

The Devil's Library Episode 9.5 – “A Short Stay In Hell”

Leraje [00:00:00]

Uh, welcome to the first in a new but very irregular series of what we believe are called minisodes, which are very small podcast episodes in which we talk about things that are kind of related, but maybe not directly related to Satanism and stuff like that. This first one is going to be about a book, uh, that Ligeia, uh, and I have both read.

Leraje [00:00:26]

And it's going to be part of an ongoing series about, uh, books and reading. And the book that we're going to be discussing is A Short Stay in Hell. You ready, Ligeia?

Ligeia [00:00:39]

Yes. Hail Satan.

Leraje [00:00:41]

Hail Satan. So A Short Stay in Hell. What did you think?

Ligeia [00:00:47]

Yeah, I can't remember who suggested this book to me. Um, but I know I've never heard this title before, and it, like, immediately it was like, what did you say? A Short Stay in Hell. It's such a good title for me at least, because it makes you think. It's not like, oh, diabolical, whatever.

Ligeia [00:01:12]

What. What does it mean? And then I looked, and it's such a small, tiny piece of, um, art. It's. It's a really short book. I have it kind of like.

Leraje [00:01:23]

It's more like a novella, really. Rather.

Ligeia [00:01:25]

Yes. It's a hundred pages. 100. So everybody can just give it a go. It's really not time consuming. Um, so how deep are we going? I think this. Yeah, this might be just like a little taster, like for people maybe just to get them to read it, to get them interested. So there is no big spoilers in this book, I would say, because it's not like a conclusion, uh, or, oh, there is a murder.

Ligeia [00:02:02]

Somebody killed somebody. It's not like that. It is a book that makes you think.

Leraje [00:02:08]

Do you know what it reminded me of? In a way? It reminded me a bit of a House of Leaves.

Ligeia [00:02:16]

It does, yeah. Yeah. It's the same feeling like you can't even. I can't. I can't put words into place, but it just makes you go to places in your head where you don't go usually. Or it's just like, creates these questions in you. I love that. And. Well, what. Um, this is not like it reminds me of, but it's mentioned in the book, actually, that he.

Ligeia [00:02:47]

He was inspired by. I have the other book here. Jorge Luis.

Leraje [00:02:55]

Yeah. Oh, the Library of Babel. Yeah. Yeah.

Ligeia [00:02:58]

Yes. I'm, um. I don't speak Spanish, so I'm sorry if I'm butchering his name. Sorry, sorry. Please leave a comment or just correct me. But yes, So I also read that one just the story. And that, uh, was also first time for me, so I now know what inspiration he took from there.

Ligeia [00:03:19]

And also, like, that is just such an absolutely fascinating concept.

Leraje [00:03:25]

Yeah. Yeah.

Ligeia [00:03:27]

So I don't know what you think.

Leraje [00:03:29]

Yeah, no, I. I read, um, the. The Library of Babel. Oh, I reckon about 10, 11 years ago, and I really enjoyed it. Yeah, I enjoyed. I enjoyed this more maybe because it's kind of like more, um. I don't know, it's maybe. Maybe because it's more up to date and it's more kind of like, relevant to, uh.

Ligeia [00:03:57]

Contemporary.

Leraje [00:03:58]

Yes, contemporary. That's the word.

Ligeia [00:04:00]

This is just 10 pages. I'm just checking. The Library of Babel is 10 pages.

Leraje [00:04:05]

Yes.

Ligeia [00:04:05]

It's short.

Leraje [00:04:06]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:04:06]

Ah, it's not that easy to read.

Leraje [00:04:09]

No.

Ligeia [00:04:09]

This. This from Stephen L Peck. Short Stay in Hell is very easy to just pay attention to. It's not like, complicated.

Leraje [00:04:20]

Give a bit of. But I mean, the background to A Short Stay in Hell is, um, there's a guy, he dies, uh, and he goes to hell because his faith. He chose the wrong faith. Basically. He was a Mormon in life. And it turns out that, ah, Zoaroastanism was the one true faith.

