



Tempting Is Hell

Cathy Yardley

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WORST. JOB. EVER.

Kate O'Hara can't wait until this temp assignment is over. The woman who hired her is a psychotic pageant queen, her coworkers are convicts-turned-clerks, and it's so boringly corporate it makes her skin crawl. Even her sexy-as-sin boss, famed billionaire Thomas Kestrel, isn't enticement enough to keep her there. Once she makes enough to pay off her bills, she's out. Or so she thinks...

WHAT THE HELL?

Next thing she knows, she's accidentally signed over her soul. Literally. And she's discovered Thomas's real mission: to kill thirteen bad guys in one year, in order to get his—now his and Kate's—souls back.

IT'S NOT JUST A JOB. IT'S A MISADVENTURE.

From learning to boost the morale of some paper-pushing demons to navigating her way through blood-red tape, Kate has to work closely with her super-hot supervisor and get her flaky act together, before somebody clocks her out—permanently!

Temping Is Hell Details

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Author : Cathy Yardley

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Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Urban Fantasy, Romance, Paranormal Romance, Demons, Adult

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From Reader Review Temping Is Hell for online ebook

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales.

Quick & Dirty: Sell your soul to the devil and you better hope the devil is a good guy.

Opening Sentence: Aloysius shuffled from his cramped office to the basement for his weekly random check on the workers.

The Review:

There are many times as a reader I question how much longer I'm going to slog through a story in the hopes that it will be worth the effort. I felt that way about this book until I was half way through chapter 2 and the story started to spin and jump like a ballerina in my head. The world started to make sense and our nerdy and fashion challenged heroine, Kate started to shine as the gem in this world. Thomas' entry into the world was a bit jarring. How can a billionaire not know the way around his own office building or at least have someone to show him the way. But as we learn later in the story he has been a bit obsessed with training so that he can outwit and kill 12 demons before he can kill the man that took his soul.

The sequence where Kate and Thomas meet is just too funny, causing me to hold my sides because I was laughing so hard. Absolutely classic. The fact that I can still hear "baby got back" playing on repeat in my head shows the level of cleverness that Ms. Yardley has used an iconic song to draw these two characters together. I'm sure the next time I hear that song out and about I will remember this little scene.

I do have a couple of unanswered questions but the one that is bothering me the most is, "Why can Kate read and spend so much time with the contracts and not be effected like everyone else?" This would be a great way to expand this world if we find that Kate has something that aided her from madness or death as she continues her "corporate job".

Overall, the writing is tight. The story once you get past the first speed bump is smooth sailing. I look forward to reading book 2 and seeing what kind of mischief Thomas and Kate will find themselves in.

Notable Scene:

"I wanted to ask you about continuing work when this contract piece is done," he said instead, leaning back in his chair.

"No." The word was out of her mouth before he finished his sentence. He quirked an eyebrow at her interruption, and at least she blushed. "I mean-Sorry. I, uh, don't think I'm cut out for working for a big corporation."

"That's such a cop out."

Now her eyebrows jumped to her hairline. "Excuse me?"

"Come on. You can handle everything I've dished out at you and then some," he said, forgetting

momentarily that this was a ruse. "You're one of the most competent women I've ever met. I think you could not only handle this job—you could knock it out of the park."

Her hard expression softened. "Really? You think so?"

"I really do." He sighed. "I think you could be amazing."

FTC Advisory: Entangled Select provided me with a copy of *Temping is Hell*. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Tricia Skinner says

Disclaimer: I know Cathy Yardley and accepted a PDF of her novel if I agreed to leave an honest review.

I'm allergic to chick-lit, sweet romance, and anything remotely humor sprinkled. Yeah, it's tough being a tom boy, but I manage. What does any of that have to do with "Temping is Hell?"

I found I liked humor. Damn near broke a rib laughing a couple of times.

I expected a sweet romance. Wrong. *Poof*. Panties a-fire. The sexual tension in this novel is ridiculously hot.

