



## Devil's Due

*Rachel Caine*

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## Devil's Due Rachel Caine

WITH HER SECRET BACKGROUND AND STREET SMARTS, LUCIA GARZA HAD FEW QUALMS ABOUT TAKING THE DEVIL'S DEAL...

The money Lucia and her new partner received to open their detective agency had come with strings: any assignment delivered via red envelope had to be top priority. No sweat. No one could make Lucia do something she didn't believe in--right?

Wrong. Lucia soon learned that every choice she made meant life or death for innocent people. No one could be trusted, not even the ex-cop she'd hired--and fallen for. In fact, Ben might be her fatal weakness, if the powers warring to control the future used him to control Lucia....

## Devil's Due Details

Date : Published (first published January 1st 2006)

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Author : Rachel Caine

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## From Reader Review Devil's Due for online ebook

### Paris says

For some reason, it took me a while to be in the right frame of mind to read this book. I had enjoyed book one enough and actually looked forward to reading book two, but when I tried, I just couldn't get into it. Well here we are, years later and I liked Devil's Due better than Devil's Bargain. While I liked Jazz's smart mouth, I liked Lucia's secret-fueled background more. There is so much to Lucia that even by the end of the book, we haven't seen it all. I love the layers to her, the balance that she brings to her partnership with Jazz.

Everything comes to a head in this finale to the Red Letter Days duology. There is so much more to their relationship with the Cross Society and the Eidolon Corporation. Who's pulling who's strings? How do the girls fit into their plans? Then there's James and Ben and Manny and Pansy. So much mystery, intrigue and craziness in this book, I didn't want to put it down.

This is a really intriguing set of books and definitely, a must read if you enjoy any of Rachel Caine's other books.

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### Kendra /Books Complete Me says

#### Great read

So not used to "series" stopping at two books. But this works... We got the POV from each protagonist without taking away from plot lines. Both books flowed together nicely.

Callender and Garza are two kick butt female protagonists in the lines of Rizzoli and Isles before they became a tv series. Put that with a little "Person of Interest" and you have Caine's books.

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### Kathy Davie says

Second in the Red Letter Days suspense series involving psychics manipulating the future and using the private investigating firm of Callender and Garza to affect the changes in Kansas City.

#### My Take

This is just plain scary. Two rival corporations playing power games using leads "seen" by their pet psychics. The original plan was to tweak what the psychics saw to ensure a favorable outcome. Instead, what their original psychic came to realize was that tweaking simply made things worse. Personally, I'm with Lucia and Jazz---it's just plain wrong to destroy peoples' lives to suit your whims.

In *Devil's Due*, there is a constant yo-yoing of distrust between Borden and Jazz; Jazz, Garza, and McCarthy; and, especially with Ivanovich and Simms. It's almost too much to try and figure out at any given moment who is on whose side. Then there's the end that really throws everything off.

## The Story

Ben's getting out of jail and Lucia is making him over---Ben calls it "prison with product". Unfortunately, none of them get to enjoy it very long when a red envelope dusted with anthrax shows up in the office and Pansy and Lucia must undergo a series of treatments against it. Worse, Lucia gets kidnapped and doesn't remember any of the days she's missing.

The action simply speeds up with an abused spouse needing protection who isn't all she seems, the Eidolon Corporation as well as the Cross Society is contacting the ladies, Manny is freaking out with Pansy's contamination, James is conflicted between Jazz and GPL, the exposure of an underground lab adds to the confusion, and then Simms shows up. With a plan to take 'em all out.

## The Characters

Callender and Garza is a private investigating agency composed of **Lucia Garza** and **Jasmine "Jazz" Callender**. They poached **Pansy** from **James Borden**, a lawyer with Gabriel, Pike, and Laskins law firm in New York City---she's seeing Manny these days. Surprisingly---not---GPL is considering opening a branch office in Kansas City since James is spending so much time there. He and Jazz are a couple. **Manny Glickman** is a former FBI agent who is now an independent specializing in forensic analysis and a huge ration of paranoia. **Ben McCarthy** was Jazz's partner until he was framed for several murders and imprisoned. Jazz received the necessary proof to get him out. Now the boy is falling in love with Lucia and temporarily employed by C&G.

**Omar** is a former lover and now a good friend to Lucia. She knows she can always count on him. **Agent Rawlins** is with the FBI's Kansas City office and willing, to a certain extent, to help Lucia. **Special Agent Cole** is another FBI friend who doesn't know Lucia very well.

**Susannah Davis** is desperate to avoid the abuse heaped on her by her husband **Leonard**. Or is he the abuser?

**Max Simms** is the initial psychic who founded both the Eidolon Corporation until they framed him for multiple murders. He also founded the Cross Society to counter Eidolon. In this story, he breaks out of jail and engineers death. **Gregory Ivanovich** is both and either. An enemy and a friend. Now he seems to be working for GPL.

