



# Hellfire

*John Saul*

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## Hellfire John Saul

The old mill has been silent for a hundred years, its dread secrets locked from view Still, the people of Westover, Massachusetts, remember...and whisper of that terrible day when horrifying flames claimed eleven innocent young lives The day the mill's doors slammed shut - forever.

But now, the last of the once-powerful Sturgess family is about to unlock those doors again...and unleash an elemental fury. For behind the padlocks, deep within the dark, abandoned building, a terrible vengeance waits. A vengeance conceived in...**HELLFIRE**

## Hellfire Details

Date : Published August 1986 by Bantam (first published January 1st 1986)

ISBN : 9780553258646

Author : John Saul

Format : Mass Market Paperback 344 pages

Genre : Horror, Fiction, Mystery, Thriller



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# From Reader Review Hellfire for online ebook

## Michelle Dinkins says

Great book!! A tragedy and kept me on the edge of my seat. I listened to this book via audible and I couldn't stop listening. It was amazing!!! The characters were well described and the storyline was well defined.

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## David says

awesome read

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## Patricia says

I wanted a little more creepy story, but over all I enjoyed the book.

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## Benjamin Stahl says

John Saul is noticeably inferior to many of the big-name writers, and Stephen King has openly criticized his writing, but although his writing doesn't have the same power or finesse as King or Straub or ... must I say it, Dean Koontz ... he is more than capable of turning out a simple and entertaining story that takes us from point A to B. Sometimes, in the case of 'Hellfire', he even manages to scare us - or at least creep us out a little. But the best part of this book is that it continues to shock you - especially in the second half (and even more the ending!!!) with its number of casualties and violent revelations, which are delivered exceptionally well...

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## Ellenjsmellen says

Just finished this one. Could've had a sequel, but I guess chose not to write one. Quick read.

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## Lilyn G. | Sci-Fi & Scary says

I need to think about this for a bit.

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## **Philip says**

This book was given to me, I have not read that many of John Saul books. John Saul has a very solid plot line dealing with a family business of hiding secrets, driving family members crazy and haunts from the past in the old mill that the Sturgess family owned. It was not the ending that I thought it would be. Hellfire is mixed with old town folklore, family secrets and legends of the town. I really enjoyed the book and would recommend it as a book worth reading.

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## **B.W. Ginsburg says**

Another ghost story is cleverly and skillfully delivered to us by John Saul. While the book starts out a little slow, it soon turns into a fast-paced page turner. Saul is amazing at including imagery that makes us feel as if we are part of the story and he has a great talent for developing characters that we find ourselves feeling strongly about. We know immediately who to root for and who we want to fail.

This story is a little “creepier” than *The Unwanted* and *Nathaniel*. While *Nathaniel* was definitely eerie, *Hell Fire* contains more violence and frightening imagery. However, that’s part of what adds to the greatness of the story. The plot is filled with mystery, violence, history, and revenge.

Another great thing about *Hell Fire* is that it touches on so many issues that are relevant in the world today. The story is not only a ghost story, but it also deals with class and the resentment that one side of a town has for the other. The story also touches on the hatred that one sibling can have for another and how jealousy can turn a person into something someone else may have never thought imaginable. If you’re looking for a book that has many facets and is scary at the same time as relevant, *Hell Fire* is definitely for you!

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## **Erin says**

I liked the plot of the story, quick read, but not my normal cup of tea, written well in my opinion.

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## **Natasa says**

This was a story about a rich family's past and secrets, about one spoilt girl and another sweet innocent girl being bullied by the first all throughout the book, and a lot more. Good versus evil with the main character ending tragic and unfair. The epilogue was very characteristic for the author, showing us an ending that I like to call 'x-files' ending...kind of happily ever after but with the possibility of everything going south once again later in the future.

I don't know why I liked the story especially as I'm not a fan of books where the main character a kid is. I guess because of it's simplicity and the author's great depiction of every character and his/her emotions I really enjoyed it (and his ability to provoke emotions in me, like disliking the treatment Tracy was giving to Beth etc). I think some would find the story boring and some not. I would have to think hard whom to recommend this.

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## **Pat says**

Vengeful murderous spirits are released when the local entrepreneur decides to reopen the century old mill which made his family their fortune (thanks to exploitive child labour of the times).

Carolyn is married to Philip Sturgess, head of a rich and once-influential family that has resided in the small town of Westover Massachusetts for generations. Carolyn has a kind and sensitive 11-year-old daughter, Beth from a previous marriage and Philip has a rotten-to-the-core 13-year-old daughter Tracy from his first marriage. Tracy (along with her snobby grandmother Abigail Sturgess) hates Beth and Carolyn with a passion and wants nothing more than to see the back of them. Their base reason is that they are “common” and in a lower class to the Sturgess clan. Thankfully Philip isn’t stuck up like his vile mother who lives in the past, or his daughter who was raised and spoiled by Abigail (inheriting her prejudices and then some). Philip just wants everyone to get along! He has even hired architect/builder Alan Rogers, Carolyn’s ex husband, to work on converting the old mill into a shopping complex... Just a shame about the ghosts of the child workers who died in a fire at the mill over a hundred years ago, who would rather the building remained closed...

The theme of family, their secrets and their struggles, feature heavily in this story with the ghosts generally taking a backseat.

Not so much scary but had its shocking moments; Hellfire was an entertaining read. I personally found the first half of the book a bit slow action wise but after that, things picked up and got more disturbing before reaching a horrifying finale/ confrontation between the two main characters. I didn’t see that coming at all so good job Saul, for leaving me dumbstruck!

Unfortunately all of the main characters fell into the category of good or evil, with no in-between to give them more depth, and although it’s not the worse epilogue I’ve read lately, the story would have been much better without that daft ending.

This is my first John Saul novel and hopefully not my last. I’m just not sure whether to go for one of his earlier stories again or something more current.

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## **Sandy Almo says**

I do love John Saul! I think I read almost all his books as new releases, but listening to them through Audible is even better! This is a great book, and although tragic, I love it. As the way it ended, I always expected a sequel to Hellfire.

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## **Samantha says**

3.5 stars. Slower than the average Saul horror, but still a good ghost story.

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**Cheryl says**

I selected this book by accident and couldn't figure out how to get it out of currently reading, so after checking it out decided to read it. The author is described as writing novels of psychological and supernatural suspense. While stuck inside during the polar vortex this was a quick read that is definitely a page turner. Not believable, but entertaining.

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**Lance Dale says**

This was a fun easy read. It almost reads like a young adult novel, but is still a good story. Also, I'm a peacefull guy but I found myself wishing horrible things on Tracy throughout the book. I hope she gets her fingers shut in a drawer, papercuts from a manilla envelope, and burns her hand while getting a pizza out of the oven. Oh no. I've said too much. But like REM said, "I haven't said enough." Anyways, Hellfire. Yeah!

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