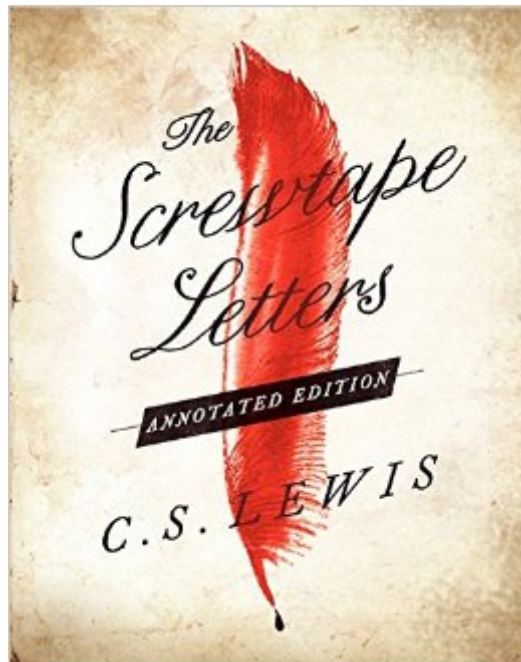


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# Screwtape Letters: Annotated Edition, The



## Synopsis

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of C. S. Lewis's death, a special annotated edition of his Christian classic, *The Screwtape Letters*, with notes and excerpts from his other works that help illuminate this diabolical masterpiece. Since its publication in 1942, *The Screwtape Letters* has sold millions of copies worldwide and is recognized as a milestone in the history of popular theology. A masterpiece of satire, it offers a sly and ironic portrayal of human life and foibles from the vantage point of Screwtape, a highly placed assistant to "Our Father Below." At once wildly comic, deadly serious, and strikingly original, *The Screwtape Letters* comprises the correspondence of the worldly-wise devil Screwtape and his nephew Wormwood, a novice demon in charge of securing the damnation of an ordinary young man. For the first time, *The Screwtape Letters* will be presented in full-text accompanied by helpful annotations in a striking two-color format. These annotations will give fans a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the popular book, providing background information, explanations of terms, historical significance, and excerpts from Lewis's other works that more fully explain the ideas in this volume. For both expert Lewis fans and casual readers, *The Screwtape Letters: Annotated Edition* will be a beautiful and insightful guide to a beloved classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*The Screwtape Letters* is a masterful work of Christian fiction, allegory, and satire that is recognized globally. However, I have found it to be a hot-button piece with as many people loving it as hating it. I wouldn't say I fall into the "love camp," but I definitely have a great respect for it and C.S. Lewis for writing it. Parts of the book still send chills up my spine, and it took a special author to go that dark

place in his mind and write a book of this nature. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of C.S. Lewis' death, HarperOne published an Annotated Edition of this book. For those unfamiliar with the Screwtape Letters, I will provide some background information on it. It was first published in 1942. The format of the book is a series of letters from Screwtape (a senior demon) to Wormwood (Screwtape's nephew). Screwtape is trying to train Wormwood on how to claim the soul of a man (referred to as The Patient) for Satan. The setting is Britain during World War II. What makes the Annotated Edition special, apart from being a sturdy hardcover with nice sized font, is that there is tons of notes (in red font to contrast the black font of the actual text), which reference Scripture and other Lewis writings. There are also interesting facts about his life in these notes. Also included in this book is "Screwtape Proposes a Toast," which is a brief sequel that is a criticism of public education. I would classify this book as one for the serious lovers of C.S. Lewis. To those who want to dig deeper into this text, and read the texts cross-referenced in the notes, this book will be invaluable as they will better understand why he wrote what he wrote.

THIS BOOK IS SIMPLY FABULOUS. I utterly loved reading this book. It is truly profound in its wisdom of the human psyche. You could almost use this as a reference book in a psychology class. Lewis was undoubtedly gifted with a deep wisdom not granted to the rest of us. Frankly, moments of it are a bit difficult to read because you have to constantly invert what the demon is saying to pull away the positive lesson; that said, this book is VERY worth reading for ANY Christian. Lewis was an Anglican but he exposes universal Christian / Human truths here. One might argue that his theology (at least in this work) is nearly Catholic; but the simple fact of the matter is all Christians recognize that Angels and Demons are real and they are waging a spiritual battle around us and we are caught in the crossfire. Lewis exposes the many traps that we, as sinners, fall into and how our minds are often pigeonholed which merely compounds our problems. Lewis also exposes more than once how EVEN GOOD THINGS can be twisted and used for evil purposes if we aren't careful. As I said, every Christian (and frankly, non-Christians as well) should read this book. I cannot recommend this specific version of the letters highly enough. This annotated edition is very well made. The annotations are SUPERB. The author clearly knew Lewis's works in and out and was erudite in his own right. Frequent quotes in the margins from Lewis's other writings bring a wonderful richness not experienced if one only reads the text by itself. There are also helpful notes dealing with colloquialisms of mid-century British English which might be lost on American readers. I took quite a lot away from this book; the margins have sparked a strong desire in me to read his other works.

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