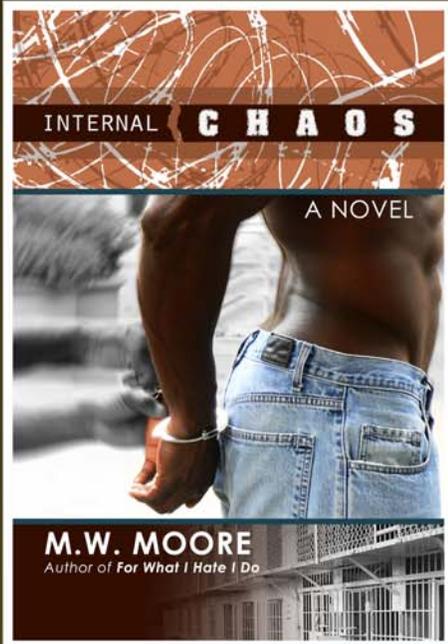


Internal Chaos

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Synopsis

With the help of a gracious FBI agent, Miguel Morris accepts an irresistible plea deal after his confession to six bank robberies in the Houston area, but he learns life behind bars is a daily tempest marked by insolent penitentiary guards and delusional inmates.

But despite the chaos, the former NCAA track champion and professional model must adjust to prison because it'll be his home for the next 15 years, unless he's paroled before then.

His first year of confinement is like a mental torture chamber as he is robbed of dignity. His college education is now inconsequential. Among his distresses, the former crack cocaine addict is forced to confront his disdain for flamboyant gay men when one, Kiki, becomes his cellmate. Oddly, Kiki indoctrinates him to life behind bars – teaching him prison jargon and survival.

Although penitentiary starts out as a lonely place, Miguel's megawatt charisma – much more subdued in lockup – still works to his advantage as many secretly admire his sculpted 6-foot, 2-inch stacked athletic frame and dark-chocolate complexion. Along the way, he discovers that emotional attachments are practically non-existent. But when those occur, submissive individuals are treated as property, often with violent consequences.

Even Miguel, despite his usual machismo in prison, is hurt a couple times when his heart is left unprotected. He lets his guard down after meeting a quiet, attractive, vulnerable indigent inmate willing to woo anyone and do anything as long as the person is willing to provide commissary items.

Internal chaos results because confinement leaves Miguel powerless to assist his mom's fight with breast cancer or help his best friend Lazlo, who's struggling with tough choices that threaten his sanity.

In an environment of "every man for himself," it's not unusual for inmates to know something about the other. Miguel discovers this because he must deflect rumors about his sexual preferences and his HIV status. He also must endure regular taunting from a malcontent power-hungry ranking correctional officer, Lieutenant RideOut, who patrols prison wings looking for contraband while keeping an eagle eye on Miguel – just waiting for him to screw up.

Miguel's misery intensifies further after being assigned to the back-breaking, Texas heat field labor of picking cotton and cabbage, a reminder of an era that harkens back to slavery. He also spends weeks in segregation without privileges after being caught having sex in another inmate's cell.

But when he meets Judas, deception takes on an entirely new meaning. It's one of the darkest moments for Miguel as the forces of evil continue to lurk.

