

13 circles of Hell revealed to the Bird King in a series of hallucinations caused by medicine for a urinary tract infection

by James Knight

1. The Kingdom of Maggots

Billions of tiny naked bald men wriggle and squirm through a derelict mannequin factory.

2. The Sea of Knives

The crests of waves slice and slash. Maimed mermaids wail.

3. The Eye Moon

Envious mirrors ape the sun. An astronaut falls forever into open dust space.

4. The Box

A cranking noise, wheezing bellows. Nothing to see. Something tugs your sleeve.

5. The Circle of Perpetual Disaster

Glitchy re-enactments of historic horrors revolve, to the accompaniment of a hurdy-gurdy.

6. The Iron Forest

Rust hulks loom in fog and rain. Clattering wings are skittish around newcomers.

7. Satan's Administrative Headquarters

Those who run Hell are the most deeply damned. They sit in an open-plan labyrinth, fingers in knots.

8. The Egg

There is neither inside nor out, just opaque white space. Yellow bodies twist to form meaningless symbols.

9. The Palace of Reversals

The great and the good, the rich, the successful, crawl through unimaginable luxury, their insides hanging out.

10. The Cul-de-Sac

In the eternal, watchful twilight, clawed hands grasp net curtains.

11. The Punchman's Booth

A miniature Hell for the littluns (not to scale). Shrieks and screams express mirth and terror simultaneously.

12. The Core Scrapper

A subterranean 666-storey building. The lights don't work but the gibbering denizens are luminescent.

13. Head Space

The door is impossible to find, though you're convinced it's here somewhere. You'll never stop looking.

