



The History of Hell

By Alice K. Turner, Donadio & Olson

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A “lively...generously illustrated” (Washington Post Book World) survey of how, over the past four thousand years, religious leaders, artists, writers, and ordinary people in the West have visualized Hell-its location, architecture, purpose, and inhabitants. Illustrations; full-color inserts.

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The History of Hell By Alice K. Turner, Donadio & Olson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In an arresting journey through the netherworld, Playboy fiction editor Turner explores the landscape and dynamics of Hell as envisioned by writers, artists, theologians and thinkers from Plato and Augustine to Milton, Calvin, Byron and T. S. Eliot. Starting with the worlds of the dead of the Sumerians, Egyptians, Zoroastrians, Greeks, Romans and Jews, Turner moves on to the sketchy biblical basis for Christian Hell and its increasing importance in thinking about the afterlife. After the fact of Hell was settled, it was up to writers like Bede, Gregory the Great and most of all Dante to give the graphic descriptions of an infernal region where the wicked endure torments. Enlightenment thinkers like Voltaire poured cold water on the idea of Hell, yet, as Turner shows, Hell, far from disappearing in the 20th century, has been one of its central metaphors. Scores of intriguing black-and-white plates reveal how Bosch, Giotto, William Blake, Michelangelo, Rodin and others have shaped popular images of the underworld. Author tour.
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From Library Journal

Turner, the fiction editor of Playboy magazine, takes the reader on more of a geographical than a theological tour of hell. She begins her examination of the concept of hell in ancient Middle Eastern and Mediterranean societies, tracing its evolution into that held by the Christian Church. She considers the devil such a complex subject that he remains peripheral to her discussion. The study emphasizes the depiction of hell by such artists as Virgil, Dante, Michelangelo, Milton, and Blake and the bewildering assortment of hells within the history of Christianity. Turner remains alert to the humor lurking behind many depictions of hell, such as in medieval mystery plays. Her scholarship is thorough but not obtrusive. Suitable for informed lay readers.
- *Richard S. Watts, San Bernardino Cty. Lib., Cal.*
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From [Booklist](#)

Belief in a hell or some sort of afterlife has been intrinsic to the religions of the world ever since the first stories were shared aloud and incised in clay tablets. Turner's richly illustrated history surveys the myriad forms hell has taken in the West from Sumer to Rome and beyond. Hell has always been a more inspiring concept for theologians, poets, and artists than heaven, which is somehow more metaphoric and, let's be frank, dull. Hell is, by definition, brutally concrete, a place of heat and agony, a catalyst for the imagination to conjure up all manner of gruesome details. Turner traces the evolution of hell's topography and terrors from descriptions in the Egyptian Book of the Dead to classical Hades, retelling old stories of the underworld and working her way towards the visions of Christianity. Turner summarizes hell according to Virgil, Dante, Marlowe, Goethe, Milton, and Swedenborg and notes that the most fertile time for full-blown concepts of Hell was during the medieval era when wildly literal and gory scenarios thrilled and frightened the populace much like horror movies do today. An original, knowledgeable, and fluid presentation. *Donna Seaman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

John Tillery:

In this 21st millennium, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by

surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. Yes, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading some sort of book, we give you this kind of The History of Hell book as basic and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Ruben Jenkins:

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Cheryl Ruiz:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With reading you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their particular reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the textbooks. But also they write about advantage about something that you need example of this. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this The History of Hell.

Mellisa Holden:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to spend your whole day by studying a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to accept the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like The History of Hell which is having the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's view.

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