



Lawyers in Hell

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Heaven lays down the law and Hell gets more hellish as the greatest shared universe of all time makes its malevolent return. Souls you hate to love and souls you love to hate reunite for Lawyers in Hell, in twenty-two infernal tales from the underworlds, where Injustice must be served.

Lawyers in Hell Details

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Author : Janet E. Morris (editor) , Chris Morris (editor) , Bruce Durham , Sarah Hulcy , Jason Cordova , Michael H. Hanson , Larry Atchley Jr. , John Manning , more... Richard Groller ...less

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From Reader Review Lawyers in Hell for online ebook

M.G. Wells says

Welcome to HELL, Lawyers

I met a few of these talented, imaginative writers on Twitter and just had to read LAWYERS IN HELL. Not only do I love the title, I admire the vast array of captivating, short stories steeped with fantasy, history, dark humor and hoards of backstabbing lawyers who are most certainly paying the price BIG TIME.

I was hooked by the very first story, INTERVIEW WITH THE DEVIL, and enjoyed ORIENTATION DAY. All the stories are masterfully written and filled with unique, complex characters. The settings are vividly described, and I felt like I was in HELL. I highly recommend LAWYERS IN HELL. Twenty-two chilling, thrilling, dark, brilliant one of a kind tales I will not forget anytime soon.

Also, Wayne Borean's wonderful review at Amazon.com is so descriptive and worth the time to read.

The AMAZING Authors of LAWYERS IN HELL:

Janet Morris - Chris Morris - Sarah Hulcy - Nancy Asire - Michael Armstrong - C.J. Cherryh - Jason Cordova - Leo Champion - Deborah Koren - Allan F. Gillbreath - Bruce Durham - Michael H. Hanson - Richard Groller - Edward McKeown - David L. Burkhead - Kimberly Richardson - Michael Z. Williamson - Bradley H. Sinor - John Manning - Larry Atchley, Jr - Scott Oden

Luke says

Boring, unoriginal, neither witty or emotional. It's a series of do-nothing stories that rely on historical name dropping. I didn't finish. I was so disgusted I wrote a review instead. This book made me want to write a review about how bad it is rather than enjoy a moment to myself curled up with a book.

A.L. Butcher says

5 stars

Lawyers in Hell forms part of the Heroes in Hell shared world. As usual with these anthologies, there is an eclectic mix of stories. Some I enjoyed more than others, but there was nothing I didn't like. From Guy Fawkes trying to sue Satan (Fawkes believes he is a martyr and thus should be in heaven) to Leonides dealing with a recalcitrant Alexander, to ex-presidents, to succubi causing mayhem and Erra and his Sibbiti (an ongoing theme) there is mischief afoot in Hell.

It shows the talent of these authors that although the stories are clearly written by different people, feature a bewildering array of historical characters in all sorts of weird situations they flow smoothly in a brilliantly crafted world.

Humanity will be humanity – even in hell. And thus individuals wish to sue other individuals and the lawyers who worth and the Hall of Injustice are kept busy. Of course, being hell, nothing is simple, nothing works properly and there's always a hidden agenda. All the characters have some form of penance to pay – be it taking cases they cannot win, representing demons, facing monsters, dealing with the unpredictable technology, and generally trying to survive Hell. The stories are sad (as I said humanity seeks to be humanity with its many faults), darkly humorous, clever, weird and enticing.

5 stars.

Wayne says

Much to my delight I was given a pre-release copy of Lawyers in Hell to review. I was disappointed that certain lawyers who I've written about in the past were inexplicably left out, but one cannot have everything.

What one can have is a lot of fun. The original review was written in two parts. On July 25, 2011 I finally got around to combining them into one piece. It's a lot neater. I really should have waited and done the review as one piece, but I was working against a time limit. The book was originally due out July 15th, then we found out that it was being shipped early, and well, *Tempus Fugit* .