Leraje [00:04:40]

And so he goes to hell. Uh, which in itself is kind of funny.

Ligeia [00:04:46]

It was so funny.

Leraje [00:04:48]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:04:49]

But the book, I mean, it starts off.

Leraje [00:04:51]

No, I mean, it starts off quite funny and then it gets really dark really quickly.

Ligeia [00:04:58]

Exactly. I was so confused because I actually couldn't stop myself from, like, underlining the depiction of the demon. It wasn't Satan or it was just one of the smaller demons. This guy, after dying, ended up, um. I think it was like five people who died. Five or six people in the same room.

Ligeia [00:05:20]

Little room with this demon. And the description. I will not. I will not spoil this. Please, people, go read the depiction of the. Oh, his name is Xander. Never heard that name. I don't know, maybe it means something. But he was scary to them. But he behaved with so such, like, grace and elegance.

Ligeia [00:05:46]

And he was so funny and kind. It was so confusing. He was kind to these dead people. And everybody was just confused why Nobody thought, like, oh, I don't belong here. There's a mistake. Nobody thought they belong to hell.

Leraje [00:06:02]

Yeah. Yeah.

Ligeia [00:06:03]

Nobody.

Leraje [00:06:04]

That's.

Ligeia [00:06:05]

That was one of the interesting stuff. Like, maybe that's how it is.

Leraje [00:06:10]

Well, yeah, I mean, maybe that's true for all of us. None of us really think we're bad people.

Ligeia [00:06:16]

No, I mean, as it turns out.

Leraje [00:06:18]

Uh, you don't have to be a bad person to Go to hell.

Ligeia [00:06:21]

Yeah. If you believe, if you like, first of all, if you believe in that concept. We don't. But the idea of being punished for how you behave in this life, how you treat others is interesting because we should have some morals. So these people all thought they have huge and high morals. M.

Ligeia [00:06:42]

Each of each one of them was like, but I was this. And this in my life. I. And like one of them was Christian. I was sorry, all Christians. But he was so unhappy because he was like, hold on. But Christ saved my life. I really. Yeah, you can go cheque. All my life.

Ligeia [00:07:05]

I. And the demon just stopped him.

Leraje [00:07:08]

Like, yeah, you had the wrong faith, mate. Sorry.

Ligeia [00:07:10]

Yeah, no, that doesn't gonna, uh, isn't gonna help you here. So bye. And the thing is, each one of these people has then been sent to a different hell. Mhm. And the story of this book is about this one guy that you mentioned, this Mormon guy who ended up in a hell that was according to the life he lived, which was he loved, loved, loved books.

Ligeia [00:07:39]

So the demon was like, okay, let's see. So you loved books. Okay, bye. And the guy wakes up in the library.

Leraje [00:07:48]

The worst library in the world.

Ligeia [00:07:51]

The worst. And he doesn't look so bad at the beginning. Like, no, he's kind of thinking to.

Leraje [00:07:58]

Yourself, you know what, there's a bit near the start when they first go into the library. Um, and basically the premise, the demon says to them, if you can, I won't give too many spoilers, but if you can find an accurate telling of your life, then uh, you basically. That, uh, lets you out of hell.

Ligeia [00:08:22]

Yeah, you can leave.

Leraje [00:08:23]

Yeah. So the job is in this huge, massive, uh, library to find the accurate story of your life. And then there was a bit, uh, that said, um. Oh, and there's also books about Zoroastrianism. Ah. If you want to read them. And I thought at that point, I thought it's a trick. He's trying to get them to read about Zoroastrianism and convert and then they get out of hell.

Leraje [00:08:49]

But they didn't do that.

Ligeia [00:08:50]

No, no, but, but you know why they haven't found like he was surrounded by other people who ended up in this library. I don't want, I don't know if this is a spoiler, but he. How do I approach this? He was surprised that he can only see white people.

Leraje [00:09:11]

Mhm.

Ligeia [00:09:12]

For such a long time. Like for example. Yeah. And it just kept bothering his mind, like, where are other races? Where is anybody else? Why can I always just see the same faces, the same, like, you know, like we white people. Yeah. And he was so unhappy about that. Just one moment of that.

