



## Hell's Super

*Mark Cain*

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## **Hell's Super** Mark Cain

How can one damned handyman keep all Hell running when everything's always breaking, devils and demons plot against him ... and he's terrible at fixing things?

Steve is Hell's Super, its handyman. Being Mr. Fixit to the Underworld keeps him and his assistant, Orson Welles (yes, that Orson Welles), pretty busy, since things go on the blink all the time down there.

No malfunction has ever created so much inconvenience, though, as the malfunction of Hell's Escalator, which leads from the Pearly Gates to the depths of Hades. What's worse: the breakdown appears to be sabotage. Satan calls in Steve to investigate.

But Steve is distracted these days. He's in love with Flo, a gorgeous, almost saintly figure who has come to Hell by choice to ease the suffering of the damned. What's more: she seems to like him, but romance in Hell? That could never be.

Still, solving the mystery of the Escalator could earn him some points with Satan, maybe even a chance with Flo.

Or maybe not.

**Hell's Super** Is the first volume in the satire/fantasy comedy series, **Circles in Hell**. It has been compared to other works of "Hell Fiction" including *The Screwtape Letters* and *Good Omens* and to the paranormal humor of Tom Holt, Christopher Moore and Douglas Adams.

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Comedy Fiction Book Categories

>Satire and Humor

>Fantasy Comedy

>Hell Fiction

>Devils and Demons

>Fiction Humor

>Paranormal Humor

>Paranormal Comedy Romance

## **Hell's Super** Details

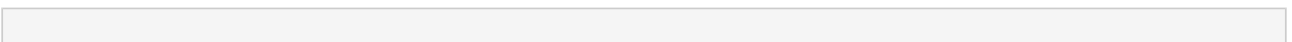
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# From Reader Review Hell's Super for online ebook

## Katy Noyes says

4.5 stars

I loved Good Omens, I Lucifer, the film Dogma - I love books that play with superstition and entrenched mythologies and imagine the everyday-ness of their world.

This was refreshingly everyday as well - a fairly normal bloke is in Hell, for eternity. Not quite sure why (seems like a lot of fairly decent folk didn't make it upstairs), but Steve's role in the afterlife is to be Superintendent to the Underworld, and no - he's NOT good at fixing things. That's the point.

It starts by showing us Steve's everyday life down in Hell, how hellish everything is, then it turns into a bit of an Agatha Christie/Philip Marlowe mystery/detective story, as the Devil sends his minion out on a mission to find out why the Stairs (and escalator) between the two afterlives is broken.

There is romance as Steve nurses a crush for the distinctly heavenly Flo (formerly a Crimean nurse with a lamp...) and is aided (or not) by his desperate-to-be-a-bigshot-again assistant Orson Welles.

It's not overtly laugh-out-loud, it's dry humour, lighter than I was expecting, with memorable characters, and fortunately a well-written lead in Steve, the everyman schmo living a normal after-life and trying to get through the day (Monday, every day).

Not one for those offended by humourous portrayals of Gods and devils, but I found it a very amusing audiobook (and well read by the narrator) with some funny ideas about Hell that kept me entertained.

I was provided this audiobook at no charge by the author, publisher and/or narrator in exchange for an unbiased review via AudiobookBlast.com.

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## Cass says

3,5 stars

English Review

Steve is the superintendent of hell and he is not good at it... That is the point, this is his punishment. He somehow manages to fix a lot of things with his duct tape. His assistant, Orson Welles, can not fix anything by himself but can only help Steve. Both will try to repair the Escalator of Hell while we meet other inhabitants. There is Florence Nighthingale (Steve is in love with her) who could have gone to Heaven but chose to come help the damned in Hell, Booh (Bat Out OF Hell), and many more.

It is not hilarious but it is a funny and enjoyable book to read. The plot is interesting, but there are breaks in the story to explain the operation of Hell, it does not help because the pace of the story is already slow.

The series consists of four books. I do not have much more to say on the 3 volumes following this one. I

gave the rating of 4 stars for books 2 and 3 because I found an improvement in the narrative rhythm. However, the book 4 received a rating of 3 because the plot was a little too predictable and expected.

