

TORTURE



Dusk Peterson

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"He wondered whether he had ever been that naive. It seemed unlikely."

When the High Seeker of the Eternal Dungeon visits a foreign prison, he discovers that his dark reputation has preceded him. So has the dark reputation of his dungeon. The host is eager to show him that matters are run very differently in Mercy Life Prison.

The High Seeker has his own suspicions about what he will find in that prison, but even so, he is not prepared for what the prison has to teach him about man's nature . . . and his own nature.

This alternate-universe short story of a meeting that never happened brings together major characters from two of Dusk Peterson's historical fantasy series about Victorian prisons: Life Prison, about an unlikely alliance that forms against the prisoners' captors, and The Eternal Dungeon, an award-winning series set in a land where the psychologists wield whips.

Torture Details

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Danny Tyran says

Another that I read, maybe it's a part of the Omnibus. Anyway, I remember that this short wasn't my favorite of the series.

Yingtai says

This is worth it if (1) you're into world-building and (2) you have read any of the Life Prison and Eternal Dungeon series, preferably some of both. There aren't that many new details, it feels more like a thought experiment. But I find myself thinking about this story surprisingly often, so clearly it did make the world more interesting. This story doesn't try for the kind of soul-flipping emotional richness that I love so much about Peterson's other work, especially The Eternal Dungeon or Waterman: a Turn-of-the-Century Toughs omnibus of historical fantasy and retrofuture science fiction.

PS I wrote that review back when it was 99 cents. It's now free. So definitely go and read it.