**Detective Ken Stewart** is a very single-minded cop whose main interest in life is harassing Jazz.

## The Cover

The cover is shades of dark purple to red with one of those big red envelopes in the lower right corner lying on the cobbled pavement as Lucia walks away, lightning touching down all around her.

Oh yeah, there are those who do get the *Devil's Due*.

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## Matthew says

*The psychic world will never be the same again...*

*But what are the consequences of defying destiny...?*

Destiny + Supernatural + Action + Romance + Choice + Consequences = *Devil's Due*.

And if you're not sold yet, let me continue: *Devil's Due* is a fast, fiery paranormal thriller with a vibrant cast and streamlined writing. It's rife with thought-provoking themes, but never lets them overtake the overall fun and flirty nature that the novel embodies.

It doesn't top its predecessor, *Devil's Bargain*, but it does close the duology with vigour.

You'd be remiss if you let this little series pass you by, and by remiss, I mean you'd miss out on laughs, adrenaline-fuelled fights, and earth-shattering conspiracies for world domination.

### **Synopsis**

***The psychic world will never be the same again...***

*Lucia Garza is trapped in a supernatural power struggle. To save a friend she agreed to work for sinister psychic organisation The Cross Society. But after the death threat that almost succeeds, she's starting to think they want her out of the way. Forever.*

*Worse, as Lucia uncovers the society's most dangerous secrets, she discovers that she's being used as a pawn between two warring paranormal factions. Caught in a battle no one can win, Lucia's only choice could be to go against long-told prophecy to destroy both The Cross Society and its sworn enemies.*

### ***BUT WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DEFYING DESTINY?***

#### **Plot - 4/5 Stars**

*Devil's Due* takes us back to Kansas City, Missouri, and right on the heels of the previous book. With *Devil's Bargain*'s cliffhanger leaving the mystery and stakes high, *Devil's Due* does its best to deliver. And, overall, it kinda does. Caine, quickly and efficiently, eases the reader back into the world, spreading little paragraphs that recap book one throughout the first hundred pages while still moving the second novel's story forward. The feel of chess is prevalent and welcome, shaping the thrilling tone into one of conspiracy and manipulation.

Emphasising this is the severe scenes where the author lays landmines for both the reader and the book's cast. Threads are artfully all over the place, and while, at times, it's frustratingly convoluted, the author does manage to semi-successfully pull them together. You'll just have to accept the mishmash as is.

I am a little annoyed that, as we reach that long-awaited finale, not all questions are answered. They aren't forgotten; the author just chooses to leave them to the reader's imagination (I know, the horror; how dare the reader be expected to imagine).

But what keeps the novel with a rating of 4/5 Stars, for me, is the subplot that provides likely the best twist the novel offers. And it comes after an intense, action-packed race against life and the future. It closes the novel firmly, with a reader near tears (I won't tell you if they're tears of joy or sadness).

### **Pace - 4/5 Stars**

*Red Letter Days* is an action-packed duology, let there be no doubt. *Devil's Due* balances action and exposition in a way I adore, despite some of the exposition's misses. It creates a flow that doesn't relinquish control of the reader's attention, lest they miss some vital investigative clue.

### **Characters - 4.5/5 Stars**

Characters and their relationships begin and progress with sharp clarity. The author does a phenomenal job of making individuals with personality, quirks, and intricate ideals. In the previous instalment, we predominantly follow Jazz Callender, but with *Devil's Due*, the viewpoint switches to her equally capable partner Lucia Garza. Both are definitive in their portrayals, and both continue to compliment one another with their opposing natures. Jazz, our lovable wrecking ball, meshes fantastically with Lucia's calm and affable appearance.

The two of them are deadly.

One kills with a bang, the other with a whisper.

Aside from Jazz and Lucia's tight and tantalising friendship, both face romantic subplots that are full of fire and passion. Caine can write a sexy scene, and with characters as undeniably saucy as this, love is a pungent aroma that is most definitely in the air.

Plus, the confusion and paranoia that cling to our protagonists offer some interesting roadblocks in their personal lives. Namely: Who the hell can they trust?

### **Writing - 3.5/5 Stars**

Simple, clean, and clear. Caine doesn't waste time in *Devil's Due*. She can sometimes get lost, but for the most part things are set and executed exceptionally. The author says what she wants to say, paints what she wants to paint, and leaves the reader thoughtful as they ponder life's bigger picture and their choices within it.

It can often favour telling over showing, though, so an open mind won't go amiss.

### **Overall - 4/5 Stars**

A conspiracy thriller with a touch of the paranormal.

How can you go wrong?

