



## Sympathy for the Devil

*Tim Pratt (Editor) , Michael Chabon , Holly Black , Kelly Link , Stephen King , China Miéville , Neil Gaiman , Kage Baker , more... Charles Stross , Elizabeth Bear , Jay Lake , David Palumbo , Nathaniel Hawthorne , Robert Louis Stevenson , Mark Twain , John Kessel , Elizabeth M. Glover , Theodore Sturgeon , John Collier , Charles de Lint , Scott Westerfeld ...less*

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The Devil is known by many names: Serpent, Tempter, Beast, Adversary, Wanderer, Dragon, Rebel. His traps and machinations are the stuff of legends. His faces are legion. No matter what face the devil wears, Sympathy for the Devil has them all. Edited by Tim Pratt, Sympathy for the Devil collects the best Satanic short stories by Neil Gaiman, Holly Black, Stephen King, Kage Baker, Charles Stross, Elizabeth Bear, Jay Lake, Kelly Link, China Mieville, Michael Chabon, and many others, revealing His Grand Infernal Majesty, in all his forms. Thirty-five stories, from classics to the cutting edge, exploring the many sides of Satan, Lucifer, the Lord of the Flies, the Father of Lies, the Prince of the Powers of the Air and Darkness, the First of the Fallen... and a Man of Wealth and Taste. Sit down and spend a little time with the Devil.

## Sympathy for the Devil Details

Date : Published August 1st 2010 by Night Shade (first published March 1st 2001)

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Author : Tim Pratt (Editor) , Michael Chabon , Holly Black , Kelly Link , Stephen King , China Miéville , Neil Gaiman , Kage Baker , more... Charles Stross , Elizabeth Bear , Jay Lake , David Palumbo , Nathaniel Hawthorne , Robert Louis Stevenson , Mark Twain , John Kessel , Elizabeth M. Glover , Theodore Sturgeon , John Collier , Charles de Lint , Scott Westerfeld ...less

Format : Paperback 500 pages

Genre : Horror, Short Stories, Anthologies, Fantasy, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Sympathy for the Devil for online ebook

## Jenny says

There were some excellent stories. Neil Gaiman, Holly Black, Michael Chabon, Charles de Lint and some others were excellent. There were also some classics. I always love rereading The Professor's Teddybear. There were also some major stinkers, which is not uncommon in your average short story anthology. Especially when it involves something so iconic as the Devil. A couple just did not really try to move beyond "the deal with the devil" or some that attempted to become esoteric in a way that became fairly unreadable.

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## Kinksrock says

I love the concept of this collection -- stories featuring the Devil -- but not the execution. There are a few classic stories and a few interesting ones, but otherwise it's just one bad story after another. I don't know whether to blame the editor; perhaps there are just not a lot of great stories with the Devil in them. But that's kind of hard to believe. Either way, this is a pretty bad collection.

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## Fantasy Literature says

3.5 stars

Please allow me to introduce Sympathy for the Devil, a fine new anthology filled entirely with short stories about the devil... who is, as we all know, a man of style and taste. However, you won't just find the smooth-talking stealer of souls here. In addition to that famous version of His Grand Infernal Majesty, you'll also find funny devils, monstrous devils, abstract devils and strangely realistic ones. Devils scary and not-so-scary, devils who are after children's souls and others going after old men. Devils with a surprising amount of business acumen, and devils who try to get what they want, no matter the cost. There's even one who engages in a competitive eating contest — the prize is, of course, someone's soul.

Sympathy for the Devil, edited by Tim Pratt, offers up 35 very diverse short stories (and o... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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## Stefan says

Please allow me to introduce Sympathy for the Devil, a fine new anthology filled entirely with short stories about the devil... who is, as we all know, a man of style and taste. However, you won't just find the smooth-talking stealer of souls here. In addition to that famous version of His Grand Infernal Majesty, you'll also find funny devils, monstrous devils, abstract devils and strangely realistic ones. Devils scary and not-so-scary, devils who are after children's souls and others going after old men. Devils with a surprising amount of business acumen, and devils who try to get what they want, no matter the cost. There's even one who engages in a competitive eating contest — the prize is, of course, someone's soul.

