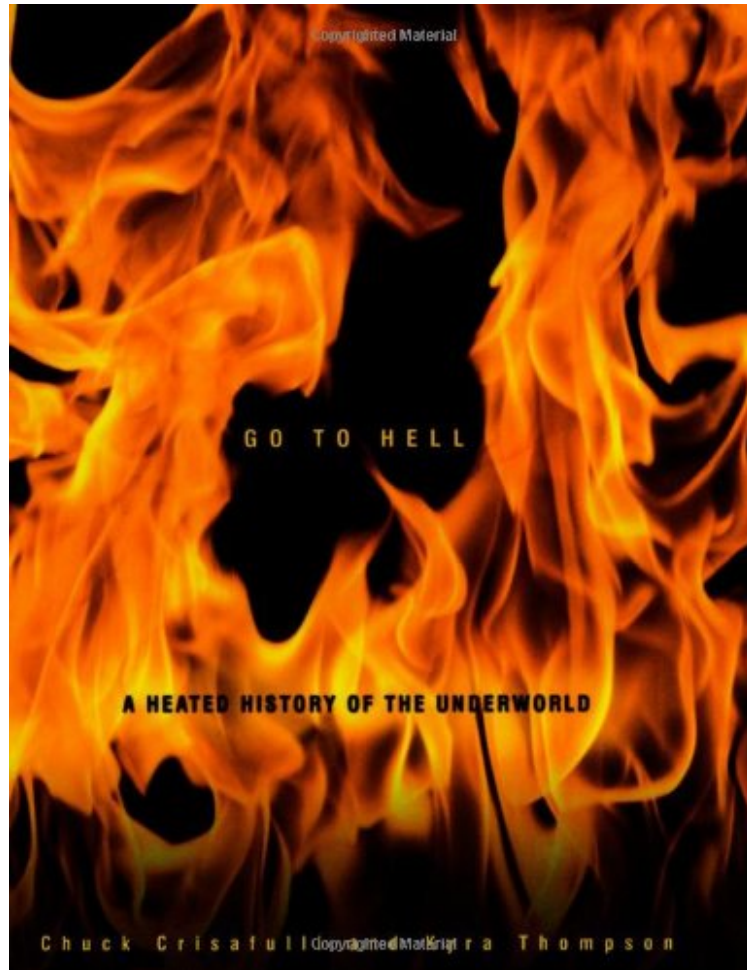


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## Go to Hell: A Heated History of the Underworld

*Chuck Crisafulli, Kyra Thompson*  
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**Chuck Crisafulli, Kyra Thompson : Go to Hell: A Heated History of the Underworld** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Go to Hell: A Heated History of the Underworld:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hell Done RightBy OmegaGapThis is an extremely objective view of the multiple interpretations of the myriad realms of punishment in the afterlife scattered across various belief systems. It's very extensive, covering the origins of such realms, their rulers, what inspired their creations, and so on. A small cross-section of its diversity is the fact that it goes from the Jewish concept of Sheol to icy Norse Hel to Buddhism's Eight Hells that act as barriers to reincarnation. Celebrities chip in in parts, revealing what their personal Hell would be. Most importantly, it helps reveal an underlying fascination that humanity has with punishment. Everyone should read it at some point.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. very good bookBy Terryvery good book6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Easy Reading, Engaging, and Entertaining.By

IsadardarThere you are, sitting on the bus, the train, or on a park bench, quietly reading. When all of a sudden, someone, obviously a non-reader, interrupts your solitude and asks "What are you reading?" To which you reply, Go To Hell. And you'd be right!Go to Hell, A Heated History of the Underworld, is an engaging book written by Chuck Crisafulli and Kyra Thompson. Hell, as you will read in the book, is quite an interesting subject, with a complex history covering many religions and mythologies throughout time. You'll read about the view of Hell that comes from the Book of Revelations that will be familiar to Christians, with its "gnashing of teeth" and lake of fire; the Japanese Buddhist Hell that is called Jigoku and consists of eight fiery hells and eight icy hells, all ruled by the Great Judge of Hell, Emma-O who weighs your soul to measure your wickedness; and the Viking Hell, an inhospitable and cold place called Niflheim, and is run by the goddess of death and the underworld, Hel. The book delves into all aspects of Hell: what it is, where it is, what goes on there, who's in charge, and what artists, writers and philosophers have had to say about Hell over the centuries. Each chapter is separated into many sections with creative headings such as I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up, Book-of-the-Dead Club, and It's a Small World After Hell. An additional fun feature in the book is called My Hell and features quotes by various celebrities who describe what Hell means to them. These celebrities include Bob Newhart, William Shatner, and Matt Stone (of South Park fame). My personal favorite My Hell segment is described by John Kricfalusi (the creator of Ren and Stimpy) because I believe I have already been there (think movie theater). Lastly, the book has a comprehensive bibliography, should you wish to continue your study of Hell. The authors take what has to be one of the most serious subjects around and make it easy-reading, entertaining, and yes, educational. This makes it a book for all ages, from teens to seniors -- as long as they keep an open mind and don't take it all too seriously! So pick up this book, and enjoy telling anyone who wants to know what you are reading to Go To Hell!