If you're looking for sleek writing, lightning-quick progression, and inspirational character developments that burn with romantic passion and fiery adrenaline, then the *Red Letter Days* duology is pretty much the perfect pill.

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***Read more book-orientated posts over on my website: Matthew R. Bell's BookBlogBonanza***

## AH says

3.5 stars. Not your usual Rachel Caine book.

**Devil's Due** is the second book in Rachel Caine's Red Letter Days series. If you've read and loved Rachel Caine's other books, be prepared for something completely different. The Red Letter Days series is more like a conspiracy thriller with a touch – and I mean touch – of the paranormal. No vampires, zombies, nor djinn in this series. **Devil's Due** starts off slowly, especially if you are expecting a regular urban fantasy or paranormal book. It's more cerebral.

**Devil's Due** has an intriguing premise. There are two corporations that orchestrate events that occur in the world. The Cross Society works against the Eidolon Corporation. In the previous book, **Devil's Bargain** our heroines Jazz Callendar and Lucia Garza are brought together and ordered to form a detective agency by the Cross Society. They are free to conduct business as they see fit with the caveat that when they receive a Red Letter, they are required to give the letter priority.

This book focuses on Lucia and reveals here intriguing spy background. Lucia's past is very shady black ops style, and some of her past contacts make an appearance in this novel, giving this book more of a spy thriller feel. There are a lot of shifty characters and nothing is really as it seems.

For fans of Ms. Caine's Revivalist series, the Red Letter Days series introduces Manny and Pansy. More of Manny's background is revealed and it is truly horrific, reminiscent of a CSI episode.

I would recommend this series to readers who enjoy conspiracy thrillers and police procedurals with just a touch of the paranormal. For fans of Ms. Caine's Revivalist series, this book is a must read and will help pass the time until the **Terminated** is published in August.

*Thank you to NetGalley and Harlequin for a review copy of this book.*

**Review posted on Badass Book Reviews.**

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## Jessica Kunz says

### Riveting

Another amazing read from Rachel. I loved all the action and how many plot twists there were. Enjoyed every bit!

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## Rebecca Fox says

3.5

I did like this book a little more then the first. Theses books are worth the read if you are looking for something quick.

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## **Joan{missing the vampire bunny slippers!} says**

I liked the first book a little better I think. Reading from Lucia's pov was really interesting for a while but then I started missing jazz's fiery disposition. Lucia is a good character and I can't complain about a lack of twists and action.

For some reason I can't pinpoint I also liked Borden more than McCarthy. Maybe it was the whole dynamic of the relationship with jazz that I liked but still... :)

Overall it was a good read. I can't wait to be introduced to the next amazing world Rachel Caine conjures! :)

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## **Naiya says**

You know those brilliant first books where the mystery is explosive, the danger looming, and the characters thrown in the deep end, barely treading water? That was Devil's Bargain, book 1. A fun, romantic suspense/action thriller that pitted ex-cop Jazz against her mysterious benefactor – a powerful organization with endless oogles of money that mailed her mysterious instructions in red envelopes. She could take the money and be a pawn, or she could throw it all away and be a target.

In book one, Jazz and her partner, Lucia, decided to be pawns. In this second (and, I think, last) installment of the series they chose free will. Told from Lucia's perspective, Devil's Due picks up at the end of Devil's Bargain. Ben, his name finally cleared, is about to be released from prison, Lucia's past rears its deadly head, and detective cases (and red letters with morally questionable instructions) keep on coming. And, of course, romance and suspense and action.

Here's the thing, though. Remember all the stuff I said about the first book in paragraph one? Well, the second book suffers from the consequences of that non-stop action. The moment the action takes a breather in Devil's Due, characters gotta talk. They gotta rationalize their past and future decisions, they gotta figure out what they should do, because now that people aren't shooting at them nonstop, that's what real people do.

I could feel my fluffy canary feathers wilting as characters talked back and forth. I was losing faith. My eyes kept flickering to the page count.

But about halfway through, the book pulled it together and I got that perfect dose of action and suspense for which I so love Rachel Caine. Guest star Gregory steals the show. Manny pops up a few times. Lucia is fantastic. The romance works incredibly well for two people who'd only known each other a few days. And things happen, explosively.

There are a few surprises too; the story makes several dark turns that I haven't seen before in Harlequin imprints and makes the character deal with them very quickly with things that would put most of us in therapy for a long long time. I'm being intentionally vague here, but wow, I did not see that coming and I'm not sure I'm a fan.

Side note: While I'm about 150% sure that this is it for the series, the title of Devil's Due makes a rather creative, clever bit of possible foreshadowing about what's going to happen to Lucia's situation. This is pure

speculation, but is (view spoiler) Certainly, it could just be a reference to *spoiler*the collapse of the Cross Society or the Society taking their due when Ben refused to cooperate, but I do so love speculating.

