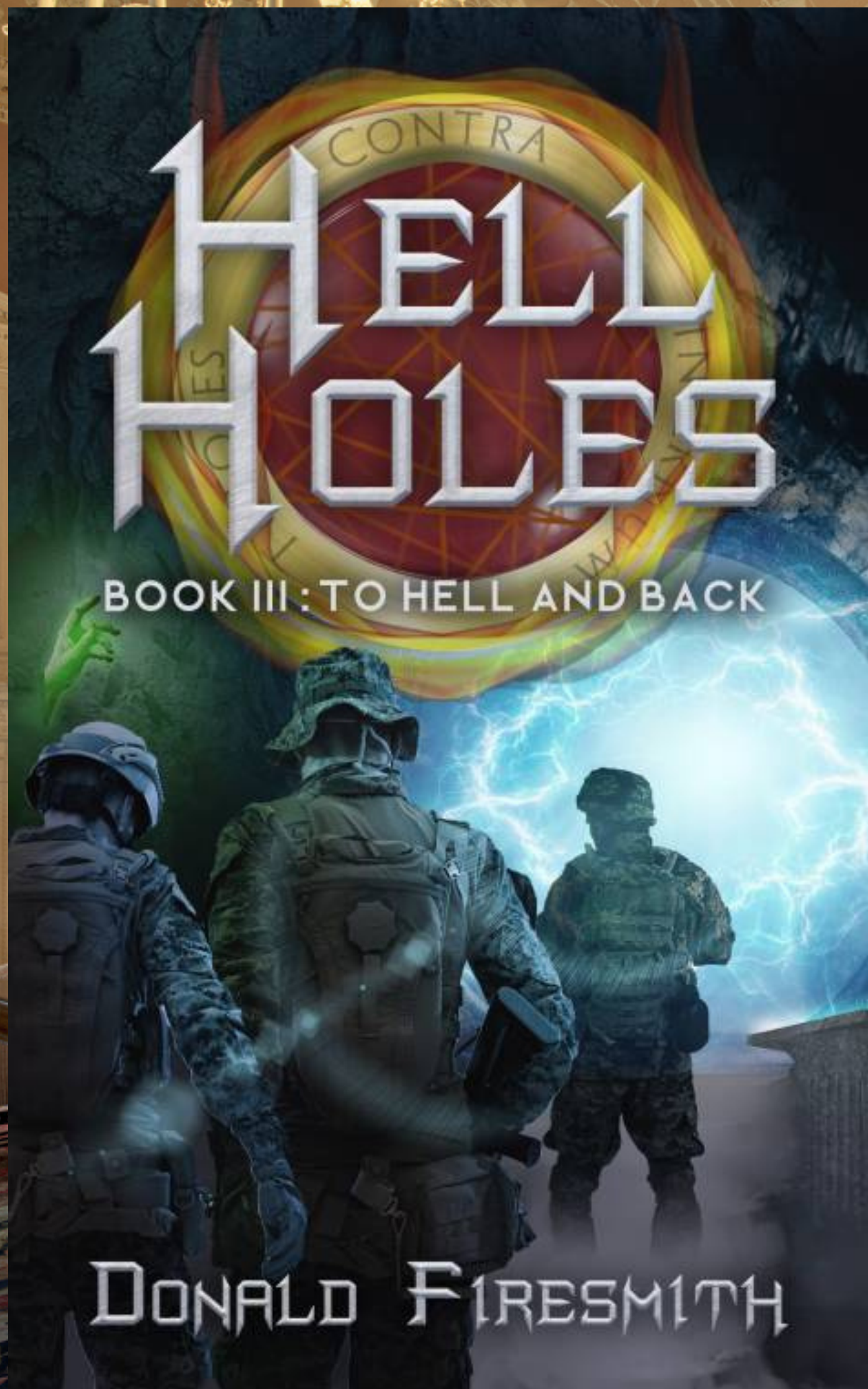



Book Club Resource Guide

Hell Holes 3: To Hell and Back

by Donald Firesmith



A grand, ornate library with a curved bookshelf, a chandelier, and a patterned rug. The room is filled with books and framed pictures, creating a classic and elegant atmosphere.

**THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING
HELL HOLES 3: To Hell and Back
FOR YOUR NEXT BOOK CLUB READ**

With Earth's combined militaries unable to stop the demonic aliens' invasion, a desperate plan is hatched to take the fight to Hell itself. (page 1 of 3)

In the thrilling climax of the award-winning Hell Holes series, *To Hell and Back* catapults readers into a desperate fight for humanity's survival. With Earth's defenses crumbling under the onslaught of a demonic alien army, a suicidal plan is forged: to strike at the heart of the enemy's power by taking the battle to Hell itself.

