



## **Damned If You Do**

*Marie Sexton*

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*The path to temptation is paved with a hellish amount of paperwork.*

Soul acquisition is a drag, but if Abaddon doesn't catch up on his quota, he could be demoted to scooping poop for the Hounds of Hell. With a deadline hanging over him, he heads for the Bible Belt, looking for the perfect combination of sweetness and challenge.

Seth is a blind musician, part of a traveling tent revival. He's cute, mystically talented, and quotes the Bible at every turn. His soul is pure enough to fill Abaddon's quota for months to come, and Abaddon is determined to claim it.

The problem? There's the revival foreman who watches Abaddon's every move. Then there's the mystery of Seth's many unusual talents. Lastly, there's Abaddon himself. He's beginning to like Seth a bit too much. Maybe Seth deserves something better than damnation.

But Hell's agenda isn't negotiable, and time is running out. If Abaddon doesn't play his cards right, he could condemn both of them to the worst fate of all—an eternity apart.

*Warning: Contains a Bible-quoting twink and an irreverent devil who'll do anything to avoid going "back to the office". Also, snakes. Lots and lots of snakes.*

## Damned If You Do Details

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Author : Marie Sexton

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# From Reader Review Damned If You Do for online ebook

**Alisa says**

3.5 stars

Well the Devil went down to Georgia (Kentucky actually)  
He was lookin' for a soul to steal  
He was in a bind 'cause he was way behind  
And he was willin' to make a deal  
When he came across this young man  
Sawin' on a fiddle and playin' it hot  
And the Devil jumped up on a hickory stump  
And said, "Boy, let me tell you what"  
"You probably didn't know it  
But I'm a fiddle player too  
And if you care to take a dare  
I'll just make a bet with you"  
"Now you play a pretty good fiddle, boy  
But give the Devil his due  
I'll bet a fiddle of gold against your soul  
I think I'm better than you"  
The boy said, "My name's Johnny (actually it's Seth)  
And it might be a sin  
But I'm gonna take your bet, you're gonna regret  
I'm the best there's ever been"

.....and so their love story begins. I admit I was a little hesitant at first. Because seriously, all that happened. The book began as a Charlie Daniels Band song. But it quickly became a funny and sweet story that reeled me right in. I don't do sweet books often but I thought this was lovely. Kind of a refreshing change to all the smut I usually read. I really liked both Seth and Abaddon as characters and I found the whole story entertaining. There were also some super funny parts when the devils are talking about certain politicians and celebrities.

\*ARC provided through Netgalley in exchange for a honest review\*

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**SheReadsALot says**

**4.5 Hearts--**

**"If Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end."**  
~ Mark 3:26

Who would have ever thought such a sweet romance could be produced between a devil and a Bible-quoting preacher's son?

*Not me.*

For my first time reading Marie Sexton (yes, I know I live under a book covered rock), I was impressed. I went in expecting hot, lusty sinful times with a tempting devil who pulls out all his tricks to bring young Seth to his downfall. Instead, *Damned If You Do*, was funny, sweet, angsty-ish and hopeful.

Abbadon is just another overworked, paper pushing demon in Hell, where he works in a sea of cubicles on the 132nd floor (the elevator is broken--eternally) in the Soul Harvesting division. (Loved this author's version of Hell by the way.) He's been slacking off, and the Big Guy Below has caught on, mandating him to fill his soul quota. Abbadon figures aiming for the best soul will earn more brownie points than getting as many low level souls he can in his two week time frame. He is intrigued by Seth's soul in Kentucky, a blind musician and preacher's son who is so innocent, his soul beckons like the best candy.

He befriends Seth, tries to get in his good graces but his plans to get his grubby mitts on that candy flavored soul keeps getting thwarted by...his feelings.

**"You are my guiding star."**

**"I don't know if it worked, but..." He bit his lip, looking almost flirtatious, except that he'd probably never intentionally flirted with anybody in his life. "I tried to shine extra bright for you."**

Abbadon can't help the pull to the human with unusual traits. (Hint: snakes) Revivalist Seth keeps quote Bible scriptures when faced with a hardship, but Seth's faith never wavered. He was innocent to the core. Good vs. evil is a great trope, right? Add a little mystery and I was totally hooked.

The story spans about the two weeks with great side characters, Zed, Seth's foreman and Baphomet, Abbadon's only friend from Hell. They work with the pair to make the story move on an even pace.

*Damned If You Do* is not only funny at moments, but in between the well-crafted sentences, she placed tiny angst berries in the corners of the pages that would burst at the most opportune time, leaving a sweet yet tart feeling in its wake.

