Lee Smith’s *Guests on Earth* presents a varied cast of characters as they drift in and out through the doors of Highland Hospital, an institution best remembered as the mental hospital where Zelda Fitzgerald and 8 other female patients perished in an early morning fire. Smith knows Highland Hospital by personal experience as both her father and her son spent time there—her father in the 1950s and her son much later, in the 1980s. Fascinated by the history of Highland Hospital, Smith presents a kaleidoscope of mental and psychological disorders as her narrator Evalina Toussaint drifts in and out of the institution, interacting with the patients, staff, and administrators. Toussaint’s experiences provide a disturbing glimpse into the stigmatization, institutionalization, and treatment those diagnosed as mentally ill. While the institution seeks to “normalize” its patients, calling them “guests” rather than patients, encouraging fresh air and exercise as a form of therapy, and promoting “healthy” everyday activities like cooking, gardening, and art, nonetheless those who veer from the prescribed path to recovery are subjected to electroshock and convulsive therapy, injections of horse serum or insulin shock treatments. Female patients and the expectations of society for women take center stage but male concerns are not excluded from the narrative. Smith presents her cast of characters sympathetically, offering a critique of the standard of “normalcy” which led to their exclusion. This paper will focus on the key areas of stigmatization, treatment, and seclusion of those who violate conventional standards of normalcy (especially women).