



## 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:

**Bryan Smith:**

The book On the Devil's Court give you a sense of feeling enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make looking at a book On the Devil's Court being your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You are able to know everything if you like wide open and read a book On the Devil's Court. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science book or encyclopedia or other folks. So , how do you think about this book?

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