Sympathy for the Devil, edited by Tim Pratt, offers up 35 very diverse short stories (and one piece of poetry) which all, without exception, deal with the devil in some form. If that sounds a bit one-tone for an anthology, well — it is. If ever there were an anthology to nibble at intermittently, reading a story here and there instead of reading the whole book cover to cover, this is definitely it. In that sense, it's almost perfect as a nightstand book — the only problem being that some of the stories are positively terrifying, and if you happen to have a significant other sharing your bedroom, you might get funny looks when he or she spots your collection of devil stories by the bed.

As Sympathy for the Devil presents an impressive 35 stories, I won't bore you by listing and reviewing all of them individually. Instead, here are a few of my favorites:

- \* Neil Gaiman is the only author with two stories in the collection. While the first one ("The Price") is nothing special, the second one ("We Can Get Them for You Wholesale") has an excellent build-up that leads to a terrifying finish.

- \* Elizabeth M. Glover's "MetaPhysics" presents an effective and hilarious way for atheists to refute the Horned One.

- \* Kelly Link's "Lull" was, for me, the biggest revelation in this anthology. It's a gorgeously weird story that I couldn't stop thinking about for days, and have reread several times since. I plan to read much more by Link very soon.

- \* Michael Chabon's "The God of Dark Laughter" will have you looking at clowns in an entirely new way.

- \* China Mieville's "Details" is one of those stories that will insinuate itself into your consciousness. It's hard to forget it after you've read it.

- \* Jay Lake's "The Goat Cutter" was the single creepiest story in the collection, until I got to...

- \* Theodore Sturgeon's positively terrifying "The Professor's Teddy Bear".

- \* Another classic closes out the collection on a strong note: John Collier's "Thus I Refute Beelzy" contrasts enlightened parenting with a decidedly dark finish.

While those are my favorites, there are many other great stories here, including some by well known authors such as Elizabeth Bear, Holly Black, Charles de Lint, Stephen King, Charles Stross and Scott Westerfeld, just to mention a few of the names listed on the cover (also featuring a great illustration by David Palumbo). On the other hand, I would have probably left out at least a handful of stories that bring down the anthology's batting average a bit, but luckily there are enough good and great stories to balance things out.

Tim Pratt has done an excellent job bringing variety to the anthology's dark subject, because Sympathy for the Devil contains something for everyone: horror, fantasy, weird fiction, classics, and even a surprising dose of humor. While not all the stories are equally strong, there's easily enough good material here to justify the cover price.

(This review was also published on Fantasy Literature on 8/2/2010 - [www.fantasyliterature.com](http://www.fantasyliterature.com))

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## Shane Noble says

The overall score (averaging the score for each) was 3.44. There's no half-stars so that rounds down to 3. As with any collection, there are some great stories here, some okay stories, and some bad ones.

"The Price" - Neil Gaiman: 4/5 - Cats and creepiness. What's not to like?

"Beluthahatchie" - Andy Duncan: 2/5 - Starts off interesting, but doesn't really go anywhere.

"Ash City Stomp" - Richard Butner: 3/5 - An interesting, odd devil.

"Ten for the Devil" - Charles de Lint: 3/5 - Magical music, the blues, and fiddling. Classic devil stuff.

"A Reversal of Fortune" - Holly Black: 4/5 - An eating contest with the Devil. It was actually sorta funny.

"Young Goodman Brown" - Nathaniel Hawthorne: 5/5 - Dark, moody, pessimistic. This Hawthorne fellow looks to have a bright future ahead of him.

"The Man in the Black Suit" - Stephen King: 5/5 - Scariest devil, yet. King knocks this one out of the park./w

"The Power of Speech" - Natalie Babbitt: 1/5 - Tried to be an Aesop's fable/silly/whimsical sort of story. Lame is what it is.

"The Redemption of Silky Bill" - Sarah Zettel: 5/5 - An excellent story of gambling with the Devil.

"Sold to Satan" - Mark Twain: 2/5 - This was just boring.

"Metaphysics" - Elizabeth M. Glover: 4/5 - Using physics to battle the devil? Win.

"Snowball's Chance" - Charles Stross: 3/5 - Might have given it a higher rating if the overabundance of written out accents didn't annoy me so much.

"Non-Disclosure Agreement" - Scott Westerfeld: 3/5 - Interesting, but not spectacular.

"Like Riding a Bike" - Jan Wildt: 2/5 - Meh.

"Bible Stories for Adults, No. 31: The Covenant" - James Morrow: 2/5 - The 10 Commandments are an easy target and the author does nothing interesting with it.