This Is Hell

For those who are new to the series, it needs a bit of explaining. The series was originally launched by Janet Morris in 1986 with the book Heroes in Hell, and it was regarded as one of the greatest Shared Universe Fantasy series, being cited by Orson Scott Card in How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Unlike most books, the "Hell" series is about failure. This is after all Hell. Happily ever after isn't what you are going to get, and isn't what you will get. The people who you'll meet in Hell are not going to be nice people. Murderers, thieves, and scoundrels. Yes. Saints? No.

Of course murders, thieves and scoundrels do make for interesting protagonists. Very interesting protagonists. People like Gaius Julius Caesar were drawn to power in life. So was Cleopatra. Read any good translation of Josephus Flavius for a less than flattering view of the Egyptian queen.

The people in Hell are there for punishment. Which means that most of their attempts at doing anything will fail. Spectacularly. With extreme prejudice. Those that hated each other in life, will still hate each other. Back stabbing is an art form in Hell.

I think that's one of the reasons that I love this series. The level of conflict is amazing, even when there isn't any violence. It's like two cats having a stare down, both puffed up to three times normal size. Neither wants to fight. Neither is going to fight. But they both put on an act that makes it look like there will be blood all over the place, until they can back away gracefully.

I loved the original series, and wasn't happy when it went on hiatus. I was overjoyed when I heard that it was coming back, and I was even more overjoyed when Janet Morris offered me the opportunity to be able to write this review as an insider.

In a normal book review, the reviewer reads the book without any contact with the writer, or in the case of an anthology, the writers. In the first Gulf War, embedded journalists were used with the armed forces. For Lawyers in Hell I was the embedded reviewer!

I've spent the last month working inside of the project with the writers and editors, learning how they put together the books. It's a fascinating process (and no, I can't tell you the details, part of the deal is that I won't talk about some things). I've met some really neat and talented people. In some cases I've been able to help out a bit. If you do a whois on JanetMorrisandChrisMorris.Com you'll notice the odd coincidence that the website is registered in my name, and the same is true of JanetMorrisandChrisMorris.ca and JanetMorris.ca (we couldn't get JanetMorris.com unfortunately).

It's been a fun experience, and I've been invited to stick around, and continue to watch what happens as the next books in the series come out. After Lawyers will come Adventurers in Hell, Visionaries in Hell, and Swashbucklers in Hell. There is a novel in the works (yes, I know the title, but I'm holding that back), the publication date has not been finalized yet, but it will be in the first half of 2012.

I had a wonderful time reading Lawyers in Hell. Official sale date was supposed to be July 15, 2011, but it wasn't a hard release, and much to everyone's surprise books were in the stores nearly three weeks early, which is why I had to rush out the original review. And that's why the combined review doesn't match the original two part reviews which are still on the site. I had to rewrite it to bring the tenses into line. It really bothers me when one paragraph is in present tense and the next paragraph is in past tense...

I'm going to give Lawyers in Hell a FIVE star rating. Here are the reviews:

Interview with the Devil

by Janet and Chris Morris is a cautionary tale about interviewing the most powerful force for evil, and how one shouldn't try to allow one's pride to override one's common sense in the urge to get a story.

Tribe of Hell

by Janet Morris is about the native population of Hell, who regard lost souls, demons, devils, and Satan as interlopers. They act as hosts when visitors from the Heavens visit Hell, and such visitors are coming. It's also about a lost soul, who knowing of the coming visitation, intends to try to appeal his sentence.

The Rapture Elevator

by Michael Armstrong is delightful little tale about another lost soul who intends to appeal his sentence, even he knows that this is Hell, and that the rules are stacked against him.

Out of Court Settlement

by C.J. Cherryh deals with another side of the legal coin. What do you do if you want to avoid court at all costs? In this case you might just bring in the most brilliant legal mind of your era, even though your family and his were enemies in life. And if a few complications, like a Viet Cong raid on the rose gardens happen, well, it is Hell...