There I am angst berry stained, and reading faster and faster, not noticing how tightly the author had me in her grip.

I got a little emotional...touched in the chest cavity...

The feelz were engaged, couldn't be helped. (Even with the snakes)

**"He was lost in Seth's brilliance, high on his purity, enraptured by his taste. He hadn't felt anything like it in all the years since passing over, and if he'd felt it before losing his soul, he didn't remember and didn't care. He felt anything from his past must pale next to this."**

The love was touching even when all hope felt lost. Because it seemed like impossible met improbable. But there is a clever HEA that will satisfy those who were rooting for Abbadon and Seth.

Were there quibbles? Minor ones but the main points were explained. I wouldn't have minded a little more background with Abbadon, maybe seeing him and Baphomet more than at 'work' but I understand why they couldn't. And maybe a little more scenes at Abbadon being bad his job. I get others just knew what a "lousy" devil he was. But maybe a little more showing of failure? I was greedy that way.

The story isn't sex filled, it more sensual and sweet than anything. If you love romances that focus more on the emotions, well, this is one to give a chance.

I really liked this couple a lot. Despite my quibbles and feeling it was so fast, so soon. I ate the words, couldn't think better men for each other. I think the length worked and showcased the best sides of the characters.

#TeamSabbadon

Another great choice to my 'demon' shelf added. Definitely reading more of this author. Can't believe I waited this long.

**Recommended?** Um...yes. Especially for readers who don't mind their paranormal tinged with the biblical. It's sweet, left me with heart eyes and feeling a little soft and pink...under my horn(s).

*A copy via Netgalley provided for an honest review.*

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## **Susan says**

*"You once told me that my soul is like a beacon to you. Like a lighthouse."*

*"You are my guiding star."*

*"I don't know if it worked, but..." Seth bit his lip, "I tried to shine extra bright for you."*

Abaddon is a devil, one of many slaving away in hell. And by slaving away I mean do paperwork. Hell is endless and endless paperwork. Without a computer. Well, if that doesn't sound like hell, I don't know what does...

He has to get people to cede their soul to him so that they can end up like him. But Abaddon never liked collecting souls all that much. So he is on probation. He needs to collect more souls, or he will get demoted. He will never be able to get to earth again and he will have to do an even worse job than he is doing now.

*There's laying asphalt around the Lake of Fire, hauling rocks out of the Great Abyss, poop-scooping for the Hounds of Hell, selling flashlights without batteries in the Outer Darkness. And those are just the jobs in the underworld. There are plenty of places they could send you up top too. Mowing lawns in Louisiana in mid-August, cleaning hotel rooms in Vegas, emptying bedpans in a celebrity rehab facility in Hollywood. There's retail work, fast food franchises, lunchroom duty, janitorial work—."*

So he goes off to search for that one bright soul that will make him reach his quota. It is then that he feels the brightest soul he has ever encountered. Seth is a 22 year old blind young man, who is traveling with a revival to spread the word of God.

I have to say that there was a lot of bible quoting going on that I cared nothing about. But besides that this was great!

I loved how Abaddon couldn't stay away from Seth. How tender he was even though he was supposed to be a scary devil.

This book is low on sexy times. There was one scene, but this concentrates mostly on the growing relationship between the guys and not necessarily on the sex.

A very entertaining read!

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## Vallie says

This is going to be short and sweet. The story was absolutely adorable—for all its devilishness, *see what I did there?*

I have never read anything of the sort before and I was pleasantly surprised at how light and funny this was. Abaddon is a horrible devil—slacks on paperwork, hates the hassle of acquiring souls, and gets infatuated with a blind musical prodigy at a Christian revival.

Yes, there are many bible quotes. All the scenes on Earth take place at the revival du jour or a nearby forest. There are always woods available to sneak off to for some reason. There is also a weird thing Seth does with snakes, really disgusting, creepy crawly stuff, but it's all good fun.

The slow build up and pursuing the forbidden made for some delicious tension. Seth was such a pure soul and even though our narrator was Abaddon, it was obvious that even a devil could be blinded by Seth's nature.

Don't read this book for the sex cause there wasn't much of it. But, the romance was really sweet and our devil's redemption story was heart-warming with a solid HEA.

Marie Sexton writes beautiful stories and I appreciated the good writing here. I laughed with the way Hell was described and the drone-like little devils slaving away in their cubicles.

Recommend to all fans off mm who enjoy their romance sweet and light.

