Hell was Love Library in dream

I had a dream the other night that I Love Library. This is a library condied and went to Love Library.

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That is, in my dream Love Library was the afterlife. First, I went through the normal routine of traveling down a long tunnel with light at the end. Once I got to the light, I discovered it was coming from the circulation desk.

Behind the counter was a big, white, faceless being in flowing robes. I silently hoped to myself that this was



Jim Hanna

heaven but since I was in a library, I doubted I was so lucky.

"May I please see your student ID," boomed the big person.

I pulled out my ID and handed it to the being. S/he scanned it with the library's laser gun and handed it back.

"Nice picture," the being said.
"Who are you?"

"I am Sophia, the all-knowing," she said. "I am the ruler of the universe."

"So you do have a gender? You're a woman."

"I don't know many men named Sophia, do you?."

I took that as a "yes."
"Where am I?" I asked.

"You are at the circulation desk to hell," she replied. "I have just scanned your file and I see that you are a mighty big sinner. A punishment of extreme magnitude will be required to allow your entry into beaven."

to allow your entry into heaven."
"Oh no!" I cried. "Am I going to be thrown into the sea of fire where stinging locusts will prick my flesh and suck the burning marrow from my melting bones? Is my skin going to be peeled layer by layer from my pitiful body followed by a slow, scalding simmer in my own, oozing bodily humors?"

"No, but those are pretty good. Still, your punishment will be much worse," she said. "This is not merely Love Library. This is a library containing every single book ever written on the face of the earth. You must read them all and present an oral report on each of them before you may enter heaven."

"All of them?" I asked. "That's a lot."

"That's the point, moron. You're in hell. Our collection starts at this shelf right behind me. You may take as much time as you like but remember, each minute you spend reading is one less minute you get to enjoy in heaven."

Knowing it was pointless to protest and that it was only a dream, I agreed to the punishment.

"Very good," Sophia said. "You may start with the first book on the shelf. It's "The Brothers Karamazov" by Dostoyevsky. Oh, and by the way, according to our terminal, you have three books overdue. Get those in or we'll hold your future registration."

I thanked Sophia and walked up to the first reading shelf. I pulled off the Dostoyevsky novel and prepared to read. But wait a minute — this book was written in Russian! I couldn't read Russian.

"Uh, excuse me, Sophia," I said.
"Do you have an English translation?
I don't read Russian."

"Yes, we have an English translation. We also have a French translation, a Japanese translation, an ancient Aramaic translation and every other translation. You have to read them all."

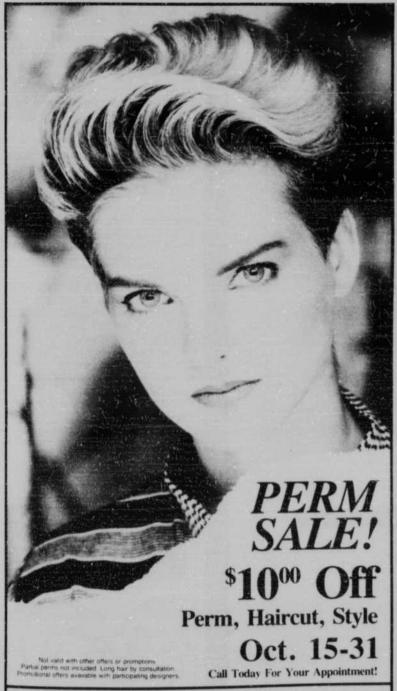
"But I don't read any of those languages," I protested. "Well, I imagine someone at some

"Well, I imagine someone at some time has written a book that teaches all of those languages, and since we have every book ever written, it's in our library someplace. Find it, teach yourself the language and continue."

"Couldn't I just read the Cliffs notes?" I joked.

"Oh, we have the Cliffs notes, too. They're in the basement. You have to read all of those, too," she said.

See HANNA on 19



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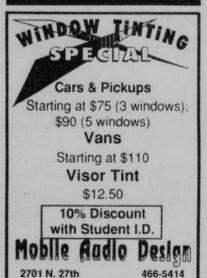
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