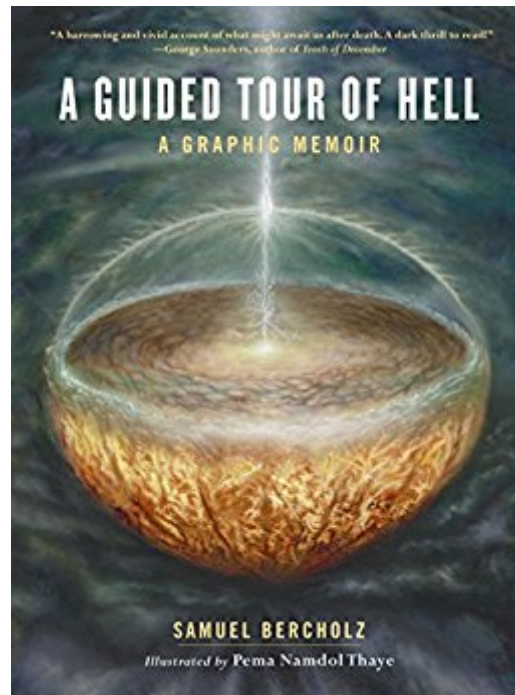




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A Guided Tour Of Hell: A Graphic Memoir



Synopsis

Take a trip through the realms of hell with a man whose temporary visitor's pass gave him a horrifying and enlightening preview of its torments. This true account of Sam Bercholz's near-death experience has more in common with Dante's Inferno than it does with any of the popular feel-good stories of what happens when we die. In the aftermath of heart surgery, Sam, a longtime Buddhist practitioner and teacher, is surprised to find himself in the lowest realms of karmic rebirth, where he is sent to gain insight into human suffering. Under the guidance of a luminous being, Sam's encounters with a series of hell-beings trapped in repetitious rounds of misery and delusion reveal to him how an individual's own habits of fiery hatred and icy disdain, of grasping desire and nihilistic ennui, are the source of horrific agonies that pound consciousness for seemingly endless cycles of time. Comforted by the compassion of a winged goddess and sustained by the kindness of his Buddhist teachers, Sam eventually emerges from his ordeal with renewed faith that even the worst hell contains the seed of wakefulness. His story is offered, along with the modernist illustrations of a master of Tibetan sacred arts, in order to share what can be learned about awakening from our own self-created hells and helping others to find relief and liberation from theirs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Unsatisfying but with occasional gems. Strange book. Not a traditional description of Buddhist hells..but some pointers on finding those hell realms within one's own mind. Why are all none of the hell realm persons from western civilization? It is an attempt at something which does not quite work. Not terrible though and not deliberately deceptive... One wonders if the author has fully absorbed from this experience what he was given this for... It is kind of half-baked. If you want to become more aware of mind states which can lead to hell realms either in this life or after, worth a read. It increased my awareness of my hellish mind states.

Beautiful authentic memoir!Mr. Bercholtz does a wonderful job expressing his experience and Pema Thaye meets the challenge of illustrating Bercholtz's experience. Pema is an extremely gifted artist.

This book is a dharma treasure. If the prose style had been a few notches higher, this book would be a complete masterpiece. As it is, it is an undeniably extraordinary and seminal work. The artwork does have masterpieces. The story is a masterpiece of experience: a thoroughly trained and accomplished western Buddhist practitioner demonstrating what actual belief and experience of the Buddhist view looks like. There is so much wisdom in these pages.

Wow! I highly recommend this riveting memoir of a near-death experience to a place I wouldn't want to go, but feel deeply moved and enlightened to have been guided into by author Sam Bercholz. Why? Largely because the main takeaway of A Guided Tour of Hell is how much we create our own hells right here and right now here on earth. What matters is how we live moment-to-moment in our thoughts, our words, our actions, our relationships - all of it!The illustrations by Pema Thaye are phenomenal, vivifying the near death experience of the author. It's worth getting the book for these illustrations alone, though the author's words and the artist's illustrations together create a symphony of the senses, in which the reader can hear, feel, taste, see and touch what's happening in the hell realm.No one knows what happens after death, though beliefs abound in all directions. Read this book if you want to come away with instructions about how to live your life, as well as what to do if you find yourself in hell when you die.

I personally knew Sam Bercholz and I found this book a very interesting read!

Just okay. The prose and sensibility are pedestrian and don't reflect the fascinating milieu from which it comes. Incomplete description of the role of the Buddhist hell realms in Buddhist practice.

This is a very interesting book which goes well with "The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying." I found it inspirational towards my continuing Buddhist practice.

Only part way through and completely blowing my mind. Excellently written, beautiful illustrations

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