



Damnation Alley

By Roger Zelazny

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Hell Tanner isn't the sort of guy you'd mistake for a hero: he's a fast-driving car thief, a smuggler, and a stone-cold killer. Facing life in prison for his various crimes, he's given a choice: Rot away his remaining years in a tiny jail cell, or drive cross-country and deliver a case of antiserum to the plague-ridden people of Boston, Massachusetts. The chance of a full pardon does wonders for getting his attention. And don't mistake this mission of mercy for any kind of normal road trip-not when there are radioactive storms, hordes of carnivorous beasts, and giant, mutated scorpions to be found along every deadly mile between Los Angeles and the East Coast. But then, this is no normal part of America, you see. This is Damnation Alley....

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Damnation Alley By Roger Zelazny Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

You've gotta love to hate the 1977 movie *Damnation Alley*, a cheese-filled classic from sci-fi's cinematic canon. But there's at least one good thing you can say about this otherwise awful flick: it's prevented the movie's far superior source material from being forgotten. Roger Zelazny's post-apocalypse novel predates the George Peppard-Jan-Michael Vincent vehicle by about a decade and represents the fine storytelling talents of one of science fiction and fantasy's most daring writers (likely best remembered for his imaginative Amber series).

Speaking of vehicles: the coolest part of the movie--and likely, thankfully, the only part most people remember--turns out to be even cooler in the book: the flame-spewing, .50-caliber-bullet-belching, grenade-throwing, gigantic all-terrain vehicle that's responsible for getting a crucial antiserum shipment from Los Angeles to Boston to stop a deadly plague. The driver, a despicable lowlife named Hell Tanner, has been given a not-so-difficult choice. He can either get the drugs to the East Coast intact, save humanity, and receive a full pardon for his crimes, or he can refuse and spend the rest of his life in a "zebra suit." So what's the catch? Thanks to World War III, Middle America is now an electrical-storm-torn, heavily irradiated playground for dino-sized Gila monsters, "freak spiders," humongous bats "that eat off the mutie fruit trees down Mexico way," and 120-foot-long snakes as big around as garbage cans. And the native humans still scrambling around the wasteland aren't much less dangerous.

Damnation Alley might not be Zelazny's best, but for reading on, say, a road trip, you can't do much better. Throw in some '60s-style, freak-out closing riffs, and a trip down the *Alley* becomes pretty hard to pass up. -
-Paul Hughes

About the Author

Roger Zelazny (1937-1995) studied Elizabethan and Jacobean drama at Columbia University before bursting on to the science fiction scene while still in his mid-twenties. Among his many books are *Four for Tomorrow*, *The Dream Master*, *A Rose for Ecclesiastes* and the many titles in the *Chronicle of Amber*.

Users Review

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Sally Watts:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that may give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world may share their idea. Publications can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their particular reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the textbooks. But also they write about the information about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors these days always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to the book. One of them is this *Damnation Alley*.

Susan Metcalf:

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