Revolutionary Justice

by Leo Champion is about justice of a sort. Assuming that you could have anything that could be considered justice in a place called Hell. William Walker argues with Che Guevara over who is in control of the revolution...

Tale of a Tail

by Nancy Asire starts with Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, KG, KP, GCB, GCH, PC, FRS, aka The Iron Duke, measuring his grass, much to the amusement of his old foe, and next door neighbor, the Emperor Napoleon, and Napoleon's lover the Countess Marie Walewska. It then proceeds to go downhill from there. This is Hell after all :)

And Injustice For All

by Jason Cordova is about the dangers of asking for what you deserve. Especially when your name is Marie Antoinette, and you are possibly just a bit spoiled. Just a bit.

Measure of a Man

by Deborah Koren features a lawyer named Alan Bensinger who wakes up to meet William Barclay Masterson aka Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp. And then things get really complicated...

The Adjudication of Hetty Green

by Allan F. Gillbreath is about a lawyer who is responsible for adjudicating new inhabitants of Hell. Because some cases are especially complex, and the case of Hetty Green is one of those that is. It seems that every department of Hell wants a piece of her soul, and it's his responsibility to decide whether she belongs to any of them.

Plains of Hell

by Bruce Durham stars two major Canadian historical figures, General James Wolfe and Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, who re-fight their famous battle on the Plains of Abraham in Hell on the Plains of Hell.

The Register

by Michael H. Hanson where we learn that even in Hell, honesty has its uses. Of course the people on the other side may be less than happy about your choice of weapons...

Island out of Time

by Richard Groller involves a special forces team checking out a very odd island. Pythagoras and Harry Houdini make up part of the team, and the helicopter pilot is a very, very special man.

Appellate Angel

by Edward McKeown is about a court case. Huemac the Aztec Priest is seeking remission of his sentence in hell for being an Aztec Priest, the duties of which involved tearing the hearts out of sacrifices. The lawyers have to argue both sides of the case. Is Huemac guilty of anything more than following orders?

With Enemies Like These

by David L. Burkhead. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. tries to kidnap Lieutenant Colonel William Dunlap Simpson. The attempt fails, something goes really badly wrong, and both men end up in an afterlife that they've never seen before.

The Dark Arts

by Kimberly Richardson where Clarence Darrow represents a truly unusual client.

Heads You Loose

by Michael Z. Williamson. In this interesting little story we follow the Coordinating Legal Airborne Platoon (CLAP) as it makes a paratroop drop over Kabum, Ashcanistan, where the inhabitants don't like lawyers in death any more than they had in life, and try to show their appreciation in the time-honored way - by shooting back.

Check and Mate

by Bradley H. Sinor, in which John Adams defends Aleister Crowley on a charge of cheating at chess.

Disclaimer

by John Manning in which Monty, a new lawyer in Hell, gets his first assignment, and it's not what he was expecting.

Orientation Day

by Sarah Hulcy in which we meet the Chief Librarian of Hell's Law Library, and get to see a class of new lawyers taken through Orientation.

Remember, Remember, Hell in November

by Larry Atchley, Jr. stars one of England's most iconic figures, Guido "Guy" Fawkes. Guy is quite certain that his being in Hell is a mistake, after all, he did everything for the church...

Theo Khthonios

by Scott Oden stars one of the greatest warriors of all time, Leonidas, and his Three Hundred, the men who died with him.

Erra and the Seven

by Chris Morris in which Lysicles once again meets Erra, and in which Eshi asks a question.

And that is the last story in this volume, at which point we have to ask:

What is Hell?

Most Fantasies involve heroism. Hell is different. If a soul has made its way to hell, that soul has already lost. Thus most stories are about loosing, or about losing gracefully. Or about losing with extreme prejudice. Or escaping by the skin of your teeth.

