



Hellbound Hearts

Paul Kane (Editor) , Marie O'Regan (Editor) , Jeffrey J. Mariotte , Clive Barker (Contributor) , Neil Gaiman (Contributor) , Mike Mignola (Contributor) , Tim Lebbon (Contributor) , Kelley Armstrong (Contributor) , more... Richard Christian Matheson (Contributor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Simon Clark (Contributor) , Dave McKean (Contributor) , Steve Niles (Contributor) , Sarah Langan (Contributor) , Nicholas Vince (Contributor) , Yvonne Navarro (Contributor) , Mark Morris (Contributor) , Barbie Wilde (Contributor) , Jeff Mariotte (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Gary A. Braunbeck (Contributor) , Lucy A. Snyder (Contributor) , Chaz Brenchley (Contributor) , Doug Bradley (Contributor) , Stephen Jones (Contributor) , Peter Atkins (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Sarah Pinborough (Contributor) , Mick Garris (Contributor) , Christopher Golden (Contributor) ...less

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Hellbound Hearts

Paul Kane (Editor) , Marie O'Regan (Editor) , Jeffrey J. Mariotte , Clive Barker (Contributor) , Neil Gaiman (Contributor) , Mike Mignola (Contributor) , Tim Lebbon (Contributor) , Kelley Armstrong (Contributor) , more... Richard Christian Matheson (Contributor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Simon Clark (Contributor) , Dave McKean (Contributor) , Steve Niles (Contributor) , Sarah Langan (Contributor) , Nicholas Vince (Contributor) , Yvonne Navarro (Contributor) , Mark Morris (Contributor) , Barbie Wilde (Contributor) , Jeff Mariotte (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Gary A. Braunbeck (Contributor) , Lucy A. Snyder (Contributor) , Chaz Brenchley (Contributor) , Doug Bradley (Contributor) , Stephen Jones (Contributor) , Peter Atkins (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Sarah Pinborough (Contributor) , Mick Garris (Contributor) , Christopher Golden (Contributor) ...less

Hellbound Hearts Paul Kane (Editor) , Marie O'Regan (Editor) , Jeffrey J. Mariotte , Clive Barker (Contributor) , Neil Gaiman (Contributor) , Mike Mignola (Contributor) , Tim Lebbon (Contributor) , Kelley Armstrong (Contributor) , more... Richard Christian Matheson (Contributor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Simon Clark (Contributor) , Dave McKean (Contributor) , Steve Niles (Contributor) , Sarah Langan (Contributor) , Nicholas Vince (Contributor) , Yvonne Navarro (Contributor) , Mark Morris (Contributor) , Barbie Wilde (Contributor) , Jeff Mariotte (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Gary A. Braunbeck (Contributor) , Lucy A. Snyder (Contributor) , Chaz Brenchley (Contributor) , Doug Bradley (Contributor) , Stephen Jones (Contributor) , Peter Atkins (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Sarah Pinborough (Contributor) , Mick Garris (Contributor) , Christopher Golden (Contributor) ...less
This terrifying original fiction anthology is based on the critically acclaimed novella *The Hellbound Heart* by Clive Barker, which has inspired the original "Hellraiser" movie and horror franchise.

Contents

- xiii • Foreword (Hellbound Hearts) • (2009) • essay by Clive Barker
- xvii • Introduction: Raising Hell, Again • (2008) • essay by Stephen Jones
- 1 • Prisoners of the Inferno • shortfiction by Peter Atkins
- 15 • The Cold • shortfiction by Conrad Williams
- 31 • The Confessor's Tale • shortfiction by Sarah Pinborough
- 45 • Hellbound Hollywood • shortfiction by Mick Garris
- 60 • Mechanisms • shortfiction by Christopher Golden and Mike Mignola
- 85 • Every Wrong Turn • shortfiction by Tim Lebbon
- 99 • The Collector • shortfiction by Kelley Armstrong
- 108 • Bulimia • shortfiction by Richard Christian Matheson
- 110 • Orfeo the Damned • shortfiction by Nancy Holder
- 127 • Out Lord of Quarters • shortfiction by Simon Clark
- 143 • Wordsworth [graphic short story] • shortfiction by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean
- 158 • A Little Piece of Hell • shortfiction by Steve Niles
- 172 • The Dark Materials Project • shortfiction by Sarah Langan
- 185 • Demon's Design • shortfiction by Nicholas Vince
- 197 • Only the Blind Survive • shortfiction by Yvonne Nacarro
- 212 • Mother's Ruin • shortfiction by Mark Morris
- 229 • Sister Cilice • shortfiction by Barbie Wilde
- 239 • Santos del Infierno • shortfiction by Jeff Mariotte [as by Jeffrey J. Mariotte]
- 255 • The Promise • shortfiction by Nancy Kilpatrick
- 268 • However. . . • shortfiction by Gary A. Braunbeck and Lucy A. Snyder
- 281 • 'Tis Pity He's Ahore • shortfiction by Chaz Brenchley
- 297 • Afterword (Hellbound Hearts) • (2009) • essay by Doug Bradley