#### Avis en français

Steve est le super intendant de l'Enfer mais il n'est pas doué pour ça... C'est le but, c'est sa punition. Il réussit malgré tout à réparer pas mal de choses grâce à son ruban adhésif. Son assistant, Orson Welles, ne peut rien réparer par lui-même mais seulement aider Steve. Tous les deux vont essayer de réparer l'escalier mécanique de L'Enfer et nous faire rencontrer d'autres habitants de l'Enfer par la même occasion. Il y a Florence Nighthingale, dont Steve est amoureux, qui aurait pu aller au Paradis mais a choisi de venir aider les damnés en Enfer, BOOH (Bat Out OF Hell – la chauve-souris de l'Enfer) et plein d'autres.

Cela ne fait pas rire aux éclats mais c'est un livre drôle et agréable à lire. L'intrigue est intéressante mais il y a des pauses dans l'histoire pour expliquer le fonctionnement de l'Enfer, cela n'aide pas car le rythme de l'histoire est déjà lent.

La série est constituée de 4 livres. Je n'ai pas grand chose de plus à dire sur les 3 tomes suivants celui-ci. J'ai donné la note de 4 étoiles aux tomes 2 et 3 car j'ai trouvé une amélioration du rythme narratif. Cependant, le tome 4 a reçu la note de 3 car l'intrigue était un peu trop prévisible et attendue.

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#### Whitney says

Have you ever picked-up a book and felt like the summary on the back cover almost guaranteed you'd like its contents?

How could you not feel that way with the summary of this book? Being a maintenance man in Hell with Orson Welles as your assistant? A broken escalator for damned souls en route to Hades and St. Peter being a total asshole about the growing line in view of Heaven's Lobby? And then there's Tesla and Edison playing rock, paper, scissors...

This all makes this book sounds fantastic, unique, quirky and funny.

However, even halfway through, I could not get into this the characters. I loved none of them and felt no "personal" connection to any of them. Though I'll admit that books for pure entertainment aren't necessarily my favorite; to genuinely like what I'm reading, there usually has to be something I take from it, but Carl Hiaasen has proved that sometimes, pure entertainment can be done right. And yet, Mark Cain failed to capture my interest in the 300+ pages of this story..

The guy can create a great plot, but executing it is another story... Too many "I mean, it is Hell, after all", like Vonnegut and his "and so it was" terribleness. The explanation of the general mentality in hell was far too repetitive as if he thought the concept were too cumbersome for his readers. The story went along as if there were no genuine outline; but Cain was writing down what came to mind. I also got the impression that he was dying to reference people he knew the personal histories of (Edison, Dickens, Tesla, etc...). There were a few moments of internal conflict with deeper, philosophical and moral queries, but they did not transgress any further in the book so they appeared poorly placed and awkward.

Overall, there was genuine effort to like this book on my part, but it just didn't happen. I partially blame myself for being picky, but there is no denying that while some people are great idea-men, they are not always great storytellers.

Yet still, I want to try his 2nd book in the series as I feel there is definitely potential here.

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### **Anchit says**

A very well-thought out book! The descriptions of hell are fantastic. The workings, life, job and small things explained by the author makes it humorous and imaginative. There were many occasions where I either genuinely laughed or said "omg! It's like hell!"

Unfortunately, I didn't get the time to read it completely because of a large number of things going on in my life. However, I read it till the 20% mark and would definitely like to revisit it again one day. For the time being I must move on to other books.

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### **Tarri says**

Funny. Witty. Unexpected. Writing comedy is perhaps one of the hardest things any writer can attempt. Often the conversation or script is stilted and we only know it's supposed to be funny because the author tells us. Not with Mark Cain and certainly not Hell's Super.

If you've read Letters from the Earth by Mark Twain, and enjoyed it, you have a reference for this unbelievable journey to an alternate version of hell through Cain's eyes. Like Twain's view of religion and earth, Cain's view of hell is unique, twisted and truly funny. The scenarios and dialog are delivered with a "Dodgeball" or "Something About Mary" kind of simplicity that makes for great humor. And yes, I am aware I am comparing movies to a book but it is the delivery of the humor that makes for comparison.

This is Steve's story - the mechanical supervisor in hell armed with duct tape and Orson Wells to keep things working. Until the day the elevator that takes folks from the great divide to the appropriate level of hell. And we are off ...

