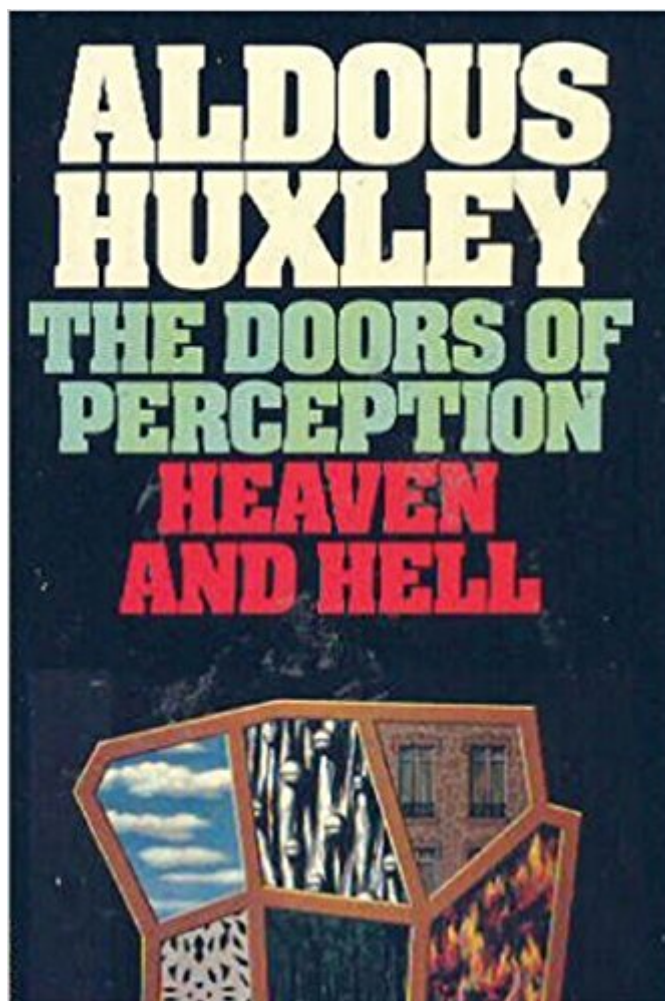


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The Doors Of Perception & Heaven And Hell



Synopsis

Two classic complete books -- "The Doors of Perception (originally published in 1954) and "Heaven and Hell (originally published in 1956) -- in which Aldous Huxley, author of the bestselling "Brave New World, explores, as only he can, the mind's remote frontiers and the unmapped areas of human consciousness. These two astounding essays are among the most profound studies of the effects of mind-expanding drugs written in the twentieth century. These two books became essential for the counterculture during the 1960s and influenced a generation's perception of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sometimes a writer has to revisit the classics, and here we find that "gonzo journalism"--gutsy first-person accounts wherein the author is part of the story--didn't originate with Hunter S. Thompson or Tom Wolfe. Aldous Huxley took some mescaline and wrote about it some 10 or 12 years earlier than those others. The book he came up with is part bemused essay and part mystical treatise--"suchness" is everywhere to be found while under the influence. This is a good example of essay writing, journal keeping, and the value of controversy--always--in one's work. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In 1953, Aldous Huxley took four-tenths of a gram of the drug Mescaline, sat down and waited to see what would happen. When he opened his eyes everything was transformed. He describes his experience in The Doors of Perception and its sequel Heaven and Hell. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I first read this book when I was 13. I am now 66. Did it influence my life? Looking back, perhaps even more so than I had realized. It was 1963 when I read it. I had been reading dystopias and had just finished "Brave New World." There was so much talk about LSD, mescaline, peyote and other hallucinogens as being "mind-expanding" and all that stuff that is now history. One interesting point of history regarding Aldous Huxley's life. He died the day JFK was shot. He was taking LSD at the time because he wanted to experience death as fully as he could. The title was taken from William Blake who had said, "If the doors of perception were cleansed every thing would appear to man as it is, infinite." That quote and this book would later help Jim Morrison in naming his band, "The Doors." I read it with rapt attention. I was entranced. When I reread it recently, I was amazed at how much I remembered and how much of my life choices it had influenced. I do remember that I promised myself at that young age, that when I was older, I would try these drugs as the search for "God" and spirituality was very important to me then and is still now. In particular, I recall the passage where, staring at a simple chair, Huxley waxed eloquently about what the chair revealed about its maker. Most of all, I recall his referring to perceiving the "isness" of the chair. This book was originally published in 1954. It was an important book then and it remains so now. It is a "must-have" for the library of any seeker of the truth, any who seek "higher learning", (pun intended and not), any who are investigators of world spirituality. Very highly recommended.

I love Huxley, but this book blew my mind. Short, easy to read... I loved every page.

This gets 5 stars from me just for The Doors of Perception alone. If you want to know what mescaline is really like, whether you're just curious or want to better understand your friends when they talk about experiences with hallucinogenic drugs, this is a short, useful, and informative read. I definitely wouldn't recommend mescaline to people (despite it working wonders for me), it can be very dangerous, but I highly recommend The Doors of Perception. It's so short, you've really got nothing to lose by checking it out.

Put the same care and love in to this he does in his flagship work "Brave New World." If you're interested in this book, then it's what you're looking for.

wow, doors opened.

Just bought it to find out what Jim Morrison was so impressed by. I don't need to wonder that anymore. Huxley lays wide open his experience with mescaline. Almost makes you want to try it yourself.

Overall, great read and very enlightening in terms of perspective. Tough to follow and understand deeper meaning at times, but if you go back and re-read one or two times everything starts to click. I loved this book and the perspective of both sides throughout.

Amazing book. If you wish to compare your own views of reality or past experiences, you will love this book!

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