Hellbound Hearts Details

Date : Published September 29th 2009 by Gallery Books (first published September 8th 2009)

ISBN : 9781439140901

Author : Paul Kane (Editor) , Marie O'Regan (Editor) , Jeffrey J. Mariotte , Clive Barker (Contributor) , Neil Gaiman (Contributor) , Mike Mignola (Contributor) , Tim Lebbon (Contributor) , Kelley Armstrong (Contributor) , more... Richard Christian Matheson (Contributor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Simon Clark (Contributor) , Dave McKean (Contributor) , Steve Niles (Contributor) , Sarah Langan (Contributor) , Nicholas Vince (Contributor) , Yvonne Navarro (Contributor) , Mark Morris (Contributor) , Barbie Wilde (Contributor) , Jeff Mariotte (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Gary A. Braunbeck (Contributor) , Lucy A. Snyder (Contributor) , Chaz Brenchley (Contributor) , Doug Bradley (Contributor) , Stephen Jones (Contributor) , Peter Atkins (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Sarah Pinborough (Contributor) , Mick Garris (Contributor) , Christopher Golden (Contributor) ...less

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Horror, Anthologies, Short Stories

 [Download Hellbound Hearts ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Hellbound Hearts ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Hellbound Hearts Paul Kane (Editor) , Marie O'Regan (Editor) , Jeffrey J. Mariotte , Clive Barker (Contributor) , Neil Gaiman (Contributor) , Mike Mignola (Contributor) , Tim Lebbon (Contributor) , Kelley Armstrong (Contributor) , more... Richard Christian Matheson (Contributor) , Nancy Holder (Contributor) , Simon Clark (Contributor) , Dave McKean (Contributor) , Steve Niles (Contributor) , Sarah Langan (Contributor) , Nicholas Vince (Contributor) , Yvonne Navarro (Contributor) , Mark Morris (Contributor) , Barbie Wilde (Contributor) , Jeff Mariotte (Contributor) , Nancy Kilpatrick (Contributor) , Gary A. Braunbeck (Contributor) , Lucy A. Snyder (Contributor) , Chaz Brenchley (Contributor) , Doug Bradley (Contributor) , Stephen Jones (Contributor) , Peter Atkins (Contributor) , Conrad Williams (Contributor) , Sarah Pinborough (Contributor) , Mick Garris (Contributor) , Christopher Golden (Contributor) ...less

From Reader Review Hellbound Hearts for online ebook

Nely says

Hellbound Hearts is an anthology celebrating Hellraiser creator Clive Barker and the world he created with his novella *The Hellbound Heart*. This is a collection of tales inspired by Barker with some well-known and some not-known authors such as Neil Gaiman, Steve Niles, Mike Mignola, Christopher Golden, Mick Garris, Richard Christian Matheson, Sarah Langan, Mark Morris, Nancy Kilpatrick, Peter Atkins, Tim Lebbon, Nancy Holder, Yvonne Navarro, Kelley Armstrong and Nicholas Vince - edited by Paul Kane and Marie O'Regan. The collection also features a foreword by Barker himself, who also painted the spooky, original cover.

This book is a treat for any horror fan. These are all twisted, gory and scary stories - that I will admit to having to watch some happy tv before hitting the sack because I was that spooked. Although not all the authors were known to me - I found it a good introduction to their work. I enjoyed all the stories - some more than others. This is the type of book where you can pick and choose the story you want or just read the whole thing through - but it'll definitely have your heart racing, glancing over your shoulder every couple of minutes and terrified of things that go bump in the night. I loved every second of it.

