



The Tunnel Betwixt...

Ingrid Hall

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Have you ever wondered what happens when you die? Where you go? Twenty six year old Julia Fletcher has never given it more than a passing thought until a tragic accident sends her soul hurtling out of her body and into the tunnel that many of us go through after death. Confused and desperate for answers, Julia embarks upon an incredible journey of self- discovery as grieving for those that she has left behind she sets out to discover just “why” she has died before her time: a journey which sees her not only reunited with her dead brother and emotionally fractured aunt but also waging war upon the person responsible for her accident as she struggles to deal with her conflicting emotions. Julia eventually discovers that her only hope of returning to those that she loves is to rescue her aunt from the clutches of Hades and prevent him from using the tunnel betwixt the worlds as a means of launching a deadly attack upon the mortal world and so joining forces with Boudicca, Joan of Arc and the fearsome Tru’ng sisters from Vietnam, the “Battle for the Bomb Factory” begins... The Tunnel Betwixt is one of many gateways to the afterlife. Dare you take a deep breath and step into the swirling, indigo mists and follow the twisting, winding tunnel to places that you have never been? A world where water nymphs mingle freely with ancient Roman soldiers: a world filled with magic and mystery. If so, let your journey begin!

The Tunnel Betwixt... Details

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From Reader Review *The Tunnel Betwixt...* for online ebook

Gretchen says

This is a short novella (under 100 pages), but it is pretty jam-packed so it was not as quick of a read as I thought it would be. Plus the font is pretty small so it would probably be a bit longer if the font were bigger (which I would recommend because it would make it a little easier to read, but that is a minor point). Basically, the book is about Julia who is hit by a car and ends up in a limbo state - not dead and not alive, and discovers that she is in a tunnel called the "Tunnel Betwixt." At first it is like the classic near death experience where there is a light at the end of the tunnel that she is drawn towards, but then she ends up experiencing much more. She has visions or remembrances of her life - with her husband, Simon and her mother, etc. She goes through a stage of wishing she had done things differently in her life like have a child. Then she encounters her brother, Michael, who died when she was a child and her aunt Veronica who died after her husband was killed. In encountering them, Julia discovers that there is more to why she ended up in this limbo state, and she discovers there is a plot to try to destroy this tunnel between life and death which could have catastrophic effects. She summons her strength and girl power (there are references to the Spice Girls, and Joan of Arc and others make an appearance) in order to stop this plot and also to try to get back to her body and live again. It is an interesting concept, and like I said above, jammed packed with all kinds of things that Julia sees and experiences. Some of it, I did not really understand - like a scene where she is surrounded by snake faced women, but perhaps this is supposed to show the strangeness of this limbo state.

I won this copy in one of the Goodreads giveaways.

Nesa Miller says

Imagine for a moment that a place truly exists between life and death, a place where your soul is given the opportunity to review your past, your present, and to some degree, your future. And, once you have discovered all that you thought could be discovered, you find that there is much more to this place between worlds. Things thought of as old and passé, except for those few that consider themselves historians, academics, or historical fanatics, become a force that shift your perceptions of reality, making you see yourself, your life, and those within it in an effervescent light of enlightenment.

The Tunnel Betwixt delves into this sphere of the unknown with a creative imagination, taking you on a rollercoaster ride into the modern and through the past. Julia, the young woman who leads us on this journey, revisits portions of the life she has lived and draws upon fantastical stories of the past to catapult her through this elusive tunnel, accompanied always by her reluctant Lucifer, Colin. By the way, and this is not a spoiler, Colin is the antagonist, the driver that careened into Julia's young form, thereby placing her in a comatose state in the hospital. She encounters people she knew in life, some long dead, who help her through this maze of events.

On a personal note, although *The Tunnel Betwixt* is obviously the product of a very active and entertaining imagination, it was difficult for me to focus on the story itself due to run on sentences, punctuation, and descriptive verbiage. If this was done on purpose, then well done. But, the style wore me out. Furthermore, I have to admit, that as I am not an academic and merely considered of average intellect, I found the references to the past, and even a few of the situations, somewhat confusing, which left me wondering – why? Perhaps to another reader it would make sense and be a delightful trip. Myself? Well, I would much rather have a sit

down over a cuppa and discover firsthand the enigmatic mind of Ms. Hall.

Dennis Higgins says

A review by Dennis Higgins

“I am Julia, wife of Simon, daughter of Isabella and soon to be mother of Jonathon...”

