Hi Crebs,

I've decided I'm not gonna abstain at all so a lot of these are incredibly close calls for me, and also I'm basing purely on the entry in front of me, no bias!!

I'm so impressed with the level of every submission, what a treat to be drawing with all these talented peeps!

I started to run out of juice as I wrote these so unlucky if your review is lackluster and if I'm repeating myself, but lets be honest aint nobody reading all this so its cool!

Train a Hellhound: Chad vs Doe Deerly
My Vote: Doe

Straight away crazy close call (this would have been an easy abstain) both entries are awesome, totally in line with my sense of humour and both have art styles I adore (also I really like this prompt.)

Both entries took the prompt in similar directions so not too much to differentiate there. I think the jokes in Chads were better but I liked the angle of Doe wanting to be more swag better than the pokemon battle in Chads.

I think Chad's hell hound design was better but I really like Does depiction of Satan, the little demon fella and the cool dog so thats what tipped the scale in Does favour!

Redeem the Sinner: Liddell vs Blossom
My Vote: Blossom

Both great entries for a tricky prompt, I love both artists' art styles and writing. I think Liddell's depiction of hell and its denizens was stronger and I really liked the panel with Liddell's "Death."

While Liddell's spin on the prompt was really clever and well done with having Blossom fall to her more callous nature and be punished accordingly I think the writing in blossoms ever so slightly edged out Liddell's for me, it just had a stronger emotional pull with going through **Blossoms** trauma as opposed to redeeming a 3rd party sinner as Lidell did.

Another incredibly close call, great work from both crabs!

Highway to Hell Natum vs Locket
My Vote: Natum

This one could go either way depending on what kind of story I'm in the mood for.

Lockets was no doubt the funnier entry with incredible humour from the get go, and such a lovable character. Citti's clean, crisp style never disappoints and I loved the ending, the ultimate humiliation/character assasination of Natum, and locket revelling in it, amazing!

Natum's while in general being more serious in tone did have humour and struck a better balance between the two. What tipped the scales in favour of Natums for me was the super cool art style, overall composition of each page, the beautiful contrast, interesting panel layouts and a camera-like use of depth of field and focus.

Two super talented heavy hitter artists!

Escape: Skater Stick vs Junko
My vote: Junko

Two charming entries, the GM really picked a doozy with these two.

I'm a fan of skating and skater stick just embodies the fun and attitude of the culture. Plus it's really impressive to do so much story telling just using skate tricks and bare bones (not meant in any derogatory way) linework. I love the pages with the trick over the demon on his throne of skulls and the hell hound depiction. I like the ending win for skater stick as junko got off their board to climb the stairway to heaven while skater stick just grinds against gravity, impressive!

But for me Junkos had equal charm, but extra attitude, I love a shit talking, potty mouth character and Junko is certainly that! For me Junko's more fleshed out story, use of colour and educational translator notes gave her the win!

Fiddle Contest: S.H.A.E. vs Simments
My vote: Simments

Two kooky characters who were a lot of fun to read!

S.H.A.E. 's entry has a delightful art style. I love the depiction of Satan, he looks great and I love his pained reaction at the attempts of fiddling! Super wholesome story, very cute ending, a really lovely depiction of Simments and super fun dynamic between the two with S.H.A.E. being (rightfully) a bit scared of him!

The Simments comic is gorgeous! Such great use of colour and lighting, big juicy word bubbles, there's just so much going on without it being too much, a really talented artist! The hyper zoomed in reaction faces, especially the Simments one on page three stole the show for me!

Both artists should be proud, great work!

Running with the Devil: Uprise vs Aero and Sonata
My vote: Aero and Sonata

Action packed characters with action packed entries!

Uprise's comic was a lot of fun, an incredibly colourful battle in hell with some great writing, and a self aware obnoxious hero is always a treat to read! Some great crab cameos and a funny last page are very nice!
I love the black and white style for the Aero & Sonata comic very in line with my tastes. Lots of great looking panels with strong contrast and compositions. I also felt the demon depictions were stronger in this comic as well as the impact/action panels.

Limbo: Vaire vs Flower
My vote: Vaire

Two unconventional entries, I enjoyed the twist ending in Flowers animation and some of the strong visuals like the close up of Vaire's eyes, or the encroaching darkness. Great sound design as well!

For me I found the art in Vaire's entry was more interesting with some great panels like Flower emerging from Plato and the abomination design. I also think Vaire's novella engaged more with the prompt.

Great job to both crabs and props for going a different route!

Collect the Souls: Gary vs Janitor
My vote: Janitor

Both hilarious entries with great jokes,I fucking love how Janny and his mom looked in Gary's style. I loved Gary's ending, "Here Gary have some divine strength" is an amazing line and it fueled such a wholesome ending.