Priced in Amazon e-books at \$.99, I would recommend getting it while the price is right! Best dollar I ever spent.

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### **Susan says**

Hell's Super by Mark Cain Steve Minion is in Hell and his job is the super, the guy who fixes all the broken stuff. He's not good at and it gives him no satisfaction. This is Hell after all. Satan tasks him with fixing the escalator from the pearly gates down to Hell and later tasks him with unmasking the masterminds behind a hellish rebel rousing group that plot revolt. Steve certainly has his hands full.

This story is first and foremost humor. I often chuckled at the characters (Thelonious Monk, Orson Welles, Pinkerton, Thomas Eddington, etc.) that wandered in and the reasons they are stuck in Hell. However, many of the jokes were average, could be seen coming, and some were played over and over again. So, I enjoyed this book in small snatches instead of devouring in big gulps.

The imagery was put to good use, as I could just picture Beezelbub and his flies, Boo the giant bat, even

Satan himself in his business executive suite. Every little thing in Hell is personally tailored per individual to be annoying, frightening, depressing, etc. Steve has a little home, but it gives him no satisfaction. Sleep doesn't really exist, as that would be an escape from the humdrum of Hell. The author put a lot of thought into how Hell could torture a soul for eternity.

Florence Nightingale was an unexpected twist! She chose to come to Hell to work in the hospital to ease their suffering. Apparently, she's the only one who has made this choice and she seems to get some satisfaction out of her work. A romance is in bloom for Flo and Steve and this leads to a few more twists I didn't see coming. With that said, there seems to be very few females in Hell – Flo and the lady who's in charge of handing out parts to the maintenance guys.... and there might have been one other. Maybe Hell would be too much fun if there were more ladies around?

Boo the giant bat stole the show for me. He's a terrifying creature and only takes orders from Satan himself. But Satan can lend him out to Steve to assist in his swift transport around the different levels of Hell. Haha! Boo and his antics gave me the most laughs. Now I want a giant pet bat.

I received a copy of this book at no cost from the author (via the Goodreads Audiobooks Group) in exchange for an honest review.

The Narration: Michael Gilboe was very entertaining! He had a great spread of voices for the various characters. I liked his mishmash accent for Pinkerton and his Serbian accent for Nikolai Tesla. His sounds for Boo the bat were great! Also, he did a great job with the few female voices, keeping them distinct from each other.

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## **Tyson Adams says**

Hell is being surrounded by famous people, apparently.

Hell's Super follows Steve Minion, the only non-famous person in hell as far as I can tell, as he tries to fix all the problems that come up in hell. Whether it be replacing a broken light bulb on the sign leading into hell (Abandon all hope ye who enter here), or stopping a civil uprising, Steve is tasked with fixing the problem because he sucks at fixing things: it's hell, it's his punishment. His sidekick is Orson Welles and he is dating Florence Nightingale: enough said.

I picked up Mark Cain's Hell's Super as it promised to be a novel in the vein of Terry Pratchett or Good Omens: some satire, some straight laughs, some silly fun. It had those elements but for me it rarely rose above mildly entertaining. Having recently re-read Good Omens, a book Hell's Super is compared to in the back cover blurb, I can safely say that the Pratchett and Gaiman novel is not being knocked off the Best Novel of All Time podium any time soon. Too much of the humour and plot relies on utilising famous people and irony (especially in the punishments) to be classed as Pratchett-esque satire and humour. It also didn't help that the plot twists were obvious given the setting.

That said, this is an entertaining novel with enough humour to amuse. I think the comparisons drawn to Good Omens, Terry Pratchett, and Douglas Adams in the blurb set up too-high an expectation for me. Knowing that, you may enjoy it more as a result.

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## **?Susan? says**

I enjoyed this book, the premis and characters were interesting, but I was hoping for a bit more comedy. This

is not for the extremely religious as it does throw most beliefs to the wind. Michael Gilboe did a good job narrating but his screeches and yells were a bit over the top for me.

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### **Judy Kellegher says**

I'm not a huge fan of comedy. Most of the time I just don't get it.

Having said that, Hell's Super, got me gripped from the beginning. Mark's sense of humour grabbed me straight away and I found myself living in Hades with Steve for the duration of the story.