Britta says

A delightfully sick and twisted little collection of short stories inspired, more or less, by the Hellraiser mythos. Varying degrees of quality and of horror, with a few only hinting at horror, like the final tale in which a typhoon sweeps away a young prostitute, and others engaging in all-out Hellraiser torture sequences.

The most frightening, oddly enough, are the ones that are the least inspired by Hellbound Hearts, and I still find myself shivering at a tale of mechanical transcendence gone awry. From nuns fleeing willingly into Cenobite arms to living gardens of Cenobite limbs, Hellbound Hearts is a very welcome addition to the Hellraiser mythos, and perhaps the perfect continuation of the original story.

Daniel Russell says

The Hellbound Heart is a horror novella by Clive Barker. It was the basis for the movie Hellraiser. It was originally published in 1986 by Dark Harvest in the third volume of their Night Visions anthology series (the volume also included seven short stories by Ramsey Campbell and three by Lisa Tuttle) but was re-released as a stand-alone title by HarperCollins in 1988 after the success of the movie. It retains the gory, visceral style that Barker introduced in his series of collected short stories The Books of Blood and distorts clichéd narrative devices to depict ordinary people drawn into a confrontation with spiritual terror beyond traditional definitions of morality. Wikipedia

And after the movies, the figurines, the t shirts, the masks and the breakfast cereal (well, not the last one, but little wholegrain hooks with a splash of milk would be quite tasty!), we now have this anthology: *Hellbound Hearts*, a collection of stories from some quite prolific writers all based on the mythos from Barker's *The Hellbound Heart*.

I first heard about this on Facebook before its release, and the news swept through the statuses like wild fire. People love *Hellraiser*, and this was a hotly anticipated book. Kudos to Paul and Marie for putting this one together.

I wanted this book to be perfect. It...isn't, but then again, with a mix of writers, and indeed with any anthology (and I include King and even Barker's Books of Blood in this opinion) there's bound to be a few not to your taste.

My main problem with this anthology was that each and every story is to be within the Hellraiser mythos, and I didn't find this to be the case. Yes, there's the argument that you have to look deeper. For example, *The Cold*, by Conrad Williams. A detective is on the hunt for a killer, and this ultimately leads him to Hell. Yes, his hunt for the killer may be perceived as his 'puzzle' and the desire and obsession gets him to hell...but I don't quite buy it. Stories such as this gave me the feeling that when the author was contacted, he already had the story lying around and thought 'I've been asked to write a story for a Hellraiser anthology. I have this. It's not a Hellraiser story..but it's similar. A bit. I'll just stick a few more hooks in...'

Not that it isn't a good story (sorry if you're reading this Mr Williams. I picked your story at random from the contents page) but my concern is that if this wasn't in an anthology called *Hellbound Hearts*, inspired by the novella *The Hellbound Heart*, I doubt anyone would make the connection. I feel this is also the case with such stories as *Mechanisms* by Christopher Golden and Mike Magnola, *Our Lord of Quarters* by Simon Clark and the biggest disappointment, *Prisoners of the Inferno* by Peter Atkins. This guy is a Hellraiser headhonocho, having written screenplays for Hellraiser 2-4 I believe as well as playing a cenobite in #3. I expected a story closer to the source material.

But again, these were NOT bad stories! I thoroughly enjoyed them, but the link to the novella was tenuous at best.

The stories that didn't do it for me were *Bullimia* by Richard Christian Matheson which so clunky and abstract that, I shamefully admit, I gave up on half way through and skipped to the next story. *'Tis Pity He's Ashore* by Chaz Brenchley also didn't float my boat (sorry, bad pun)and I found it quite dull.

Now, the winners of this anthology...and what winners they are.

Santos Del Inferno by Jeffrey L. Mariotte I read the piece this morning while sitting in a stinking hot car in a driveway surrounded by parrots. True story. But the story made me forget all that. It had remarkable depth and a sensitivity that quickly breaks down into obsession, with a few surprises to keep things on edge. I enjoyed this one immensely.

