylum, but his parents were journalists murdered on the job by some strange cult that enjoys using human bones in their insane rituals. Instead of continuing on the legacy left behind by Dan's great-uncle and exploring that more, this book takes place in New Orleans, where our three friends hang out because Jordan is moving there. On the way there, some stuff happens that is supposed to be freaky but isn't, and there, they stumble upon the Bone Artists, and a sinister connection to the past. They also meet some people who are so boring and one-dimensional I've already forgotten their names, and I finished the book last week. Everything that happens is so unlikely I just wanted to rip my hair out. That is, along with how disjointed the plot is, my major issue with this book. It just screams deus ex machina. Things happen randomly and Dan happens to be where he needs to be every freaking time. I can forgive a coincidence or two, but this was just too much. The lack of overarching plot is so annoying. Every book you pick up reads like a new book. Well, fine, but I'm not willing to buy that every city has some crazy cult running around. I can buy that once, but not twice. On top of that, Dan and his friends just get flatter and flatter. They had sparks of personality in book one, but by now they're so dull and one-dimensional you might as well replace them by cardboard figures. They don't develop. They don't change, they don't grow. I barely got to know them, and I spent three books by their side. All in all, this series started out great for me, but went downhill fast. I wouldn't recommend it, especially not if you're looking for horror! Despite the creepy cover, there's not an ounce of creepiness anywhere in this book.

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