



## The Hell Candidate

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## **The Hell Candidate** Graham Masterton , Thomas Luke

First edition of this paperback original novel. "Thomas Luke" is a pen name of Graham Masterton, prolific author of such books as "The Manitou." "They said Hunter Peale didn't have a hope in hell of getting elected. They were wrong... He was a kindly, moderate man - with a less than moderate chance of winning. Then it all began to change... What power did Peale now have that brought men to their knees in abnormal pain - and made women writhe with unholy pleasure? The answer froze the spirit like a chill, rancid breath from the foul grave-stench mouth of Hell - for Peale had entered into a monstrous pact with none other than the Prince of Darkness himself..."

## **The Hell Candidate Details**

Date : Published June 1st 1980 by Pocket Books (first published 1980)

ISBN : 9780671817695

Author : Graham Masterton , Thomas Luke

Format : Mass Market Paperback 423 pages

Genre : Horror, Fantasy, Supernatural, Politics, Holiday, Halloween

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# From Reader Review *The Hell Candidate* for online ebook

## Ronald Chevalier says

### Politics is Hell

What happens when Lucifer himself runs for the presidency? Murder, violence, and sexual depravity. Jack Russo, our narrator, must find a way to prevent world destruction and scheme against a president possessed by the devil himself.

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## Thomas Strömquist says

Very 80's horror on the seedier side of King and Koontz; Hunter Peale is the worst man to have his goal set for US president since Damien in *The Final Conflict* (or if the order was possibly the other way around). Starting out as a 'ordinary' republican candidate, things (and the man himself) soon changes. Even though the official side of the candidate turns an uglier side, his popularity increases. The private side of things, revealed only to the one closest to him is, however, on a whole different level of evil. Graphic, disturbing, thrilling, fun and hard to put down. The book loses some pace and impact and the suspension of disbelief gets harder near the end, when things are explained and the final confrontation/resolution. But as I remembered it, that often is the case with 80's horror.

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## Victor Castillo Rodriguez says

Ha valido la pena esperar esta reedición; una de las novelas más curiosas de Masterton mezcla hábilmente thriller político (muy bien documentado) con terror sobrenatural. La campaña presidencial del senador republicano Hunter Peal, que se va radicalizando cada vez más tras ser poseído por mismo diablo, pone en peligro el futuro de los Estados Unidos, por lo que su jefe de prensa intenta encontrar una solución para exorcizarlo. Obviamente, los paralelismos con Trump son demasiado obvios, pero es sorprendente ver como la realidad ha acabado hasta cierto punto por eclipsar a la ficción.

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## Randolph says

One of the most horrid pieces of garbage I have ever read. Even as a sophomore in high school I recognized that.

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## Kimberly says

4.5 stars.

How did I NOT read this book before? I'm guessing because Masterton wrote it under the name "Thomas

Luke"; however, it is a Masterton novel through and through! The perfect time to read this book (during the political debates). While it was very heavy on the political aspect, this book sucked me in so quickly that I just didn't want to put it down until I'd finished. (Alas, kids still needed to eat ;).

The action starts off immediately with the setting of an old, derelict mansion called "Allen's Corners" in Sherman, Connecticut. It was there that Presidential hopeful, Hunter Peal, stayed for three days of campaigning.

It was there that the "darkness" overtook him.

A strong, horrific novel that hit all the right notes to keep me invested until the very last page.

Highly recommended!

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### **Grady Hendrix says**

Milktoast presidential candidate gets possessed by a double-donged lawn ornament and wins the presidency by promising to make America great again. Climaxes with the Pope being smuggled into the White House via Air Force One to conduct an exorcism in the Oval Office. Graham Masterton: Always Raising the Stakes.

