



BOOK CLUB RESOURCE GUIDE

Supernatural
Anthology



THANK YOU FOR
CONSIDERING THE DEVILS
YOU KNOW FOR YOUR
NEXT BOOK CLUB READ

BOOK CLUB
RESOURCE GUIDE

By: D. Krauss

He's not the one you're afraid of. The red-skinned monster with the horns and the pitchfork — that's the Devil you know, the one you can spot coming, the one you can fight. The real danger is the other one: erudite, charismatic, magnetic, offering perfect answers to every problem you've ever had, and asking for nothing in return but everything you are. In ten stories that range from the Garden of Eden to a bar built for the damned to a child's ordinary afternoon on a playground, *The Devil You Know* goes looking for evil in all its disguises — and finds it less often in monsters than in the people standing next to you. Wickedly funny, quietly devastating, and never quite where you expect it, this collection asks what we're really watching for when we watch for the Devil, and whether we'd recognize him at all.

WORD COUNT: 25,400

PAGE COUNT: 142

KEY WORDS: Horror anthology | Dark comedy, Devils & demons | Theological horror,

DEMOGRAPHICS: Horror and dark-fantasy readers who like their scares literary and their morals unsettled rather than tidy

COMP BOOKS: Skeleton Crew by Stephen King, Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, The Devil and Daniel Webster and Other Writings by Stephen Vincent Benét

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Setting the mood

- Low lighting
- Red-tinted candles or bulbs,
- Set out a small "confessional" corner
(A chair with a single candle where guests can go to "confess" a guilty pleasure or a small sin for laughs before discussion starts.)

Music

- Play Spotify playlist

Clothing suggestions:

- Red, black, and gold accents
- Devil horns or a pitchfork prop are welcome for laughs,
- at least one guest to dress "unnervingly charming", sharp, polished, a little too perfect — to play into the book's real thesis.

Fun, easy props

- A pitchfork or devil horns for photos
- a stack of old paperback Bibles or hymnals as ironic table décor
- a bowl guests can drop their anonymous "deal" slips into for the game below

THEMED ACTIVITIES Hell's Bells Book Night

GAMES TO SET THE MOOD

Spot the Devil

Before the party, secretly assign one guest to be "the Devil you don't know." Throughout the night, guests try to guess who it is based only on how unnervingly charming and helpful that person is being.

Deal or No Deal

Each guest writes down one absurd thing they'd trade for a wish (write it anonymously); the group reads them aloud and votes on the best (worst) deal.

Two Truths and a Temptation

Guests share two true guilty pleasures and one invented one; the group guesses the fake.

THEMED ACTIVITIES Hell's Bells Book Night

Classic Deviled Eggs, "Sinner's Style"

- 8 large eggs
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Smoked paprika and a few thin red chili slices, for garnish

Hard-boil the eggs, cool, peel, and halve lengthwise. Mash the yolks with mayonnaise, mustard, hot sauce, salt, and pepper. Pipe back into the whites and top with smoked paprika and a sliver of red chili.

Forbidden Fruit Salad

- 4 cups mixed greens
- 2 apples, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 cup candied walnuts
- 3 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Whisk the vinegar, honey, and mustard, then slowly whisk in the olive oil until emulsified. Toss the greens with the apple slices, blue cheese, and walnuts, and dress just before serving.

THEMED MENU Sinner's Supper Spread

Hellfire Buffalo Wings *Serves 6–8*

- 3 lbs chicken wings
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- Salt to taste
- 1/2 cup hot sauce
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper (optional, for extra heat)

Preheat oven to 425°F. Toss wings with baking powder and salt, then arrange on a wire rack over a baking sheet. Bake for 45–50 minutes, flipping halfway, until crisp. Whisk together hot sauce, melted butter, honey, and cayenne, then toss the hot wings in the sauce just before serving.

Devil's Food Cake Bites *Makes about 24*

- 1 box devil's food cake mix (plus ingredients called for on box: eggs, oil, water)
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips

Bake the devil's food cake according to package directions, cool completely, and crumble into a large bowl. Mix in the softened cream cheese and powdered sugar until a dough forms. Roll into 1-inch balls, fold in mini chocolate chips, and chill for at least an hour before serving.