What *Temping* does exceedingly well is give you characters you immediately connect with. I cheered, laughed, groaned, yelled, and could not stop reading. Minus the spoilers, I will say there's a particular scene that was so emotional for me, I sat in bed, shocked to my bones, unable to go to sleep (or put the book down until I learned how it was resolved).

Temping is Hell is blessedly intense, with just enough darkness to satisfy paranormal romance addicts like myself, but not so "the end is nigh" that readers of lighter themes will be turned away.

So, I loved this book. I love the world building and ADORE the characters. This is a series I plan to pre-order as soon as "Buy" links are posted.

Denise says

Temping Is Hell turns typical Paranormal Romance on its psychic ear. From the very first page, Cathy Yardley sets the tone, spiking her fiendishly delightful plot with laugh out loud humor, endearing and relatable characters, and sophisticated visuals sure to pique your inner fashionista.

Feisty, workaholic Kate O'Hare thoroughly lives up to her red-haired legacy when it comes to stubborn perseverance—and while her heart may be in the right place, it's questionable whether her choice employment gets the same vote of confidence. Her resourceful nature gets her noticed and that's not necessarily a good thing at Fiendish Inc., where danger looms from every corner of the slick, urban headquarters—from the hellacious basement where demonic forces slave at some mysterious task all the way to the top of the skyscraper, where Kate's handsome and compelling boss, Thomas, may be the most dangerous of all. Supernatural twists and turns feature diabolical curses, misunderstood demons, and a hair-

raising conflict guaranteed to make you squirm.

Written in third person perspective, Cathy Yardley's informal, fluid pacing and sparkling dialogue is gripping and entertaining, and will surely leave you wanting more.

Tags: Urban Fantasy/Paranormal Romance

Douglas Meeks says

Kate O'Hara has just got a new temp job and it would still be hell even if she ignored the fact she was working for a bimbo with a mean streak plus some very odd looking/acting guys in the basement as co-workers.

This is a great book, it has the right mix of humor, serious plot, evil villains and that lure of the romance that makes it addicting.

Thomas has a small problem, many years ago for reasons that you will see, he managed to sell his soul and he has 1 year to get it back. The path and tasks required to get it back are going to be the basis for this series it seems and there are about a dozen of these "tasks" and this book covers 1 of them (a serial killer who likes girls) so we have a possible 13 book series it seems. I can only hope the rest are as good as this one was in entertainment value.

Kate in addition to having about a dozen jobs over 3 years seems to have some unknown talents that make her a great employee in the Fiendish Corporation and also brings her to the attention of the billionaire owner Thomas Kestrel . The romance, chaos and deadly situations begin and you will love it.

This gets about a 4.5 for me and you can think of it as a paranormal Devil Wears Prada with something close to a real devil. This is a great book, not too light, not very dark but serious enough to keep you from a sugar coma.

Barbara ★ says

Kate O'Hara definitely bit off more than she could chew with this temp job. Her boss Thomas Kestrel has sold his soul to a demon and is now trying to renege by finding and killing off the other 12 people who protect the demon. Poor hapless Kate has walked into a situation way out of her comfort level but like the trooper she is, she handles it perfectly.

I loved Kate and even Thomas worked his way into my heart but honestly Slim was by far my favorite character.

Vaughn Roycroft says

Tempting Is Hell is one Helluva Ride!

Talk about your page-turners! The pace of this book gets rolling early and accelerates relentlessly. Most everyone will identify with the heroine, Kate O'Hara, an outsider who's made mistakes but for all the right reasons. She's the like the friend we all wish we had, if not the kind of person we all wish we were a bit more like. Even Kate's boss Thomas, a handsome millionaire who's sold his soul, is surprisingly relatable and even likeable.

And Kate is not only loveable, but hilarious! I found myself laughing often as she navigated the twists and turns of her increasingly complex role at her Fiendish corporate workplace. There are good and bad demons, Japanese onimyoji mystics, and it turns out damnation is much like a pyramid scheme, and yet Yardley easily held my disbelief in suspension. The stakes continue to ramp up, becoming all but frenetic during the culminating action, and yet Yardley masterfully brings the story home for a smooth landing, leaving this reader ready for another ride. I will definitely be on board for book two!