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### **Jeffrey Keeten says**

**"I want you to understand that a strong nation doesn't necessarily have to be a repressive nation. I'm not a prude or a puritan. I'm not a harsh disciplinarian. I'm strong because I'm a man, with a man's appetite. Just like I want my women to be strong, with a woman's appetite. We can be powerful without being narrow-minded. We can be leaders without being canting moralists. We have a rich nation, crowded with fruits to be relished and enjoyed. Food, drink, beautiful women. They're all ours for the taking. Ours for the unashamed taking."**

Jack Russo joined the campaign of the senior senator from Colorado for President when Hunter Peal was still a moderate, but something happened after they stayed in an old, creepy house in Connecticut. His whole message changed.

*"Hunter was the master of illusion. He was also a master of euphemism. It was at a Kansas delegation caucus that he coined his famous phrase about 'moderating the material expectations of the less productive members of our community'-in other words, taking steps to make sure that the deprived stayed deprived."*

Hunter was suddenly vastly different, more aggressive, way more right of center. He wasn't the only one experiencing changes. Jack was seeing things that made him start to believe the rigors of the campaign trail were catching up with him. His girlfriend Jennifer had never looked like this before. *"Jennifer's eyes were totally white, like marble. Two tiny pupils seemed to be indented in them, just as if they were the eyes of a statue. They stared at me with utter coldness, utter indifference, and as I stared back at them I became aware of a chilly rustling somewhere in the room, as if an invisible spirit in a frosted clock had slid out of this world and back into the next."*

Jack was rather attached to Jennifer's pink, flexible, soft flesh and had never had any lustful Pygmalionesque desires for cold, hard stone, regardless of how beautifully it was carved. He also saw a dark, bristling shape running across the lawn that raised the hackles on his neck.

And were the statues on the lawn...moving?

Jack Russo, you poor bastard, you have landed in a Graham Masterton horror novel!

Jack wasn't the only one to notice the 180 degree change in Hunter Peal's political ideas. The whole Peal staff was alarmed, especially when polling showed this bastard was going to win. **"I never thought the day would come when this whole country would throw sweet reason out of the window and vote for nothing but personal prejudice and individual gain. I never thought the day would come when I'd go along with it, either."**

Does that sound vaguely familiar? Like maybe something that happened in American politics recently? Or how about this. **"The choice you have made tonight is the first step in making our nation GREAT AGAIN. Powerful again. Rich again. And self-assured again."**

Jog any memories?

As if things weren't bad enough, Peal had acquired psychokinesis powers, which meant he could project illusions to those who were listening to him. He could conjure up flights of B-52 bombers or wheat fields as far as the eye can see.

**What the FRILL is going on?**

Well this.

**"It was a huge, bulky outline, as dark as sin. But its eyes glowed slanted and orange, like the eyes of a wolf, and on its head were two curved horns. It stank of stale incense and animal sweat, and it was grunting with grotesque delight.**

**'Jennifer!' I yelled. And then I whipped back my bedclothes and seized hold of the demon's body with both hands.**

**It felt horrifying. It had bristles all over. Bristles that were prickly and sharp with some kind of static electricity. Bristles that crackled and spat and numbed every muscle in my fingers."**

Dare he think it? Had Hunter Peal been possessed by the Devil? Jack had a choice: he could quit the campaign and go back to Butte, Montana, or he could stay around to try and save the nation from Hunter Peal. **"The ancient Greek tragedy writers would have loved this one. They would have called it *The Fall of Russo* and had me putting my eyes out in Act IV"**

All fine and good for Russo to say, "Hey, let's save the world," but his girlfriend Jennifer was the one that the beast had a real boner for. Except for a few delusional Goth chicks, I don't think that forming one half of the beast with two backs with Satan is on most women's bucket list. Call that a **\*\*Double Shudder\*\*** moment.

The interesting thing about this book is it was written in 1980 as a response to President Ronald Reagan's

campaign, even though Masterton drops Reagan's name in the book a few times to make sure that he can not be accused of actually saying that Hunter Peal was based on Reagan. With the advent of President Donald Trump, it was suggested to Graham to revive this book. I can't think of why!