Close your eyes and picture -- just for a moment -- hell. Fire? Demons? Eternal torment? Well, yes -- that's the place, in one very hot nutshell. But that's not all there is to the forbidding world beneath us. For a few millennia now, we mortals have imagined and reimagined hell in countless ways: as a realm of damnation, as an inspiration for highest art, as a setting for the lowest of lowbrow comedy. One might conclude that for all our good intentions to enter paradise, we can't seem to get enough vivid details of its counterpart, hell. Provocative, colorful, and damned entertaining, Go to Hell takes readers on a tour of the underworld that is both darkly comical and seriously informative. From the frozen hell of the Vikings to the sun-drenched Cayman Islands' town of Hell (where tourists line up to have their postcards aptly postmarked), from Dante's circles of hell to Buffy the Vampire Slayer's Hellmouth, Go to Hell embraces our evolving relationship with the sinner's final destination, revealing how we truly think of ourselves in this world. What's down below? Meet HEL, the hideous, half-rotting goddess of the Viking underworld. Beware the Egyptians' AM-MUT, an unsightly mix of lion, crocodile, and hippo parts, and insatiably hungry for wicked souls. Visit JIGOKU, a Buddhist realm of eight fiery hells and eight icy hells: an all-you-can-suffer hot-and-cold buffet. Step into the INFERNO for a tour of Dante's nine circles of the damned...

From Publishers WeeklyThe universality of the belief in hell is assumed, but its meaning and implications are not examined in this rather lighthearted historical tour of a place Dante, Jonathan Edwards and others have described in, well, hellish detail. While acknowledging that hell is a real and terrifying place for believers, journalist Crisafulli and documentary filmmaker Thompson seem more interested in hell as an "entertainment vehicle," a "not-so-real place" where our foibles and frailties are resignedly recognized, and even perversely celebrated. In short takes, the authors leap through cultural history, from the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Book of the Dead forward to Buffy the Vampire Slayerp 14, 19, 2 8 and then back to Buddhism and Shinto,30ff and the text is dappled with amusing asides, including various celebrities' idea of hell (Bob Newhart: "There would be a dentist-but no Novocaine.") and tidbits about a heavy-metal band called Hell on Earth and a Caribbean town called Hell. The authors' only sources on the vague Jewish concept of the afterlife seem to be a couple of encyclopedias and reference books marked in bibliography-which only underscores the light nature of this effort. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From BooklistHell has never been as much fun as in Crisafulli and Thompson's most unusual guidebook, which conducts a layperson's tour of hell. In short, it's hell for beginners--serious and frothy, scary and silly (sometimes too silly, though), informative and entertaining, though clearly not the book for students of comparative religion. All others will find that its compact size and informal, journalistic tone combine to make it irresistible. Crisafulli and Thompson examine hell's religious history and then, in a more playful mood, look at its significance in pop culture. Writing in short, punchy chapters, they also dot the book with enjoyable sidebars on various aspects and reflections of hell, such as New York's Hell's Kitchen, Dublin's hell-Fire Club, and Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht's cantata The Seven Deadly Sins. Too much of a good thing can become annoying after a while; for instance, famous celebrities describing their versions of hell: a bit much. The secret to really enjoying this trip is not to take it too seriously. Consider it a guilty pleasure. June Sawyers Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Chuck Crisafulli, a writer and journalist, and Kyra Thompson, an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, have collaborated previously on a variety of film scripts, teleplays, and series treatments.

Crisafulli is the author of two nonfiction books, *Teen Spirit* and *Moonlight Drive*. As a freelance journalist, he has covered pop culture for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Hollywood Reporter*, and *Rolling Stone*, and he was a contributing editor with *Option* magazine. Thompson's award-winning and -nominated documentary work includes *Dying to Tell the Story*, a film about war journalists, and *The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful*, a history of women in film. They both live in California.