Next up, Barbie Wilde and her story *Sister Cilice*. No surprise here that Wilde's subject matter is the part she played with such gusto in Hellraiser 2, that of the simply named 'Female Cenobite'. The story tell of how the devout sister became the open-throated queen of hell. Hauntingly written, and with a certain...melancholy. You feel sorry for the protag, and I actually felt a little better after her transmutation because it's what she needed and wanted. I especially liked the whole back story idea, and I would love to see one written on my favourite cenobite Butterball (was his name Laslo? I think I got that from the figurine box. Geek alert! And proud). Mr Bamford...step up?

My outright winner however was a gem called *Orfeo the Damned* by Nancy Holder. This caught my attention as it held very close to the mythos and just didn't give one fuck about holding back. It made me rethink the whole Hellraiser world in that...we know the denizens of Hell will suffer and be tortured for all eternity, but Holder gets that across so well. It was exhausting to scope so much pleasure and pain! It makes me want to go back and reread the Barker novella with a new appreciation for Frank Cotton, as the guy has been through so much more than I originally thought!

honourable mentions to Gary A Braunbeck and Lucy A Snyder, Sarah Pinborough, Kelley Armstrong and Neil Gaimon and Dave McKean (Wordsworth is by far the most artistic and intelligent piece in this collection).

A great collection that I highly recommend. With just a little more focus on the source material, this would have been 5 stars, easily. I hope there's a second collection (pick me, Paul! Pick me! I have a great idea about Hellraiser cereal: Flakes of the Damned. No, seriously, pick me) and how about this...instead of releasing more shit movie sequels...let's have a series based on these tales akin to Masters of Horror or Fear Itself. Mick Garris is in the collection. Make some calls, Mr Garris?

Vicente Ribes says

Good collection of stories inspired in Pinhead and the Lemarchand's Configuration.

The book is huge and contain a great amount of tales: some are quite good and include new elements like Santeria, tribes and original cenobites, others are similar to this crappy hellraiser films we have seen during the last years.

My favourite ones:

Mick Garris's "Hellbound Hollywood, A once famous director, feeling that he now has to accept whatever work he can get, reluctantly accepts the directorial role on a horror film to be shot at a single location, which happens to be the house from Barker's novella.

Barbie Wilde's Sister Cilice, a nun search for sex and pleasure opening the box.

"Our Lord of Quarters," by Simon Clark, Hellraiser mythos in a Medieval or Renaissance environment. Great tale.

"Mother's Ruin," by Mark Morris. Set in the internet era. A sex addict find pleasure and torture following the instructions of a misterious web.

Richard Rich says

Great collection of short stories based on the mythos created by Clive Barker in his novella The Hellbound Heart- well, all but three of the stories, but even those were pretty interesting.

Of the whole collection there were only three that I didn't like (not the three mentioned previously) but they were not so bad that they ruined the overall experience.

Alyssa Acula says

Dark and insanely twisted and a lot of trigger warnings apply--especially for rape, violence, abuse of both

child and women, torture, and a bunch of other gory stuff that one should be prepared for before delving into a story. The more graphic ones definitely made my skin crawl. Certain pieces shone though as precious gems with their uniqueness, amidst the pile of torture porn filled stories, resembling the style of classic fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm, and those typical of The NoSleep Podcast narrations. Those were my absolute favorites.

As this was inspired by Clive Barker's work 'The Hellbound Heart', and the Hellraiser movies, there were a lot of allusions to those that I completely didn't get as I only became aware of those when I read the Intro and Afterword of this collection.

Weez says

Like many short story collections some of the tales in this book were great and some not so much. The stories explore the Hellraiser/Hellbound Heart universe and they varied wildly.

New Cenobites are introduced (one is a cactus!) and also created. New ways of opening portals are explored including bone puzzle tiles, crypt stones, an ancient map to a maze, an art installation, crosswords, religious icon-type statues, a strange machine and a compass, but of course the puzzle box also makes a number of appearances. Likewise the settings happen in a number of different places and centuries.

Without giving anything away, I will say that the stories I liked were excellent. The ones I wasn't crazy about felt more like gory porn than true horror and lacked depth. In the less-than-great stories the Cenobites were just gross-looking, sex-mutants; more yucky than frightening. Fortunately the good stories here vastly outweigh the weaker ones.

