

DEAR BOLD EXCURSIONIST,

As you embark on a most soul-quivering virtual pilgrimage through **Classical Literature & Folk Tale Hell**, know that this adaptation of the *Inferno* differs noticeably from that of Dante Alighieri's. But like Dante's hierarchical hell, this one also progresses from the mildly corrupt to the unimaginably satanic. Before you proceed, please peruse my explanations for each level of hell and its dwellers—the damnably sinful characters who enhanced the classics we so cherish today.

The first level of hell—known as Limbo—houses characters who were flawed, but harmlessly so. Here you will meet **Grumpy**, one of the seven dwarves from *Snow White*. Though he was good at heart, Grumpy's frosty demeanor earns him a spot in Limbo. A light but titanic **tornado** whirls constantly in this level of hell.

In the second level of hell reside those who were lustful. The dominant figures here are **Romeo and Juliet**, for Romeo lusted after Juliet's beauty, and Juliet, in return, lusted after him infinitely. Please do not attempt to argue with me and presently assert that those two lustbirds bonded over true love. Romeo obsessed amorously over Rosaline mere *moments* before he fell madly in "love" with Juliet. Possibly he suffered from dementia. Nonetheless, the pair of star-cross'd lusters have been placed in this second level of hell, where their punishment is being **conjoined at the eyeballs**. That way, they can no longer lust after physical beauty, because, well, they can't see.

Next up, the third level of hell is reserved for the gluttonous, and most notoriously accommodates **Hansel and Gretel**, the darned juveniles who stuffed themselves silly with candy. These sinners' punishment is the painful tugging of their cavity-stricken teeth by ropes lasso-ed 'round their teeth and weighed with heavy stones. The **stones tugging their teeth** cause a gruesome sort of gum-swelling—or gingivitis, as the professionals like to call it—leaving the gluttons unable to enjoy food for the rest of eternity.

In the fourth level of hell dwell the avaricious. You will encounter **Jafar** from *Aladdin* here, the greedy lad who ordered Aladdin to plunder the Cave of Wonders. His punishment, as well as the punishment of other prodigal fools, is that he must bear upon his back all the worldly possessions he illegitimately acquired. Jafar, along with the others, is forced to run endlessly with

this **bulky burden**—on his knees.

The fifth level of hell, specializing in the wrathful, is famed for its ownership of **Cinderella's Stepmother**. As you may recall, the stepmother was evil and wrathful towards Cinderella in every way possible; thus there is no need to argue her rightful place in this level of hell. The punishment for the wrathful is that they must spend eternity doubled over because they are forever **constrained to one tiny piece of area** on their bellies. How tiny is this piece of area, you ask? 'Tis tiny as a hairpin! Their punishment, therefore, is equivalent to balancing one's center of mass on the point of a sword, hands and feet in the air.

Up next is the sixth level of hell, where heretics are condemned. Most notable here is **Rumpelstiltskin**, who had the heretical ability to spin straw into gold. In hell, however, Rumpelstiltskin is not blessed with the Midas Touch. Instead, he is cursed with the **Excrement Touch**. Every single thing the little rascalion touches automatically turns into feces. His face is slathered in poop.

In the seventh level of hell, we come across the **Big Bad Wolf** from *Little Red Riding Hood*, as he qualifies for the sin of "violence against one's neighbor." In his mortal life, the Big Bad Wolf was punished for devouring poor old granny by having great stones sewn into his stomach. In hell, the same concept of punishment is applied. However, the stones are flaming hot, **scorching the insides** of the Big Bad Wolf's stomach. The warmth attracts rodents, which rest against the wolf's thermal fur. The squirming rats and searing abdominal pain makes the wolf unpleasant to be in any proximity of. Beware.

The eighth level of hell is booked mainly by frauds. Here you will find the **Boy Who Cried Wolf**, whose punishment is that he is claustrophobically **trapped in a box**. However, this is no regular box. The boy is in a constant battle because he must continually push against the walls of the box lest he favors being squished to a pulp. The box, you see, caves in and diminishes in volume if there is no physical force to defy it.

Last but certainly not least, the ninth level of hell—teeming with the treacherous—will be the climax of your tour. The hag you'll meet here is none other than the **Evil Witch From Snow White**. If you recall, she betrayed Snow White when disguised as a warty old lady kindly offering apples. The witch's punishment here is that she is forever **crushed between two**

enormous blocks of ice so much so that her internal bleeding becomes external bleeding. Additionally, her breathing is excruciatingly restrained because **three undigested apples** have been **permanently lodged in her esophagus**.

Well, that's all, folks! Enjoy your voyage, and may you escape the wrath of Satan.

CHEERS,

CHRISTINE CHANG, YOUR STUPENDOUS TOUR GUIDE