"And the Deep Blue Sea" - Elizabeth Bear: 4/5 - Tangling with the Devil in a post-apocalyptic nuclear wasteland? Hell yeah.

"The Goat Cutter" - Jay Like: 5/5 - Another brilliantly creepy tale. I won't look at school buses the same ever again.

"On the Road to New Egypt" - Jeffrey Ford: 2/5 - This story had more of hippie, pot-smoking, pimp Jesus than the Devil. Slightly entertaining, but mostly seemed to just want to push buttons.

"The God of Dark Laughter" - Michael Chabon: 5/5 - An excellent and creepy story. My only gripe? It wasn't really about the Devil.

"The King of the Djinn" - David Ackert and Benjamin Rosenbaum: 3/5 - Nice to see a non-white protagonist, but the story was just okay.

"Summon, Bind, Banish" - Nick Mamatas: 1/5 - Didn't really do anything for me.

"The Bottle Imp" - Robert Louis Stevenson: 5/5 - A true classic. Am I a bad person for sorta wanting a more pessimistic ending, though?

"Two Old Men" - Kage Baker: 4/5 - Good stuff.

"...With By Good Intentions" - Carrie Richerson: 3/5 - Good, but not thrilling.

"Nine Sundays in a Row" - Kris Dikeman: 4/5 - Interesting POV.

"Lull" - Kelly Link: 4/5 - Fascinating use of time, but again not much to do with the Devil.

"We Can Get Them For You Wholesale" - Neil Gaiman: 5/5 - Excellent story, but didn't really involve the Devil. Evil, yes. Devil, no.

"Details" - China Mieville: 4/5 - Really enjoyed this.

"The Devil Disinvests" - Scott Bradfield: 3/5 - This one cracked me up.

"Faustfeathers" - John Kessel: 2/5 - This one is a play. I might have liked it better seeing it performed than reading it.

"The Heidelberg Cylinder" - Jonathan Carroll: 4/5 - Different and intriguing. Some of the ideas felt a bit rushed unfortunately. Could have used a few extra pages.

"Mike's Place" - David J. Schwartz: 3/5 - Heaven and hell as corporations? Okay.

"Thus I Refute Beelzy" - John Collier: 3/5 - Imaginary friends are not always friendly.

"Inferno: Canto 34" - Dante Alighieri: 5/5 - An excerpt from one of the greatest poems ever composed.

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## Devann says

I started this book ...at least two years ago, got about 25% of the way through it, and abandoned it because it was so boring. But I'm always looking for more stories about the devil so I figured it would be stupid of me not to at least skim the rest of it. There were a few good stories here and there, but it was overwhelmingly just the same old crap.

On the one hand I feel like it was entirely too long and that maybe they should have picked a more narrow theme because there was just a lot going on. But on the other hand my other big complaint is that the stories were all too similar so I just don't know what they really could have done to make it better.

Also I know they were just trying to pick a catchy name but you really aren't going to find a lot of *sympathy* for the devil in this collection. I would say the first third [at least] of the book is just stories about people making deals with the devil and then tricking him by the end of it because he's just soooo dumb, which I just find to be so tiresome. There was a bit more diversity towards the middle although by the end I was just bored again.

Sigh. Really a disappointment for me because I love stories about the devil so much.

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## Vanessa says

I'm giving this 3 stars because there were two stories I absolutely loved (Charles DeLint and Holly Black) and some others I really liked (Stephen King.) Alas, there were too many stories about the devil playing poker or blues guitar. The most evil thing he can do is play cards? Maybe those Baptists were right all along. I couldn't make it to the end but I also may not have been in a short story mood. I hope to pick this up and finish it one day. There are two stories by Neil Gaiman and a story by Robert Bloch as well.

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## ???? ???????? says

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„Beluthahatchie“ by Andy Duncan – ??????, ?? ?????? ?????????????? ??????????????. ??? ??????? ?? ? ??? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ??????? ?? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ??????? ?? ??????? ?????????? ??????. ??????? ?? ?? ??????? - ?????? ?? ?????? ?????? ?????? ???????.

„AshCity Stomp“ by Richard Butner – ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ??????, ?????? ?????? ?? ??? ??? ??????, ??????? ? ?????????? ??????. ?????? ?? ?????????? ?????? ?????????????? ? ??????? ?????? ?? ??????? ?? ???, ?????????? ???????, ?? ??????? ??? ??? ?????? ? ??????????????.

