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**Dale E. Basye**

**Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go (The Nine Circles of Heck #1)**



Title: Heck: Where the Bad Kids Go (The Nine Circles of Heck #1)

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## Description

When Milton and Marlo Fauster die in a marshmallow-bear explosion, they get sent straight to Heck, an otherworldly reform school. Milton can understand why his kleptomaniac sister is here, but Milton is—or was—a model citizen. Has a mistake been made? Not according to Bea “Elsa” Bubb, the Principal of Darkness. She doesn’t make mistakes. She personally sees to it that Heck—whether it be home ec class with Lizzie Borden, ethics with Richard Nixon, or gym with Blackbeard the pirate—is especially, well, *heckish* for the Fausters. Will Milton and Marlo find a way to escape? Or are they stuck here for all eternity, or until they turn eighteen, whichever comes first?

? “The author’ umpteen clever allusions . . . make this book truly sparkle.”—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

## Insightful reviews

Maicie: Some spoilage:

Marlo and her brother Milton die in an unfortunate accident involving a giant marshmallow bear with a stick of dynamite up its behind. Even though Milton is a good kid, they are both sent to Heck. The grotesque Ms. Bea ‘Elsa’ Bubb and a squad of bvd-wearing demons and monsters carrying pitch-sporks run heck. The vending machines in the cafeteria contain Brussels sprouts and liver.

Tortures vary in Heck: some kids are forced to withdraw cold turkey from phonics (See? Do kids today remember ‘hooked on phonics?’). Others wait anxiously for Christmas morning, forced to stare at a clock that reads 11:59 p.m. for all eternity. The boys are required to wear wool lederhosen and wooden clogs designed by none other than Mr. Dior. Turns out Dior is in Heck for ‘fanning the flames of vanity and its dark twin, insecurity’.

The book is written for kids but some of the material might be over their heads. Because Heck is for younger sinners, classes are offered to prepare the kids for the real deal when they turn eighteen. Richard Nixon teaches the ethics class and Lizzie Borden heads the home ec class. Do kids today know Nixon’s legacy? They probably have a better chance of recognizing Lizzie Borden. Oh well, off my soapbox.

The book definitely contains adult-pleasing material. For instance, we learn that only seventeen people actually inhabit Heaven. The rest did not pass the test. George Washington goes to h-e-double hockey sticks because he owned slaves, Joan of Arc because she was French and Mother Theresa because she once took a day off after contracting dysentery.

I’m saving this book to read to my future grandchildren. What they don’t understand, Grammy will explain to them. And I know just where to start:

Lizzie Borden took an axe.

Gave her mother forty whacks.

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When she saw what she had done,  
She gave her father forty-one.

Lauren: I really liked the premise of this book--when you die and are a kid, rather than going straight to Hell, you get a chance in Heck--but it just didn't deliver. I really wasn't rooting for the kids, not even the "good one" who seemed to get stuck in Heck by mistake. They just weren't that likeable. And the action dragged on quite a bit. A little disappointing.

Heidi: Meh. Like many other reviewers, I was lured in by the clever title and artwork. The concept is interesting, but I agree with other reviewers that it felt like the author was trying too hard to make it clever, especially in the first half. And the author's outlook on life and growing up is just bleak. Sure, junior high is its own circle of hell, but why are babies and toddlers there? And why does it have to be so nasty?

There were a couple themes introduced that I thought interesting, like the idea between the difference between our outside and our inside and making them match. And of course coming to appreciate your siblings even when they normally drive you nuts. Too bad the author didn't really develop these.

I was grateful for the warning about the lengthy sewer-crawling passages, which I skimmed. I won't be reading the rest of the series.

Caris: Blah. the basis used to be cool: a spot that isn't fairly Hell the place undesirable youngsters spend a wide section of eternity, choked with acceptable punishment and redundancy. It sucked, though. It relatively did. and that i do not like to assert that. i love to claim that i need to no longer have understood it. yet I understood this one all too well. First off, who's speculated to learn this? No 11 yr previous goes to appreciate the entire references. what is more, there is rather a lot in the following that easily is not applicable for an 11 yr old. it is too little-kiddish for a teenager. After analyzing Basye's personal assessment of this book, I realized that he used to be relatively chuffed to slot as a lot likely beside the point content material in as was once possible. It was once a mistake. He may perhaps get pleasure from writing like a mook, yet he did not retain his readers in mind. Write whatever young ones will comprehend in a manner that surpasses superficiality. As some distance as writing goes, this booklet was once a chain of undesirable one-liners. It was once a chore to make all of it the way in which through. At no element did I care in regards to the characters, which, let's accept it, is pretty well crucial in kid's literature. learn Lemony Snicket if you'd like a child's publication that pushes the conventionality envelope. Heck was once boring, that is unforgivable. Basye wasted all of his "good" fabric on foolish discussion and misplaced specialize in his setting. right here you will have a first-rate personality palling round with Virgil and he...has to devour gross cafeteria food.....swab the deck....get punched within the eye....eat his manner via a room of dry toast? provide me a break.

Kathleen: The Inferno for kiddies. A darkly funny event that has left me a bit queasy what with the liberal use of sewage and puns. great illustrations. i might were extremely joyful with this e-book as a child. there's a sequel and that i consider i am hooked adequate to observe for it.

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Clover: whilst Milton and Marlo are killed in a marshmallow explosion they're despatched to "heck" the place the undesirable children go. Milton is bound this was once a mistake so he and Marlo are on an undertaking to get out A.S.A.P.!!! yet will either one of them make it out or will only one or will they be trapped in heck forever. (dramatic Music)

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