First person narrative has been used in many great literary works over the years, such as Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Camus' *The Stranger*, Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, and perhaps the most famous of them all, Herman Melville's classic *Moby Dick* (originally published as *The Whale* in 1851).

In *Moby Dick*, the first person narrative was done by Ishmael, the only person to survive death to tell the story. This brings us to the books of Ingrid Hall, whose first person narrative comes from beyond the realm of the living. Originally we had Granny Irene's *Guide to the Afterlife Revenge Part 1* which is currently out of print, but now we have Ingrid Hall's compelling novella, *The Tunnel Betwixt...*

The story consists of the recently deceased Julia telling her tale first-hand. Julia was a victim of a cell phone distracted motorist and finds herself in the tunnel moving towards the light, so often spoken about by those who have died and came back to tell of it. This phenomenon is called a Near Death Experience or NDE. Julia described the tunnel as dark yet warm. But it doesn't end with this simple explanation. Through Julia, Ingrid crafts a unique experience for the reader. Her use of words in the first person makes one feel as if they are with Julia in the tunnel, seeing what she sees and feeling what she feels. Ingrid is a master craftsman (so to speak) at building intimate details as an artist would paint a masterpiece.

Within the tunnel between life and the afterlife, Julia is helped along the way by a cast of characters from her life. She experiences childhood again and being in the home of her beloved Aunt Veronica where she recaptures her time with her baby brother, Michael. Her maid, Tina is ever at her side, although she transforms from maid to mermaid, with a long fishy tail and fiery red hair. She is Coventina and she tells Julia that the “tunnel betwixt the worlds is not a place to be lingering in.”

Most importantly, there is the appearance of Julia's “spirit child”, who is her future son. He is also there to help her along her passage.

There is another character who seems to always be present to her, along the journey as well. Julia calls him her Reluctant Lucifer. He represents the man who in Julia own words, “in a ridiculously selfish act of indifference mowed me down. The man whose destiny merged with mine the second his BMW tore like a shiny bullet into my unsuspecting yet compliant flesh”.

Now the saddest part of Julia's story is that she is well aware that she was ripped from the land of the living and has left her poor husband to mourn her. Her husband, Simon is never out of her thoughts the whole time she is in the tunnel. He is the love of her life. Julia utters in desperation, “That although he cannot reach me right now, I still exist.”

These thoughts of Simon culminate in Chapter 8 when she relives her honeymoon in splendid, erotic detail. Now being a red blooded, American male, myself, this was by far, my favorite chapter. Ingrid has plans to release a paranormal erotic romance under the name LUNA BALLANTYNE called The Witch, the Virgin and the Highwayman. She hopes to have it published sometime in 2015. Seeing the way she writes with such wonderful detail, I for one will be captivated by this book, just as I was in Chapter 8 of The Tunnel Betwixt...

Ingrid even hints at my own genre of time travel as Julia witnesses the Roman Empire. Here is a sample in Ingrid's words through Julia:

"For it is not every day that a girl gets to witness history in motion. It is not every day that one gets to breach the perimeters and step beyond the text books and even the ubiquitous world wide web and back in time and catch a glimpse, a fleeting snapshot of a pivotal, transformational, iconic moment as it unfolds bit by glorious bit struggling to reconcile the past with the present and most importantly the future."

There is a lot more to this story that my limited words cannot express. I don't possess Ingrid's talent, the way she does. But I hope I have given a glimpse into the worlds that Ingrid creates. She is unique among us writers and I am pleased to have met her.

Dennis Higgins - Author of the Time Pilgrim series

Lenora says

This is a short and very idiosyncratic novella dealing with the 'white light at the end of the tunnel' phenomena.

Anyone familiar with the writings of Ingrid Hall will know to expect the unexpected. The Tunnel sees Julia, the protagonist, in the cosmic waiting room in the sky following a horrific road traffic accident. She then finds herself thrust into a surreal and almost hallucinogenic afterlife scenario where she must come to terms with her own mortality, learn to forgive her reluctant Lucifer (the man who unintentionally mowed her down) and put to rights the wrongs of the past.

Told from the point of view of the main character, Julia, the book also draws on some personal experiences of the author.

At times the almost stream of consciousness style of writing falls into the trap of overlong sentences with occasionally unruly grammar. However, stick with it, this is quirky and unusual take on the subject of what happens in that unknowable gap between life and death.

