



On the Devil's Court

By Carl Deuker

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What would you give to be your school's superstar? After reading *Dr. Faustus*, Joe considers the merits of selling his soul to the devil. Suddenly, he finds himself changing from a lousy basketball player and a C student to the star athlete he always dreamed he could be. Even though he isn't sure if he actually made a deal with the devil, he can't help but enjoy the benefits that come with his newfound abilities. But is achieving his dreams worth what he may have given up?

In this coming of age sports novel, Joe learns the power of belief and that the only goals worth attaining are the ones that you earn -- on your own.

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On the Devil's Court By Carl Deuker Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

According to PW, this "absorbing reworking of the Faustian legend has plenty of relevance for modern readers. Deuker skillfully blends gritty basketball action with well-rounded characters to create a vivid contemporary morality tale." Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 8-12 In a well-constructed juxtaposition, senior Joe Faust fears that, like the legendary Dr. Faustus, he has made an irrevocable pact with the devil. The only child of a famous geneticist and a sculptress, Joe feels inadequate except on the basketball court. When the family moves to Seattle, Joe is eager to experience the non-conformity of public school and the competition of Metro basketball, but his parents veto nearby Loyal High in favor of Eastside, an academic private school. Joe unleashes his frustrations in an abandoned gym where the devil he's read about in Doctor Faustus seems to inspire a series of perfect shots. Desperate for success and identity, Joe vows, "Give me a full season, give me twenty-four games of this power, and my soul is yours." Joe becomes a superstar, but his uneasiness is heightened as he delves deeper into Dr. Faustus in his English class. Finally, when Joe wins the twenty-fifth game, he realizes that, "The devil's work if he had done any was over." For better or worse, Joe learns that he is the master of his fate. This well-paced first novel is a clever blend of family conflict, superstition, and exciting sports action. Adolescent readers will empathize with the mind games that Joe plays as he struggles for self-identity and independence; teachers will delight in the literary references and analogies; and librarians will praise this fine addition to sports fiction. Gerry Larson, Chewning Junior High School, Durham,

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Review

Praise for *On the Devil's Court*:

An ALA Best of the Best Books for Young Adults

An ALA Best Book for Reluctant Readers

A South Carolina Young Adult Book of the Year

* "A clever blend of family conflict, superstition, and exciting sports action. Adolescent readers will empathize with the mind games that Joe plays as he struggles for self-identity and independence; teachers will delight in the literary references and analogies; and librarians will praise this fine addition to sports fiction." - *School Library Journal* (starred review)

"Deuker skillfully blends gritty basketball action with well-rounded characters to create a vivid contemporary morality tale." - *Publishers Weekly*

"A rites-of-passage portrait with an unusual twist." - *Booklist*

"A rare sports novel with complex plot and characterizations as well as gripping game play." - *The Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pearl Norris:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a book. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled *On the Devil's Court*. Try to stumble through book *On the Devil's Court* as your buddy. It means that it can to get your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortuned to suit your needs. The book makes you a lot more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let's make new experience and knowledge with this book.

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Juanita Geil:

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