Ligeia [00:09:35]

But, uh, what was the worst thing is that if somebody doesn't know what the Library of Babel means or what the concept of that is, it means that it looks like this library doesn't have any end, is infinite. But you are told it's not. There is an end.

Leraje [00:09:57]

Yeah. He does. What's the demon's name? Is it Xander? Something like that?

Ligeia [00:10:01]

Yeah, Xander. It's. It's a. Like X. Yeah.

Leraje [00:10:04]

Uh, yeah.

Ligeia [00:10:05]

Dander. You know, Xander. Sorry.

Leraje [00:10:08]

Uh, yeah, he says at one point, I think it's him. Uh, there's more books in the Library than there are atoms in the observable universe.

Ligeia [00:10:19]

Oh, yeah. Like, you can't imagine that number. It's impossible.

Leraje [00:10:24]

But it is finite.

Ligeia [00:10:27]

It is. And that point is, like, it's gonna kill your mind, your sanity. Because if you knew the Library is, like, endless. You wouldn't maybe try to look for the book to get out of there. Because he was like, okay, that. That there is no point. No point. But if, you know there is that little possibility that you.

Ligeia [00:10:55]

You go crazy. You absolutely. You can't just sit. Maybe you can sit for three years. Okay. Because this guy spend, like, I don't even know the numbers. I can't read those numbers, you know? Yeah. Oh, light years. Like, it's. It's so crazy, the whole book.

Leraje [00:11:18]

And it just gives you a kind of right perspective on, um, time and the passage of time and, uh.

Ligeia [00:11:24]

All right.

Leraje [00:11:26]

Yeah. Um. Yeah, it was. It was. I mean, there were parts of it, and I was thinking, oh, my God, this is hurting my head about, you know, as he was describing the length of time, of thing, of things that were happening, it was like, oh, this is too much.

Ligeia [00:11:43]

It was too much. It was really, as you said, like, the beginning. The beginning was kind of funny if. If this idea of ending up in hell can be funny. But then it went to these concepts of, like what? Like, you end up in a place that. That is supposed to make you actually really happy because you love books.

Leraje [00:12:08]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:12:09]

And it's so twisted.

Leraje [00:12:11]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:12:12]

That, uh, you don't know what to think. You don't know what to do. Yeah.

Leraje [00:12:17]

I mean, I think for people like you and me, if someone said, if this kind of, like, demon from hell's HR Said to us, you're gonna spend eternity in a library, we'd be like, oh, brilliant. That's great.

Ligeia [00:12:29]

Yeah, brilliant. Welcome home.

Leraje [00:12:32]

And then you find out what the library actually is. And you're like, oh, why?

Ligeia [00:12:36]

Because. Because all those books this guy went through, they did not contain anything. Because, like it said, there is a book of just a letter A. All the pages are little, uh, like capital A and one small, like, I don't know, dot. Then there are books with. Or just small A's and one capital A.

Ligeia [00:13:01]

And then there. There are all the stories that have ever been written. They will be written. They could be written.

Leraje [00:13:08]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:13:09]

What?

Leraje [00:13:10]

It's every. Every possible combination of words that could ever be. And, um, then you think. And you think, well, that can't be too much. And then you think, oh, no, it is actually a lot. I mean, that's billions, literally.

Ligeia [00:13:26]

And it's also not just English. It's any language possible. What? Yeah. Like, you can't imagine. I. I spent, like, so much time thinking about it, and you. I didn't get any closer to anything. It was just like mind bending. I loved it.

Leraje [00:13:45]

Oh, it was great. It was a fantastic book. It really was. I think, um. Uh, when it was suggested to you. Was it suggested to you as a horror story? Because it was to me.

Ligeia [00:13:57]

I somehow remember. I think it was a YouTube channel that I follow. And this guy reads everything, and so it's not like a horror channel. But I think he mentioned that he would consider this being horror. M. Which I understand why.

Leraje [00:14:16]

Yeah. Yes. It's not horror in the kind of like.

