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Book of the Month: A Slave's Revenge by Donald Firesmith

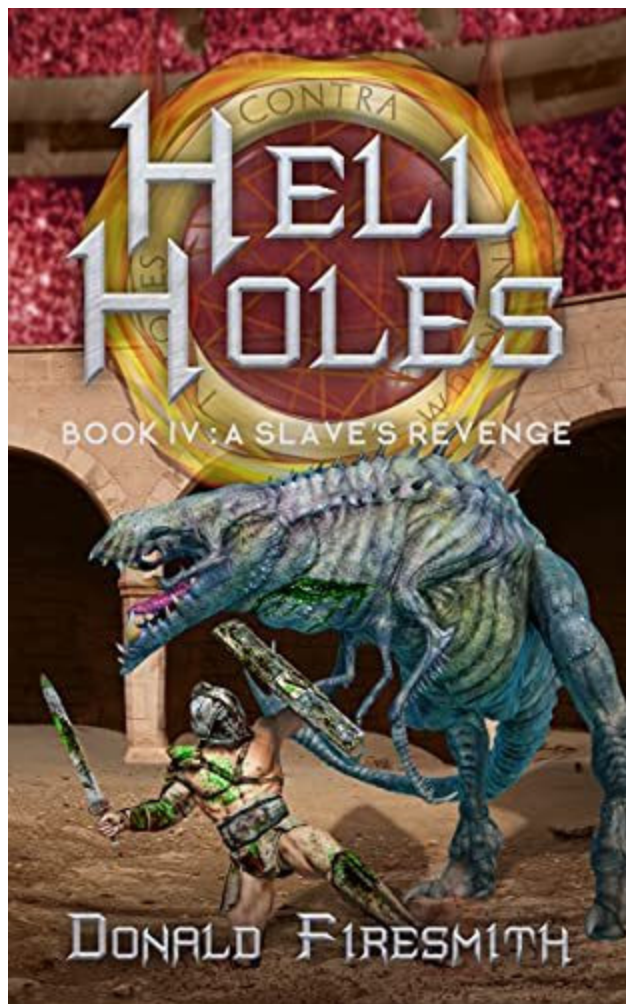
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Sat, Oct 29, 2022 at 2:04 PM



Each month, at [Read Free.ly](https://readfree.ly), we review a book that we've read, and tell you what we loved about it and if we think you'll love it too.



Title: [Hell Holes: A Slave's Revenge](#)

Author: Donald Firesmith

Genre: Science Fiction

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What it's about

The Chapmans live a solitary life. They own a cabin by a river, deep in Alaska - miles from their nearest neighbour. Dad and Paul would hunt caribou and moose, while Mom and Paul's twin sister Sarah would fish for salmon and smoke them. It is a life of subsistence, hardscrabble. But to the Chapmans it is heaven.

And then one day Dad and Paul find the corpse of a bull moose surrounded by the footprints of a creature they do not recognise.

The next morning they will be in Hell.

Literally.

What we love about it

I have never read anything like Donald Firesmith's [Hell Holes: A Slave's Revenge](#) - and I, like you, am a person who has read a lot of books. But never anything like this. It is a book that is unafraid to present itself as a rip-roaring tale of fantasy adventure, all the while hinting at subcutaneous depths of allegory. It is a book that will simultaneously have you wanting to speed through to its final pages while also taking your time to chew over every word.

That night the creatures attack. Devils. Literally. They burst through the Chapmans' door; Dad is killed almost instantly. And then the demons take Mom, Paul and Sarah, in chains, on a long trek through the night. After a few hours they arrive at a portal to a strange new world. They are branded, stripped, sorted.

"Welcome," a fellow slave says to them, "to Hell."

Across civilisations and across the centuries, mankind has had myths of devils, demons, imps, and fiends. Every age has whispered tales of Hell, a burning place of endless suffering.

Turns out they're not just fairy tales. For centuries demons have been raiding Earth for slaves - and now it's Paul Chapman's turn. [Hell Hounds: A Slave's Revenge](#) is the story of his 23 year stint in Hell, from cotton-picking field slave to gladiator battling aliens - kextuxixes and blurks - in the coliseum. It is the story of how, even in Hell, you can find true love and enduring friendship - even if it's just with a takhu named Ĥ-loo-shss

I don't know if I've made it clear how much I loved this book. Cos I really, really did. Turns out it's actually the fourth book in the Hell Holes series. It was not obvious to me; there may be some benefit in starting from book 1 - [Hell Holes: What Lurks Beneath](#) - or you could start with this book, as I did. Either way I urge you to click the [Buy](#) button and ...

... join me in Hell.