

"It reads as if C. S. Lewis himself had written it."

FROM THE PREFACE BY WALTER HOOPER,
BIOGRAPHER AND EDITOR OF C. S. LEWIS



A fiendish
correspondence in the
tradition of C. S. Lewis'
The Screwtape Letters

AS
ONE
DEVIL
TO
ANOTHER
RICHARD PLATT



Working within the tradition that the master perfected, Richard Platt brings a signature all his own to the genre of diabolical correspondence: social satire and psychological incisiveness that are timely, timeless, and telling. If you are skeptical, then skip ahead to letters VII and XVII (among my favorites) for a taste of what Platt serves up—but only a taste, for the story and its final surprise must be enjoyed as they emerge from the whole.

JAMES COMO, founding member of the New York C. S. Lewis Society and author of *Why I Believe in Narnia: 33 Reviews & Essays on the Life & Work of C. S. Lewis*

A witty and amusing insight into the wiles of fallen angels.
Most enjoyable.

DR. MICHAEL WARD, chaplain at St. Peter's College (Oxford) and author of *The Narnia Code*

My dear Scardagger,

How could you allow this brat Platt to write up letters that so insightfully and effectively expose our schemes of temptation and destruction, just as the master Lewis did in his *Screwtape Letters*? Hopefully only a few will read them. Regardless, you will be punished thoroughly for your flagrant mistake.

With Warm Regards from your Loving Uncle and Mentor,
Slashreap

DAVID NAUGLE, professor of philosophy at Dallas Baptist University and author of *Worldview: The History of a Concept*

PREFACE BY
WALTER HOOPER

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As One Devil to Another: A Fiendish Correspondence in the Tradition of C. S. Lewis'
The Screwtape Letters

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Hoc opus
et
C. S. Lewis
magistro meo
pro Deo laboranti
et
Susan
uxori meae
a Deo datae
laetissime
dedico

*We are often unable to tell people what they need to
know, because they want to know something else.*

GEORGE MACDONALD

PREFACE

This is the book I thought I would never see. This is the preface I thought I would never write.

As One Devil to Another is a stunning achievement, the finest example of the genre of diabolical correspondence to appear since this genre was popularized by C. S. Lewis. While the tone is sharper than anything from Lewis' pen, it is surely the tone he would have used had he lived to see the abyss of moral relativism we endure today.

The narrative voice of *As One Devil to Another* is almost indistinguishable from Lewis' own. It reads as if Lewis himself had written it. There are many passages which Lewis could not have done better. I shake my head even now as I write this, still not quite believing it myself, but each time I return to this astonishing little book I see that it is so. *As One Devil to Another* has the stamp of something that was not crafted, but *bestowed*.

As the dedication indicates so fittingly, this is a work of

homage. Many books have been written *about* Lewis and his work. This is the first book to take Lewis' work and move it *forward*. It is my hope that *As One Devil to Another* will find a wide readership and ultimately lead a new generation to Lewis. He would have been delighted to have a pupil who had learned so well.

Walter Hooper

Oxford

Autumn 2011

A NOTE TO THE READER

In his 1941 preface to *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis writes that he had no intention of revealing how that diabolical correspondence had fallen into his hands, fearing that ‘ill-disposed or excitable people’ would make a bad use of the technique. Having stumbled upon the technique myself, I would like to assure the reader that I am neither excitable nor ill-disposed; nonetheless, I advise proceeding with caution. There is still wishful thinking in Hell as there is on Earth, and the Devil is still a liar.

R. L. P.

Autumn 2011

I

My dear Scardagger,

According to the report just handed me from Temptation University, you are quite the fiend—or rather, one day, under the lash and spur of my ceaseless vigilance, you will be. It is a great joy to be handed such an accomplished pupil to fashion and mould in my own flawlessly accomplished Image and Likeness. And high time, too!

My Elder Brother wanted you for himself. I can hardly blame him. As this year's Commencement Speaker and Guest of Honour at the Tempt U graduation ceremony, he was entitled to certain privileges, but the Board of Governors did not deem that match appropriate. Having seen your Dreaded Uncle devour with such becoming gusto



the choicest cuts of your incompetent little cousin, as his final shrieks resonated against the walls of the banquet hall (always an effective light ceremonial touch to remind you youngsters of the wages of failing the cause of Hell), the Board thought that pairing you with the same Mentor might prove a distraction to you both. This decision did not sit well with him. Your Uncle's satanic selfishness and complete lack of mercy have always been an inspiration to me, but as my brother he might have relinquished you to me with better grace, especially after receiving the Golden Thorns Award. That should be enough to slake the thirst for recognition in any Devil, at least for a time.