If you are expecting a nice cosy afterlife, big on fluffy angels and reassurance, you will not find it here. The author portrays a far more Dada-esque, surreal, pagan, ambiguous vision of the afterlife. Hang your preconceptions at the door, sit back, relax and enjoy the ride.

P.D. says

A dramatic account of a near death experience (nde), *The Tunnel Betwixt* is narrated in first person, by the mind's eye of the protagonist, a young woman who has suffered a near fatal accident. The novella centers around the journey through the infamous tunnel reported by many nde witnesses. The story opens as our protagonist enters the tunnel, and the action of the book takes place entirely within this realm.

This book could be classified as psychological drama, fantasy adventure, spiritual fiction, or even autobiography, as the author draws heavily on her own nde (even though she says her experience was nothing like this story). The protagonist is a thinly veiled persona of the author, and the reader is never certain if characters from the narrator's life are drawn directly from the author's real life family and friends, or to what degree they might be fictionalized.

Through the course of the book, we do find out much about the main character's life and the accident that led up to the nde. All of this is woven into the fabric of the tunnel the main character traverses, as a necessary part of the journey.

There is a great deal of archetypal mythology woven in here as well, mostly drawn from the Mithraic legends. There are angels and demons, and many who could be one or the other, or neither.

There are also other characters who are sharing this experience with the narrator. Others who are accompanying her through the tunnel in their own nde, and many who traverse the entire tunnel in death, never to return to the life they left behind.

The story is woven through substantial, complex yet prosaic sentences, compiled into solid paragraphs like bricks of fired clay. These bricks are laid by the hand of an experienced mason, building the structure of the tunnel itself, producing an experience so real that the reader could almost knock upon the walls to test their solidity.

If you are curious about nde's, or if you doubt their veracity, then you owe it to yourself to check out this novella. Whether you walk away a believer, or whether it reinforces your own doubts, it is well worth the experience. I dare say, this is the closest you will come to an nde without actually having one.

Jelena Bosh says

Review 3.5

I would just like to note that this was the first novella I had the chance to read so I didn't exactly know what to expect but I was **thoroughly surprised**.

When I read the synopsis I knew this was something I would love to read, especially since I wanted to know more about the way darker, death defying stories are written. So from the first line of the first page my attention was fully alert meaning that **I could NOT stop reading**. It is a story of less than 100 pages and you would think that I would be just a short story with a few messages and one or two main characters introduced. This *could not be further from the truth*.

Ingrid Hall's writing, though this was the first novel that I have read by her, has one of the **strongest and deeply powerful words** I have come across. Trust me when I say I have read and are actually currently reading quiet a few amazing books, so I don't take the previous sentence as a mere comment BUT it's

something that I hold close to my readers heart :) I could not tell you how much I was engulfed in her writing and thrilling ride through the story of "The Tunnel Betwixt..."

The story centers around a woman who is evidently at a point between life and death - literally - due to an accident that she has been involved in. Throughout the book, Julia sets to discover what she left behind, her family and friends, dreams, lost words, silenced truths/lies... Though she has died at a very early age, 26, she is not sure why this had to happen to her because as with all *accidents* we are left to wonder what we could have done better, what we would have done tomorrow, why we didn't take chances we so desperately wanted and maybe more importantly, whether we still believe in hope. She left her world without even realizing what she is bound to discover during her journey of the *"light at the end of the tunnel"...*

At certain points of the book I was left to wonder whether the *"What if..?"* moments of our life were a mere representation of what we will endure in our afterlife...At other parts of the book I could literally feel chills go through me because I was so perplexed by how inhumanly wonderful the author managed to portray certain feelings of the character/s. I could not get enough of the wonderful writing!

One aspect that made me give it less stars than what I thought I would have, was that the writing was very small and it was sometimes surrounded by long paragraphs. This made it harder to read even though it is a book of less than 100 pages. It also sometimes made it difficult to keep track of where and what the characters were thinking, especially when a memory was being described. I know this may sound like a very minor negative factor to draw out from the review but I read books that have a great story, characters, an imaginative world/idea/plot **as well as** for HOW the book is portrayed in its physical form. I can't be the only one that thinks like this am I?... anyone? That was the **only negative factor** I found in this book.

I can't say any more as I would love for you guys to get the chance to read this book - I definitely recommend it!!

Hope you liked the review and GO read this Novella! :)
