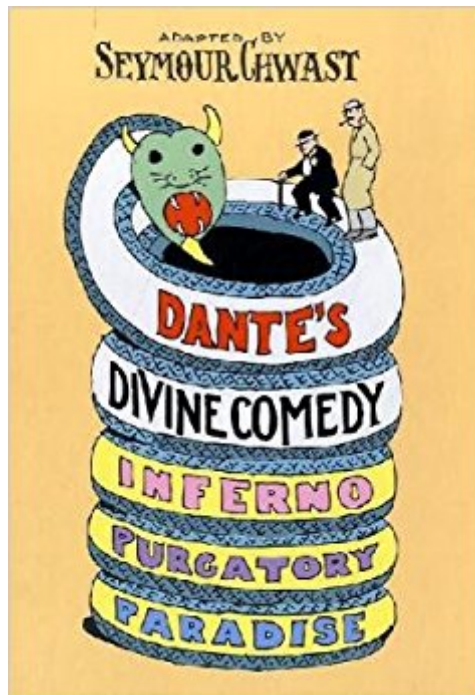




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# Dante's Divine Comedy: A Graphic Adaptation



## Synopsis

Dante's Divine Comedy: A Graphic Adaptation

## Book Information

Hardcover: 128 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury USA; 1st Edition edition (September 6, 2010)

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## Customer Reviews

**Product Description** The "left-handed designer," Seymour Chwast has been putting his unparalleled take "and influence" on the world of illustration and design for the last half century. In his version of Dante's Divine Comedy, Chwast's first graphic novel, Dante and his guide Virgil don fedoras and wander through noir-ish realms of Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise, finding both the wicked and the wondrous on their way. Dante Alighieri wrote his epic poem The Divine Comedy from 1308 to 1321 while in exile from his native Florence. In the work's three parts (Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise), Dante chronicles his travels through the afterlife, cataloging a multitude of sinners and saints "many of them real people to whom Dante tellingly assigned either horrible punishment or indescribable pleasure" and eventually meeting both God and Lucifer face-to-face. In his adaptation of this skewering satire, Chwast creates a visual fantasia that fascinates on every page: From the multifarious torments of the Inferno to the host of delights in Paradise, his inventive illustrations capture the delirious complexity of this classic of the Western canon. [A Look Inside Dante's Divine Comedy: A Graphic Adaptation](#)(Click on Images to Enlarge) [Second circle of Hell](#) [Sins of the flesh](#) [The three furies](#) [Sixth circle of Hell](#)

**Starred Review.** Famed artist and graphic designer Chwast has turned his talents to the graphic novel form for the first time, and we can all be happy about it. In a highly compressed version of

Dante's Divine Comedy, Chwast takes us on a whirlwind tour of hell, purgatory, and heaven. With his signature mix of humor, artistry, and high-level design, he conveys a breathtaking amount of information in clear black and white line drawings. One graph illustrates "reasons for different levels of punishment," with sins ranging from "no self-control" (deemed "not so bad") to "insane brutality" (which is "terrible"). In another, the levels and regions of purgatory are laid out in an ascending birthday cake format. Much of the book is beautiful, with page design showing naked sinners tossed in a wind of words, a two-page spread of men and snakes wrapped in writhing battle, or a large flower made of angels as they fly from God. Dante himself is portrayed as a pipe-smoking detective type in sunglasses and a trench coat, while his guide, Virgil, wears a porkpie hat and wire-rimmed spectacles with his suit. It all works seamlessly as Chwast does a stunning job of telling Dante's story in his own brilliant style. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This is the first graphic novel by the celebrated graphic designer, Seymour Chwast. It is an adaptation of Dante's epic poem, *The Divine Comedy*. All 100 cantos are adapted, although some are only one panel long, since the book is only 127 pages. It's an interesting interpretation. I liked how most people were dressed in 1920s fashions. But some people may not care for the minimalistic artwork.

I would have imagined a graphic adaptation of Dante's Divine Comedy to be a bit more vibrant and striking, however this adaptation was interesting and enjoyable.

A humorous visual journey through The Divine Comedy!

LOVE THE BOOK, GREAT PRICE, FAST RESPONSE

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Very funny and informative adaptation of Dante's work. Good for adults looking for a humorous revisit or to expose teens to the story. Recommended.

Great fun; one of my favorite contemporary illustrators.

What wit. What grace. What fun. Clearly the best graphic novel I've come upon this year. Alan Berg

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