„Ten for the Devil“ by Charles de Lint – ?????? ?? ?? ??? ??????, ?????????? ? ?????????????? ?? ??????  
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„A Reversal of Fortune“ by Holly Black – ?????? ??????, ????? ??? ??? ? ?????  
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„Young Goodman Brown“ by Nathaniel Hawthorne – ?????? ? ?????????????? ???????? ? ?????????? ?????? ??  
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„The Man in the Black Suit“ by Stephen King – ???-??????? ???? ? ??????????, ??? ???? ? ?? ?  
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“The Power of Speech” by Natalie Babbitt – ?????? ????? ? ??????. ??? ??? ????, ??? ??? ????.  
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„The Redemption of Silky Bill“ by Sarah Zettel – ????? ?????, ?????, ????? ? ??? ????? ?????? ?????????? ????? ? ????? ? ?????????? ????????? ? ????????????? ?????.

„Sold to Satan“ by Mark Twain – ??????? ?? ??????? ?? ???? ???? ???? ????? ? ?????, ??????? ? ???? ? ???? ????? ?? 19 ???. ??????, ?? ?? ???? ?????.

„MetaPhysics“ by Elizabeth M. Glover – ????? ??????? ??????? ??????? ?? ??????? ??????, ??? ??????? ??????? ? ?????????? ?????????, ?? ?? ??????? ?? ????? ? ??????? ??????????????.

“Snowball’s Chance” by Charles Stross – ?????? ?????? ?? ?????????? ???????? ? ??????????  
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„Non-Disclosure Agreement“ by Scott Westerfeld – ????? ?????????????????????, ??????????? ?? ???  
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„Like Riding A bike“ by Jan Wildt – ?????? ?????????????????? ?????? ? ??? ?????????????????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ????. ?????? ? ?? ????????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ??????????????????. ????????? ?????, ?? ?????? ?? ? ?????????? ? ???.

„Bible Stories For Adults, No. 31: The Covenant“ by James Morro – ??? ?? ? ??? ?? ?????? ??????????, ??? ???? ?? ??????? ??????. ? ????????? ???? ????????? ??? ????????? ?? ?? ?????????, ?? ??????? ?? ????????? ? ????????. ?????? ??????, ????? ?????????? ? ??????????? ?????? ?????? ? ?????????? ????????? ? ??????.

„And the Deep Blue Sea“ by Elizabeth Bear – ????? ?????? ?????? ? ?????? ?????????? ?? ?????????????? ?????????????? ?? ???? ???? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ? ????

„The Goat Cutter“ by Jay Lake – ?????? ?? ??????????. ????? ??????? ?? ?????????????? ?? ?????????? ?  
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„On the Road to New Egypt“ by Jeffrey Ford – ??? ? ?????? ?? ??????????? ??? ?????? ?????????, ?????  
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„That Hell-Bound Train“ by Robert Bloch – ??, ??????. ??????? ??????????. ?????? ?????????? ?? ??????  
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„The God of Dark Laughter“ by Michael Chabon – ????? ?????, ?? ??? ??? ?????? ? ????. ???  
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"The King of the Djinn" ?? David Ackert and Benjamin Rosenbaum – ?? „?????????“ ?????????? ???????  
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"Summon, Bind, Banish" - Nick Mamatas – ?????? ??, ???????.

„The Bottle Imp“ by Robert Louis Stevenson – ?? ?????? ?? ?? ? ?? ?????????? ? ??????? ?? ?????? –????.  
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„Two Old Men“ by Kage Baker –????????? ?????? ??????? ??? ?????? ??? ?????????? ?????? ?????? ??????. ??  
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„With By Good Intentions“ by Carrie Richerson – ?????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ?????? ?? ???  
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„Nine Sundays in a Row“ by Kris Dikeman – ?? ??????? ?????? ?????? ??? ?? ?????????? ?????, ??????  
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„Lull“ by Kelly Link – ?????? ? ?????????, ? ??????????. ??? ?????????? ?? ??????????, ??????? ?  
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„We Can Get Them for You Wholesale“ by Neil Gaiman – ????? ?????? ?? ?????? ? ??????, ?????  
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„Details“ by China Mieville – ??? ?? ??????? ??????, ?? ?????? ?? ?????? ??????. ??? ???, ??? ?? ???  
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„The Devil Disinvests“ by Scott Bradfield – ?????? ? ? ????. ?????? ?????? ?? ?? ??????????. ??? ??  
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„Faustfeathers“ by John Kessel – ??? ? ???? ???? , ???? ? ? ???? ???? . ???? ???? ,  
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„The Professor’s Teddy Bear“ by Theodore Sturgeon – ? ? ? ? ???? ? ???? , ???? ????  
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„The Heidelberg Cylinder“ by Jonathan Carroll – ??? ? ???? , ? ???? ???? ? ? ? ?  
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„Mike’s Place by David“ J. Schwartz – ??? ???? ???? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?  
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„Thus I Refute Beelzy“ by John Collier – ??? ???? ? ???? , ???? ? ? ? ? ? ?  
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„Inferno: Canto XXXIV“ by Dante Alighieri – ???? ? ? ? ? – ???? ? ? ? ? . ? ? ? ?  
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## Carolyn says

