



Up Jumps the Devil

Michael Poore

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He's made of wood. He cooks an excellent gumbo. Cows love him. And he's the world's first love story . . . and the world's first broken heart. Meet the darkly handsome, charming, John Scratch, a.k.a. The Devil. Ever since his true love, a fellow fallen angel named Arden, decided that Earth was a little too terrifying and a little too violent, John Scratch has been trying to lure her back from the forgiving grace of Heaven. Though the wonders of Egypt nor the glories of Rome weren't enough to keep her on Earth, John Scratch believes he's found a new Eden: America.

From Pocahontas and the Pilgrims onward, John Scratch capitalizes on the bounty of this arcadia. Then, one dark night in the late 1960s, he meets three down-on-their-luck musicians and strikes a deal. In exchange for their souls, he'll grant them fame, wealth, and the chance to make the world a better place. Soon, the trio are helping the Devil push his pet nation towards the height of civilization—or so he thinks. But there's a great deal about humans he still needs to learn, even after so many millennia among them.

Overflowing with imagination, originality, insight, and humor, rippling with history and myth, Up Jumps the Devil is an immensely fun read, a richly entertaining, clever and madcap journey as irresistible and charming as the devil himself.

Up Jumps the Devil Details

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From Reader Review Up Jumps the Devil for online ebook

Victoria Hamel says

You know how you hear people say, "I loved XYZ book, I couldn't put it down!" I do the same thing myself. If I like a book, I'll blaze through it pretty doggone fast.

But if I love a book, it takes me ages to finish. I put it down, I walk away for a few weeks, I resist the siren calls. Super counter intuitive, right?

Here's the thing, when I love a book, I don't want it to end, I don't want to say goodbye to the characters. I miss them, life get drab. Coming from me, there is no higher praise I can give a book than to say, it took me a long time to finish it.

Up Jumps The Devil took me ages to finish. I loved it, no wait I fleted it. Read on at my blog
<http://victoria7401.blogspot.com/2012...>

Georgette says

This is another great debut novel. I read three in a row that were 4 star novels- and I had a rough week, so I'm glad that the books did not let me down. I encourage you to not only follow Michael on Twitter, but if you get a chance and he's at a nearby book store, go buy the book and go to his events. He is quirky, extremely down-to-earth, and gracious to all. Again- BUY THE BOOK.

The book is about John Scratch, aka The Devil. The book goes back and forth in time, through the ages. You get an interesting and slightly sarcastic take on things through The Devil's eyes (and may I say, I was charmed by the Devil as he is portrayed here). The Devil also has a soft spot- for Arden, an angel that he was friends with before angels were angels (I know that sounds ma-cheese-mo, but I know not a better way to put it). Arden goes back and forth in various forms and bodies, trying to live with The Devil in his new domain, but she seems destined and wanting to return to Heaven. There is the matter of amazing sex between them, but really, after the cows, well- I say no more, you have to buy the book and read it. And wait for it. This part, not the amazing sex or the cows. Or if you like that sort of thing, then....wait on.

Though you see that The Devil has moments of attempting humanity throughout history as well as through his feelings for Arden, you also realize that he has that nasty side that can't be ignored, nor can his enemies ignore it. That sets up the conclusion of this book. I don't think I was really surprised by the end because I had a feeling I knew how it was going to end (about 40 pages from the end of the book). I shouldn't have been surprised, as Devil is a book that courses through many different scenarios and times in history, and the facts are-the facts, maam. There are no surprises (it's kind of hard to re-write history unless you're writing in the alternate history format, but Poore keeps it fresh by writing those scenes in such a manner that you can't help but be entertained. And entertained I was! I cannot tell you enough how much I enjoyed this. I didn't enjoy that it had to end, but I will do my best to keep it going by selling the crap out of it.

Victoria says

This debut novel follows the format of Devil as protagonist seen in Glen Duncan's *I, Lucifer*: Finally, the Other Side of the Story and Steven Brust's *To Reign in Hell: A Novel*. Here, the backdrop of the Devil's playground is America - running from the first settlers to land all the way to a more reality TV-ridden near future. Though some of the side trips fall more into the realm of world history, Poore returns his Devil time and again back to the U.S. of A. It is these asides, dreams and jaunts through history that provide the real meat of the story. Unfortunately, the overall frame doesn't really hold up on its own. Without the tangents, there simply would not be much of a book at all. While the novel would definitely be stronger if the general premise had more solid footing, the sideways snippets and glimpses are interesting enough to hold the book up and keep readers flipping pages.

Poore strikes a good balance between humour and some nuggets of genuine wisdom. With a debut novel like this, it will be interesting to see where he moves from here and just what characters and subjects he will tackle next!

? Sh3lly - Grumpy Book Grrrl ? says

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by the author who wrote *Reincarnation Blues*.