The book is a blast to read, but I will issue a few cautions. The sex is **GRAPHIC**. Masterton has written several sex manuals in his long tenure as a writer, and believe me, the guy likes to explore the full repertoire of sexual experience. So if you have even a thimbleful of prudishness, you might avoid this book or skip through those scenes.

The writing is actually really good for what I would consider a pulp horror novel. (This book was a suggested reading from *Paperbacks from Hell* that I reviewed recently.) I used several quotes from the book in the writing of this review, and those only represent a smattering of the many notes I made as I was gasping and shivering my way through the reading of this psychotic novel. There are also several **DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR** moments in the book that were such vintage horror delights, erhhh I mean dreadful petrifying experiences.

The moral of the story is **Be Careful Who You Vote For!**

If you wish to see more of my most recent book and movie reviews, visit <http://www.jeffreykeeten.com>  
I also have a Facebook blogger page at: <https://www.facebook.com/JeffreyKeeten>

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### **Geoff Battle says**

At the time of reviewing this, *The Hell Candidate* is thirty years old. Astoundingly, it's not dated in the slightest and in fact it serves as a reminder of the quality of old school horror. Masterton (under the Luke pseudonym) weaves a tale of malevolence and brooding horror which pulls no punches. The evil here is clearly incarnate. It creates a monstrous power hungry presidential candidate, using both emotional and cultural persuasion at a supernatural level and the story follows the campaign trail as it slowly escalates in to carnage. Masterton fans will know exactly how the carnage will be played out - humiliation, sexual deviation and evisceration. A little too long, the dense narrative of the 1980's seems tough at times, however readers are rewarded with tension and suspense. You'll be rooting for the good guys with genuine concern for them. That's decent writing. If you can find a copy, this is recommended reading for the twenty-first century.

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### **Glen says**

he's no worse than any other politician!!!!

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### **Jon Zelig says**

"The Hell Candidate" would not have been (could not have been) called a "mashup" when it was published? Although I first read it perhaps a decade ago, hard not to call it that now.

Supernatural-Satanic-Politico-Erotic-Thriller? That's a genre now, right? There's a whole aisle down at Barns & Stables—pretty sure.

Some things you read and you're "proud and wanna share" (shows how bright or sophisticated or whatever-the-newest-word-for-hip-is you are).

This is. . . not that book.

This is one of those books that (if you have various defects that I won't judge, because I share them) you want to keep; but. . . you want to keep it on the lower shelf, spine turned in or sideways.

You'll be able to find it; not something other people necessarily need to see as part of your library.

Presidential candidate pretty much sells his soul to the devil (not really much of a spoiler there; pretty much on the cover). And then. . . sexually intense, horrific-abhorrent, but compelling. . . scenes ensue.

Applicability to the 2016 race. . . we'll see.

Steven King meets Anne Rice (writing as her porn alter-ego A. N. Roquelaure)? Pretty much.

Nice ride if that's your taste (I enjoyed it). A vomit comet if that's not your thing.

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### **Cassidy says**

This is an enjoyable read. It might hit a bit close to home if you're living in the US under the current administration, but personally, I found that made it all the more interesting.

some things worth mentioning: this book handles politics pretty well, especially aspects of the campaign process not often spoken about. There are scenes describing assault, sexual and general, which can be uncomfortable. This is also a story of demonic possession, so maybe don't give it to your faint hearted friends.

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### **Kinksrock says**

Upon reading a third time, I still think this is a great book for fans of horror and political thrillers.

