

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The ideas that shaped *The Letter from Death* emerged from experiences and influences over decades, most of which I can no longer tease apart into separate strands. Death's voice has certainly been refined and informed, however, by my reading in recent years.

Among the authors below, I would like to thank two in particular whose books provided structure and content to which I could relate much of my other research. First, I highly recommend Alice Turner's *The History of Hell* (Harcourt, 1995) for its very readable scholarship and, frequently, its wit. While I used a wide variety of sources for Death's commentary on Hell, *The History of Hell* was the book I read first and the one to which I most often returned. As is true of any information gathered from my research for *The Letter from Death*, I take full responsibility for the selectivity and sarcasm with which the character of Death deals with the material.

Likewise, in regard to *Science Goes to War* by Ernest Volkman (Wiley, 2002), Death's purposeful reductionism and biting tone is not reflective at all of Volkman's careful and compelling documentation, which I respect and commend. If any factual inaccuracies appear in *The Letter from Death*, they are unintentional and should not be attributed to any other author.

On Killing: the Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (Little, Brown, 1995) also deserves special note. Though it could hardly be characterized as an anti-war book, it provides tough-minded insights about the responsibility society must accept for the culture of its military.

Grossman details the intensification of combat training that has occurred since U.S. Army Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall's studies during World War II. These revealed the hidden aversion to killing that prevailed among soldiers. Grossman makes post-traumatic-stress disorder patently understandable. Just as importantly, he alerts us that, as a society, we are subjecting ourselves to a more dilute version of the kinds of conditioning that have caused such devastating contradictions in our soldiers.

The following books have also informed or influenced in some way the voice of Death.

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