***ARC provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. See this review on Gay Book Reviews.***

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## **Christy says**

It feels like forever since I read anything by Marie Sexton so it was utter joy to experience her writing again. I knew I was in for a hellish treat, pun intended, based not only on the description, but this author has dry wit and quirky humor in spades. I wasn't wrong, and believe me when I tell you 'Damned If You Do' was exactly what I needed.

The fact that right off the bat the story began with Abaddon getting a memo from Satan that ended with "Also: get a haircut" pretty much told me I was in for a wild ride. Abaddon has two weeks to acquire a soul or he'll be demoted and his traveling to Earth privileges will be revoked. I was beginning to get the feeling that Abaddon might not be the greatest devil in Hell seeing as he found tricking someone out of their soul depressing. Apparently he's the only devil in Hell with a conscience.

*"He liked his souls devout. No Unitarians for him. Hardly any flavor there at all. He found Mormons a bit salty, and Catholics too bitter, but Southern Baptists were like butterscotch, Methodists like caramel, and a Pentecostal—oh, those were his favorite—their souls tasted like pink cotton candy, sticky and sugary sweet."*

Seth is a true believer and someone I can honestly admit, I don't understand. His sight was taken from him at nineteen for no reason, seemingly, but he's sure God will restore it in his own time. Seth and Abaddon make a wager. A fiddle contest, but not for a fiddle made of gold (which Seth just laughs at), but a soul for a soul. An unusual wager, no doubt, since Abaddon lost his soul years ago, but Seth wants to have Abaddon come to the tent revival that night, so the deal is struck. Abaddon loses, as I'm sure you can imagine, and the devil ends up at a tent revival in Kentucky.

In the evenings that pass, Abaddon is at every revival as Seth's soul is so pure he can't stay away. Zed, the foreman, is not happy and does everything he can to keep Abaddon away from Seth. The time spent with Seth begins to change Abaddon in small ways that grow larger until he no longer wants Seth's soul for Hell, but Abaddon's time is growing short. It's more than Seth's soul that has Abaddon mystified, though. There are strange things that happen around Seth. Unexplainable things. Unbelievable things.

As I fully expected the author blew me out of the water with this latest release. There was humor, irony, and satire, but there was so much more. There was emotion I wasn't expecting and a storyline that hit me right in the heart, and tore it open. I may have said I didn't understand Seth and his boundless faith, but I surely respected him and it.

Beautiful and funny in ways I'm entirely unable to really explain.

NOTE: This book was provided by the publisher for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews

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## Pianka \*call me PIU\* says

### 4+ STARS

This book is just the most adorable and sweet demonic novel that I have ever read. Mostly I steer clear of hyper religious stories, but this book just gave an all new look to the underworld and heaven/hell dynamics. The story is about a demon pursuing a human for his soul and then falling in love with the said human despite of all the strict “no-no” rules of the HELL. And who will be able to resist such a unique forbidden romance??? NOT ME! Besides that, the story has two of the cutest MCs ever and **be warned.... LOTS OF SNAKES!**\*yikes\* So yeah! this book is a pretty unique and entertaining read.

Abaddon is the worst demon in the history of HELL. He is a demon with a **CONSCIENCE**. Abaddon has been falling behind in his quota of souls and now he has to hurry his ass up and fill it or he will get demoted. The only soul that gets his attention is of a young, blind musician who travels with a revival group. This soul is Abaddon’s big ticket to snag a promotion complete with a “corner office”. Imagine his dilemma when Abaddon’s conscience kicks in on meeting Seth and he gets more worried about dragging Seth’s soul to HELL than his pending demotion.

Seth is different than any human Abaddon has ever met. He is a devout Christian who can quote the entire bible. He is also a talented musician, who can play about any instrument like a maestro. Seth has total faith in GOD and he believes that everything that has happened is totally as per GOD’s will. So all in all Seth has the sweetest soul, a devil can never resist! Abaddon’s pursuit of Seth’s soul turns into a beautiful journey of falling in love, self-sacrifice and heavenly intervention.

This was a very unique read which is sweet and at times really funny. The entire rendition of HELL is an awesome way of showing how dreary, boring and soul sucking HELL can be. There is always huge paperwork, the subway smells, rules against making friends and last but not the least, you cannot laugh at all. So Abaddon pretty much hates it there but hey, once you make a deal with the Devil, you are stuck!!!

