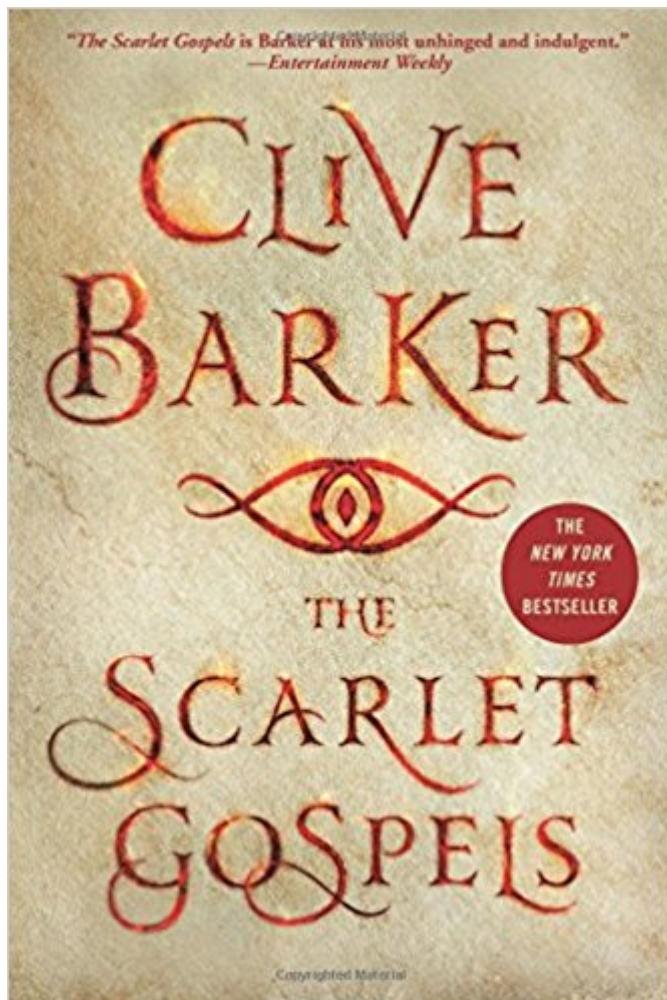


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The Scarlet Gospels



Synopsis

The Scarlet Gospels takes readers back many years to the early days of two of Barker's most iconic characters in a battle of good and evil as old as time: The long-beleaguered detective Harry D'Amour, investigator of all supernatural, magical, and malevolent crimes faces off against his formidable, and intensely evil rival, Pinhead, the priest of hell. Barker devotees have been waiting for The Scarlet Gospels with bated breath for years, and it's everything they've begged for and more. Bloody, terrifying, and brilliantly complex, fans and newcomers alike will not be disappointed by the epic, visionary tale that is The Scarlet Gospels. Barker's horror will make your worst nightmares seem like bedtime stories. The Gospels are coming. Are you ready?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I think Clive Barker is so good that I am literally tongue-tied. He makes the rest of us look like we've been asleep for the past ten years. • Stephen King • A powerful and fascinating writer with a brilliant imagination | an outstanding storyteller • JG Ballard • To call Clive Barker a 'horror novelist' would be like calling the Beatles a 'garage band' | He is the great imaginer of our time. He knows not only our greatest fears, but also what delights us, what turns us on, and what is truly holy in the world. Haunting, bizarre, beautiful. • Quentin Tarantino

CLIVE BARKER is a legendary author, filmmaker, and visual artist. His acumen as a horror writer has been praised as some of the most influential to pop culture in recent times. Stephen King hailed Barker as "the future of horror." His Books of Blood series and his novella The Hellbound Heart

which inspired the Hellraiser movies have amassed a global cult following and cemented their place in pop culture history. The Scarlet Gospels marks Barker's return to horror fiction.

I'm sorry to say this, but Clive Barker's long awaited new Hellraiser novel is kind of a disappointment. Barker has been working on "The Scarlet Gospels" for 10 years. We were told it might end up being somewhere between 1000 to 2000 pages. We were told it would tell us everything we ever wanted to know about the Cenobites and where they came from. Well none of that happened. In the end what we got was a 368 page book (I realize quantity doesn't equal quality) that feels like it was edited by a slash happy Pinhead because we don't really ever get a feel for any of the characters and the narrative jumps along like it's desperate to just get things over with. We do learn a bit more, but none of it seems particularly interesting. Hell feels....a little boring in this one. It's not terrible, it's just disappointing to wait 10 years for something that is just kind of...okay. I'm still a Clive Barker fan but you let me down on this one man! If you're into the Hellbound Heart or Hellraiser or the Harry D'Amour character from many of his books I'd still say give it a look. I think if we'd only waited a few years for this it would seem better. But 10 years! On a more positive note I started another horror novel right after called The Black Tongue by Marko Hautala and it has the best opening I've read in a horror book for years. Check that out! It's better than the Scarlet Gospels. Give us something better next time Mr. Barker and don't take 10 years to do it!