In very few of the stories does the protagonist "win" in a classical way. This might make the stories seem brutal, or sad, but they aren't. That is one of the challenges of writing for the Hell Shared World Anthology, of finding a way of making a loss into a win.

You take characters. You give the characters choices. The choices involve good and evil, honesty and treachery, winning and loosing. The choices will affect the characters, because these characters are continuing characters.

I have beside me "Heroes in Hell" the first volume in the series, and I'm looking at the Contents page. Seven stories, four of the writers are represented in "Lawyers in Hell", writing about the same characters a quarter century later. Take "A Walk In The Park" by Nancy Asire, which stars Napoleon Bonaparte and The Duke of Wellington meeting in Hell for the first time. By the time we get to "Tale of a Tail" the two of them have become much like Oscar and Felix in the Odd Couple.

And we've got C. J. Cherryh's "The Prince", in which we are introduced to the Julian household, and it's hangers-on, which include Dante Alighieri and Nicollo Machiavelli. The stars of the show of course are Gaius Julius Caesar, Cleopatra, Hatshepsut, Sargon of Akkad, and Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus, all of which are still with us a quarter century later in "Out of Court Settlement", though there have been changes in the relationships between the characters.

Some of the characters in Lawyers are new characters. Some are old friends. Some, well, we aren't sure what the Viet Cong in DeCentral Park are, and it looks like they aren't sure what they are either.

It's been great to see the series renewed, and to see it pick up where it left off, not as a rebang. With Digital Publishing I think that Lawyers in Hell will probably be the most popular book in the series, because it will be able to reach an audience who would have never been able to find it before.

Regards

Wayne Borean

Tuesday June 28, 2011

Updated Monday July 25, 2011

Richard Groller says

The triumphant return of the Heroes in Hell series - EXCELLENT!!!!

T.W. Brown says

A few things right off the bat about this title that you NEED to know. This book makes no attempt to "dumb down" any of its stories. If you are not well versed in the Humanities, some of the most exquisite references couched within may slip past. Since a very fine review has already given you a slice of each story and what to expect, I will simply focus on the whole.

This book is brilliantly written by a collection of writers, each with amazing voices. There are several who I now want to seek out and learn about individual works. I read this book in a day and a half of almost constant reading. And I will now be returning time and again to a few of my favorites.

I will also be going to my Google search to find out about some of the names I was not familiar with when it came to a few of the characters. Like I said...this is some deep and thought-provoking stuff. "Lawyers in Hell" is no casual read, rather, it is an experience. Breaking the mold of standard fantasy, this book combines the best of Dante (poor soul makes an appearance in these pages) and one of my all-time favorites, the Piers Anthony "Incarnations of Immortality" series...toss in a bit of deep literature references a la Jasper Fforde and the recipe is perfection.

Few books these days merit a re-reading. This one merits several. It is now my favorite book of 2012.

William O'Brien says

Lawyers in Hell (Heroes in Hell) ...

Janet Morris

A journey into the depths of Hell.

Brilliantly crafted and a complex interwoven storyline from Morris et al. Lawyers in Hell is such a clever concept to keep a reader highly engaged in this magnificent story. Heaven, Hell and injustice will rip your sins apart.

The authors are truly visionary and it clearly unfolds through the pages of this book.

A magnificent work.

Ruty B says

Lawyers in Hell, is the sum of 22 stories with a common theme. It would be long to review each one so that's why I'll try to review the whole book at once and also make some notes about my favorite stories.

They all have in common more than Hell as setting, they are about laws and learning some lesson that people failed to learn during their Earth life. They have some main characters well-known by all of us, such as Napoleon, Cleopatra, Leonidas, Guy Fawkes and Marie Antoinette among others.

Starting with an interview with Satan itself, the stories go from the different levels in Hell, the

neighborhoods in it, the new deads and the Lawyers with their Hall of Injustice.

There is this belief that Lawyers are the workers of the devil, I don't know why, but this book serves from this and creates a whole universe with amazing characters and malefic creatures.