Certainly he has served His Infernal Majesty's battle against the Adversary's earthly siege with glorious distinction. I have learned more of the Black and Subtle Art of Temptation at his side than anywhere else. It is through his ceaseless efforts, and those of countless other highly accomplished Devils, such as myself, that the Earth remains in our hands. Our utter defiance of the Adversary and our steadfast refusal even to consider His ridiculous gibberish about Redemption and Grace will, I trust, be an inspiration to you.

I have noticed that your diabolical Chancellor, Dr. Glitchtwist, has been sending me superb material since his recent stay in our Institute of Reeducation. There is nothing

like a little holiday to clarify one's vision and renew one's drive and sense of purpose. You no doubt found among your cousin's effects the profusely illustrated booklet of the delights that await one in The Schoolhouse, as we all affectionately call it, as reward for substandard performance. The Staff do so enjoy their work. *You* need have no fear of their company—at least, not yet—provided you follow explicitly the instructions of your betters.

You have no idea of the stress and aggravation your Dreaded Uncle and I have endured at the hands of incompetent tempters. He, at least, was modestly compensated for the pang of sharpened famine he endured as the result of the loss of your cousin's final client. The erstwhile tempter made a lovely meal at your graduation ceremony, did he not? Even though you were Class Valedictorian, you should have remembered that, as the Guest of Honour, your Uncle was entitled to the choicest cuts. *I* quite understand that the bite you administered to his person in the heat of the festivities was unintended, merely the result of the exhilaration of the moment and youthful high spirits, though as your new Mentor I would advise you to act with greater forethought in the future. Your enthusiasm is less pleasing than you might think. It was only the laughter of the Chancellor that saved you from the consequences of your folly. Patience, my boy, patience. I understand this is a

quality invented by the Adversary; but like much of what He has created, it can be twisted to our purposes.

Do not blame me if your appetite exceeded your deserts and caused Infernal Security to make you cough up that last delicious morsel. It will no doubt be a consolation to you to hear that the bit of your little cousin you had to relinquish was all the sweeter to your Dreaded Uncle for its gelatinous state and the dark fire of your disappointment which accompanied it as it passed his lips. You enjoyed your portion of the refreshments, did you? They met your expectations? Now you have at last tasted the reward for all our labours, of which you, as a youngster, had only heard. You have seen for yourself that Hell affords pleasures the Adversary cannot offer. There is no music to compare to the final wretched screams of a failed soul. I am glad that we had the opportunity to share this delightful meal together and consequently understand one another.

Your marks are quite impressive. Well done, my boy! I speak not merely as the newly appointed Departmental Head for Young Tempter Development, but as your Uncle, and, of course, your Friend. Temptation University has not produced such a promising graduate since myself: First Class Honours in the Casting of Doubt, the Inflammation of Vanity, the Erosion of Values, the Destruction of Conscience, the Dissolution of Goodwill, the Inculcation

of Egocentricity (though you will admit that this is an easy task nowadays), and the Formation of Spiritual Pride. This last, as you well know, is the subtlest and most refined of all our Arts. You will have learned from your textbooks that it is a specialty of mine. Oh, we shall have great fun swapping stories one day!

I see you received only Honourable Mention for the Chancellor's Essay Prize. Perhaps having chosen a topic as easy as the Augmentation of Lust did not work in your favour. If, however, your disappointing performance is due to your lack of skill in this area, no matter. There is no need to worry. Perhaps you weren't paying much attention during the tedious films they forced you to sit through. I can hardly blame you. There is so little challenge for us here in the modern world. The momentum of the current fashion is entirely in our favour. I see also that you received only passing marks for turning yourself into an Angel of Light on the parade ground, but don't concern yourself with that, either. Despite the perpetual abrasion of living in a fallen world and aeons of evidence to the contrary, very few of the humans actually believe in us, or in anything their spiritual blindness prevents them from seeing, though any tool you can bring to the task will be useful in some way. We'll work on that. You can trust me to look after you.