### Nowhere near as good as I would have hoped.

A compilation of short stories about the Master of all evil, Satan, it's compiled of different stories by many different authors but all have the Devil as a main character. I'm not going to go through and list each story cause that would just take too much time and to be perfectly honest, the book wasn't good enough for that.

Yes, it had some good stories that definitely made you think but for the most part and especially at the end, the stories just seemed to get stranger and stranger. I don't know if maybe I was taking the stories too seriously but to be honest, I'm just glad to be done with the book.

Lucifer/Satan/The Devil, what have you, to me, it's one of the most interesting literary characters in existence. He was an Angel once, the favorite of God, but when God created Adam, Lucifers jealousy was so much, that he fought against Heaven and ultimately lost, thus being thrown into the pit of Hell along with the other Angels that fought beside him.

I wanted a character like the Lucifer from Miltons, Paradise Lost but instead a lot of the stories made the Devil out to be a joke, not cunning, not sly, just a parody and the stereotypical red skin, cloven hooves, horned , mustachioed man from so many stupid cartoons etc. I believe that was the biggest let down, that I went into this book expecting the stories to be epic when a lot of times they just fell flat.

There were some good stories but overall I just wasn't pleased. I'd say don't even waste your time with this book cause in the end it's just not worth it. I'm glad I read it but I'm glad it's done

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**Rebecca McNutt says**

Interesting collection of short stories, though not very original. I quickly read through them and this book wasn't very memorable.

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**Lattisha Fox says**

The ratio of good to bad stories was weighed heavily towards terrible. Every other story was simple county bumpkin/child/ bumbkin child. The intro said Pratt had a hard time choosing so you'd think he could have gotten more variety. Also, very few actual devil involvement. Either some unseen malevolent force or unnamed demon. The few great stories can be found in other, better collections. Hard pass.

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**Rochelle says**

I have to confess - Satan was my first bad-boy crush and one of the many reasons I left the Catholic Church. Not that I am a Satanist, but more a sympathizer. I mean, if you read the Bible you quickly get the idea that God is a complete and total dick. The story of the Fall of the Lord of the Morning is a great example of that. God tells his best friend that he has to kneel before him? Bah.

I hate trying to rate anthologies - often I will buy it for just one or two authors, but in this case I read most of the stories. And I hate to say I was kind of disappointed. Almost every single story was about making a deal with the Devil, and if I had read the blurb more closely I would have realized that. I had expected a variety of Satan stories - like, how about a bad day at the office in Hell? Doing extreme wickedness and not just haggling over a soul like a chicken at the market? Or so many other things.

If you liked stories about The Fall, then I highly recommend reading Steven Brust's To Reign in Hell.

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**Kris says**

The Devil. Satan. Lucifer. His Satanic Majesty. Is it just me or is the devil one of the most interesting characters in history available to write a short story about? So much possibility and yet, in many of the stories in "Sympathy for the Devil" he falls so short of the mark. What should have been a 5 star read falls to a mere 3.

Part of great anthologizing requires the writer/editor to really spend a considerable amount of time and effort reading and culling. Just because a famed writer puts the pen to paper does not mean that every word that falls to the page is golden. Good anthology editors know this and are willing to make cuts where the stories aren't that good.

Not to say that the selections aren't interesting. They range from Nathaniel Hawthorne's Salem, Massachusetts to Stephen King's Maine. Mark Twain next to Neil Gaiman and Michael Chabon. And of

course, Dante. Many authors, some shorts worthy of 5 stars in and of themselves but the overall effect is a 3 for me.