Tempting is Hell is funny, sexy, at-the-edge-of-your-seat fun! Highly recommended.

Kelly says

This book was exactly what I was looking for when I picked it up. It's sassy, light-hearted despite its sometimes dark subject matter, and Kate's willingness to jump in and risk herself in practically any situation made me just love her to pieces. Her complete inability to keep her mouth shut might have helped fan the flames of my wicked fangirl adoration. I love it when characters speak their mind in entirely inappropriate ways. LOVE IT!

This book laid some very nice groundwork for the series. We got some diabolical dealings, some demons (of both the diabolical and non-diabolical persuasion), a fierce friendship that is severely tested by circumstances beyond Kate's control, and a relationship that smolders in the best sort of way. Throw in backstabbing, deals signed in blood, and a press conference that would make an entire PR department cringe and you've got the makings for something outstanding.

Now, I love Kate. I love that she's willing to stand up for the underdog. I love that she's DRIVEN to do this. She's strong and determined to do what's right and the fact that her family doesn't see this is just a sad, sad thing. Families are weird that way, aren't they? Thomas... well, I kinda loved him too. Even though he was less than truthful. Even though he put Kate at risk. I get where he was coming from. I get that he's between and rock and a hard place. I get that he's running out of time and he needs to make things happen NOW. I didn't necessarily like some of the things he did, but I understood it.

I imagine that things are going to get much worse -- and much more heated for our heroes -- before they get better. Kate's tell-it-like-it-is attitude will likely land her in hot water again. Thomas's situation will probably put him in the position of having to make some hard decisions that risk both his and Kate's life down the road. You know what? Watching those two butt heads is half the fun. I'm excited!

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Amber Read says

When I finished this book deciding to give it five stars was the easiest decision I've made in days. I flew right through this book and it is one of those books that once you finish, you want to know happens next. But now. Immediately. Cathy Yardley is my kind of author. This book is hilarious, fast paced, it keeps you guessing, and leaves your mind racing with the possibilities for the next book.

Kate is down on her luck. And when I say down I mean way down. She was working for her uncle's small publishing firm that went under, so now she's unemployed and moving back in with her parents. Luckily she gets a temp job working for a huge corporation. Not so luckily things start off not so great and slowly get even worse. She has a bitch of a supervisor who has no idea what's really going on. She gets these crazy assignments simply to get put in her place. Not too mention there are about 50 demons in the basement doing paperwork. Things at Fiendish are not what they immediately seem. Throw in a charming, sexy CEO and Kate is in way over her head.

I can't get over how much I loved this book. There is so much humor with such a great story. I was thoroughly impressed. Kate is such a spaz, a well meaning spaz but a spaz nonetheless. I really like her as the unsuspecting leading lady. She's hilarious and the Sir-Mix-A-Lot scene made me 100% certain that I adored her. I'm a 90's girl at heart. All the characters in this book are awesome. I will never look at HoHo's the same way. This book just came out, beginning of a brand new series, and you have to read it. I promise you won't be disappointed. I flew through this book in one day. It's amazing and if you don't read it then you are definitely missing out.

Fangs for the Fantasy says

Kate needs a job, badly, after her uncle's company folded and she was forced to move back in with her judgmental parents. Even as a temp, getting a job isn't easy – she has an unfortunate habit of speaking her mind.

But never did she think she'd be working for Hell – big corporate, everything she despises. And that would be in a normal workplace – but what about when your boss, Thomas, has actually sold his soul?

Of course, he wants it back – and he also wants Kate, much as he tries to focus on the business at hand. The question is whether he can live with the choices he has to make to get his soul back – and how deeply Kate is going to get enmeshed in these infernal affairs.

I'll be honest, I didn't expect to love this book. I thought this was a book with another corporation that was secretly a front for hell. I thought we were going to get another rich billionaire who is cruel and awful and mean but in would come the spunky manic pixie dream girl who would melt his heart and then everything would be hearts and flowers. I expected to hate it.

I was gleefully, wonderfully, blissfully wrong.