In my next, I shall review First Principles, after which we

will begin to discuss the delicate task of acquiring the soul of your first client for His Infernal Majesty.

With Warm Regards from your
Loving Uncle and Mentor,

Slashreap

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Platt has been in love with words and the music of language all his life, but he did not begin writing until his early forties. He has been a contributor to the literary quarterly *Slightly Foxed* since 2007, and was a finalist for a 2012 San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst Fellowship for his one-man play *Ripples from Walden Pond: An Evening with Henry David Thoreau*.

In the summer of 2008, Rich traveled to Oxford, England. His goal: to stay and study at a gabled cottage of brick and tile, named for the two large brick-baking ovens that supplied the material for its construction and once stood not far off on the nine wooded acres that originally sheltered the house. It was The Kilns, home to C. S. Lewis for more than three decades, which is now owned and has since been lovingly restored by the C. S. Lewis Foundation. No one can leave the goodwill and fellowship of The Kilns without feeling somehow changed, and Rich returned the following

year as a volunteer, wanting to help others experience the transforming power of this magical place.

Rich's journey to The Kilns began almost two decades prior when a trusted friend placed in his hands Lewis' spiritual autobiography, *Surprised by Joy*. He's still thanking him. He soon followed it with *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Problem of Pain*, and everything else he could find by, or about, Lewis.

As One Devil to Another is Rich's first novel, and is dedicated in grateful homage to Lewis, whom Rich regards as the greatest man of letters of the twentieth century.

Rich has been married to his beloved wife, the poet Susan Platt, for thirty years. They share a modest cottage in Southern California with three dogs, two parrots, five thousand books, and the music of Bach, Palestrina, Tallis, and Byrd.

About Walter Hooper

Walter Hooper is the editor of *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis* and the world's foremost authority on Lewis' life and works.

Online Discussion Guide

TAKE YOUR TYNDALE READING
EXPERIENCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL


A FREE discussion guide for this book is available at
bookclubhub.net, perfect for sparking conversations in your
book group or for digging deeper into the text on your own.



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*You'll also find free discussion guides for other Tyndale books,
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WATCH
for the biography
of C. S. LEWIS by
ALISTER McGRATH,
coming in 2013.

CP0554

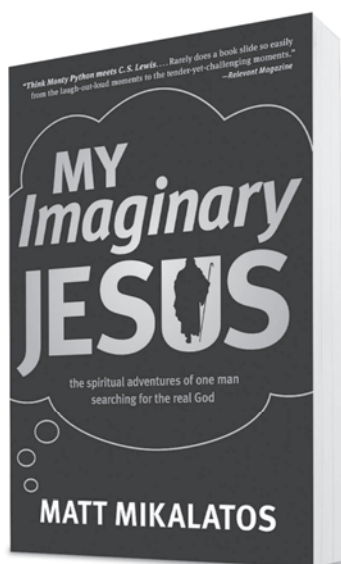
“Think Monty Python meets C. S. Lewis. . . . Rarely does a book slide so easily from the laugh-out-loud moments to the tender-yet-challenging moments.”

—*Relevant* magazine

“Matt Mikalatos’s imagination is, simply put, miraculous.”

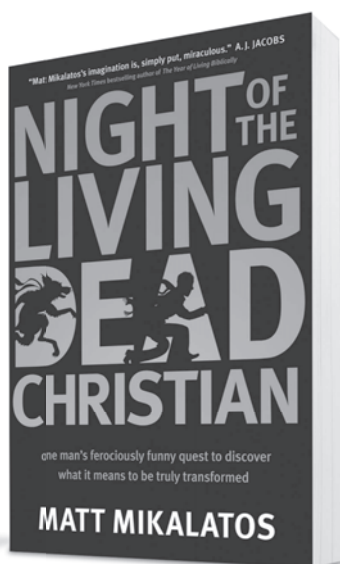
—A. J. Jacobs, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Year of Living Biblically*

From critically acclaimed author Matt Mikalatos . . .



A fast-paced, sort-of-true story, *My Imaginary Jesus* is a wild spiritual adventure like nothing you’ve ever read before . . . and it might bring you face-to-face with an impostor in your own life.