What won out for me was Janny's more deadpan humour style. Great lack of reaction to all the fucked up shit going on, and I just like the way the story played into Janitor having a remedial job he kinda tolerates even in hell. Also the fellas drop/descent into hell is a really beautiful, fun colourful panel!

Could have gone either way, another banger duel!

Snowball's Chance: Edward vs Mimi
My Vote: Mimi

Two very *cool* comics both with a great signature style. I really like the mixing of art on top of 3D backgrounds in Edwards, and I love that both crabs went in the xmas direction. Edwards' story was very sweet and showed his sad backstory.

Mimi's style is very cute and whimsical, really nice to look at, and I feel like the artwork had more going on. Cute story, with more of a battle element that I enjoyed another tough round to choose!

Babysit the Antichrist: Rachel vs Zakal
My Vote: Rachel

Both artists are heavy hitters, and this would have been another easy abstain.

I love Zakal's art style, total inspiration for somewhere I'd like to get to eventually, every page has incredible contrast, sick lighting choices, if i was just basing my votes on art not many crabs would win out for me against Zakal.

I voted for Rachel's entry as I think the story had me more engaged, I'm a sucker for the motivated mother protecting her cub "trope" although to be fair to Zakal I think his anti christ was more devilish and I still enjoyed the story he told. On top of my preference for Rachel's story the art was really clean and well done, and I think the animated panel was done incredibly well, it didn't feel gimmicky and just added so much impact.

King of Lies: Leon vs Edric
My vote: Edric

Super well matched characters, this was one I was looking forward to and it did not disappoint! Probably would have been my last abstain as both comics have so much going for them, two more talented artists!

The writing, art style and backgrounds (I love the use of static noise or whatever you'd call that throughout) for Leon's comic are all incredibly unique and super interesting. It was so much fun to pore over every page making sure you didn't miss anything. I laughed out loud at several pages. I especially enjoyed this comic's take on the Sphynx's riddle, hilarious! Also nitpicking and I didnt factor this into my voting BUT its a pet peeve, the font Leon used for Edric was diabolical, that lowercase "s" did not look like a lowercase "s" and it was driving me nuts. t(-_-t)

I love the way Edrics is completely black and white, bold and stylistic. Made for an incredibly easy read. Some of my favourite page compositions out of all the entries. Any page where the artist got more experimental with the panelling was a big hit for me, such as the first page with Edric's descent, the page with the arch/stained glass window shapes for panels and the page with the long list of charges where all favs of mine. Also some really fun demon designs!

Demon Slaying: Bucket vs Illwill
My vote: Bucket

Two super strong entries on a really fun prompt.

Illwills entry had some beautiful panels. I really liked the one after Bucket and Illwill clash, the final panel of part 1 with the reveal is also super cool, with the split slices behind Illwill. Also liked the inclusion of colour for the degenerating/breaking down panel. Well written, good spin with the different types of demon being worth different points!

Bucket's entry had amazing art and creative panelling, I really like the panels that were very thin slices of the page. I've given the win to bucket mainly because the action was handled so well which I felt was key for this prompt, I love the way he's done all the action lines, effects etc. The panel with the giant demon in a helmet swinging its massive sword into the ground is so sick!

Good shit from both contestants!

Succubus Makeover: Maple vs 17ling
My Vote: Maple

Two insane entries, not gonna pretend to fully understand wtf is going on in either tbh. I still enjoyed both!

17Ling's is completely unhinged, some great jokes and an insane premise, who can spread the most aids? Incredible! Loved the snapshot we got of her text messages with the GM. Nice art style, like the real backgrounds but the ending felt abrupt to me, left me wanting more.

Maples entry has some stand out pages, the Trixxy page is sick, the club background is super cool. Some fun references to other crabs, funny reaction faces and Maples writing took us on more of a journey. And another… interesting ending.

Hell's Bells: Captain Cheddar vs Kabloouie
My Vote: Kabloouie

Two cool unique artists with different takes on the prompts.
I think Captain Cheddars did better following the prompt, I liked the twist with the ending, I liked him going stretchy because of the heat of hell, and the very last page was super cute. Kabloouie looked super cute in Captain Cheddars as well!

Kabloouies art style is super cool, love the texture everything in their work has. I think the world of hell was better fleshed out in this entry, some great panel layouts, nice reference in one of the posters!

Both artists killed it, can't wait to see more.

Devil in Disguise: Foxglove vs Cooler
My Vote: Cooler

Two complete bangers, another tight one.

Foxglove's entry was super sick, love the Devil/Satan design super creative, great ending with lots of nice cameos. Established the hellscape super well and also showed a lot of Foxgloves personality off!

I went with Cooler because his engaged with the prompt in a really funny way, really enjoy the art style. Love the babe shot of team Hexennacht, all of them look so great in your style! The writing on this one is some of my favourite. You took the prompt in such a fun direction I had to give you the win!