The whole concept of the book is one I haven't come across before – Thomas trying to wriggle out of a contract he signed to sell his soul. He's a really fascinating and surprisingly deep character that goes way beyond "oh he's so rich and hot and rich and hot and hot and hot and sexy and hot" we often see heroes described as.

Yes he is hot, this is established early and then... not mentioned. Maggie's attraction and shirtless pictures of him are allowed to speak volumes. Of course he's hot, he wouldn't appear shirtless in a glossy magazine if he weren't, but that doesn't mean every other chapter we need to describe every sculpted curve of abdominal muscles; so the book doesn't. It was refreshing – Kate's sexual attraction to Thomas was made clear and his appeal was maintained without devolving into the repetitive description that is so common. This allowed room for what really makes Thomas a meaty character – not just his sad tortured past (which is somewhat a requirement) but the issues he currently faces: the challenge of being sufficiently ruthless to actually get the job done. He has to kill people – and not only does he have to kill them, he has to be cruel to even get the names; as Yagi tells him repeatedly, if he's not willing to be ruthless, to do anything, to risk anything to sacrifice anything how can he win against someone who is more than willing to do all of the above.

We have Thomas facing the possibility of metaphorically damning himself in order to save his soul. Especially since Yagi doesn't see the point of wasting his time helping Thomas if he isn't able to do what it takes to free himself.

Then we have Kate – the Crusading Fun Hippie Do Gooder, who always speaks up, will tolerate no evil and is ready to fight for the meek and the oppressed at all times. She has no filter, she says what she thinks with no censorship, regardless of how appropriate it is to the situation or how high and lofty the target of her criticism is.

Now take that archetype and add a heavy dose of realism. The crusader/Manic Pixie who faces the consequences of exposing his dad's boss's son's crimes, who costs her father his dream job. The crusader who works in a whacky, non-conventional office that doesn't follow the usual corporate rules – and it goes under. The dreamer, the moral crusader forced to move back in with her judgemental parents because she's lost her job, the economy sucks and she can't afford her standards and principles. Her family judges her and pressures her to "grow up" and "get a real job" and "join the real world."

And then they come together so excellently well, his ruthlessness mixed with both his lack of natural propensity for it and his own moral doubts he's determined to be quashed meet her idealism – and her success with more compassionate means puts further doubt on his actions and path and draws him back to his conscience. While at the same time her passionate idealism gets diluted with a bit of heavy reality and the compromises that come with that; as well as being repeatedly confronted with the choice of a heavy paycheck (and the ability to rescue her family – and prove herself to them) vs her principles.

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Raina {The LUV'NV} says

Actual Rating: 4.5 stars

Holy. Hell. I expected the average Paranormal Romance trope, not a delightfully exciting, very well written, and laugh-out-loud Urban Fantasy. Think: *Bedazzled* with the sophisticated sexiness and secretary-esque of *The Devil Meets Prada*, mixed with the wit of a late night show. Then add a wide range cast of deep characters—from demons-in-disguise to a mysteriously spiritual Asian badass, sinfully sweet secretaries to red-clawed ones, a wickedly tough grandma, and a man who sold his soul and is trying to get it back.

Okay, that's not quite what I was going for. Talk about a clusterfu—. But in ***Tempting Is Hell*** , those elements were seamlessly brought together.

First, Cathy Yardley has a way with words. She can give a character's personality and emotions without excessive description and "telling." With just a word or simple action, I got the feel of who the characters were and could differentiate between each within seconds. The quips and double-entendres were spot on—hilarious without being offensive or profane, mature but not over-the-top and above your head. Everything flowed naturally and seemed effortless.

Second, the characters had a unique depth to them. While a few had a comic-relief edge, each had their own inner struggles and motivations. I can't say who I loved more. The heroine, Kate O'Hara, is brains, sass, and heart, yet she has an ignorance to her that actually made her more endearing. Slim, one of the demons, was darn lovable, but he also made me nervous because, well, he's a demon. I even liked the archenemy secretary who was a mix of the devil and an airhead. All the secondary characters were fantastic, really, and they each added to the storyline.