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### **Ewelina says**

Jest to bardzo mocna i dosadna księzka, poruszająca temat przemiany człowieka, umiarkowanego, przyjaznego, o ustalonym z góry celu w "bestializm" do tego celu po trupach. Przy czym stwierdzenie "po trupach" jest tu użyte nie przypadkowo. Akcja zawiera w sobie elementy fantastyczne i rzeczywiste. Jest to ubrana w czasosłownictwo wulgarny język, opowieść walki dobra ze złem. Jak w wielu tego typu opowieściach to dobro zwycięża, jednakże jest to okupione dużymi stratami. Jest tu wiele erotyki, brutalnych opisów, dlatego książka nadaje się tylko dla dorosłych czytelników. Mamy tu wiele odmian różnego typu zjawisk. Próba poznania ludzkiej psychiki... tego co to strach, co to ból, co to wstyd itp. i do czego potrafi one doprowadzić. Jak bardzo człowiek wyjawia swoje złe postępowanie dobrymi motywami, by zmniejszyć swój win.

Ksi??ka jest podzielona na dwie cz??ci. Pierwsza nosi tytu? Walka, druga za? to Upadek. Ju? po samych tytu?ach mo?emy domy?li? si? niezbyt pozytywnych obrotów spraw. Bohaterowie s? przez autora do?wiadczeni ró?nymi trudno?ciami, lecz cz??? z nich si? nie poddaje - z jednej strony jest to pozytywne d??enie poprzez ci??k? prac?, z drugiej strony droga intryg i k?amstw.

<http://czytam-jestempodrugiejstroniel...>

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## L.L. says

Okay, a wi?c przeczyta?em t? ksi??k? z nastawieniem: "ale b?dzie super hiper!" iii... no i nie spe?ni?a moich oczekiwa? niestety.

Pomys? jest genialny - oto kandydat na prezydenta sprzymierza si? z si?ami z?a by tym prezydentem zosta? (no w zasadzie to si? nie sprzymierza, tylko te si?y nad nim zapanowuj?, ta pierwsza wersja by?aby lepsza), a kiedy to nast?pi to ju? tylko z?o rozpanoszy si? na ?wiecie. I jak mo?na by?o tak schrzani? ten pomys??

Nie no, przesadam. Ksi??ka wci?ga i raczej dobrze si? j? czyta?o - to na plus. Ale za du?o tu fantastyki. Po co te halucynacje? Realniej (a wi?c ciekawiej) by by?o gdyby Hunter zosta? wybrany na prezydenta zupe?nie normalnie, tak, jego pogl?dy mog?y ewoluowa? w tym bardziej ekstremistycznym kierunku, ale to wszystko mog?o dzia? si? wolniej i naturalniej. Chocia? to jeszcze piku? i mo?na zwali? na t? zespo?ow? halucynacj?. Ale ju? zmiana Jacka w blondyna z Kalifornii to jest przesada.

Szatana w og?le do pewnego momentu mo?na by?o nie wprowadza? (pozostawi? jedynie domys?y, niedopowiedzenia).

Ko?c?wka - nieznamo?? tematu egzorcyzmów (w przypadku "mniejszych" demonów nierzadko nie wystarcza jeden egzorcyzm, a tutaj jednym wyp?dzili samego Szatana! no w prawdzie to papie? ale i tak... przesada).

Brutalno??... có?, albo ja dziwny jestem albo mam ju? co? z pami?ci? nie tak ale wydaje mi si?, ?e ten seks tam to wcale za bardzo brutalnym do?wiadczeniem nie by? na tle innych ksi??ek autora. Tzn. pomys? tak - dwa ogromne penisy bestii, ale wcale tam nie by?o specjalnie szokuj?cych opisów tych?e aktów (albo to moja przerwa w czytaniu ksi??ek Mastertona sprawi?a albo nie wiem co ale wydaje mi si?, ?e w "D?inie" by?o tego wi?cej a "wywracanie flakami do wierzchu" w "Duchu zag?ady" by?o dla mnie o wiele bardziej brutalne czy szokuj?ce).

Reasumuj?c 4/5 (albo raczej co? bardziej jak 3.5/5)

PS. - Fajny cytat w cytacie:

"- Prawd?? - zdziwi? si? Hunter. - Czy wiesz, co napisa? Blake? „Prawda wypowiedziana w z?ej intencji jest gorsza od ka?dego k?amstwa, jakie zdo?asz wymy?li?!”."

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