



Hell and Beyond

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A prominent atheist dies unexpectedly and goes to hell. Or so it appears...but nothing is what it seems in this engrossing allegorical novel about the afterlife. In the tradition of C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* and John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Michael Phillips has produced a riveting tale of eternity. *Hell and Beyond* is a lively and fascinating trip through the afterlife—one that will inspire you to re-discover the significance of your life here and now.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Michael Phillips is a novelist, biblical scholar, historian, and devotional writer whose books been embraced by readers around the world. His nonfiction books include biographies of Victorian author George MacDonald and Olympic athlete-turned-Congressman Jim Ryun.

In the 1980s, Phillips' edited and facsimile editions of MacDonald's near-forgotten works inspired a worldwide resurgence of interest in the Scotsman whose writing helped inspire C.S. Lewis' conversion from atheism to Christianity.

Phillips is best known for his fiction, a body of work that includes sixty titles, including beloved historical novels set throughout the world.

Hell and Beyond Details

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Author : Michael R. Phillips

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From Reader Review Hell and Beyond for online ebook

Kevin says

An interesting non-traditional but Christian fictional/allegorical take on heaven and hell or the afterlife if you will. Phillips leans toward the universalist side but with a great deal of purgatorial type purifying and repentance. Heavily influenced by CS Lewis and George MacDonald and along the lines of Pilgrims Progress.

At first blush it struck me as much too universal in the sense of lacking an connection to history or scripture in a rooted or narrative way. It is an imaginative creation based on a conception of God's character and love but not connected to the story of God in time and space (the people of Israel, Jesus the Messiah, the martyr church, etc.). So it is literary to some degree but really more philosophical. And thus came across as speculation and metaphysics rather than storytelling.

Barry Hoyce says

Sort of a modern day version of Pilgrim's Progress or CS Lewis' The Great Divorce. If you are a rigidly orthodox Christian you might find it unsettling to have your concept of Hell challenged. If you couldn't bear to read a book like "The Shack" you'll have a hard time with this one too. But it'll be your loss. You just need to bear in mind that the book is just a fictional speculation of what might be. Basically the writer is speculating on whether "the fires of hell" are a place of torment or if they possibly are a necessary but painful refining and purifying of those who choose it having not received salvation through Christ. Maybe we don't know as much about Hell as we think. Maybe our concept of Hell is too much influenced by lingering medieval thought and literature. Maybe we just won't know until all is revealed when Jesus returns. Even if the author is totally incorrect - Christian, Atheist or otherwise I don't think you can read this book and not come away changed for the better as you reflect on how you live your life and what the consequences are for yourself and everyone around you.

Colleen Reynolds says

This book reminded me somewhat of Dante's Inferno, but much more user-friendly. I found this book to be both compelling and encouraging. As the author clearly states, this is fiction and not a theological document, it really does make you think. I certainly don't know what Heaven or Hell is like, but this interpretation certainly makes a whole lot of sense. A truly loving God, who gave his only Son so that we may be saved is not going to just allow us to be defeated by ignorance and sin. There will certainly be a price to pay, and that price is contingent upon the life you led, but I want to believe that he loves us no matter what.

Deanna says

I loved it, loved it, loved it! Very vivid descriptions make you feel like you are there in the story. As the author states, you must remember that this is completely fiction. It does, however, make you really think and

makes you examine yourself from the inside out. What a journey this story took me on! I highly recommend this book!

Laurie Morgan says

Food for thought

As a believer, I'm not sure how I feel, or what I expected from this novel. It was an interesting, and thought provoking take on the hereafter. I appreciated the words from the author at the end---gave me a bit more perspective. I would definitely consider reading more of his work.

Claire says

If I never knew who the author of this book was, I could have guessed correctly in 2 seconds. The images of the atheists' journey into the afterlife were vivid, palatable, beautiful, painful, powerful, unique, expected, unexpected.....etc. an interesting read.

Valerie says

I have never seen the afterlife like this before. Very interesting read. The story stays with me while I'm not reading.

Joseph says

A very interesting book on how what happens to you after you die and if you were a sinner. The main character was a popular aesthetics who spread his false messages to millions. It takes him through hell and how and where he ends up afterwards. Nice little read.

Lynne Modranski says

The writing was tremendous, the word pictures were exquisite. Much like, "The Shack," this book challenged my thinking because I didn't completely agree with Mr. Phillips "after-life" theology, yet I couldn't completely dispute it either. I love that his "after-word" (no spoilers here) makes it very clear that this is a work of fiction and should not be taken as a theological definition of heaven and hell (my translation of his final thoughts). If you like being challenged and enjoy a beautiful use of the English language, Hell and Beyond will not disappoint you.

Melba says

This book took me awhile to finish, but it was well worth the read. I enjoyed the book, and it does make you ponder your destination after death. It is best to be ready to meet the Lord by living for Him in this life, because you don't want to have to face the evils of hell. I will be reading this one again, and digesting it a bit more as I read it over.

Deborah Zender says

An allegory, this book helped me during a troubling time, the death of my brother, an atheist. I hope he also has found Jesus and God the Father in his journey beyond this life.

J.J. Tuite says

Different than expected

When I downloaded this book I didn't know at the time that it was by a Christian author. I just knew that it was defined as horror. I'm not sure I would define it as horror, but it could be, based on your own beliefs.

I was still pleasantly surprised at how much I loved it. The journey the main character endured was written amazingly. The descriptions were excellent. I just might be interested in reading other works by this author.

Bonnie says

I would not recommend this to my friends. The Bible states Jesus is the way to heaven. You cannot deny God, die, and then work your way to heaven. Not Biblical. Sorry. If you are an Atheist when you die, you can't end up in a place you don't believe exists.

Trina Houston-dotson says

You definitely have to have an open mind to digest this book...or a very closed one.

I haven't decided what to think about this book. Interesting, I guess would be the best word I could use. Definitely not a read for someone who offends easily where doctrine is concerned. I had a hard time getting past some things, myself, but all-in-all....not a total waste of time.

Roberta Blythe says

A novel with some very interesting points for the reader to consider.

The part which affected me most was the forgiveness section. While not attempting to ruin the book for others, those we need to ask forgiveness of extends much farther than we would ever think or believe. I am attempting to remember this in my daily activities.

Unique perspective and may not be for those who are very specific in their views.