The 3 is due to unevenness in story quality and an anthology that runs about 125 pages too long. A long anthology is only as good as the quality within it and there lies the trap for the editor. The stories have to hold the readers interest and at about page 333 I was getting turned off on the whole subject matter and just wanted the book to end.

I have to admit a fault here as a reader: I am insistent on finishing every book I start. If you are a reader who can skip or skim the weaker stories, you might find this to be a 4 star read. I leave it to you, fellow reader, to make that decision. Just know going in that the devil is in the details.

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## Alex ? Deranged KittyCat ? says

*Note: This review will be updated periodically, as I read each short story.*

### 1. "The Price" by Neil Gaiman - ★★★★★

Because Neil freaking Gaiman! Is there anything written by him that's bad?

This story centers a family with a predilection to taking in stray cats.

*And then there is the black cat. Who has no other name than the Black Cat, and who turned up almost a month ago.*

*That cat, my wife had said when he first arrived, is a person.*

This is a sad story that brought tears to my eyes. It turns out that the devil visits this family every now and then. When Cat is on the porch and can take him on, the family is safe (while Cat sustains serious injury). When Cat is taken to the basement to recover, bad things happen to the family members. So the father decides to keep him on the porch each night. This is heartbreaking.

*I wonder what we did to deserve the Black Cat. I wonder who sent him. And, selfish and scared, I wonder how much more he has to give.*

You can read this short story online, too. Also, you can see the short animation here. There will be a 3D CG animated film based on this story.

### 2. "Beluthahatchie" by Andy Duncan - ★★???

1.5 stars

*Everybody else got off the train at Hell, but I figured, it's a free country. [...] I didn't know what the next stop was but I knew I'd like it better than Hell.*

This one has a very good start: a black man (John) who died and went to Hell. Problem is he refuses to get off the train, and ends up in Beluthahatchie. It is explained to John by the devil that Hell was originally a small place and he had to come up with all sorts of names as it expanded (one of his self-proclaimed less-inspired names is West Hell).

After this point, I got lost. There is something of a messiah quality to John in all of the other black people's minds. It has something to do with his previous life. But I fail to understand what the story is all about, and the ending is equally bland.

### **3. "Ash City Stomp" by Richard Butner - ★★★??**

*The Big Favor sounded like, "I need to get to Asheville to check out the art therapy program in their psychology grad school," but in reality she had hard drugs that needed to be transported to an old boyfriend of hers in the mountains...*

Richard Butner's devil is quite funny looking and helpful. He is trying to save Seacrest's girlfriend from getting arrested for drug possession. Not to mention her ex's drug-induced death. Interesting!

This short story is also available online.

### **4. "Ten for the Devil" by Charles de Lint -**

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#### **Kathleen says**

Omg, it took me forever to finish this book. I checked it out from the SF library but didn't finish it and went back home for the summer. Once the school year started again, I checked it out again, but it took me ages to finish.

Like all anthologies, it is kind of a mixed bag. At one point however, I got a little fatigued because most stories were about making deals with the Devil. But later stories in the second half of the book were far more gripping and inventive with spins on the deal-with-the devil motif. Reading "Lull" by Kelly Link made the entire book worth reading.

I will briefly review/summarize all 36 stories. Briefly.

1. The Price by Neil Gaiman- A black cat must battle the form-changing Devil each night. Definitely a mysterious, good choice to start the book off with. Very short.

2. Beluthahatchie by Andy Duncan- An African American man has died and sentenced to Hell only to find

out that Hell takes the form of the Antebellum South and the tortured souls are slaves. The Devil said he couldn't come up with a worse punishment, but having read Dante's Inferno, I know he can.

3. Ash City Stomp by Richard Butner- A young woman asked her boyfriend to drive her to a different city under the pretense of looking at a college. However, she is there to complete a drug deal. After stopping to see a cursed circle in the forest, the Devil hitchhikes a ride with them. In the end, he warns the boyfriend when the drug deal goes awry, with I considered to be oddly nice of him.

4. Ten for the Devil by Charles de Lint- Staley plays the fiddle outside her trailer in a rural area and accidentally summons evil. With the help of some friends, she is able to play the Devil away with her fiddle. She wants absolutely nothing from him and refuses to make a deal. This was the longest story so far and the one I enjoyed the most at this point. (It also made me realize that the majority of Devil appearances happens in rural areas).

