

"In Hell Robert Olen Butler has given us a cartoon -- a cartoon that explains the darker side of human nature while making you laugh so hard you feel your stomach come out your nose." -- *Entertainment Weekly*

HELL



A NOVEL

ROBERT OLEN BUTLER

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

Hell, Robert Olen Butler, Grove Press, 2010, 0802145094, 9780802145093, 232 pages. The new novel from one of American literature's brightest stars, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain*, Robert Olen Butler's uproarious new novel is set in the underworld. Its main character, Hatcher McCord, is an evening news presenter who has found himself in Hell and is struggling to explain his bad fortune. He's not the only one to suffer this fate--in fact, he's surrounded by an outrageous cast of characters, including Humphrey Bogart, William Shakespeare, and almost all of the popes and most of the U.S. presidents. The question may be not who is in Hell but who isn't. McCord is living with Anne Boleyn in the afterlife but their happiness is, of course, constantly derailed by her obsession with Henry VIII (and the removal of her head at rather inopportune moments). Butler's Hell isn't as much a boiling lake of fire--although there is that--as it is a Sisyphean trial tailored to each inhabitant, whether it's the average Joes who die and are reconstituted many times a day to do it all again, or the legendary newspaperman William Randolph Hearst, doomed to obscurity as a blogger mocked by his fellows because he can't figure out Caps Lock. One day McCord meets Dante's Beatrice, who believes there is a way out of Hell, and the next morning, during an exclusive on-camera interview with Satan, McCord realizes that Satan's omniscience, which he has always credited for the perfection of Hell's torments, may be a mirage--and Butler is off on a madcap romp about good, evil, free will, and the possibility of escape. Butler's depiction of Hell is original, intelligent, and fiercely comic, a book Dante might have celebrated..

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Hell , Yasutaka Tsutsui, Evan Emswiler, 2007, Fiction, 190 pages. Fifty-seven-year-old Takeshi has just been involved in a traffic accident. When he wakes up, he is in a strange bar and is no longer crippled as he has been for most of his

The English Major , Jim Harrison, Oct 13, 2009, Fiction, 272 pages. "It used to be Cliff and Vivian and now it isn't." With these words, Jim Harrison begins a riotous, moving novel that sends a sixty-something man, divorced and robbed of his

Watt , Samuel Beckett, Jun 16, 2009, Fiction, 256 pages. In prose possessed of the radically stripped-down beauty and ferocious wit that characterize his work, this early novel by Nobel Prize winner Samuel Beckett recounts the

Being There , Jerzy Kosinski, Dec 1, 2007, Fiction, 160 pages. .

How it is , Samuel Beckett, 1964, Fiction, 147 pages. It is one thing to be informed by Shakespeare that life is a tale told by an idiot signifying nothing; it is something else to encounter the idea literally presented in a

Blankets an illustrated novel, Craig Thompson, 2003, Comics & Graphic Novels, 582 pages. Loosely based on the author's life, chronicles Craig's journey from childhood to adulthood, exploring the people, experiences, and beliefs that he encountered along the way..

A Gravestone Made of Wheat , Will Weaver, 2012, Middle West, . .

On Distant Ground , Robert Olen Butler, 1986, Fiction, 263 pages. .

True North A Novel, Jim Harrison, 2005, Fiction, 388 pages. The author of Legends of the Fall presents a novel that revolves around David Burkett, a man who has grown up on Michigan's Upper Peninsula and realizes he must face the

Lord Malquist and Mr. Moon A Novel, Tom Stoppard, May 16, 2011, Fiction, 200 pages. Tom Stoppard's first novel, originally published in 1966 just before the premiere of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, is an uproarious fantasy set in modern London. The

A Good Scent from a Strange Mountain Stories, Robert Olen Butler, 1992, Fiction, 269 pages. A collection of stories about Vietnamese immigrants living in Louisiana as they face love, loss, despair, and the challenges and conflicts of a new life. Reprint..

Mr. Spaceman , Robert Olen Butler, 2000, Fiction, 240 pages. As an alien visitor prepares to make contact with humanity on the eve of the millennium, he beams a tour bus onto his ship and communes with the outrageous assortment of

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