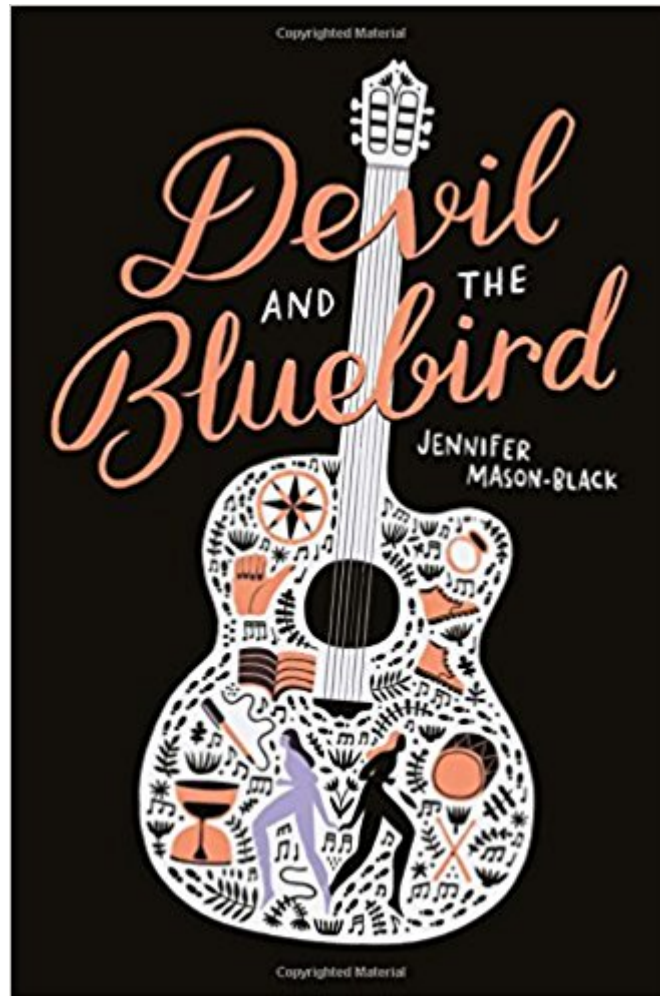


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Devil And The Bluebird



Synopsis

Blue Riley has wrestled with her own demons ever since the loss of her mother to cancer. But when she encounters a beautiful devil at her town crossroads, it's her runaway sister's soul she fights to save. The devil steals Blue's voice "inherited from her musically gifted mother" in exchange for a single shot at finding Cass. Armed with her mother's guitar, a knapsack of cherished mementos, and a pair of magical boots, Blue journeys west in search of her sister. When the devil changes the terms of their deal, Blue must reevaluate her understanding of good and evil and open herself up to finding family in unexpected places. In *Devil and the Bluebird*, Jennifer Mason-Black delivers a captivating depiction of loss and hope.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (24 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I think the reviewers who compared this book to a Charles de Lint story have it about right; it's a little plainer and rougher-edged than de Lint, but it has much the same feeling and should appeal to the same audience, which includes not only young adults but anybody who can remember being a young adult, with all the uncertainty that that implies. It also shares with many de Lint stories a background of folk music and traveling musicians, which always appeals to me. Sapphire Blue, or Bluebird, or just plain Blue, a girl in her late teens, sets out to look for her older sister, Cass, who left home abruptly a couple of years before and didn't telephone Blue on their mother's birthday, as she'd promised she would always do. Cass is the only person Blue has felt close to after their musician mother died of cancer; their aunt, who took them in, is pleasant enough but very

conventional. To speed her hunt for her sister, Blue goes to a deserted crossroads at midnight and makes a deal with a woman in a red dress, whom she believes is the devil. The woman gives Blue boots that will point her in Cassâ™s direction, but Blue has only six months to find her sister: if she fails, the woman can claim both of their souls. As a down payment, furthermore, the woman takes Blueâ™s voice; Blue cannot speak for most of the story, but must communicate by writing notes. An additional bit of âœfine printâ• in the deal states that if Blue tells anyone her real nameâ™ or if they find it out on their ownâ™ she must leave them within three days, or harm will come to them. Blue travels across the country with little more than her (and before that, her motherâ™s) guitar in its battered case, encountering good people and then bad people and then good people again and so on.

3.5 StarsPROS: The supernatural moments were sultry, devious, and insanely creepy. The kind of stuff that makes your skin crawl. I was crazy impressed with how terrifying these small scenes were. Chills. The devil is seductive, manipulative, playful, and yet, doesnâ™t seem inherently evil. Sheâ™s complex (I wish there was more of her and these teeny scary scenes). This blend of folk legend and cross-country journey of self discovery is pervasive and grips you immediately. Blueâ™s quest to find her sister to hold on to some semblance of the life she used to know is poetic, beautiful, and cathartic. Thereâ™s a smokey air of supernatural and uncertainty that keeps the story fresh despite the slow pace. Secondary characters are something else. They each have strong, unique voices and carry their own pain. No matter how fleeting their time in the story, they add a sharp âœrealnessâ• that contrasts strongly with the paranormal. Diversity is a powerful component. There are people from all walks of life, trans, homeless, extremely religious, wanderers, dreamers, musicians. Theyâ™re all there, bursting into life with each moment on the page. There are a lot of dangers on the road as well. From thieves, to traffickers, to serial killers, you never know whatâ™s coming. This story is really about finding yourself when everything spins out of control and all stability is lost. When so much of who you are is based on your relation to others and how they perceive you, what do you have left when theyâ™re gone? Blue struggles to learn who she is, who she wants to be, and to find her voice after it was robbed from her by the devil.

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