5. A Reversal of Fortune by Holly Black- Nikki sells her soul to the Devil in exchange for him bringing her dog back from the dead. In order to keep her soul, she challenges him to an eating contest. This one wasn't as "adultish" as the others, but it was still enjoyable.

6. Young Goodman Brown by Nathaniel Hawthorne- Goodman Brown's world is shattered when he stumbles upon his Puritan community worshipping the devil. I absolutely couldn't stand the way Hawthorne's narration.

7. The Man in the Black Suit by Stephen King- While a lot didn't happen in this story, it was by far the most frightening because of the sheer amount of suspense. A dying man recounts how he was frightened as a child after he met a creepy man in a black suit (the devil) by a river.

8. The Power of Speech by Natalie Babbitt- Very short. The Devil wants a woman's goat (I don't know why), so he gives it the power of speech. Annoyed, she finally gives the goat to the Devil, but the goat irritates him so much, he turns it into a stuffed goat and gives it back to the woman. Quite bizarre.

9. The Redemption of Silky Bill by Sarah Zettel- When an angry Native American man makes a deal with the Devil to destroy the invading Americans, his fellow Native Americans seek out Bill, a gambler and all around bad person to challenge the Devil at cards and stop him. The ending was a little unclear, but apparently, Bill decides to go on the straight and narrow simply to spite the Devil.

10. Sold to Satan by Mark Twain- I absolutely loved how the Devil was personified in this story. He is made of radium, so he is radioactive/toxic. Mark Twain narrates as he meets the Devil who gives him business advice to invest in radium in exchange for his soul.

11. Metaphysics by Elizabeth M. Glover- Absolutely loved this one. A demon tries to steal an atheist's soul, since she has no belief or psalms to recite to save herself. However, she outsmarts him by using the laws of physics.

12. Snowball's Chance by Charles Stross- In a apocalyptic world, Davy is granted a wish from the Devil for being a nasty person. To get more wishes by spreading more misery, he decides to wish that the Devil removed the sunshield protecting the American and African continents from the Sun (which also makes the UK freezing). Because this book was published Night Shade Books, which apparently focuses in science fiction, there will be a lot more sci-fi/Devil mash-ups (to my satisfaction).

13. Non-Disclosure Agreement by Scott Westerfeld- A man redecorates Hell using the latest CGI movie technology. In exchange, the Devil tells him the secret to getting into Heaven, but he can't tell anyone or the Devil gets his soul, which torments him. Apparently, the secret to getting into Heaven is to give up technology and remove yourself from society.

14. Like Riding A Bike by Jan Wildt- Fifty-three year old Velma Fish was randomly chosen by that I assumed to be devils (but could have also been angels), to be transformed into the body she had at seventeen. There is some comedy in an old, out of touch woman having the body of a young adult. Little does the unearthly powerful committee know, Velma was pregnant at seventeen (but got an abortion she came to regret).

15. Bible Stories For Adults, No. 31: The Covenant by James Morrow- This story revolves around the premise that God never gave Moses another set of Ten Commandments after he broke them. In the future, a robot, YHWH, is constructed to piece the Commandments together. To it's surprise, it realizes the Commandments would all somehow negatively impact the peaceful, futuristic society and the Son of Rust (presumably the Devil) wants him to read them to the world. It was a rather harsh view of religion, but it was creative.

16. And the Deep Blue Sea by Elizabeth Bear- Harrie rides her motorcycle across the post-apocalyptic, radioactive western United States as a messenger. She has made a deal with the Devil for safe passage for ten years. However when she is hired to carry stem cells that could save lives, the Devil says he will give her soul back in exchange for the stem cells. The desert scenery was absolutely fantastic and I love it!!!

17. The Goat Cutter by Jay Lake- I loved this one!!! There were so many emotions going through it!!!!A young boy and he friend hang out with a man named Doug Bob, who must keep the Devil inside a broken down school bus outside of his house in the middle of nowhere. When the Devil escapes and Doug Bob is killed, the boy becomes possessed and trapped within the bus.

18. On the Road to New Egypt by Jeffrey Ford- A man picks up Christ and the Devil up in his car. The Devil and Christ bet his soul on whether or not a woman in Florida will exhibit miracle abilities.

