



Sympathy for the Devil

Holly Lisle

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Be careful what you wish for...One day, dayne Kuttner, a nurse, couldn't take it anymore. Sick at heart from doctors ordering her to maintain the life in patients who were already dead, saving people who didn't want the help, and most of all angry over the thought her recently deceased husband would rot in Hell for an eternity on a technicality, Dayne threw up a challenge to God. She asked that God should have sympathy for the Devil and those in Hell should get a second chance. Throughout the time of man, God had always answered people's prayers if they were done in perfect sincerity, purity and belief.

So God grants Dayne's request. In His Fashion.

A few of Hell's denizens are to be released to Earth so long as they follow a few rules. Lucifer, sensing a once-in-an-eternity opportunity, puts his second-in-command, Agonostis, in charge of the "Hellraised." Agonostis, currently out of favor with his leader, wonders if he's being set up. His suspicions are confirmed when Lucifer takes him aside to tell him about a second special mission while he's on Earth: within a month he must Damn Dayne's soul. A person unarguably on God's special list...

Sympathy for the Devil Details

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Author : Holly Lisle

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From Reader Review Sympathy for the Devil for online ebook

? BookAddict ✍ La Crimson Femme says

I read this book and felt rather confused. Ms. Lisle did an excellent job of mind fucking and getting people to feel sympathy for the Devil. From a Christian standpoint, BLASPHEMY! I felt ill at ease and needed to remind myself it's only a fiction book.

The world building is creating and the characters are endearing. This is a good book to read for a "what if" scenario. Ms. Lisle writes a smooth and fun book to enjoy.

Ana says

Meh. I'm between being pissed at Dayne for being clueless for so long and being glad everything worked out. Mostly, I'm just disappointed though. This was a fun read and I liked it somewhat but I expected better. And I most definitely wanted to like Adam which I didn't. Much. He seemed pretty lackluster for a second in command. He gave up all too fast and willingly. No fight at all. I wonder how he got to be second with such a mild personality. Anyway, Dayne being a *Mary-Sue* for instance was much less disappointing because it was expected due to her *relationship* with God. I don't know. I guess it was okay for just some mindless fun...probably depends on your mood.

Rating: 2.8 ★

Ken says

I discovered Holly Lisle through a series of articles on writing, posted on her website. I was intrigued enough to try her first novel and was glad I did. The book touches on familiar themes of good and evil, heaven and hell, and the excesses of modern medicine. Yet there's a constant undercurrent of humor that lifts the book above the mundane, and makes for an enjoyable read. I'll definitely be back for the next in the trilogy.

Thisdaydreamer says

Be careful what you pray for. Nurse Dayne Kuttner manages the very rarest kind of prayer - the true-hearted kind that always gets answered. Unfortunately, the answer she gets, although it technically is what she asked for, literally lets all Hell loose. Well, not all of it. But more than enough to complicate her life more than she ever dreamed possible and making her home state the temporary home for demons of every description. Silly and fun.

Geoff Young says

Super fast read. Neat idea, well executed. Characters are a bit thin, but this is an extended thought exercise that almost reads like parable or allegory, so depth isn't necessarily required. Light, good for what it is.

Was interested in reading something from Lisle after discovering her "notecarding" technique for creating plots. Her entire web site is quite useful if you write fiction.

Victoria Evangelina Allen says

This is a sweet book, where the good prevails the evil. I enjoyed the easy-flowing dialogue, the whimsical characters and the lightness of the whole reading experience. I might proceed to other books in the Devil's Point series.

Holly Lisle, the author of the book, is a great teacher of writing: check out her books and classes, I highly recommend them!

Katharina Gerlach says

I very much enjoyed this book. I loved the way hellish bureaucracy worked, and loved the humorous idea of god and his angels. Also, the story was full of interesting twists and turns and kept me captivated to the end.

The characters were very believable. The nurse was just the kind of person I would have liked for a friend. The devils were just devilish enough to entertain but, due to the restrictions god put on them, not scary. That was good because there was a deeply humorous undertone to this book that I loved.

I'm looking forward to reading the next two books in the series.

YouKneeK says

I think I just got tricked into reading a romance book. When I was about 75% through the book I suddenly realized that, despite the oddly amusing premise, most of the story centered around the relationship between... well, I guess that would be a spoiler.

This book was nearly as bizarre as the last book I read, in a different sort of way. Unlike that last book, however, this story had internal consistency so I was able to focus on the story without constantly arguing with the book in my mind. I guess this could be considered an urban fantasy book, and it's set in modern day North Carolina. In this story, Heaven and Hell and God and Lucifer are portrayed as being real, although they're not exactly portrayed in the manner you might have read about in religious texts. Hell is run sort of like a corporate business, and both sides employ the use of computers and technology to keep track of what's going on.