Seriously, go out and grab this book, you won't be disappointed. Dump that true story of despair you have got sitting at the side of your bed and replace it with this...go on, have some serious fun.

The plot is unique, his setting is...well Hell. But never before have you seen Hades in this context. It's like a whole new world bordering on a world of fantasy. You will never think of Hell the same way again.

For all those out there that think all this talk of hell sounds dismal: IT'S NOT. It's one of the brightest, funniest, entertaining and addictive stories I've read in a long time.

Go on, get stuck in...you never know who will you meet on your Hades travels.

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### **Megan says**

A humorous look into into what hell could be like. This book was so original, that it was almost like a breath of fresh air to me. I have never read anything even similar to this book. With punishments such as cream pies to the face, or being forced to smoke cigarettes that are hated, this was bound to be pretty funny. Our main character was hilarious, and I could relate to him at times. He spends time with the likes of Florence Nightengale, and Orson Welles. Many other well known names are mentioned through out the story as being in hell as well. I liked the mystery thread that played a part in the story as well. The narrator was fabulous, and his voice was a perfect match for this audiobook. I really enjoyed this book and I can't wait to get my hands on the next book!

I was provided this audiobook in exchange for an honest review

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### **aprille says**

I went into Hell's Super expecting a couple of laughs, maybe a tid-bit of mystery with a bit of slapstick comedy on the side.

I came out of Hell's Super with a broken heart, a big want for a giant bat and a desperate need for the sequel.

Hell's Super is Steve Minion, a guy with a rather unfortunate last name when it comes to Hell. When Hell's Escalator, responsible for ferrying doomed souls into the Circles of Hell, breaks down mysteriously, Steve and his assistant, Orson Welles, are tasked by Satan to fix it, rebuild the Staircase and find out who destroyed it in the first place.



This novel is meticulously researched. Everything from the mechanical workings of escalators to the building of stairs, to Morse Code, had been researched and written with a full understanding of the subject. Time and time again I found myself impressed by how much effort had been put into the writing of this book.

My favourite character, after Steve of course, was BOOH, or Bat Out Of Hell. I desperately hope to see more of him in the sequel, A Cold Day in Hell.

Also I'm so glad that there is a sequel coming out, I don't think I could handle it if there wasn't. Hell's Super is the kind of book that you go into expecting not much from, and come out the other side hoping that there's more because you just *can't leave it like that!*

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### **Shane Phillips says**

Got this book for an honest review. I listened on a road trip. It was very entertaining, original and very good. It seemed like a straight forward story but it was not predictable. Every one should do the audiobook. Several of the characters actions and the sarcasm really come through in the audiobook.

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### **Adam Oster says**

Hell's finally funny!

In Mark Cain's novel about Hell's handyman, we quickly learn that the Devil has an amazing sense of humor. Unfortunately that element of Satan's personality is lost on most of the characters in this book.

Given the power to duct tape things incredibly well, Steve is set up as the guy who fixes everything that breaks in Hell. Considering the fact that everything does, in fact, break in hell, he's got quite the job on his hands. His ever-present sidekick, the infamous Orson Welles, is no help either.

Cain's novel runs the gamut of comedic elements, from literal pies in faces, to subtle puns, to the constant sarcasm of the protagonist, to Satan's ironic punishments for all who are brought to his realm. Somehow Cain manages to put all these pieces together into a whole that will keep you laughing and wanting more.

And when Hell does finally break loose, we're all left to wonder if Steve will have enough duct tape to fix it this time.

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### **Michael Flanagan says**

Hells Super is a refreshingly fresh tale from the circles of hell. The author has have had real devilishly fun is writing this book and this is evident on what he delivers on the pages.

The fun starts right off the bat with our hero of the story with the aptly named Steve Minion the Superintendent of Hell. What a job having to keep up with the maintenance of all nine levels of Hell, a real pain in the butt job. From here the story develops into a race to find out the reason behind some recent

sabotage and the identity of some revolutionary antagonist.

With a great cast of characters from history including a very interesting love interest Hell's Super is one Hell of a read. This is one series I will definitely be exploring.

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### **Randy Gardner says**

There are two chapters from this book that were genuinely hilarious to me. The rest of the book is modreately amusing.

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