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Book preview: I have just completed one of the most fascinating books I have ever read. Perhaps my interest was biased, as I personally lived through the events which the book describes. But, with an effort to suspend that bias, I still feel this is a very significant contribution to the literature of Topeka history, and a book to be devoured by anyone with an interest in tornadoes, meteorology, disasters, human behavior or suspense. **Bonar Menninger's** book "**And Hell Followed With It: Life and Death in a Kansas Tornado**" (Austin, TX: Emerald Book Company, 2010), is so much more than the title and cover could possibly imply. Through its pages, he introduces us to, and follows the experiences of about 50 individuals, couples, and families, whose lives were impacted, and changed forever, by the infamous June 8th tornado, that devastated Topeka, Kansas. In just a few brief lines, Menninger introduces us to the core of each character, bringing us to know them, as the real people they were on that day in 1966. As we meet these people and the suspense of the day builds, Menninger expertly educates us on the physics of tornadoes, regional history, and the myths and legends associated with Burnetts Mound, over which the tornado unleashed it's fury on the town. As the story continues, he weaves this all together as we follow the path of destruction into, and across the center of Topeka, Kansas. Though in some ways a collection of individual stories, this work is a case of the whole being so much more than the sum of the parts. It is the story of a community.

Though riveting, this book is not always easy to read. The events are not censored, nor softened in their intensity. The characters are real, and as we become acquainted with them, their lives are being forever changed. The author takes us into their intimate spaces and moments as "the monster" bears down upon them, when all Hell breaks loose, and subsequently finding themselves on the other side of disaster. Most will carry the scars of this day for the remainder of their lives. Some will not survive. We see the triumph of human spirit, as well as the stark contrasts of greed, ignorance, and selfishness... Perhaps, we even see the faces of God and Lucifer?

This book will be available in hard back for \$24.95, along with a book signing, in September of this year.
Watch for announcement!