Guillermo says

Despite Barker's obvious protests against using the term mythos to describe the hell he created, that is what it's become. It has spread throughout the world inspiring authors and artists alike to add to it, much like the Cthulhu mythos of H.P. Lovecraft. From film sequels to comic books to short stories, Hellraiser fandom has grown in number, and continues to grow, leaving only one question to spark a smile amongst our faces, "What's your pleasure?" Not too shabby for a novella originally published in an anthology or the independent film that it was later adapted into.

So with that saying, when Hellbound Hearts was first released, I knew I must own it. But I had to play it cool, I didn't want to get my hopes up only to be delivered to pieces that resemble fanfic than anything worth while. With a foreword by the man himself, Clive Barker, and an afterword by the Cenobite himself, Doug Bradley, I finally click purchased on Amazon and waited for the book to be delivered. Surely, anything with Neil Gaiman in it, couldn't be that bad, right?

While not all the stories clicked for me - I could've done without "'Tis Pity He's Ashore" and "Only the Blind Survive" - the book is a great testament on how much Hellraiser has shaped our idea of hell. I was captivated by the tales of the birth of a Cenobite, the going ons in the dark and dreaded No. 55 Lodovico Street, the lustful desires of a nun, the dark world of "Wordsworth" and the hell on earth, end of the world aspect of "The Dark Materials Project."

Also featured in the collection are stories by Kelley Armstrong (Bitten, Dime Store Magic, No Humans Involved, Living with the Dead), Richard Christian Matheson (Scars and Other Distinguishing Marks, Dystopia, Created By), Christopher Golden (The Boys are Back in Town, Strangewood, The New Dead (editor)), Nicholas Vince, who played the Chattering Cenobite in the first two Hellraiser films, and Barbie Wilde, who played the Female Cenobite in Hellbound: Hellraiser II.

Stephen Jones, the publicist for the first three Hellraiser films, also lends his voice for the introduction of the anthology, reminiscing how one small independent horror film could morph our point of views - and how he helped make it an instant classic. It also includes the graphic short story script by Neil Gaiman's "Wordsworth."

This book is a must have if you're a hellraiser, or are only being introduced - which is a sad, yet hopeful idea for me - the pleasures of the flesh and agony that would be legendary in hell.

Amelia says

Every Wrong Turn: A Short Story That Takes All the Right Turns!

A Review By: Amelia

Interested in more book reviews? Check out my blog Bookworms Unite!

(<http://bookwormsunitebookreviews.blog...>)

I love Clive Barker. Anyone who frequents my review blog will know that as I've reviewed both Books of Blood vol. 1 and Coldheart Canyon. Today's review is not from Barker himself, but from a short story collection featuring stories based on his classic horror novella The Hellbound Heart, and although Barker did not write any of the stories, it is still a treat to read.

In short, Hellbound Hearts is an anthology that is based on the critically acclaimed novella The Hellbound Heart by Clive Barker. It's a collection of twenty-one stories, all from authors of different walks of fiction, which expand and explore the merciless realm of the demonic Cenobites, of the puzzles that call them forth, and the types of people that would dare summon them.

There were quite a few that caught my attention and held it without pause until I had finished it, but the one that sticks out most prominently after having read all of them, is Every Wrong Turn by Tim Lebbon.

Tim Lebbon is a veteran dark fantasy and horror writer. His short story Reconstructing Amy won the Bram Stoker Award for Short Fiction in 2001, and his novel Dusk won the August Derleth Award in 2007. He's had a few things appear on the New York Times bestseller list and won a Scribe Award in 2008. All in all, the man knows his way about short story, horror fiction, and the mythos that Barker created with The Hellbound Heart was perfect for Lebbon to work and expand in his own way.

Every Wrong Turn is a story about a man—who remains unnamed—exploring a labyrinth that shows him all the sins he has committed through his lifetime. He sees himself beating and raping his wife Michelle, killing a so-called friend that he thought was a charlatan, abandoning his daughter Jenny, and more. While we see little about the above mentioned characters, we get a good, long look at the unnamed main character. He's a fiend: rape, murder, child abuse, anger, violence—the list is long. We see his past transgressions and loath him for it. But so does her. He's remorseful of his actions and becomes more panicked and desperate as he realizes that even though he's been living with these memories, it's a horrifying experience to smell and hear them again. He wants to—needs to—be punished for them so that he might have some sort of peace in his life.

