

1. *As One Devil to Another* is told in the form of letters. The epistolary novel was very much in vogue in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but faded in popularity in the twentieth. Do you think this is an effective literary device? What are the strengths and weaknesses of such a format? *What other books use letters to move the plot forward or show us different sides of a character?*

2. Who is the main character: Slashreap, Scardagger, the Client, or someone else? Why?

3. The author tells us in his note to the reader that “there is still wishful thinking in Hell.” At what points in the story do you see that demonstrated?

4. In Letter III, Slashreap writes, “University libraries today are littered with forgotten and useless dissertations . . . written on arcane subjects, favoured by the intellectually insecure, who hope that they will not be subject to adverse criticism from their colleagues on subjects that none of them knows (or cares) about. We have so centred their attention on brick-making that we have made them virtually incapable of becoming architects.” Do you think this is an accurate depiction of the modern system of higher education? What has been your own experience?

5. In Letter IX, Slashreap claims that the sexual revolution was “the Grand Confidence Trick of the twentieth century.” Why does he say this?

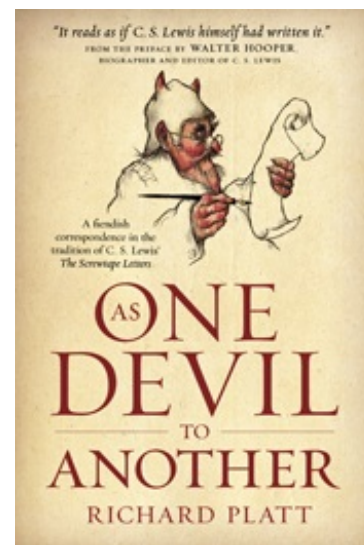
6. Slashreap claims that Political Correctness has been an advantage to Hell. Do you agree, or do you think it can also be a good thing? Have you ever felt that Political Correctness inhibited your own ability to speak freely and engage in useful dialogue? What were the circumstances?

7. Discuss Slashreap’s theory of Valid Alternative Lifestyles in Letter XII. Is it limited to sexuality? What is the chain of reasoning that would lead a person to hold this opinion? If it is extreme, what is its opposite? What would be a moderate position? What would be a charitable position?

8. In Letter XII, Slashreap asserts that “the most vociferous claims to superiority in any society are made by the subliterate, the uneducated, and the intellectually deficient.” Do you agree or disagree? Can you think of some historical examples of “claims to superiority” that support or contradict what Slashreap says?

9. According to Slashreap in Letter XII, the most terrifying image in the Lord’s Prayer “is the plea to ‘forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.’ That is, ‘forgive us, in the same way, and to the same degree, that we forgive others.’” As you think about forgiveness in your own life, is this an unsettling idea to you? Why or why not?

10. In Letter XVII, Slashreap claims it scalds his claw to write the words “Addison’s Walk.” What happened there, and why was it such a blow to Hell? If Slashreap were writing about your own faith journey, what are some words that might “scald his claws” to write and why?



11. Discuss the role that the Client's aunt plays in her life. Who in your life has held a similar role? What might Slashreap fear about him or her?

12. In Scripture, the devil is described as "the father of lies" (John 8:44). Where in *As One Devil to Another* do you see Slashreap or Scardagger lying? Do they always lie, or are they also capable of telling the truth (or some version of the truth)? Discuss, using examples from the book.

13. What does Slashreap think of modern technology such as television, cell phones, and the Internet? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

14. Discuss the Client's experience with grief in *As One Devil to Another*. How do you see "the Adversary" working during this time? What do Slashreap and Scardagger see as dangerous in the situation? Can you relate through any examples from your own life?

15. Do you have a "favorite" letter in *As One Devil to Another*? If so, what about that particular letter stands out to you?

16. What is the twist at the end of *As One Devil to Another*? What does it reveal about the structure and values of Hell?