Thomas, the male protagonist, could've been fleshed out better, though. How does the corporate-head become so successful if he's so disorganized and has incompetent staff? Aside from that, I really liked him. He's the type of guy you'd want to go home to—funny, supportive, devoted, and sexier because of it. I love how he oozed male without being dominating.

I also appreciated how his and Kate's relationship built up. It wasn't based on simply attraction—but interaction. Their banter was fun and heart-warming. The connection was apparent, and there was romance and steamy yet tasteful smexing, but neither happened too fast and were the main focus. ***Tempting Is Hell*** balanced the line of Paranormal Romance and Urban Fantasy.

With fascinating paranormal elements and wonderful character- and relationship-development, on top of a well-paced plot, tons of humor, and sharp writing, this book was easy to devour and love. I can't remember the last time I had so much FUN looking like a cackling, snorting, emotionally high and low loon as I read. I'm looking forward to the rest of the series and reading more of Cathy Yardley's work.

eBook provided by the author in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Review, as well as an interview, posted on the The LUV'NV blog.

Corie says

Super fun read - and a great kick off!

I have to admit, it took me a tiny bit to get into Temping is Hell. Handsome, rich, darkly troubled boss meets impulsive, quirky heroine... My warning lights started to flash a bit.

But it didn't take long at all before I was settled completely and wonderfully into the story. Kate is a smart, funny protagonist, and her weakness for looking out for the underdog gets her in some crazy, and quite

wonderful, situations. (I'm not entirely sure if I've cheered for demons before.)

No matter what it looks like at the beginning, these are NOT cardboard cut out characters in a situation that you've read before. The twists in the plot keep you guessing, and I'm so tickled that there will be more of these novels to come - soon, please!!

Emily says

Kate O'Hara has a reputation for being a bit flighty...it isn't that she can't keep a job or that she can't do the job to the best of her ability, it is that she has a way of managing to get into trouble while doing it. Her newest temp assignment puts her with billionaire Thomas Kestrel, even though she is not really directly working for him it puts her in the path of working with a set of demons, she has no clue they are demons, a bit quirky but with a bunch of HoHo's and some direction she helps them get the job done.

Thomas Kestrel needs to focus on regaining his sole, Yes he made a deal with the devil and lost his soul. Now he has one year to get it back, he does not need any distraction especially Kate. However there is something about Kate that is not making sense and with her flair or the dramatic as well as sense of justice, they keep getting put in each others path. Thomas wants Kate, Kate wants Thomas but they have a soul or two to save, will they be able to in time.

I am anxious to read the next book, hope it is in the works. I thought this was wickedly funny and absolutely adored Kate. Thomas you are not so certain about initially but you get there with him. Not sure why I put this one off for so long but well worth reading.

Stephanie says

My full review can also be found at my blog A Secret Book Affair

Fun...Witty...Sexy... are the first three words that come to mind when I think of how to describe *Temping is Hell*. Shamefully, I will admit that I didn't expect this one to turn out so great; I thought it would be a fun quick read, but nothing to great or special. Thankfully, I can say that I was proven wrong throughout the book, and by the time I finished it I realized that it was so much more than I expected. Cathy Yardley did an amazing job creating her own unique characters and theme. *Temping is Hell* was a fast-past quick read that I absolutely adored. When I say it was a quick read I by no means refer to its number of pages, but by the fact that it was impossible to put down. Yardley's main characters where captivating in their own ways, some with pure intentions but none without fault which I greatly appreciated. There is nothing more irritating than reading a book with primary characters who are completely without fault; I find it makes it extremely difficult to connect with not only the characters but the story as a whole. This was not an issue in *Temping is Hell* and Yardley had no problems creating realistic connections with her characters and their enduring faults.

One of the many small factors about this book that I loved was the minor pop culture reference scattered here and there that befit my particular age group. Since I read quite a bit of young adult books as well as adult fiction, I find that pop culture references in many of the current YA books have little to no meaning to me. Since the primary character is my age, late twenties, the majority of the references are from when I was

growing up and make connecting to the characters that much easier.