It's an interesting angle to work from having your main character seeking redemption for his actions but not have the audience feel sorry for him. Trust me, the guy is a monster and no matter how badly he wants forgiveness, the author sees that he doesn't get it, from us or himself.

The location of the piece takes place entirely within some sort of ethereal labyrinth, created long ago by a man who then became lost in his creation. The labyrinth holds the pasts of everyone who enters, and as you move further into it, your sins are shown to you: the worse they become the further in you go. The labyrinth is a very interesting place for this story to take place. Is it an alternate dimension? A delusion of a crazy mind? Perhaps a glimpse into the future, or your life flashing before your eyes before you die. It's never said exactly what it is and it's up to the reader to decide what they want to believe.

The themes of Every Wrong Turn, like the story it's based on, involve pain and pleasure interweaving into something greater. The labyrinth is a supposed gateway to hell but scores of people have still tried to make their way through it in search of something they can't find on Earth. There's also a theme of memories as the unnamed man has to confront his past, each memory becoming worse and worse as he gets further into the labyrinth. He's searching for the centre of the maze because he believes it will bring him some kind of peace from his memories, but the story shows us that to leave bad feelings behind, we must first face them head on: whether we like it or not.

My final thoughts on Every Wrong Turn are that Lebbon created one hell of a short story. Strangely, it was not my favourite one within the collection, but it is the one that is staying with me the most. There was just something about the way the unnamed main character is forced to explore his dark memories that... well, disturbed me. There was no puzzle box, no classic Cenobites to speak of, but what the character experienced terrified me more than Cenobites ever have! And I think that because I have no idea why that's the case—why these memories that someone else and not myself is reliving are capable of disturbing me so much more than demons from a torture dimension... it's just fascinating. It adds a whole new layer to Barker's mythos and left me feeling unsettled and anxious, and—in the end—isn't that what good horror fiction is all about?

Interested in more book reviews? Check out my blog Bookworms Unite!
(<http://bookwormsunitebookreviews.blog...>)

Frederick Bodine says

Most of the stories were awesome! About 3 disappointed me but not to the point of wishing I did not read them just not relatable to me personally! I might check out some of the authors other works because of this book. Well worth it!

Josh says

This book was like a date that was started because of OkCupid. It starts out well and you're really excited to see where it goes. But, then it becomes a chore. You find yourself wondering if perhaps Stephanie Meyer has responded to your tweet. Perhaps you should really call your mother. Then there's that knitting habit you picked up for a nanosecond 3 weeks ago.

Overall, this is one of those books you read as a palate cleanser. Leave it on the nightstand and come back to it occasionally. Don't make this the full-time book.

It was good overall, but just got extremely repetitive. Hence my recommendation to read a story a month or so.

Haralambi Markov says

What can be said about “Hellbound Hearts”? The stories speak for themselves, but I feel compelled to summarize the experience for me. As a child the Hellraiser movies stroke unimaginable fear in my heart and I didn't rekindle with the franchise until a later date, when I thought that the first two movies were in fact brilliant as in being something entirely else and bold and pretty damn good, even if they were dated.

As a writer and an idea person I am drawn to concepts. A world with these demonic beings and their hellish puzzles, chains and torture vomits bile and viscera, standing in stark contrast to other horror titles. This was the original torture porn horror, which now has found solid soil with series like Saw and Hostel. Hell has never looked crueler and at first glance the formula seems rather limiting to explore by others. Humans solve puzzles and sign their damnation, but what I didn't count on was that a puzzle has many shapes, damnation has many masks and so do the executioners of that death sentence. Given that the authors assembled here had to work with the intellectual material of someone else to me presented a great challenge and the result is more than pleasing.

Horror itself as a genre is vast and so are the techniques to achieve the desired sense of fear, which on its own has many nuances. From blood stopping cold in the veins to the hopeless desperation to the stomach twisting revulsion fear, a person can experience a myriad of frights and the twenty one authors explore this wide range. At any rate this is not a book that people with weak psyches or bowels can stomach easily. It's an anthology for the fans that love the gore, love the twisted stories and have had a long run with the genre.

Rajiv says

I honestly don't know what the other reviewers were smoking, but most of the stories in this book were not good. I won't say trash - although many of them were - because some stories had redeeming qualities.

