

1. TITLE: INSIDE/OUT - Prose and Poetry from America's Prisons
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All extremes of humanitarianism are reached whenever one finds a paper such as INSIDE/OUT, which consists of literary pieces written by prisoners. Of course one would like to get a \$ 5.00 - a - year subscription and help "those poor fellows to lead a more decent life". At least that's what I thought, as I got the first issue of this Time Capsule Magazine, which I did not expect to be good. And there's where my mistakes began. All four short-stories and five poems proved to be the best sort of artistic ingenuity, expressive in form and genuine in feeling.

The first work, "A Glimpse at Reality", by Martin Vargas, consists of a number of short dialogues colloquial post-post-modern in which a "Nigger", a Mexican, a priest and other people who are making love in "the hole" at Jackson (Mich.) Prison give us an insight into what the author calls "the abnormal and rougher side of realism, in full dress".

The idea for this paper originated from the PEN American Center's Prison Writing Program, at Rutgers University's Livingstone College, and has now the assistance of many Universities all through the United States.

Most of the works deal with the life people lead in prison: the fear of committing suicide, or going crazy; the terror at the thought that people they love won't come on visiting days; the little present they get on Christmas day, when each man is told by the guard "merry christmas fella/ no hard feelin's"; and also the hope of better days, when they are going to start all over again, outside, where joy is waiting...

(Review by - Sandra Sirangelo Maggio)