Jack says

If Richard Brautigan and Hunter Thompson were to have had a love-child (and I shudder at the thought) then Michael Poore would have been the result. Mike writes with a toss-away ease, tongue firmly embedded in cheek and wit honed to rapier sharpness.

I have to confess several things in writing this review. The first is that Mike is a part of the increasingly famous Highland Writers Group in NW Indiana. He has written stories with another member of the group, Ted Kosmatka, who has a new science-fiction novel out called "The Games" with Ballantine Books. HWG currently has either five or six published authors that I know of and I am also a member.

I've known Mike for several years. In that time, I have babysat his dog, Jake, drank gallons of Jack Daniels, eaten a half-ton of food at Buffalo Wild Wings (both of whom should be financing his book tour!) and have logged hours of discussion and debate with him, some of which I recognize in the book. So yeah, Mike is a good friend.

However, being friends, I know that he will tell me if my writing isn't making it and I'll tell him if something sucks. I listened to several chapters of this book as it was being written (we read our work aloud at the HWG workshops) and have watched as it metamorphasized. But this is the first time I've read the book in its entirety.

This is a rollicking good read!

Many people have criticized some of the minor points in the book, such as the affection that cows seem to have for the devil. I believe that is an attempt to weed out those readers that don't have a sense of humor and are too full of themselves. I mean, we have some Christian writers in our group and even they found some of that funny!

This is a book about the Devil as a fallen angel. Lucifer is what some call him. He prefers the name "John Scratch." And he thinks that Earth has the potential to be better than heaven. (Somewhere in my reading over the last five decades, I read a quote that said (I have to paraphrase), "If going to Heaven means that I am going to boringly sing hosannah's for the rest of eternity to a God that has the ego and mannerisms of a spoiled 4 year old brat, then send me to Hell. I'll be happier there!"

That is what this book is about.

God IS spoiled. He steals Scratch's girlfriend. And Scratch spends Centuries trying to make Earth better than Heaven so that he can lure her back and she will stay with him.

Along the way, Scratch learns what it is to be Human.

(And one has to wonder... was that God's intent as well?) LOL

No, this is NOT a religious book, though it does poke fun at narrow-minded thinking. It also pokes fun at those of us that really don't know what we want, but wish for something better. The moral of the story is, "Be careful what you wish for, you may get it... just not the in the manner or way you expected."

Good job, my friend!

Laura says

This book was recommended by Christopher Moore at a book signing, and I was glad when it finally came out (Christopher Moore had an advance copy). I can certainly see why he recommended it -- lots of the book is very much what Christopher Moore might have conceived of if he had ever written a book about the devil. There are also parts of it that reminded me of a Carl Hiaasen book, especially the parts about the "ick" factor of fame.

Throughout the book, though, there is also a strong emotional current -- an unusual love story that is not only between two characters, but also between the main character and humanity. He struggles to figure out what makes humans tick and, as humans evolve in various civilizations, his own views keep changing. While the ending felt as if it screeched to a halt (madcap pace suddenly much stiller, perhaps a bit abruptly), it also captured the wonder the protagonist has for the best of humans.

I gather this is the author's first novel (though he has published short stories in various collections). What a terrific debut! I look forward to reading whatever he does next.

Greg says

(Disclaimer! my wife acquired and edited this book.)

I've always thought that one of the highest kinds of praise you can give a novel is to call it original. *Up Jumps the Devil* is completely that, not to mention madcap, imaginative, and hilarious. And its heart is so obvious on every page that by the end you want nothing more than to clap Mike Poore on the back and sit down with him over beers.

The narrative's non-linear: The Devil (a.k.a. John Scratch) has adopted America as his "pet nation" billions of years after being expelled (as Lucifer) from heaven and mourning Arden, the angel whom he loves and who's reluctant to leave the safety of heaven. On earth, his simple philosophy is honed in part by the way God commandeered the creation process: "If anything, the Devil seemed to think that the world should do what came naturally, that everything natural was just fine, and that questions of Good and Evil were silly. He did what he did to help a better future come faster."

Over time the Devil has, quite literally, seen it all, from ancient Rome to Woodstock. He was there when Ben Franklin invented electricity, when George Washington beat back the British at Trenton, when Nat Turner rose up in rebellion. He became one with JFK during the Cuban missile crisis and his assassination, he was caught in the battle of Gettysburg, and he was there in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb exploded. After remembering his intimate experiences with these characters and places (my favorite parts of the novel; and let's not forget his encounters with Jesus and Pocahontas) the Devil befriends three 1960's bandmates who sell him their souls in exchange for fame and wealth. Their involvement with the Devil, who undergoes his own human-like trials and temptations, frames the rest of the story, which evolves into a critique of our overzealous, war-obsessed, notoriety-hungry culture.

