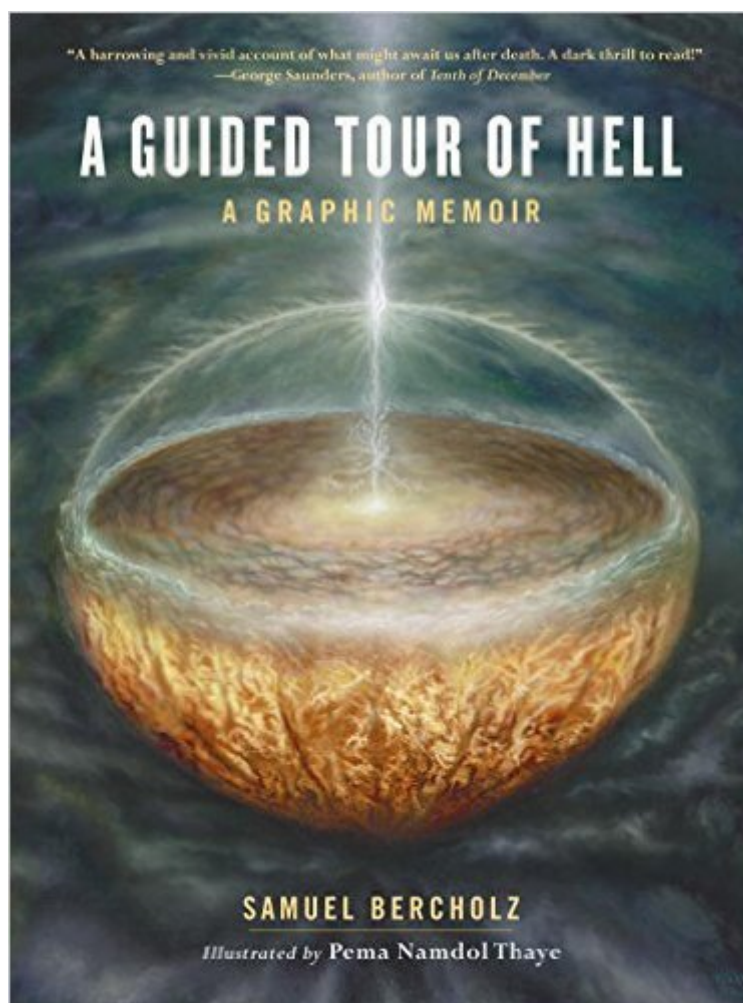


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A Guided Tour Of Hell: A Graphic Memoir



Synopsis

Take a trip through the realms of hell with a man whose temporary visitorâ€™s pass gave him a horrifyingâ€”and enlighteningâ€”preview of its torments. This true account of Sam Bercholzâ€™s near-death experience has more in common with Danteâ€™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, Samâ€™s encounters with a series of hell-beings trapped in repetitious rounds of misery and delusion reveal to him how an individualâ€™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.

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