It's like they focused mostly on the pain and suffering the Cenobites bring, with the writers engaging in orgiastic detail on the types of tortures the Cenobites can dish out. Barker's *Hellraiser* story was compelling because it focused on human emotions and desires and how they play out in the real world. The Cenobites are mostly in the background in his story, taking on an almost symbolic nature in the context of the characters' sufferings.

The stories in this collection throw this out the window. Instead, they offer shallow, hollow people who are damaged beyond repair and somehow come across the Cenobites, thus accepting their fate. That's pretty much almost all the stories right there. However, some of them are quite interesting to read, but they are far too few to atone for this pitiful collection.

Clinton Reed says

I have maybe two more stories to go in this but I feel pretty confident that I can give it a review at this point. While not a total waste of time or complete garbage this collection isn't at all what I was hoping for. As other

reviewers have stated, too much time and attention has been given to the horror, pain, torture and suffering aspects of the "mythology" and not enough time dedicated to the real focus of the original source material. While there is always an underlying sexual depravity to Clive Barkers work to many of the writers in this collection focused more on S&M torture porn than the higher concepts addressed in The Hellbound Heart. Instead of desire, lust and the feeling that the world doesn't have any more joy to offer thus the victim seeks out other less conventional means of release you get a lot of stories about how cenobites have mutilated genitals or how they are mutilating someones genitals.

There are a few bright points to the collection but they are sadly few and far between. Meanwhile there are several stories that left me scratching my head and wondering how the hell they even got included in the first place having little or nothing to do with the established mythos besides... somebody dealing with a demon. A few of the stories are creative and entertaining adding different ideas and twists to the established "cannon" however again some of them gave me the feeling that the author went back after the fact and added a few key words to "Barker" it up so that the story could be included in this book.

Sadly this falls into the realm of many other collections where people try to hard to recapture the lighting in a bottle of the original. Like many Lovecraft mythos collections I've read the author feels like adding a few tentacles and non-euclidean geometry is all it takes to write a Lovecraft story. But it takes more than unpronounceable names and unspeakable horror to do it justice. Likewise here it takes more than a puzzle box and a few rape demons to make a worthwhile read.

Clint says

I liked this more than I thought I would. It was much better than some random collection of modern "Lovecraft" stories I read a couple of years ago. The plots of these stories could be come a little repetitive, almost all of them had someone discovering THE BOX and opening it, and bad vanilla smells, shafts of light, bulging walls, and gruesome Cenobites followed. Here are some individual reviews:

"Prisoners of the Inferno" by Peter Atkin, started off great with creepy rare movie footage, then flopped.

"The Cold," by Conrad Williams, started off great with creepy dude stalking around in the streets, then flopped.

"The Confessor's Tale," by Sarah Pinborough, awesome story about a kid who grows up with no tongue and, because he can't talk, gets to hear all the village's confessions, guilt, etc. Becomes a Cenobite later, and this story kicks ass.

"Hellbound Hollywood," by Mick Garris, a little too postmodern for me, is basically about some guys making the Hellraiser movie, but MAYBE IT'S REAL. Reminded me of Wes Craven's New Nightmare.

"Mechanisms," by Christopher Golden and (pointlessly) illustrated by Mike Mignola. This is the best story in the book, about a weird dad who just went missing, and his son trying to figure out where he went. In the basement is this bizarre machine, a conglomeration of pipes that run directly into walls, valves and shit all moving around, and he can't figure out what the fuck it is. The little pictures that went along with this story were kind of pointless, they all looked the same, just close ups of machinery for the most part. But the story is freaking badass, and I won't tell you how it ends.

"Every Wrong Turn," by Tim Lebbon, this was okay, but I get a little tired of "hell being inside of us all along" stories.

"The Collector," by Kelley Armstrong, a little too self-consciously modern, and one of a few stories where people feel the need to include the internet, but it's a pretty good story, about a badass puzzle master who can solve THE BOX.

"Bulimia," by Richard Christian Matheson, a crazy, really short, almost un-Hellraiser-related piece of badassery by the son of horror titan Richard Matheson. I loved it.

"Orfeo the Damned," by Nancy Holder. I had to start this one twice because I got so bored by the first part, but when the ball finally gets rolling, this is one of the better stories in the collection due to just how insanely fucking violent it gets.

