

The Devil's Stepdaughter

Julia Keller

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The Devil's Stepdaughter takes us back into beloved prosecuting attorney Bell Elkins's past. The year Bell turns eleven, she's living with a foster family in the beautiful but poverty-stricken mountains of West Virginia, and Keller draws a heartbreaking portrait of the time in Bell's life that shaped her into a woman who believes in fierce justice and fighting back.

The Devil's Stepdaughter Details

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Author: Julia Keller

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From Reader Review The Devil's Stepdaughter for online ebook

Megan Jensen says

I did not understand the purpose of any of the short novellas by Julia Keller. Are they meant to be introductions to future stories? Not worth the time in my opinion.

Pat says

A Bell Elkins short providing more background information on Bell's childhood in the foster care system of West Virginia.

Vivian says

3.5 star read

Selu says

I must admit the stars are mostly for the writing and characterization. Julia Keller does amazing things with her characters and she has a way with words that sends me into joyous highs and then envious lows, because I dream of writing in a way that reads as effortless. However, I can never get excited by her plots so I can never get as excited as I think the story deserves.

Heidi says

A short story into the early life of Belfa (Bell Elkins). I have really enjoyed the full length books in this series. This one is an in between book. It gives a more detailed description on the abuse that was inflicted upon Bell, and her sister Shirley at the hands of their father.

It is basically about the first foster family that she stayed with though. I don't think that the family would qualify in today's world. Especially with having someone like Crystal in the home. I won't go into anymore detail, or it would give away the book. Read it for yourself to find out how it all ends. I highly recommend it.

Janean Longeville says

Short story

A short, brief time period of Belva's time in foster care. Makes you grateful to not have been in foster care.

Shannon Manville says

Creepy Little Tale

If you'd like to learn a little about an instance of Belfry as a foster child, this is for you. I don't know if this is some sort of precursor to another story, but it is well written.

Daphne Lewis says

A fill-in story between books in the Bell Elkins series.

Sandy Kennedy says

Builds a good background for the series.

Shelby Bagby says

Novella Bell Elkins

This novella was so short it was hard to give it a higher rating however it was a nice glimpse into the childhood of Bell

Richard says

One of my favourite female characters in crime mystery; Bell Elkins. This short story gives some background into her difficult childhood and her relationship with Sheriff Fogelsong. It reflects well on how children adjust and survive; it is a good insight on how our modern day heroine copes and brings into her role as a prosecuting attorney. How the aspects of upbringing make or break us and what a person they are today.

As a short story it has merit as standalone piece of literature, speaking of bullying and what secrets are kept and why. Since it is about Bell it allows us to understand more and contextualise a character of the author's imagination.

This is the beauty of ebooks and for fans of Julia Keller book 2, Bitter River is now out in paperback and book 3, Summer of the Dead is out in August 2014.

Julia Keller is a wonderful storyteller, all her skills are evidenced in this brief tale and those who are new to

Christine says

I am trying to catch up with the wonderful Bell Elkins series by Julia Keller. I read the first three books a few years ago and loved them. Luckily for me, there are a few short stories and a couple of full length novels to get me back into the world of Acker's Gap, West Virginia and Bell Elkins, prosecuting attorney. How exciting!

This is The Devil's Step Daughter, a short story which sees the return of Bell. We go back in time to see Belfa as a young child. She is ten years old and alone. However we can see her relationship with the Sheriff Fogelsong forming. A new father figure. He is on her side.

Bell is what we would call today a 'looked after child'. She is in the foster care system, following the death of her abusive father. She has been placed with the McCluskeys, who are poor care providers and are only in it for the money. Bell finds an adversary in the form of fourteen year old Crystal. Crystal is a bully. Life is not that great for a young and vulnerable Bell.

It is interesting to see where Bell has come from. We get a taste of the experiences that shaped her. Clever. I approve of what Julia Keller has done.