



## Inside: Life Behind Bars in America

By Michael G. Santos

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American jails and prisons confine nearly 13.5 million people each year, and it is estimated that 6 to 7 percent of the U.S. population will be confined in their lifetimes. Despite these disturbing numbers, little is known about life inside beyond the mythology of popular culture.

Michael G. Santos, a federal prisoner nearing the end of his second decade of continuous confinement, has dedicated the last eighteen years to shedding light on the lives of the men warehoused in the American prison system. *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America*, his first book for the general public, takes us behind those bars and into the chaos of the cellblock.

Capturing the voices of his fellow prisoners with perfect pitch, Santos makes the tragic--- and at times inspiring---stories of men from the toughest gang leaders to the richest Wall Street criminals come alive. From drug schemes, murders for hire, and even a prostitution ring that trades on the flesh of female prison guards, this book contains the never-before-seen details of prison life that at last illuminate the varied ways in which men experience life behind bars in America.

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## Inside: Life Behind Bars in America By Michael G. Santos Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In 1987, during the height of the Reagan administration's "Just say no" campaign, 21-year-old Santos received a 45-year sentence for his involvement in the distribution of large amounts of cocaine. Now, after nearly 20 years in jail, Santos has devoted himself to making the best out of his incarceration. Having received a B.A. and M.A. from accredited universities, he spends much of his free time reading and writing about the U.S. criminal system. Here, he uses his insider perspective to provide a blunt, often disturbing look at America's prison system. More anecdotal than personal or analytical, his account illustrates the presence of gangs, drugs, prostitution and rape in prison through a series of dramatized stories. Although the dialogue is at times overwrought, the stories themselves are shocking and illuminating. Together they paint a picture of prison culture and its dehumanizing effects on the people who live within it. The book also functions beyond its role as an exposé, effectively questioning the efficacy of modern prisons. Santos rejects the idea that the "correctional system" does much correcting, and provides repeated examples of the sense of hopelessness inmates suffer during their sentences. (*Aug.*)

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## **Review**

*Praise for Inside: Life Behind Bars in America*

"This surprisingly dispassionate account of life in federal prison reads more like a work of advocacy journalism than personal memoir, freshening both the genre and the arguments about the failings of modern U.S. penitentiaries. The tone and his focus on other inmates' experiences rather than his own lend the book weight and authenticity, opening a window onto the corrupt, violent and ultimately counter-productive society of American prisons."

--Edward Humes, *Los Angeles Times*

"*Inside* is actually two books. The red meat of the book is a collection of more than 100 prisoners' accounts, including every gruesome detail... But between shocking tales of inmate misbehavior are Santos' convincing theories about what it all means."

--Sean Bosker, *New York Post*

"Santos deserves a hearing... He provides more than just a seamy look at prison life. A chilling, timely portrayal."

--Tara McKelvey, *New York Times Book Review*

"Michael Santos has written a book of rare quality and pressing importance. To read this book is to change the way you think about imprisonment."

--Todd R. Clear, Distinguished Professor and Executive Officer, Program of Doctoral Studies in Criminal Justice, John Jay College, The City University of New York

"*Inside* is not recommended for the faint at heart. Santos eloquently and engagingly captures the subculture of the prisoner. *Inside* is a must read."

--Sam Torres, Ph.D., Professor of Criminal Justice, California State University, Long Beach, and Senior U.S. Probation Officer (Ret.)

"Michael Santos, a federal prisoner now in his eighteenth year of incarceration, has made an outstanding contribution to our understanding of life inside America's prisons."

--George F. Cole, Professor Emeritus, University of Co...

From the Back Cover

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Gabriel Cleveland:**

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the item for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand up than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you that *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America* book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

#### **Jennifer Larson:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be up-date about what going on or information even knowledge to make these keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you is you don't know which one you should start with. This *Inside: Life Behind Bars in America* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, since this book serves what you want and need in this era.

#### **Jeannine Ricks:**

People live in this new day of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get lots of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely of

course. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer may unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the actual book you have read will be Inside: Life Behind Bars in America.

**Kim Heflin:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to read a book. When you study a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, since book has a lot of information upon it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you want to get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, such us novel, comics, and soon. The Inside: Life Behind Bars in America provide you with a new experience in reading through a book.

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