"Our Lord of Quarters," by Simon Clark, again not really connected to the Hellraiser mythos, but still a pretty interesting period piece, set during a Byzantine war, with a weird ass demon offering to win the war for them if he can have a quarter of the population afterwards to torture in hell.

"Wordsworth," by Nei Gaiman and Dave McKean. The Sandman dudes just didn't quite get it with this one, due mainly to the obscure way the story is told and the illustrations that would probably be too hard to make out even they weren't printed on pulpy paper in black and white. Something about a crossword puzzle filled with clues about bad things you did in your life and that will take you to hell when you finish it. Great idea.

"A Little Piece of Hell," by Steve Niles. This shortish story about some modern low-level LA criminals and THE BOX was actually really good, and makes me want to give 30 Days of Night a chance, which I haven't so far because I hate non-Brian Lumley vampires.

"The Dark Materials Project," another fucking stellar story written by a woman named Sarah (see "The Confessor's Tale"), this competes with "Mechanisms" for best story in the book, about, wow, a genius scientist who fucks around with dark matter (and dark DNA), and causes crazy shit to happen. Stanford University accidentally opens a black hole that must be dealt with via nukes, power's going out, human DNA's dark DNA map turns out to resemble a monstrous face, basically everyone's going to die.

"Demon's Design," by Nicholas Vince. This was fantastic till literally the last page when he ruined it by having the narrator being the person is who is the missing link in the mystery, that's a cheapo move a lot of mystery writers do and it bugs the shit out of me, but otherwise, great great story, a Satanic artists builds like a 60 by 60 by 60 feet cube that is, YEAH!, Lemarchand's box, on a big scale, where people can walk around inside it. Everyone dies. Except the bogus narrator.

"Only the Blind Survive," by Yvonne Navarro, so-so story, I never liked it when modern people describe Native Americans in their stories, like their inner monologue, it's so like, "Oh, the great spirit fathers have guided my hand," blah. The monster is pretty cool though, a cactus Cenobite, though the ending was hokey, and I don't understand how they could kill the monster with arrows.

"Mother's Ruin," by Mark Morris. Even though it had internet, I still liked this crazy story. S&M guy follows a trail of bondage starting on the internet, like in that Cradle of Filth movie, and ends up getting the fuck tortured out of him by the Cenobites, and he meets his parents who disappeared when he was a kid, totally ravaged beyond recognition as humans or even animals, and there's a crazy giant white woman witch demon that constantly gives birth to placenta monsters, seems slightly influenced by Weaveworld.

"Sister Cilice," pretty good story about a masochistic nun who calls up the bad guys in black and joins them.

"Santos del Infierno," pretty good story that needs a little tweaking, because the whole subplot of the main character being an alcoholic because his wife and kid got killed by a crazy driver was pointless, and it was unbelievable the driver would go to such extents to get "revenge" on the guy who ruined his life by

distracting him while he was driving.... anyway, ignore that needlessly complicated part, the rest of the story is pretty good, with a new twist on bringing out the Cenobites that doesn't involve a box, but profane figurines arranged a certain way. Also, Cenobite priest, that's awesome.

"The Promise," by Nancy Kilpatrick. Actually a pretty good story despite the Bauhaus and Cure name-dropping, a group of goth kids 20 years later reunited and pulls out and re-arranges some bricks in a crypt to raise the Cenobites again. It's actually better than it sounds, if you can GET OVER THE WRITER USING THE HORRIBLE 2ND PERSON VOICE!!!!!!! God I hate that!

"However," by Gary A Braunbeck and Lucy A. Snyder. This would make a cool short film, but it's kind of unbelievable that three young people still talking to each other and sane in a basement could have already endured what a Cenobite would do to them over eternity. Seriously, the Cenobite leaves them alone and says, "Oh, my god, you've already suffered or imagined everything we could possibly do, you're no fun," I'm like, WHAT? Go back and learn from the Cenobites in "Orfeo the Damned, a couple hundred pages back, dude.

"'Tis a Pity He's Ashore," kind of boring story with a cool setting by Chaz Brenchley, who loves to make homosexuality a defining characteristic of his fiction, which is also kind of boring. Though in this particular case, it wouldn't have mattered.