I adore Clive Barker, and have read all of his books. This book is a bit different, as you can feel through reading it that he's trying to let go of, or kill off, a pivotal character in his stories. You get the sense, while reading, that he's trying to create the magic he always has, but he's leaving something out, perhaps to help himself finish this ending. Character wise, I adore Norma in this book. Just his rendition of this woman is worth reading the book, in my opinion. The older I get, the harder it is to get scared, and I suppose the same is for the author. Therefore, nothing in this book was scary, or horrific. I don't like saying negative things about my favorite authors, but a review should never be biased. The characters lacked depth, the story was predictable, and I kind of wanted those minutes back to read something better. It lacked magic, which I believe should exist for readers of any kind. Whether Fiction, Nonfiction, Biography, Auto-Biography. With a name like "The Scarlet Gospels" - I guess I expected something deeper. Maybe it will be a better movie than a book, which kind of seems what he aimed for here. With this said, please read his earlier works, as they are amazing, and maybe he just had a hiccup here.

I, like many other reviewer's, loved many of Mr. Barker's early works. This however, is nothing like that, and frankly I don't think even written by the same person. In fact I am thinking of trying my hand at writing if this is what sells nowadays....I have never not finished a book, but I couldn't push through this one. I deleted it from my kindle at the 1/2 way point-I simply didn't care what happened to the characters. Don't waste your money-instead revisit some classics such as the Books of Blood & the Hellbound Heart. You'll thank me later

I'm a huge fan of Clive Barker. I have several signed first editions of his work and intend to have my copy of Imajica cremated with me. I was thrilled that he had a new book out after so long, and pre-ordered The Scarlet Gospels. I was terribly disappointed with it, and had to make myself keep reading it to the end. It had none of the deft plot-weaving that I expect from Barker; in fact, it read like bad Barker fan fiction. I feel terrible writing a review like this for a book by someone whom I admire so much...but be sure to try the sample Kindle excerpt before you buy.

It is difficult to comprehend how much of a disappointment Clive Barker's latest work is. He is one of the main reasons why I became so enamoured of horror fiction back in the late 1980s with his wonderfully wrought stories and their evocative imagery and language. His seminal "Books of Blood" and books like "Weaveworld", "Imajica" and "The Great and Secret Show" are amongst some of the best works of modern speculative fiction. When "The Scarlet Gospels" was first announced almost a decade ago it was talked up as a grand sweeping epic taking in the history of the Cenobites, Harry D'Amour, the fall of Hell and Pinhead as usurper. The infrequent noises that emerged over the intervening period indicated a grandiose and richly detailed work in progress. What we have on arrival appears to be a book that echoes what I currently feel after reading it, gutted. The narrative skips along quickly as Pinhead assassinates the world's magicians to gain their collective knowledge and challenges Lucifer for a new order. However it feels like huge chunks of connective tissue like back story and characterization have been flensed from the bones of the story. What you are left with is a very lean book in terms of story and characterization that I found difficult to engage with or more importantly, enjoy. The book features a return match between Harry D'Amour and The Hell Priest (Pinhead to you and me, he isn't so fond of it) as the latter attempts to gain the power to overthrow and replace Lucifer who has been an absent presence in Hell for Millennia. There are still elements of the old Barker writing that I love that make you make you go "WOW" such as the prologue but for me, most of the dreamlike and evocative imagery and ideas that his writing has had seem to be absent. However, considering what Barker has gone through

recently I shouldn't be that much surprised at the tone of the book. It does feel like a very raw, brutal and angry book as The Hell Priest slaughters his way through Hell's amassed ranks. Maybe that is perhaps a bit too subjective and opinionated but it certainly does feel a very direct and straight to the heart of the matter type of book with no real breaks in pace. I don't know. It is a strange one reading this as I am kind of 50/50 on its' merits. There are parts that are good but then there are other bits that are not so good. And then there are just these...well...gaps where you instinctively know something was edited out. Overall, I would have to say it is okay. Other people will think this is great and fair play, everyone's entitled to their own opinion. For me however, it just didn't engage, enthral or hook me as much as previous Barker books. Yeah, i'm disappointed!

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