I adored Abaddon the most. He is the sweetest and also the worst Devil in all of HELL. His unusual friendship with his prey is just unconventional and so darn **CUTE**. Devils are known to be great tricksters but Abaddon lacks that quality completely. He is always upfront with Seth about who he is and what he wants. He bends all the rules to be with Seth. The friendship between Seth and Abaddon grows gradually to love and Abaddon is ready to risk the deepest dregs of HELL if it means he can spare Seth’s pure and innocent soul. **TRUE LOVE**\*sigh\*

This read was pretty short. I wanted more of Abaddon and Seth and maybe a little more steam too. Abaddon and Seth are the sweetest couple ever but a few more sexy times would have been highly appreciated. This read have a lot of bible quotes but don’t get alarmed. The quotes are a part of who Seth is and you would never feel that you are getting preached. So, that was pretty refreshing.

All in all, Damned if you do is a sweet romance of opposites attracting and self-sacrifice in the name of TRUE LOVE.

**This Review has been cross posted at Gay Book Reviews**

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## **~nikki the recovering book addict says**

### **5 devilish stars!!**

For an MC that's a devil, Abaddon really is a terrible one, he's even said so himself. This was really a fun take on angels and demons and apparently their endless piles of paperwork. So funny!

I like that for short story, it's packed quite a punch and is totally unpredictable. I mean, I really didn't know how things would play out until they did. I had so many different theories on who Seth was and how they could end up together but nope, I didn't even come close, which was great!

This was an awesome read. Really fun! And it was so easy to imagine hell as Marie Sexton portrayed it. That was hilarious too ?

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## **Ami says**

### **3.5 stars**

Abaddon has not been able to meet his soul quota and the failure to do so will result in demotion. So Abaddon is set to do the ultimate soul acquisition, something SO BIG that he didn't have to do any soul taking anymore, a golden ticket to promotion. And where else would he get this pure soul? None other than the Bible's Belt, ladies and gentlemen.

I immediately liked Abaddon, there was something really funny about devil who thought soul acquisition was a drag of a job. I admit I was a bit hesitant when Abaddon met Seth for the first time though. Seth definitely quoted Bible quite a lot -- and as a Muslim those verses got lost on me. Never really good in interpreting holy words, I guess :). I was also worried where the story would took direction, with Seth being part of a revival group.

BUT, this was ultimately a sweet story. Although it involved a devil and a faithful young blind musician, but it didn't went at all preachy. I enjoyed the twist about Seth and how Abaddon and Seth found a way to be together in the end (yes, people, there is HEA, so no worries!).

However, I also didn't quite grasp the relationship built, especially in Seth's part. I mean, Seth was blind and as much as I don't understand about sexual attraction (being asexual that I am), I think the way that someone's look do play part on it? So I wonder how Seth could find himself falling for Abaddon. They didn't really spend a lot of time together because the revival group kept moving places and Abaddon practically ran around Hell to find loop hole in his mission to retrieve Seth's soul. It was easier for me to believe that Abaddon could fall for Seth and his pure soul rather than the other way around.

**Conclusion:** It was sweet and light romance involving character with strong religious faith. Oh, and watch out for the snakes. I mean it. There were A LOT OF SNAKES!!!

*The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.*

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## **?? Michaelle ♡?? says**

Audio Review 11Oct2018: No change

HA! I read this over a year before the audio came out...and I was totally right. It was just as good the second time around. (LOL the first time I typed that it came out "sexton time around.")

A little darker than I remembered with the snakes (why did it have to be snakes?) plus the religiosity BS/whatnot...but Abbadon's lamentations about the paperwork and minutiae of soul collection was just funny to me (as was the commentary on football stars and crooked politicians owing their souls to the Devil). Still loved the ending and how things worked out...

Also, I think the whole "Devil Went Down to Georgia" aspect was even more noticeable via audio - and while I hate Charlie's politics, I do so love that song. John Solo did a great job with the performance. (**Edited to Add:** Can a Librarian please add him to the details of Audio Edition, please? Thanks!)

Original Review 29Aug2016: 4.3 Stars

So damn funny. I hope there will be/is an audio version because I could use the laughter again...

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## **Lisazj1 says**

Despite this being about a demon who needs to collect a soul and a revival musician preacher's son, this is one of the sweetest romances I've read in a while. \*sigh\* I loved it!

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## **Teal says**

\*\*\*\* 4 stars & a bit more \*\*\*\*

A recipient of my Ultimate Stamp of Approval™ : After reading it for free on KU, I spent money to buy a copy for myself.

