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## MAD STACKS

### Three Story Collections

#### *Gateway Drug, Head Cases and Missing Pieces*

Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1)

By Scott Nicholson

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*Once you take the first hit, there's no turning back. Ten tales of murder, mayhem, madness, and dark magic from a #1 bestselling author.*

## GATEWAY DRUG

By Scott Nicholson

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## **TIMING CHAINS OF THE HEART**

**By Scott Nicholson**

Leather on leather, glove on shift ball, the faint smell of oil in the air. Wide-tread rubber clinging desperately to asphalt, a ton-and-a-half of steel-and-chrome stud machine that could grab and growl in five gears, not counting reverse. It was great to be alive.

J.D. Jolley peered at the strip of Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) black ribbon that rolled out in front of his headlights. The ribbon disappeared into the larger strip Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) of night. Night hid the rest of the world, and that was fine with J.D. The world was nothing but litter along the highway, as Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) far as he was concerned.

He pumped the accelerator Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) once, then again, steadily, listening to the thrush of exhaust. A lot of muscle drivers stomped, but J.D. never stomped. You had to treat a '69 Camaro like a lady. With tenderness, compassion, lots Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) of foreplay if you wanted a smooth ride.

"You're purring like a kitten in a kettle tonight, Cammie," J.D. said, patting the dashboard. "Warm as a manifold cover and wet as a water pump. What say we get it on?"

The moon was out, weakly grinning down on his left shoulder through the clouds. No matter how far he drove, the moon never seemed to move. It was one of those things about the world that J.D. accepted without a second thought. Hell, that was Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) up there in the sky, and the moon didn't have a damned inch of asphalt. Maybe if those pencil-necked engineers ever came up Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) with solo rockets, he'd take another study of Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) the heavens. But until then, the sky was nothing Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) but wind resistance.

He hung his arm out the window. A good little back-breeze played against his elbow. Ought

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to add a couple of miles per hour. He was shooting for one-forty tonight.

This was his favorite stretch of road, a nice straight three miles of open country. The local cops never patrolled out here for the simple reason that the only Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) traffic was Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) farm tractors and cattle trucks and the occasional riding lawn mower. The few farmhouses in the area were back from the highway, buffered by wide green and brown fields lined with barbed wire. Nobody to bother but the big-eyed cows, and they were practically kneeling in awe.

J.D. pressed the clutch and slid the Camaro into first gear. He clenched his left hand on the steering wheel. A lot of muscle guys had those faggy vinyl wraps on their steering wheels, but J.D. liked the natural factory feel. Same way Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) with his women.

The back seat practically needed reconditioning, he'd worked the shock absorbers so much. A '69 Camaro drew the babes. They couldn't resist the sleek curves and classic lines, not to mention the throbbing under the hood. True, it Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) was a lower class of women, but hell, one was pretty much the same as another when their legs were splayed out the back window.

So women were allowed in his meat wagon. But not on his midnight runs. Those were reserved strictly for him and his Cammie, a bond that Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) was far more sacred than any relationship of mere flesh. This love was truer than motherly and was right up there with religious love. This was a man and his car racing against themselves.

For that same reason, he never dragged in the Saturday night specials with the hot rodders. There was a brisk betting business going on in this two-factory Iowa town because there wasn't much else to get excited about if you didn't invest in hog futures. The local cops were under orders to steer clear of the four-lane east of town when the muscleheads fired up their engines. But solo riders like J.D. were cracked faster than a powder-dry engine block.

If they did blue-light him out here, he could easily outrun them. They had those little pussyfoot cruisers that whined if they even got within sniffing distance of triple digits. They were driving damned imports, made in Korea even if the label said American. Ought to be a law against that.

J.D. closed his eyes and gave the gas pedal a little boot leather. His bucket seat shivered and he shivered with it, even though it was April. He was joining with the car. The spoiler was his open and gasping mouth, the carburetor throat was sucking oxygen, his crankcase belly was growling, hungry for petroleum, and the tires itched like his moist toes. The muffler was backfiring brimstone.

He popped the clutch at the same moment he popped open his eyelids. The asphalt squealed in agony as he left a fifty-foot scar up its spine. He straddled the dotted white line as

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he Mad Stacks: Story Collection Box Set (Stacks Series Book 1) power-shifted into second, leaving another mist of scalded rubber hanging in the air behind him. J.D. glanced at the tachometer, saw that he was at 7,000 RPM, and he booted into third. Cammie was already at sixty and they'd not yet begun to party.

This was better than sex. This was red-eyed adrenaline, a spark in the old plug, a rush that made the small hairs on the back of J.D.'s neck stand up and dance. Fence posts blurred past both quarter panels as the Camaro's grill chewed up moths and the slipstream set the sawgrass swaying along the ditches. The G-force pressed J.D. against the seat. An excited sweat gathered under his eyes and his tongue felt like a gasket between the valve covers of his teeth.

He squinted at the small fuzzy dot ahead where the headlights petered out, at the murky oblivion that was always his destination. He was getting there, he felt it in his bones, he glanced down and saw the needle tacking toward one-ten and his bowels had gone zero-gravity. He was reaching down to glide into fourth when he saw the pale shape, a small figure that grew large too soon, from nothing to five-feet-six in only three seconds, and J.D. barely had time to see the face in the sweep of headlights.

## **Mad Stacks Story Collection Box Set Stacks Series Book 1**

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