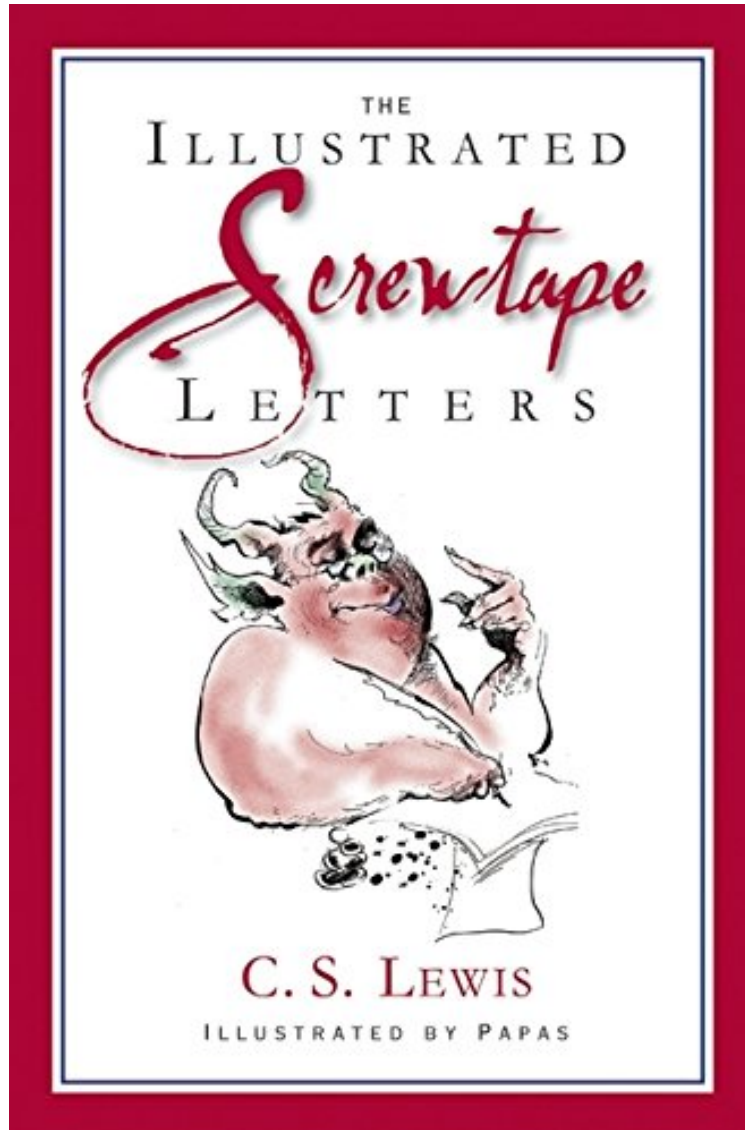


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The Screwtape Letters - Special Illustrated Edition

C. S. Lewis

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C. S. Lewis : The Screwtape Letters - Special Illustrated Edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Screwtape Letters - Special Illustrated Edition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant and Amusing, Yet Thought-Provoking, StoryBy MereChristian*The Screwtape Letters* is one of CS Lewis' well-known adult works of speculative fiction. It is an epistolary novel (a story told through a series of letters) that are written by a "senior tempter" named Screwtape to his nephew, Wormwood, whom he advises on methods to utilize in turning a certain human "patient" from the path to