There were a couple of words that kept coming to mind as I read this:

**Fable** - That's what I'd call this story, with its tone perfectly balanced between light and dark, fantasy and realism, humor and potential tragedy.

**Chutzpah** - Super-sized balls (or the anatomical equivalent of your choice) on the author to write a gay MC who's a true-blue, dyed-in-the-wool Christian evangelical... but isn't suffering a crisis of faith; isn't battling homophobia, external or internalized; isn't ashamed, or broken, or self-loathing; isn't oppressed by his fellow

believers; and doesn't need to reject or reevaluate his faith in order to find true love and happiness.

As I read this, every once in a while I'd pause for a moment to marvel. Marie Sexton built a light-hearted (yet serious) romance between a devout Christian and a demon from the depths of Hell -- and holy shit (my first pun, oh the self-control it's taken to get this far without one), I am impressed. The ingenuity it took to make the story work, the consistency of tone and the quality of the writing... Wow.

Prior to this, the only other thing of hers I'd read was Promises, and I didn't much like it. Since it was her debut novel, I was open to giving her another try. But I have zero interest in the BDSM novels she's been writing recently, so she wasn't actively on my radar. I honestly don't recall how I came across this one. But I'm delighted that I found it.

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~☆~Danni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

**Devils, angels, hippy revivals, and more bible quotes than Vegas hookers on a Friday night.**

Abaddon is failing as a devil. He hasn't met his soul acquisition quota in months and is in serious danger of being demoted, as if his current job in Hell weren't bad enough.

There are never-ending stacks of paperwork in triplicate, millions of envelopes to lick and stuff, photocopyers from 1985, 22 hour waits at the DMV, noisy neighbors, and stinky subways. So basically everyday life, but with ~~Trump~~ Satan as president.

Seth is a blind musician with the purest soul Abaddon has ever felt. **Winning Seth's soul would be a major boon for Abaddon, but he's a devil with a conscience and the more time he spends with Seth, the more he falls.**

Seth is innocent and selfless, a sweet virgin who wants to see the Grand Canyon and find someone to call his own. Seth yearns to spend time with Abaddon, but Zeb, his ever present guardian, is determined to keep them apart.

This book isn't about religion, but it is about FAITH; it's a literal interpretation of the bible with a twist.

**There are visions, miraculous healings, and snakes.** Allow me to quote Acts 28:3:

*But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened itself on his hand. When the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live." However he shook the creature off into the fire and suffered no harm.*

At 1,900 locations, *Damned if You Do* is a delicious bite of what I wish had been a longer story. I love Marie Sexton's writing style and wanted more of Seth and Abaddon on page together. There's almost no steam, but there are serious feels. I got all choked up toward the end.

**Ultimately, this is a story of love triumphing over evil, of wanting to save someone more than you want to save yourself.**

Sometimes you gamble with the devil, and win.

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## Jewel says

?Well, if this wasn't just the cutest ?devil redemption story I've ever read! ?Ok, I admit, it is the *only* devil redemption story I've read, but it was still OTT cute! ?And in spite of the religious theme, and all the Bible quoting,?and there was **a lot** of bible quoting?, I did not feel preached at, in the slightest. What a refreshing surprise? that was?!

I found Abaddon to be ?downright adorable. ?He was an awful devil, though. Always getting behind on his soul acquisition quotas, and never reading his memos and just generally being very non-devilish. ?He doesn't remember anything about his life before crossing over to the cubicle side of Hell, but he knows he made a deal with a devil, and, well...?that has the predictable consequence of a hellish existence in the hereafter.? And now, Abaddon is in danger of being demoted!?

*? "--but there are still plenty of things worse than soul acquisition."*

Yes, and not all of them are in hell. For instance:

*"Mowing lawns in Louisiana in mid-August, cleaning hotel rooms in Vegas, emptying bedpans in a celebrity rehab facility in Hollywood. There's retail work, fast food franchises, lunchroom duty, janitorial work--"*

So, yeah, there are definitely worse things than being stuck in a cubicle fighting with 1980's era copy machines and paper memos and rules like "no laughing". ?

Even still, Abaddon doesn't really like tricking people out of their souls and, really, he'd rather take a long shot that would reap bigger rewards, than just take any old soul just to keep his quota. And when he senses Seth's soul, it's like the call of a Siren. He cannot resist.? And Seth's soul is just so delicious, how's a devil to resist?!?

Seth is different than other humans that Abaddon has encountered?, though?. Sure, he's devout and actually believes the Christian doctrine and can quote pretty much the whole Bible, but his soul is so bright? and Seth is just breathtaking?! Abaddon cannot help but be drawn to young man. Seth is something truly special.