19. That Hell-Bound Train by Robert Bloch- Martian gives the Devil his soul in exchange for a watch that can stop time when he is happiest. However, life gets in the way and he only uses after his death on the train to Hell.

20. The God of Dark Laughter by Michael Chabon- A circus clown is found murdered with his face removed and a local sheriff must discover the truth regarding two opposing secret cults. (The devil really isn't involved). I really enjoyed this one.

21. The King of the Djinn by David Ackert and Benjamin Rosenbaum- Unbeknownst to Musa, his life-long acquaintance is the Devil. The Devil reveals that Musa's son's, Jamal, greatest desire is to become a terrorist wants to seek revenge against Israel.

22. Summon, Bind, Banish by Nick Mamatas- Alick makes a deal with the devil and delves into the occult. It flips into many points of view. Honestly, I didn't understand exactly what was going on. Wasn't sure if it was me or the story, probably me.

23. The Bottle Imp by Robert Louis Stevenson- Keawe gets a bottle imp which grants wishes but at the price of your soul if you die. You must resell it for less than you got it. The setting in Hawaii was fantastic, the

rules of the bottle imp actually reminded me of the Deathnote. This was a fantastic story, but the ending was a little predictable.

24. Two Old Men by Kage Baker- Markie, a young boy, ran back and forth relaying messages for God and the Devil within his small town. Apparently, Kennedy was some sort of prophet. I enjoyed the ending though, with God warning Markie about Ronnie's gun.

25. With By Good Intentions by Carrie Richerson- Roy Sandoval and his family of highway pavers made a deal with the devil. In exchange for paving a road to Hell, they get out of Hell.

26. Nine Sundays in a Row by Kris Dikeman- Narrated from the perspective of the Devil's servant dog. A young woman named Sally waits nine Sundays in a row so she can summon the Devil and sell her soul in exchange for being lucky at gambling.

27. Lull by Kelly Link- THIS WAS MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE!!! I LOVE, LOVE, LOVED THIS ONE!!!! This blew my mind, it was absolutely wild and crazy and AMAZING!!! It starts with a group of men playing cards in a basement. It explains to Ed's recent divorce and how he now lives in a mysterious house in the middle of nowhere. The men agree to call a woman who they pay by the minute to tell sexy stories. She tells an amazing story about a world where people age backwards involving the Devil. A cheerleader tells the Devil about Ed (who the sexy storyteller didn't know) and his wife Susan greeting aliens. It was spine tingling, creepy and absolutely amazing.

28. We Can Get Them for You Wholesale by Neil Gaiman- Straight laced Peter decides to hire an assassin to kill the man his fiancé is having an affair with. They offer him less money the more people he would tell them to kill and Peter can't resist a deal.

29. Details by China Mieville- A young boy (why is it always young boys in these? Why not girls?) visits a strange woman who locks herself in a bare, white room. She knows more things than a normal person would and hides from the shape following her. I loved the description of the shape! It was so creative and interesting!!

30. The Devil Disinvests by Scott Bradfield- The Devil takes a break from the corporate life to reinvent himself.

31. Faustfeathers by John Kessel- A satire of Faust, but I have never read Faust, so I didn't have much experience to go from. However, it was incredibly funny. I enjoyed all the sex jokes, especially when Robin ends up in the closet with Wagner. Perhaps if I had a greater knowledge of Faust besides the vague idea of a storyline, I would have gotten more out of it.

32. The Professor's Teddy Bear by Theodore Sturgeon- A child is being controlled by a possessed teddy bear and has an ability kill people by changing the future. It flips back and forth between the child and him as an adult.

33. The Heidelberg Cylinder by Jonathan Carroll- The Devil is running out of room in Hell, so they are moving people into Earth neighborhoods. Bill ends up joining the ranks of the Heidelberg Cylinder, an organization trying to warn people. He has to give something to the Devil to escape Hell.

34. Mike's Place by David J. Schwartz- Heaven and Hell's respective corporations have gone under. The Devil works at a bar in this story, which is a satire of corporations going belly up.

35. Thus I Refute Beelzy by John Collier- A young boy (again) plays by himself but insists a creature named Beelzy plays with him. His father attempts to persuade him that Beelzy is part of his imagination.

36. Inferno: Canto XXXIV by Dante Alighieri- This is the final canto in Inferno where the poet Dante encounters the Devil, trapped in the ice. I loved that he had three heads with Judas, Cassius, and Brutus.

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