A woman named Dayne offers up a sincere prayer to God to give all of the denizens of Hell a second chance to repent. God chooses to grant her prayer by allowing a large number of demons to go to North Carolina, with some stipulations to keep things from getting too out-of-hand. Lucifer puts his second in command in charge of the operation, charging him with two tasks: 1) to use this opening to increase the number of souls sent to Hell and 2) to win the soul of Dayne for Hell.

The story had likeable and sometimes funny characters, and it was written well. I had read another very, very different series by this same author earlier this year (the Arhel series) which was more of a traditional epic fantasy with much less romance. This book wasn't at all what I was expecting based on that previous experience, and I didn't like this one nearly as well, but I did still enjoy the author's writing style. It was just an extremely short story and too romance-y for my tastes. I had a Kindle version of the book without page numbers but supposedly this book is only about 240 pages long. It felt shorter than that, actually.

On BookLikes I will give this book 3.5 stars, but I'm not going to round up to 4 here. There are two more books in this series, and I've decided to go ahead and give the next one a try because I'm curious where the author will go next with this premise. It's equally as short as the book I just read so it's not much of a time commitment.

Laura says

I first read Sympathy for the Devil in the mid90s. I think I paid full price for it at Barnes and Noble on a whim. It became one of my favorite books. It's only available in paperback and, sadly, the binding gave out. I forgot about it until I spotted a copy of the book (with the glue still intact on the binding) at Half Price Books a couple of days ago.

I reread The Screwtape Letters recently. As I read the book, I understood Holly Lisle's forward better. The book is an homage to CS Lewis. Just like The Screwtape Letters, the book is also a romance; it's a tribute to love.

I like God as portrayed here. I felt sympathy for the devils (just like the title implies).

I had a hard time, in the beginning, dealing with the measures the nurses in ICU had to resort to. (I find it interesting that all my friends and family members who are nurses have DNRs in place. After reading this book, I think I need one, too.) I understood why the deal was made, especially under the circumstances described in the book.

I usually have a difficult time with romances where it's instant love but I don't in this book. It's fantasy! The protagonist is one of those people who falls instantly in love with the nearest jerk & heartbreaker. She knows it's her weakness but her faith in love and God keep her going against impossible odds.

I wonder if I can find a new copy of the sequel, The Devil and Dan Cooley.

Ross says

An interesting and creative take on Heaven and Hell, with a smattering of romance and humor everywhere in

between. Holly Lisle has fun with the concepts God, Satan, Fallen Angels, and redemption, but overall *Sympathy for the Devil* remains a light and airy (and mostly cutesy) book that toys with the ideas contained within rather than explore their more interesting ramifications. GoodReads lists it as #1 in a series. I probably wouldn't go out of my way to pick up any more in the same universe, but I wouldn't turn down a copy for airplane/beach reading, either.

Jeremy Stephens says

This book is a lot like Neil Gaiman's book, *American Gods* in that it is a hysterical story in which divine activities center on one completely ordinary person. I couldn't put this book down. Both heaven and hell are presented in a humorous manner which leaves the reader thinking that the modernized presentation of both places is at once creative yet in many ways a sort of allegory for Christian Ideology of heaven, hell, God and the devil.

Reetta says

Holly Lisle has said that every scene in the book is a Candy Bar Scene for her. That is, a scene that really touched her with joy or anger, and a scene that she looked forward to writing.

The book reads well and has a brisk pace. It could maybe be a little longer but that's the only complaint I have about it. Sterling book.

T.L. Bodine says

I really wanted to like this book. I was geared up and excited to like this book. And, for the most part, it was enjoyable enough -- sometimes even charming. But it ultimately fell a little flat for me. Dayne doesn't really change in any interesting or meaningful way, the dialogue is stilted, and none of the conflicts were agonizing enough. It was fun, but after having read so much really wonderful writing advice from Holly Lisle, I was really expecting something special.

Dragana says

The amount of details in this book is amazing. Is it a coincident that Lucifer is Libra just like me?

Kagama-the Literaturevixen says

I re-read this book twice now, once 5 years ago and this year. Maybe I was hoping I'd matured enough to understand this book.

Well I've matured but only to fully understand the strangeness of this book...and its characters...

I felt uneasy about how it felt like she took a stance for the euthanasia side. Patients shouldn't suffer but, if she felt patients were suffering unduly she could have taken it to a higher authority, there are people who can decide in matters of medicine ethics. (at least in my country)

We never got to know Dayne not really, she remains a too-good-for-this-world character.

The story just plods along reaching its conclusion, without any climactic change for any of the characters.