?And while happy, Seth isn't really that content with his life. He's grateful for everything his family has given him, and he likes travelling with the revival, but he wants more from life. He wants to see the world and find someone to share his life with. ?He wants to fall in love. ?But God, it would seem, had different plans, and Seth is kind of stuck.

Meeting Abaddon was a happy happenstance, for Seth. Abaddon intrigues him, and maybe he should be

afraid, but he's not. At all. Just the opposite, actually.

And what follows is a story I thoroughly enjoyed.? And snakes. There were a lot of snakes. But we get to know both Seth and Abaddon and? I found myself chuckling a fair amount and I even teared up a time or two. I so enjoyed them and watching them become friends and then fall for each other. And in the end?, they both win by being just a little bit selfless. That's Twu Wuv!

I would have enjoyed some steam, though, I won't lie. There really wasn't any. But I was so entertained by the story, that I couldn't help but devour it like cotton candy.

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*ARC of **Damned If You Do** was generously provided by the publisher, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **Skye Blue ?\*~??('`?)~\*? says**

This was just too cute.

I know, soul collecting demon doesn't sound like it would be cute.

Of course, your first thought is groan..."Devil went down to Georgia" made into a book.

But it didn't take me long to get on board.

I also thought of Crowley on Supernatural.

I know, that's not quite how is described, but once the image was there, it was stuck.

but HEY, I like Crowley. So I went with it.

There were a lot of biblical quotes in there, and snakes...weird snakes that bite but give pleasure?

But it doesn't get dark and broody. It's a very fun read.

I just wanted ~~Crowley~~ Abaddon and Seth to get their HEA.

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## **? Todd says**

This story of a **soul collecting demon**, hot on the heels of a **blind preacher's son**, was pretty cute and I suspect that many readers will really enjoy this one.

**Abaddon** is a pretty crappy demon, as demons go. He **isn't all that evil** and he's a bit like that one co-worker that you just want to slap most of the time. Only showing up for the paycheck, doing the bare minimum of work and letting others pick up the slack. His heart's just not in tricking people out of their immortal souls.

**And Satan just noticed.**

Meanwhile, at 22, **Seth** is pretty much the opposite in every way possible. After being **abandoned under a piano bench as an newborn** and raised by a tent revival reverend in the Bible Belt, Seth is about as devout as they come. Even after **losing his sight** on his 19th birthday, he doesn't see that as a punishment and continues to **spout bible verses** like an overly-polite person would spout "bless you's" at a pepper factory.

And Abaddon just found the motherlode of all souls in Seth, which will **get himself back in Satan's good graces**.

I loved the back and forth between the tempting Abaddon and the *not-to-be-tempted* Seth, even though Seth thinks the ploys for his soul are **only a game** in the beginning, much to his self-appointed protector Zed's complete horror.

But **Abaddon never lies to Seth** in regards to *who* and *what* he is. And what he *wants*. **Seth's cotton candy sweet soul**. It's all that Abaddon can think about once he's been in Seth's presence.

But then Abaddon's supposedly non-existent conscience rears its ugly head and messes up his plans to reap the brightest soul that he's ever seen. Which could put Abaddon himself **directly in the path of Satan's wrath**.

I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the two men develop a fondness for one another, that continued to grow into something much, much deeper.

I would, however, have liked **a teeny bit less running around** all over Hell (very literally) and half of Georgia as Abaddon attempts to work out the details of a **loophole to save Seth** and allow them to be together. **Forever. In Hell.**

While we did get **a good bit of interaction between Abaddon and Seth**, I felt that the story could have used **a bit more** in that respect, as I still got a wee bit of **an insta-love feeling** when all was said and done.

I also loved the background story on **Seth and how he came to be what he is** in regards to his role during the roving tent revival sermons.

**The first three-fourths of the story worked really well** for me, but to be honest, "*the big event*" and its accompanying bible quote, which **completely changed the course of both men's lives**, left me a bit

confounded as to what actually happened and how. What can I say, I've always sucked at interpreting Bible verses.

Overall, I'd say that this sweet and cute story **rates about 3.75 stars** for me and would recommend it to anyone looking for a **non-preachy story of salvation and redemption**.

And who isn't afraid of snakes. Because there are snakes.

**Lots. And. Lots. Of. Snakes.**

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*My ARC copy of the book was provided by the publisher through NetGalley in exchange for a fair, unbiased review.*

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