An amount of excellent written stories that entertain you, scare you and leave you wanting for more.

They all are amazing and each one would deserve a review for it, but you have to trust me in that this one is a great anthology with some quality writers.

And now... my top 5.

1 - Revolutionary Justice by Leo Champion.

OMG! This one is Amazing, with Che Guevara as the main character is a really funny story, which made me see a whole new side of the revolutionary man. Is one of the funniest of all.

2 - Tale of a Tail by Nancy Asire.

With the Duke of Wellington, Napoleon and his lover, we get to know the life of Hell residents and how it can reduce to who is living in your neighborhood.

3 - And Injustice For All by Jason Cordova.

Marie Antoinette and the talking heads where an excellent story. Jason Cordova is a great story teller.

4 - Check and Mate by Bradley H. Sinor

Try to cheat in Hell is as forbidden as in Earth, at least in chess games, with John Adams defending Aleister Crowley we have a great story.

5 - Orientation Day by Sarah Hulcy

With Demetrius the former librarian of Alexandria, we get to know the first day of the newest members of Hell.

(I received a copy in exchange of an honest review)

Andrew Weston says

Lawyers in Hell

An amazing synthesis of classical heroes and modern-day hoods, Lawyers in Hell gives you a taste for litigation of the most licentious stripe.

Corruption and deceit abound as hell is audited and judgment is passed upon the obviously guilty and the downright corrupt alike. No one is exempt. No one escapes. It matters not whether they think they're in hell by mistake and seek to petition their release, or conscious of the fact they deserve to be there and should have been locked up long ago.

Hell is hell, and woe betides those who seek to avoid their just deserts.

I wish I could divulge more, but I never taint the broth with spoilers.

My verdict?

I'm guilty of enjoying the subtle blend of style and talents that make this shared universe something to

treasure.

(What's your guilty pleasure?)

Joe Bonadonna says

This is volume twelve in the most clever and interesting shared-universe series I've ever had the pleasure to read. *Lawyers in Hell* actually precedes *Rogues in Hell* and *Dreamers in Hell*, both of which I previously reviewed here. And like those other volumes, this one is also outstanding and filled with wonderful characters drawn from the pages of history, legend, folklore, and mythology.

Hell is a twisted, ironic echo of life on earth. Here the mighty have fallen, though they retain some delusion of grandeur. Here the lowly have risen in rank, though they are no more than toys for Satan to play with. Everyone in Hell is HSM's (His Satanic Majesty's) pawn, his puppet. Erra, the Babylonian god of mayhem and plague, and rumors of Erra and his 7 Sibitti enforcers running amok in Hell are spreading like hellfire. They have been sent by Heaven to audit Hell, to enforce punishment equally. They are there to make damned sure that every damned soul in Hell "receives injustice justly. Or something like that," to quote author Nancy Asire. "Lawyers are shaking in their boots or salivating over their opportunities."

As the title of this volume suggests, each story/chapter revolves around legal battles being fought, court cases being heard, and lawsuits being drawn up. Everyone in Hell wants out of Hell, and the damned are going through whatever legal system there can be said to exist in Hell. Where's Perry Mason when you need him? I don't think he's in Hell. Not yet, at any rate.

The previous volumes in the *Heroes in Hell* shared-universe did not disappoint, and neither does *Lawyers in Hell*. In here you will find poets and authors, warriors and priests and politicians, whores and knaves, actors, singers and gunslingers, and of course . . . lawyers. There is something for everyone in *Lawyers in Hell*--and like the entire series it is in a class all by itself. Not only are these stories intelligent, well-written and cleverly crafted, they are cut above genre and style: they are tales drawn from the pages of history and religion, mythology and folklore. These are stories of human drama and comedy, allegory and fable . . . stories about three-dimensional, flesh and blood characters, stories that speak of Man's hopes and dreams . . . stories of and about the human condition.