While the Devil can unleash mischief and turn himself (and anyone else) into any physical form imaginable, Mike Poore's vision is really of an essential rebel who brings out the naughtier angels of our nature (for the better). "The world without the Devil," he writes, "was a world without certain kinds of fun. The kind you keep to yourself, like if women's shoes excite you or you like to eat dirt. It would be a world where the urges were shallow and sleepy, where you wanted to go to Mars less, wanted to get in shape less, wanted to do it doggie-style less." In other words, a world that's boring as hell.

Ted says

This book is basically the biography of the devil. This is one of the smartest, funniest, all-around best books I've ever read. An absolute joy. I hope this is just the first of many.

Lori says

this book was so good i almost put it down so i wouldn't finish it. very witty stuff. this author can say in one line what most authors can't say in paragraphs. the Devil has run-ins with george washington, ben franklin (who outsmarts him), Nat Turner, rock stars who sell their souls for fame, money and the chance to change the world. how can you not love a book with chapter headings like "people don't have to take your shit if you don't have any money" and "favorite foods and good and evil"? definitely recommend this book and this

author.

Richard Gazala says

Michael Poore is a skillful writer, and his new novel, "Up Jumps the Devil," is a good book. There's not much of a plot to this droll narrative that's mainly about John Scratch (a/k/a the Devil) and a musical trio with whom he forges a Faustian bargain just before the 1969 Woodstock music festival. At times, the book reads more like a diary or journal, skipping back and forth in time as Scratch confronts the nature of love gained and lost and perhaps gained again between himself and the inconstant soul mate of his endless life, and between himself and humanity (particularly humanity as represented by the birth and development of America over four centuries). So long as the dearth of a gripping plot is forgiven, there's much to recommend this novel. Poore's well-developed principal characters are sufficiently flawed to be interesting, though far from consistently endearing. After the woe of thinking about them subsides, Scratch's pointed observations about the human condition in a celebrity-obsessed culture insatiable for immediate gratification while drowning in incessantly vacuous so-called reality programming are frequently funny, and always provocative. Scratch is an astute dealer in bartering human souls in "Up Jumps the Devil," but after all's said and done America's is the soul whose price even the Devil can't quite put his claw on.

Terri Weitze says

What a fun read. Following the devil from heaven to his life on earth - jumping back and forth between momentous times in human history and present day; as he tries to shape humans into something "more". The devil in this story waivers between what you expect and what is not expected. Not a religious story and very much character driven, which I love.

Martha says

This book reminded me of Heinlein's 'On a Pale Horse'--devil as sympathetic character--I was kind of intrigued by the idea of the devil as the necessary rebel--the counterpoint--to creation--kind of like testosterone--a motivator for all action--I am never really a fan of stories that portray God as distant and kind of stupid--still, I found this book to be interesting and to have some challenging thoughts--

Marsha says

The Devil went down to Georgia...and Rome and Egypt and California. The Devil's been all over the world and he's still ambivalent about the two-legged creatures called Man that are roaming it. Taking the side of a Devil who doesn't hate people or wishes to defy God (much), Mr. Poore has crafted one of the most sympathetic, warm and interesting takes on Old Scratch that I've ever read. His Devil is funny, mischievous, childish, menacing and playful—and not always as smart as he should be.

Mr. Poore hasn't made the mistake of letting the other characters in his book go begging; there are few one-

dimensional characters here (although the angel Arden remains a bit of a cipher almost until the end). But none can loom as large as Lucifer himself. This Devil—magical, mythical, scary and very lonely—wants to change the world into another Eden to lure away an angel from Heaven and you can't help but applaud his efforts even as you wince at the results.

Is Heaven on Earth for humans even possible? What would you do to make the world a better place if you could? Questions like these and so many more fill the mind throughout “Up Jumps the Devil”, marking it as the best kind of novel...the kind that has you thinking, arguing, muttering and questioning long after you've read it.

Bookstorequeer says

This was a surprisingly good book. It started off a little shaky for me (cows, really?) but I was soon engrossed in the great writing and interesting, if macabre twist on everything. I love the different moments in history that the Devil had his hand in and how at the end of it all, he's not really evil. Just a little selfish, maybe.

I was given this book because it's "comparable to Christopher Moore" and while I can see why they made that comparison, it's really not true at all. Moore's books have a very strong sense of the absurd that runs throughout all of his books (some more strongly than others), but this book doesn't. It has the twisted characters but it's much more down to earth -- which is a strange thing to say for a book about the Devil! I also love that it takes us until the end of the book before we finally learn about Pocahontas. It's a good payout for reading the story.

All in all, a strangely engrossing read that will have you thinking about it long after it's over. I look forward to seeing an official copy, if only to see if the odd error I noted is still present.

Stewart Hoffman says

An interesting read. Clever, funny, and occasionally moving. This is a book best read quickly as it jumps around a lot. Dates, locations, etc. You could easily get lost if you let it sit too long.