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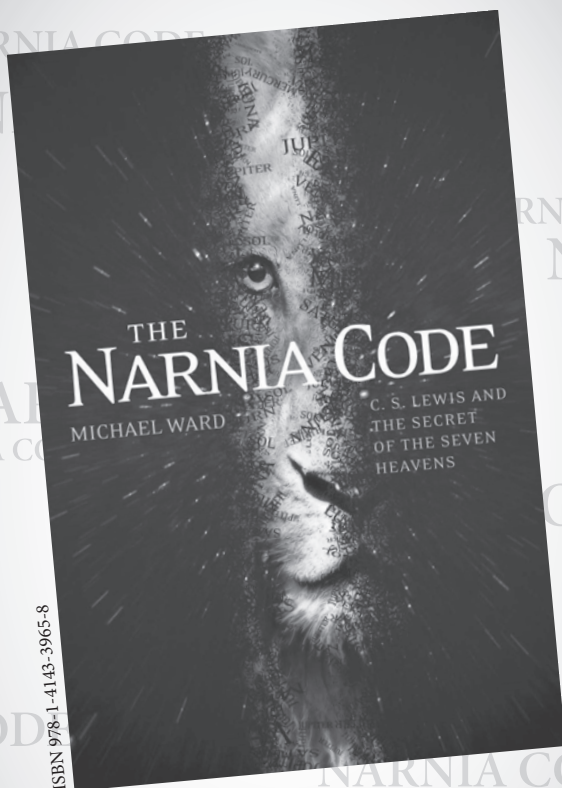


What does a transformed life actually look like? Matt Mikalatos tackles this question in a hilarious and heartbreaking spiritual allegory as he boldly explores the darkest underpinnings of our nature. (Bonus: Includes monsters!)

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Unlock the secret to Narnia that has mystified readers for more than half a century . . .



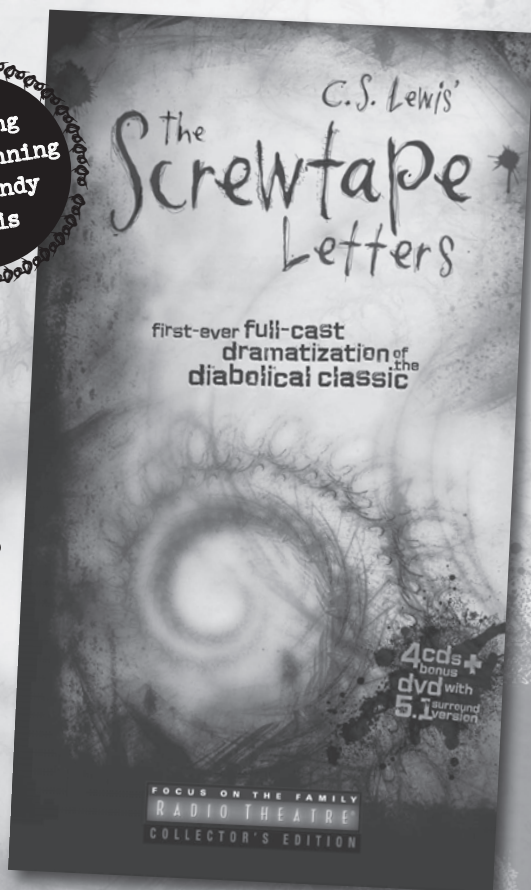
ISBN 978-1-4143-3965-8

Originally published as the groundbreaking scholarly work *Planet Narnia*, this accessible adaptation unlocks astonishing literary discoveries—revealing the link between the seven captivating Chronicles of Narnia novels, why C. S. Lewis kept a “secret code,” what the Narnia series shows about Lewis’s understanding of the universe and Christian faith, and much more.

CP0556

The Screwtape Letters

A Dramatic Twist on a Diabolical Comedy



The award-winning Radio Theatre audio drama team that brought you *Amazing Grace* and *The Chronicles of Narnia* presents C. S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*.

In his enduringly popular masterpiece *The Screwtape Letters*, C. S. Lewis reimagines Hell as a gruesome bureaucracy. The style and unique dark humor of *The Screwtape Letters* are retained in this full-cast audio dramatization, as senior demon Screwtape, played magnificently by Andy Serkis (Gollum in the *Lord of the Rings* movies), shares correspondence to his apprentice demon Wormwood. Also starring Geoffrey Palmer (*Tomorrow Never Dies*), Laura Michelle Kelly (*Sweeney Todd*), Eileen Page (*The Secret Garden*), and other world-class actors.

CP0557