Ligeia [00:14:19]

Yeah.

Leraje [00:14:20]

Uh, the little girls possessed or even like the serial killers are out to get you. It's more like a kind of existential horror of the universe around you.

Ligeia [00:14:30]

Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Like a complete fiction. Because, of course, obviously, um, it's not. There's no body horror, even though, like, there's death and stuff like that. But it's not like that. It's beautifully written. It's all. Yeah, very. I would even say sterile. Sterile. You know, like, the. The library is clean.

Ligeia [00:14:58]

Everything is clean.

Leraje [00:15:02]

Almost like it's a laboratory for experimentation.

Ligeia [00:15:06]

Yeah.

Leraje [00:15:07]

And I think it was that aspect of it that reminded me of, um, House of Leaves. Was that kind of. Because they're kind of like the house, uh, that the, um. The Navison recordings were done in.

Ligeia [00:15:23]
Yes.

Leraje [00:15:24]
In House of Leaves, that was described as being kind of like, sterile and empty.

Ligeia [00:15:31]
Uh, yeah.

Leraje [00:15:32]
So, I mean, I mean, there were differences, obviously, but, um, it just.

Ligeia [00:15:39]
I know what you mean of that.

Leraje [00:15:40]
Kind of, like, enormity, that immensity of space.

Ligeia [00:15:43]
Yeah. Like, liminal.

Leraje [00:15:46]
Yeah, that's. That's. Yes.

Ligeia [00:15:49]
I mean, is that the word.

Leraje [00:15:50]
Yeah, yeah. Liminal space. Yeah, you're absolutely right.

Ligeia [00:15:52]
Yeah, yeah.

Leraje [00:15:53]
And it's that kind of thing.

Ligeia [00:15:54]
I mean, horror.

Leraje [00:15:56]
It is horror. Definitely. Definitely. I mean, you and I have said to each other before that we both like, um, the Kane Pixels videos, uh, on YouTube. The, uh.

Ligeia [00:16:10]
I do. Yes.

Leraje [00:16:11]
And that series that he does. The Back Rooms. Yeah, yeah. That series that he does has got that idea. Liminal space as well.

Ligeia [00:16:19]
Yes. Oh, God. Yeah. I started following that like, years ago when it was like, new and I couldn't even watch it. It was so. And there is a game. I also have that game, like PC game.

Leraje [00:16:34]
Is there a game?

Ligeia [00:16:34]
I didn't know Yellow Rooms. Oh, yeah. No, it's not a nice feeling.

Leraje [00:16:42]

Yeah, no, so I definitely do. I do think it falls into the category of horror.

Ligeia [00:16:48]

I. I think so. Yeah. And it's one of those clever horrors. It's not just like a slasher. Okay. Fun.

Ligeia [00:16:56]

Ah, read this is. This will stay with me. So maybe this is why. Why we chose this book for the, like, first episode. First of all, it's very short.

Leraje [00:17:05]

Yeah.

Ligeia [00:17:06]

And, um, it is interesting for those of you who have never heard about it or maybe you have opinions about it. I don't know, maybe somehow reach out, share.

Leraje [00:17:17]

I hope what we've done in this very short episode has convinced you to read it. It's really good. A Short Stay in Hell by. What's the author's name?

Ligeia [00:17:24]

Stephen L. Peck.

Leraje [00:17:26]

P E C K, isn't it?

Ligeia [00:17:28]

Yes. Yes.

Leraje [00:17:28]

Yep. And, uh, yeah, we'll be doing more of these. We don't want to tell them what the next one is, do we?

Ligeia [00:17:39]

No, let's don't. We have chosen a book. We are like more of us reading a book. And we will follow up with a new episode about that book. So we are not gonna tell you what it is now, but it's a classic. It's a classic.

Leraje [00:17:59]

Right. Okay. I think that's it from us.

Ligeia [00:18:02]

Yes.

Leraje [00:18:03]

Okay. All right.

Ligeia [00:18:04]

Thank you for listening. Yes. And Hail Satan.

Leraje [00:18:08]

Hail Satan.