



# Scared of My Own Shadow

*Dan Beatty*

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## **Scared of My Own Shadow** Dan Beatty

Behind the walls of an unimposing, isolated Iowa farmhouse in the rural county of Lucas, a young man by the name of Lowell Hyde spends his entire lifetime agonizing over the guilt of merely being born.

It should have been him, not his mother, who died on the day of his birth. Lowell knows this....

And his father won't let him forget.

Known to many as a small town hero for saving two adolescent boys from a barn fire when he was 16, Lowell shies away from his fame, eventually succumbing to the demons that plague his family. Due to a loss of oxygen to his brain when he was four, Lowell is often seen in his small town as "slow" and "mentally challenged," if not worse. What people do not realize is that the young man's mind is consumed by haunted imageries and by a desperate attempt to understand his own life, as well as to understand the life that ended the very moment that his had begun.

With unexpected twists and secrets revealed throughout the novel, and with several themes explored—themes such as free-will vs. determinism, blind faith, loss of innocence, Oedipal complex, and the evil "shadows" that lurk within us all—Scared of My Own Shadow will both entertain and shock readers, but will also allow readers to rejoice in the resiliency of a rather unexpected hero.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dan Beatty has relied on his 17 years of experience as a social worker and clinical therapist in Western North Carolina to breathe life into the many characters in his novels and short stories. He has meticulously developed his characters by spotlighting many of the topics that have plagued children and young adults growing up in abusive homes and challenging systems.

From characters whose "home" is the street, a 6x8-foot prison cell, or the last stool at the end of a bar, Beatty believes that everyone has a fascinating story to tell, if only someone would listen.

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