I very much enjoyed reading *Tempting is Hell* and have high expectations for the future of the series (which Yardley is calling Necessary Evil). To any individual who enjoys adult urban fantasy, I highly recommend this one to read. I might even be so bold as to say this first book to Yardley's new series may just be the start of a great series that I would put up there with other greats such as Charlaine Harris's *Sookie Stackhouse* series and Patricia Brigg's *Mercy Thompson* series. *Tempting is Hell* is just as original as Harris's and Brigg's series, where one is primarily about vampires and the other about shape shifters this new one is about demons. If you have read Harris's or Brigg's popular series and have enjoyed them, then I can promise that you will enjoy Yardley's *Tempting is Hell*.

Rachel the Book Harlot says

"Aloysius shuffled from his cramped office to the basement for his weekly random check on the workers.

The fluorescent lights flickered high overhead, illuminating the cinderblock walls. [...] He saw the pool of blood first, thick and red, near the end of one of the tables. Then he saw a sensible low-heeled shoe dangling from distended toes. [...] He rubbed his hands over his face, feeling frustration and rage course through his veins.

"All right, damn it," he bellowed, his voice echoing against the concrete. "Which one of you ate another temp?"

-❖-❖-❖-

Tempting is Hell is a funny, quirky urban fantasy that is loads of fun. I wasn't sure I would like it at first--the writing felt clunky, and the Heroine was a bit abrasive (which really was the point)--but despite that, the story hooked me. Before I knew it, I was 30% into the read and bummed that I had to set it down in order to sleep. Now that's some good storytelling.

Other random thoughts:

- ❖ There were some funny, laugh out loud scenes.
- ❖ The world-building was the standard "signing over your soul", but there was a cute and fun twist to the contracts and soul selling.
- ❖ Loved the characters. It took me a second to warm up to Kate, the Heroine, but she eventually won me over. She still drove me batty at times, but she was supposed to--her life is a bit of a mess due to certain aspects of her personality, some good and some not so good.
- ❖ I enjoyed the relationship between the H/H. I liked the buildup to something more than friendship, but the author inserted a one-nighter that felt awkward and rushed. At this point I didn't feel much chemistry between them, but there is potential as the series progresses.

❖ There was an overuse of "grimaced, wincing, and eyebrow quirking" that drove me insane. There was also an overabundance of description (for example, setting a coffee cup down, getting up, sighing, etc) that felt intrusive. This is also what made the writing feel clunky. As a reader, I don't need that much description in a scene. Give me just enough to set the scene and then let my imagination fill in the rest. After a while, I mentally edited out the description. That worked, but a good editor should have done that for me. So tsk tsk to Entangled Publishing.

All in all a very fun read. Looking forward to Book 2.

Special note: I think fans of Molly Harper's *Half Moon Hollow* series might enjoy this one.

Final Rating: 4 Stars

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review Courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy

Fiendish demons and office work may seem like they both belong in the same circle of hell, but in **TEMPING IS HELL**, the first book in Cathy Yardley's new Necessary Evil series, takes a humorous approach that results in plenty of witty dialogue, hilarious demons, and endlessly amusing characters.

'Super Temp' extraordinaire Kate is a very resourceful confident character. She's creative, sassy, and willing to go the extra mile even when given extremely tedious/ pointless tasks (like helping out some cannibalistic demons do a mind numbingly boring task of sorting through papers). On a personal side, Kate's family life isn't as easy. Her family has little faith in her ability to anything right and constantly expecting her to repeat her past failures.

The only real complaint I had was related to the plot which was confusing for the first half of the book. It did eventually come together, but that confusion is a big part of why the chapters from Thomas's POV weren't as enjoyable as Kate's. But the excellent chemistry and adorable banter between these two (including their first meeting between involving Sir Mix-A-Lot, booty shaking, and collecting piles of papers) was strong enough to compensate for that one shortcoming. Overall, **TEMPING IS HELL** is light, funny, and hellishly good. I am looking forward to more books in the Necessary Evil series.

Sexual Content: Reference to sex, kissing