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### **Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says**

\*I got a free ARC of this book from Netgalley in exchange of an honest review\*

This and other reviews can also be found on my blog (un)Conventional Bookviews.

This was so fast paced I'm **actually** out of breath now! The writing is excellent, I love most of the main characters, and I think the mystery and suspense parts were so expertly done I could have never guessed any of what happened... Then again, my name isn't Simms ;)

Devil's Due is even better than Devil's Bargain, with not only one, but two strong female protagonists! I also loved where the story went, both with the mystery of the psychics and with the way Jazz and Lucia interacted with each other and the other characters.

As McCarthy is liberated from prison, only Lucia is there to greet him, because James and Lucia made sure Jazz was far away from the courthouse during the hearing. To keep her safe – or so they convinced themselves. When Jazz realizes that McCarthy is no longer in prison, the first thing she wants to do is to find him, to let him know how happy she is that he was finally cleared of murder. She quickly understands that something is going on between her ex-partner and her current partner, her keen sense of observation never slowing down.

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### **Kris Rhodes says**

Too quirky and bizarre, with logic gaps.

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### **Yolanda Sfetsos says**

Can this woman write or what? I'm a huge fan of her Weather Warden series, so when I heard she was writing for Bombshell, I was ecstatic! And having already read, and thoroughly enjoyed Devil's Bargain, I was anticipating this one. And it didn't disappoint.

The tension in this book is so thick, it swallows you up until all you want to do is keep reading to find out what's going to happen next. Lucia Garza is a very interesting character with a dark past we only get a glimpse into. Jazz and Borden are back in this one too... and so is an array of new characters from Lucia's life. And we met Ben McCarthy properly, after he's released from prison. The buzz between Ben and Lucia is sizzling.

And the situation... well, it's a hell of a thrill ride, that's for sure. I don't want to get into the nitty-gritty of it because there's no way to properly talk about the happenings without kinda spoiling it for everyone.

So, if you're a Rachel Caine fan -- this is an amazing book! Check it out!

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### **Kirsty (Amethyst Bookwyrm) says**

This and my other reviews can be found at <http://amethystbookwyrm.blogspot.co.uk/>

Thanks to Netgalley and Harlequin UK Ltd for giving me this book to review.

Lucia Garza is stuck in the middle of a power struggle between two powerful but sinister psychic organisations The Cross Society and Eidolon. She and her partner Jazz have been working with The Cross Society believing they are the good guys however, she is not sure who she can trust anymore, even Jazz's ex-partner and their newly hired private detective Ben McCarthy.

Devil's Due is the Second book in Caine's Red Letter Day series and starts right where Devil's Bargain left but from the point of view of Lucia instead of Jazz. This book is fast paced and has nonstop action and tension.

While I enjoyed this book I just could not connect with Lucia even though I am more like her than Jazz. I think part of this might be because her past is mentioned quite a bit but we never get to find out much about it.

I also could not feel the chemistry between Lucia and her love interest and just could not understand why they were drawn together. However, I could feel that Jazz and Lucia clicked as, while they are both different, they are really good friends and work well together.

While I did prefer Devil's Bargain, this book did wrap up the series nicely and has a good and interesting story. I would recommend Devil's Due to people who like Devil's Bargain.

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### **loraine cooke says**

#### **Devil's due**

Good follow on from the first book. Non stop action between all involved. Would recommend Rachel Caine's books she's a great author.

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### **Michelle (Much Loved Books) says**

I read the previous book in this series last year, Devil's Bargain, and have been waiting for *Devil's Due* to be re-released so I could read it. When I found it on netgalley I was very excited and requested it immediately. The Cross Society and Eidolon are still on the scene, and sometimes I got confused over what their initial purpose was and whether they were 'Team Good' or 'Team Bad', but as the story progressed it became clearer

what side they were on.

Getting to catch up with Jazz and Lucia and get involved with all the action was great. Getting to see more of Manny and Pansy and how their relationship is progressing was an added bonus. Manny is just a quirky as ever and Pansy surprised me by not acting like I thought she would, she is actually quite tough on the inside but the way she is portrayed originally made this a pleasant surprise.

I really enjoyed *Devil's Due* more than the previous book. There is even more tension and action and at one point I had doubts over whether certain characters would survive. Some questions left over from *Devil's Bargain* are answered and some loose ends are tied up. The last few chapters I could not read fast enough. I HAD to know what was going to happen and if Jazz and Lucia's plan would work or fail.

One thing I really liked is how the friendship between Jazz and Lucia has developed more and that they are closer, not only as partners but also friends. They each have the other's back no matter what, even if they probably couldn't save their own life in the state they are in, and you can actually feel how strong their bonds are, when one worried over the other I found myself worrying with them.

*Devil's Due* was a quick read but one that I really enjoyed and did not want to end.

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