



The Hell Fire Club

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The compelling story of the rise and fall of a shocking secret society. In the ruined abbeys and elaborately decorated caves of England, the notorious Hellfire Club held meetings that shocked and terrified the countryside. London madams scoured the city for young girls to supply the club. Rakes flocked to meetings. Yet it was typical of late eighteenth century England that the club's members included famous men from the worlds of art and politics, even the then-Prime Minister. The list of members could almost be mistaken for the honours list of the most eminent men of the day and when news of the clubs activities leaked out, it caused the biggest political scandal in British history. Brilliant, perverse, equally capable of elaborately obscene jests and the intricacies of parliamentary politics, the members of the Hellfire Club were the most astonishing men of their time. Since its inception over two hundred years ago, the record of their revels has fascinated and repulsed the world.

The Hell Fire Club Details

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From Reader Review The Hell Fire Club for online ebook

Callum Dickson says

Like occult shit and sleazy 19th century gentlemen? Read this book because that's the only reason you'd need to.

Sarah says

If you are into psud-masochism, this is your book...not sadomasochism, sorry some of you. An quirky look back at some naughty boys who have great power in Great Britain historically.

Corvonero says

It's been a long time since I've come across a book that holds such a condensed wealth of knowledge. There's no filler; each page is packed with fascinating tidbits of history, and the level of detail is particularly rare. Every other sentence I would stop reading and jot down a note to google another factoid or piece of trivia revealed, which later sent me into a wild maze of wikipedia pages and historical sites.

Far from just detailing the wild exploits of the Hell-Fire Club - a society of hedonistic, artistic and morally depraved bored aristocrats who wielded massive political influence - the book opens a portal to 18th century London in its most grotesque, and paints a picture of life at the time which illuminates the class differences, the sexual depravity, the religious degeneracy, the proliferation of diseases, and the ruthless political scene, down to the architectural and decorative styles, the international cultural influences, and the strange fashions - each topic interwoven naturally into the tales of the hell-rakes. The portrait is not sympathetic in the least to the English populace and culture and may easily induce nausea even in the most degenerate post-modernist, but it's fascinating nonetheless.

This is the kind of book that you can open at any page to be instantly drawn in and entertained.

Stephanie Chadwick says

Couldn't get into it, and a lot of it seems like complete bullshit, due to no references or bibliography.

Tim Avers says

Mortifying. It's as though we had no idea what bodily fluids the powerful were swapping behind closed doors.

Charlie says

Provided me with a bunch of information. It was interesting, a quick read, but informative. Not sure how much has been fact checked or confirmed, but the material gave me some helpful leads to follow and further research.

Steve Satran says

Not the sort of thing I normally read, but an acquaintance loaned it to me so I gave it a shot. I didn't hate it, but I'm not in any hurry to read it again, either. Bawdy to the point of being soft-core pornography, it's ribald take on 18th century Britain is disturbing in it's nonchalant sexism. Apparently the book is historical, but the complete lack of footnotes, bibliography or documentation of any type leaves me sceptical. The cover proclaims it "the underground classic." Apparently "classic" has a different meaning underground.

Xio says

Oh heavens I completely forgot about this book! I believe my reaction to it at the time I read it was a shock of identification though in a sense very me-specific. I adore the function of play in the world so very much. However I feel that investing time into preserving what you despise by enshrining it inside yourself via obsessive thought no matter how deeply rooted and supposedly unconscious or whatever probably serves against one's aims.

Well, now I'm just writing. oops

Bruce Blanchard says

Good Research and Intriguing Book

The Hellfire Club is/was one of those topics that people like myself have wanted to know about. This was a time when the nobility held a position that could hardly be touched by the common man. They could get by with so many atrocities and they did. The ranks of The Hellfire Club included those high up in the government influencing the politics of its time. They deflowered a large number of young women under the mantle of immorality. The Marquis Dr Safe would have been proud of them.

Now a book of this type could be dull and boring unless the hand of a writer who has a skillful mind. Daniel P Mannix takes the subject, fleshed it out, and creates an expose that's intriguing. He presents the personalities in the inner circle and gives life. The American Revolution and Ben Franklin are also part of the story. The club's trouble when the dirt hit the fan and the riots that followed are an integral part of the narrative. Sordid details are not spared with pruriency kept within limits. Personalities, facts, descriptions are brought out in a very readable style so all can understand.

One warning would be the cost of this for Kindle readers - it's high. And the same goes for other books by Mr. Manning. If you don't mind the cost, you'll find rewarding reading.

kate says

This is some silly pop-history, but I still enjoyed reading it. Is it accurate? Who knows. There's no way to check because there are no foot/endnotes or bibliographical references. It doesn't really matter though, because it's entertaining to read about the terrible things that aristocrats did to people in the 18th century. They really didn't give two shits about the part of the population that was worth less than 10,000 pounds a year. If that meant abducting young women newly arrived in London, so that they could be deflowered, so be it.

As long as you go in expecting it to be a mostly unreliable, you can enjoy a light read about the hedonism and debauchery of 18th century England.

Stephen McQuiggan says

The true story of wealth and privilege at its most debauched; the kind of tale the word 'rollicking' was coined for. Orgies, black masses, an underground lair that most Bond villains would sell their cats for, and a wit worthy of Wilde. It also paints the War Of Independence in a sinister new light. A lot on the Gordon riots and the political upheaval of the times - but unfortunately, most of what actually happened during their services has been forever lost; secretary, Paul Whitehead burning the minutes at the Club's demise. That's my only gripe - where's the validation? Mannix rarely names his sources. A snapshot then, but a fascinating one.

Paul Gaya Ochieng Simeon Juma says

This is a historical book. I didn't enjoy this book even for a moment.

The book tells of a secret society in England known as the hell fire club. Most of the members were aristocrats, including the novelist Laurence Stern, author of *Tristan Shandy*. This is what is alleged in the book.

The Organisation practiced black magic, they also conducted sexual orgies in the club. The members ranged from politicians, poets, novelists etc.

They members were divided into two, the superior members and the inferior memberst. The superior members were 12 in number, with their leader as Sir Francis Dashwood.

If you are a Kenyan then I must add that the novel refers to some of the practices which were conducted by the mau mau and draws a parallel with the ones practiced in the club.

I don't recommend this book, but you can read it for your own knowledge.

Signor Mambrino says

I really enjoyed reading this book but I found it hard to discern how much of it comes from reliable sources and how much of it comes from hearsay or imagination. Mannix isn't very clear on where he gets all of his information. Still though, an entertaining read.

Robert says

Learn about the roots of the American Revolution in this very interesting history book. Learn how a few sexual deviants shaped the modern world as we know it. Learn about key members of the Hell Fire Club including Benjamin Franklin. Learn how the political break up of the club influenced American colonists to break away from the British. Quick, interesting read especially if you are interested in learning the history you were never taught in school.