For centuries, the sorceress and demon hunter Aileen O'Shannon repelled minor demonic incursions. But the emergence of hundreds of portals in the Arctic, unleashing hordes of demonic invaders, signals a war on a scale she has never faced before. Joining forces with geologist Dr. Jack Oswald and an elite team comprising Army Rangers and sorcerers, they embark on a suicide mission to infiltrate the demon homeworld, unleash a deadly demon plague, and detonate a nuclear weapon that destroys the portals connecting their worlds.

Hell Holes: To Hell and Back is not just a journey into the infernal heart of a terrifying alien world; it's a test of courage, ingenuity, and commitment to save humanity from extinction. Rich in action-packed scenes, relentless enemies, and a looming sense of doom, the story also delves deep into the bonds that form in the face of adversity. Aileen's vow made to Jack's wife to ensure his safe return is a poignant thread amidst the chaos, showcasing the personal stakes intertwined with the fate of the world.

Hell Holes: To Hell and Back elevates the series to new heights, combining heart-stopping action with deep, compelling character development. The backdrop of humanity facing extinction and a daring incursion into enemy territory sets the stage for a story both epic and intimately human. The intricate details of the plan, the dynamics within the team, and the relentless pace of the narrative ensure that this is a masterpiece of sci-fi and horror fusion.

Following Jack and Angie's perspectives in the first two books, this third volume, narrated by Aileen, offers fresh insights into the lore of the Hell Holes universe, the nature of the demonic threat, and the history of Aileen's ancient secret order. Each page treats readers to a story that is not only engaging and action-filled but also rich with lore and character backstories that add layers of complexity to the saga. The vividly depicted combat scenes and the intricate planning of the military mission are a testament to the book's meticulous research. The book seamlessly blends science fiction, adventure, and horror, making it a perfect read for fans of all three genres.

Prepare yourself for an unforgettable finale that weaves together themes of sacrifice, strategy, and the indomitable spirit of humanity. *Hell Holes: To Hell and Back* is a must-read for those who have journeyed with Aileen, Jack, and Angela through the harrowing landscapes of the Arctic and the Dalton Highway. Pick up your copy today and join them as they venture into Hell to fight a battle upon which the future of humanity rests.

WORD COUNT: 100,000

PAGE COUNT: 382

Illustrations: 41 (aliens and photos of the characters)

GENRES: Science Fiction (Military), Horror, Urban Paranormal

PAPERBACK ISBN: 979-8694609104

KINDLE ASIN: B08L7NHZPZ

AUDIOBOOK ASIN: B09FWTR7G1

Book Award



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions are designed to delve into the book's deeper themes and character dynamics, providing a platform for engaging and meaningful discussions.

1. How does Aileen O'Shannon's background as a centuries-old demon hunter shape her actions and decisions in the book?
2. Discuss the psychological effects of undertaking a suicide mission on the characters, especially when they have little hope of survival.
3. The book features a mix of military personnel and sorcerers. How do these groups work together, and what conflicts arise from their differing backgrounds?
4. How does the author balance the elements of science fiction and horror to create a cohesive narrative?
5. What are the ethical implications of the team's plan to unleash a plague virus and set off a nuclear bomb on Hell, given that there are so many human and alien slaves on the planet?
6. Analyze the character development of Dr. Jack Oswald throughout the series and particularly in this book.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. The relationship between Aileen and Jack is complex and fraught with tension. Discuss how their dynamic evolves and contributes to the story.
8. How do the descriptions of the demon homeworld and its inhabitants enhance the story's atmosphere?
9. In what ways does the book explore the theme of sacrifice, and which character's sacrifice was most impactful for you?
10. Discuss the role of technology and magic in the book. How are they portrayed, and do they complement or contradict each other?
11. The book delves into the bonds formed in the face of adversity. Discuss examples of these bonds and their significance.
12. How does the author use action scenes to advance the plot and develop characters?
13. What are the main themes of the book, and how are they reflected in the story's climax?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

14. Discuss the portrayal of leadership and strategy in the face of an alien threat. What can we learn from the characters' approaches?
15. Considering the ending of *To Hell and Back*, what are your predictions for the future of the characters and the world they live in?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Donald Firesmith is a multi-award-winning author of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, paranormal horror, and modern urban paranormal novels and collections of short stories. Because of his strong background in software/system engineering and science, his science fiction is well-researched, and he relies on numerous science, technology, and military technical advisors to ensure that the non-speculative aspects of his stories are realistic and believable.

Prior to retiring to become a full-time novelist and short story author, Donald Firesmith earned an international reputation as a distinguished engineer, authoring seven system/software engineering books and nearly 300 technical articles and conference papers based on his 40+ years spent developing large, complex software-intensive systems.

He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his wife Becky, and varying numbers of dogs and cats.

<https://donaldfiresmith.com>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1290902.Donald_Firesmith