Heaven to that of Hell. To understand the novel, a reader has to understand some things. Lewis was out-front with these, in fact. The first thing to understand is that everything is upside-down. What the devils value and claim to be good is really evil and the "Enemy" they all fear is God. In other words, their whole viewpoint is the opposite of what is true and right. The second thing to understand is that on top of this, the demons rarely tell what they know to be the truth, even to each other. So some obvious lies are there, sometimes to hilarious effect though, if you know what to look for. No, it was Screwtape's anger that turned him into a centipede, not God's judgment. No siree bob. Anyways, through the actions and circumstances described in the letters, we have the patient's life as he initially comes to Christ, as well as the temptations of the patient, his growth in Christ, his eventual finding of love as well as drama with family, some spiritual battles, and finally the victory of Heaven and defeat of Hell in the man's life. And the story is surprisingly moving and insightful. Moving because we see the patient's struggles and eventual triumph (which is really God's), and insightful because we see in the patient and in those he is in contact with - as well as minor patients mentioned but not important to the narrative - a bit of ourselves. Perhaps even a lot. Yet, it never quite feels like C.S. Lewis is preaching at you with his moral points. That is one of the talents that Lewis had for writing. He was able to avoid having the moral points he made seem to hit you over the head. Whether the enormous Christian themes in **Narnia** (which admittedly came close to this at times) or in the **Space Trilogy** or other works including this one (which did not), he was skillful enough to make his points without being too overt or preachy. Arguably one method he had in this book was comedy. This angle is most seen in Screwtape whose lack of a sense of humor and outrage at things makes for a pretty funny story at times. One thing that really makes him ticked is that the patient's new girlfriend was the sort of girl who would laugh at him. Because he is genuinely funny in his absurdity. Though, like the rest of Hell, Screwtape is deadly serious in his evil, his very method of writing, observing, and commenting can be amusing. He seems to know this and hate it. Of course, one thing a reader must avoid is to be too sympathetic to the demons. They are, after all, **demons**. They are evil, know they'll lose, and want to, y'know, **damn** folks' souls to HELL. Lewis stated that he wanted to get the idea of funny or cool devils out of folks' minds. So while amusing, it is unintentional, and these demons are not "cool" at all. They are all spiteful, hateful, cruel, constantly angry, backstabbing monsters. They aren't trying to have a party in hell, but to one-up each other, damning each other to suffering while elevating themselves. No, these aren't cool at all. Nor are they hot or sexy. Screwtape comments with sneering lines about the notions of sex and how it is a tool for both them and the "Enemy", but means nothing to the halls of Hell. As one can see, Lewis went to great lengths to present demons he felt were more in line with Scripture than with popular conceptions. I personally don't think that fictitious concepts of certain beings are bad for stories. But we ought to avoid our pop culture making us believe false things about demons, things that are dangerous to our souls. **Screwtape** is a good antidote to this. I could describe more about this rather funny and ingenious book, but I'll close to avoid more spoilers. I'll just add here that this book could be sobering to me, as I expect it has been to many in the years since it was published, and will likely be so for years to come to new readers. This is because some of the points I read about that I agreed with (I didn't agree with everything as Lewis was not God, only a man, and thus not right on everything) I had to wonder about myself in relation to. Was I like this? Do I do these bad things? Do I serve God or have the mindset of evil? It's pretty heavy stuff. But it's pretty heavy stuff under the cloak of entertaining fiction. It manages to entertain one and make one think. I am of the opinion that a story doesn't need to have deeper meanings to be good. Stories for the sake of stories, of entertainment, in other words, are just as good as stories with deeper meanings. But some stories do have those meanings, and when you come across them, the issue comes up of how effective they are, how entertaining they are, or how subtle versus preachy they are. In **The Screwtape Letters**, as with much of his fiction, Lewis managed to be effective, entertaining, and subtle (and get away with any parts that some might find unsubtle through his talent at writing such amusing "scenes"). Highly Recommended. Rating: 5/5 Stars. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than Dante. By B. Lizana. This treatise is timeless portrayals may readily be transferred to 21st century man. It is humorous, devastatingly on point, charmingly written and horrifying when used as a self-assessment tool. If it is accurate (and my heart like Lewis' heart tells me it is) the stairway to Heaven is indeed very narrow the highway to hell has 12 lanes! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Who's the dipstick... By Flynn... that illustrated this thing? I absolutely love the book, don't get me wrong. It's one of those that stays great no matter how many times you read it, encouraging you to think deeper and analyze your own actions. But, this particular version has some pretty dippy drawings that do absolutely nothing for the narrative. They are so completely inconsistent with the mood of the book, you wonder if the artist read it or just needed some practice drawing demons in various writing poses. I'm sure that's a common need. At any rate, fabulous book, stupid drawings (with this version, anyway).

The *Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis is a classic masterpiece of religious satire that entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written.

“A mixture of wit, insight and brilliance of the kind you rarely meet.” (Stephen Fry)“I read Lewis for comfort and pleasure many years ago, and a glance into the books revives my old admiration.” (John Updike)“If wit and wisdom, style and scholarship are requisites to passage through the pearly gates, Mr. Lewis will be among the angels.” (The New Yorker)From the Back CoverThe Deluxe Illustrated Edition of a Timeless ClassicFirst published in 1942, *The Screwtape Letters* has sold millions of copies world-wide and is recognized as a milestone in the history of popular theology. A masterpiece of satire, it entertains readers with its sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, *The Screwtape Letters* is the most engaging account of temptation—and triumph over it—ever written. With beautiful color illustrations by the artist Papas throughout, this new edition also includes C. S. Lewis's own drawing of Screwtape, as well as a retrospective essay written twenty years after the original publication.

About the AuthorClive Staples Lewis (1898-1963) was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most influential writers of his day. He was a Fellow and Tutor in English Literature at Oxford University until 1954, when he was unanimously elected to the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University, a position he held until his retirement. He wrote more than thirty books, allowing him to reach a vast audience, and his works continue to attract thousands of new readers every year. His most distinguished and popular accomplishments include *Out of the Silent Planet*, *The Great Divorce*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and the universally acknowledged classics *The Chronicles of Narnia*. To date, the Narnia books have sold over 100 million copies and have been transformed into three major motion pictures.

Clive Staples Lewis (1898-1963) fue uno de los intelectuales más importantes del siglo veinte y podría decirse que fue el escritor cristiano más influyente de su tiempo. Fue profesor particular de literatura inglesa y miembro de la junta de gobierno en la Universidad Oxford hasta 1954, cuando fue nombrado profesor de literatura medieval y renacentista en la Universidad Cambridge, cargo que desempeñó hasta que se jubiló. Sus contribuciones a la crítica literaria, literatura infantil, literatura fantástica y teología popular le trajeron fama y aclamación a nivel internacional. C. S. Lewis escribió más de treinta libros, lo cual le permitió alcanzar una enorme audiencia, y sus obras aún atraen a miles de nuevos lectores cada año. Sus más distinguidas y populares obras incluyen *Las Crónicas de Narnia*, *Los Cuatro Amores*, *Cartas del Diablo a Su Sobrino* y *Mero Cristianismo*.