THEMED MENU Sinner's Supper Spread



Inspired by the book's own devil, who won't drink anything less than a glass with the flames still curling around it.

Ingredients:

- 2 oz spiced rum
- 1 oz blood orange juice
- 1/2 oz cinnamon-chili simple syrup (recipe below)
- 1/4 oz lime juice
- Cinnamon stick and orange peel, for garnish

Instructions:

Combine rum, blood orange juice, cinnamon-chili syrup, and lime juice in a shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a rocks glass over fresh ice. Garnish with a cinnamon stick and an expressed orange peel.

Cinnamon-chili simple syrup: Combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup water, 2 cinnamon sticks, and a pinch of cayenne pepper in a small saucepan. Simmer 5 minutes, then let cool and strain.

SIGNATURE DRINK Dragon's Blood Nightcap

Sympathy for the Devil By: The Rolling Stones
The Devil Went Down to Georgia By: The Charlie Daniels Band
Season of the Witch By: Donovan
House of the Rising Sun By: The Animals
Superstition By: Stevie Wonder
Devil Inside By: INXS
Enter Sandman By: Metallica
Werewolves of London By: Warren Zevon
Running with the Devil By: Van Halen
Voodoo Child (Slight Return) By: Jimi Hendrix
Bad Moon Rising By: Creedence Clearwater Revival
Feeling Good By: Nina Simone
Heathens By: Twenty One Pilots
Hells Bells By: AC/DC
The Man Comes Around By: Johnny Cash



SPOTIFY MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS

A watercolor illustration of a cozy living room. On the left is a tall wooden bookshelf filled with books. In the center background is a fireplace with a mantel. To the right is another wooden bookshelf, also filled with books. In the foreground, there is a light-colored sofa and a wooden chair. The floor is covered with a patterned rug. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a warm color palette.

THIS GUIDE CONTAINS POSSIBLE
SPOILERS FOR THIS BOOK IN
THE DISCUSSION SECTION.

WARNING

- The book's introduction draws a sharp line between "the Devil you know" — the obvious monster — and "the Devil you don't know" — the charming one. Which stories in the collection actually deliver a devil you didn't see coming, and which give you the obvious one?
- "You Shall Arise" retells the Garden of Eden from the Serpent's point of view, and makes him almost sympathetic. Did that retelling change how you think about that story, or about the nature of temptation in general?
- Several stories put the Devil, demons, or Hell itself in very ordinary settings — a car, a bar, an apartment search. What effect did that grounding in the mundane have on how scary (or funny) each story felt to you?
- The collection mixes real dread with dark comedy throughout. Which story landed hardest for you emotionally, and which made you laugh — and did any story manage to do both at once?
- "The Happy and Successful Life of Harold Laney" is framed around a beloved man's funeral. Without spoiling it for others, what did that story end up saying about how we remember people, and what we choose not to say at funerals?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Several stories feature demons or devils who seem almost bored, bureaucratic, or tired of their jobs rather than purely menacing. What do you make of that choice, and what does it suggest about evil as something ordinary rather than spectacular?
- Grief and loss show up more than once in this collection, often tangled up with something supernatural. How did the book use horror elements to talk about grief, and did that combination work for you?
- If the real danger, as the introduction argues, is missing the "real" monster because you're distracted watching for the obvious one — who or what do you think the book is really warning readers about in the world outside its pages?
- As a collection of ten mostly unconnected stories, did you find a throughline beyond the shared "devil" theme? What patterns, images, or ideas kept recurring across stories for you?
- If you could ask this book's version of the Devil — any of them — one question, which story's devil would you choose to ask, and what would you want to know?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



D. Krauss resides in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. He has been a cottonpicker, a sodbuster, a librarian, a surgical orderly, the guy who paints the little white line down the middle of the road, a weatherman, a door-kickin' shove-gun-in-face lawman, a hunter of terrorists, and a school bus driver. Currently, he's a layabout. He's been married over 50 years (yep, same woman), and has a wildman bass guitarist for a son.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

WEBSITE: <http://www.dustyskull.com>

OTHER BOOKS: The Moonlight in Genevieve's Eyes, The Last Man in the World Explains All, Partholon, The Ship to Look for God, The Ship Looking for God, Tu'an, The Ship Finding God, Col'm, Frank Vaughn Killed by his Mom, Southern Gothic