



Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel

By MaryJanice Davidson

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Vampire queen Betsy Taylor makes a deal with the devil in order to discover the secrets of the *Book of the Dead*. Just one catch: she and her sister must go to hell to do it. Just long enough to make nice with her mother, aka Lucifer, and take a detour through time...

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Editorial Review

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The ninth tale in the life of Betsy Taylor, Vampire Queen, sees her chafing against domesticity while living in a mansion with her gorgeous vampire consort Eric Sinclair and their adopted son, who is Betsy's orphaned biological half-brother. After realizing that she really doesn't know that much about Eric or his assistant, Tina, Betsy is persuaded by her sister, Laura, the Spawn of Satan, to accompany her to Hell. Hell is a waiting room with lots of doors, and when they venture through the first door they find themselves in Salem during the witch trials and Betsy butts in. Other doors take them to other times and places where Betsy sees Eric's past, including an incident from his childhood. Readers will be happy to know that the passion the sassy, foul-mouthed queen of the undead has for designer shoes has not diminished in this amusing episode in Davidson's popular series. --Diana Tixier Herald

About the Author

MaryJanice Davidson is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Undead* novels featuring Betsy Taylor; *Derik's Bane*, and the new young adult novels featuring Jennifer Scales, written with her husband, Anthony Alongi, among other titles.

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DERIK'S BANE

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MYSTERIA

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MYSTERIA LANE (with P. C. Cast, Gena Showalter, Susan Grant)

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*For Sarah and Sherrilyn and Jen and Lisa
and Vicky and Marissa,
who helped me bring my bad self
back to my bad self,
and never once asked me for anything.*

Acknowledgments

Okay, so, at the end of the day, when it's time to write a book, it's just me and the computer ... me, glaring balefully at same; computer refusing to make eye contact in the childish way it has.

(I should probably rewrite that: it should be *the computer and me*, right? Cuz I'm tryin' to write good n' stuff. Enh. I've already lost interest.)

But! For me to have the time to sit my big white butt down in the seat and get the work done? Tons of people help with that. And since I willfully ignore them most of the time, when I'm not figuring out how to frame

them for felony assault, I'll go on ahead and drop a few names.

First, many thanks to my valiant yet self-effacing assistant, Tracy Fritze. The poor woman no doubt assumed, well over a year ago, that it'd be a typical office job. Working for a writer was probably like working for an accountant: it sounded important but was ultimately mind-numbingly dull.

Sure, her workplace was my very own home, but how much different would it be from driving to an office three days a week?

Tracy likely assumed her duties would fall along the lines of word processing, setting up meetings, arranging interviews, proofing ARCs, booking speaking engagements, working with copyeditors, and occasionally running tornado drills.

Instead, the poor woman has been forced, in pretty rapid succession, to endure: being greeted by my pantsless son on more than one occasion, being interviewed by a German magazine (them: "How terrific is it to work for *the* MaryJanice Davidson?" Tracy: "Um ... "), fighting off our overly affectionate dogs, enduring the smells of McDonald's chicken nuggets and pots of chocolate Malt O'Meal when she's trying to eat like a grown-up (and set me an example of same), and ceaselessly trying to encourage me to sit down to make decisions (on PR products, on book signings, on answering reader questions, on turning in interview questions the day I agreed to do so, on why I shouldn't wolf down a half dozen Reese's Cups at 9:30 a.m.) like a grown-up.

Not to mention being locked out of my house when I've crawled back into bed with a migraine (see above: greeted by pantsless son: "Hi, Tracy. Mom's sick. Can I have some Malt O'Meal?"), and holding her ground when I ruthlessly set the dogs upon her (I found my dogs are especially fond of her if I rub bacon grease into her shoes while she's hard at work in the office).

Tracy is an assistant as the dictionary defines it: she contributes to the fulfillment of a need; she assumes some of my responsibilities. She rescues me from the minutiae that nearly everyone has to endure if they want to be a functioning member of society. She's smart, she's quick, she never has to be told anything twice, she's discreet (nobody knew about my pantsless son or Malt O'Mealgate until I stuck it right in my acknowledgments page). Also, she smells terrific.

Thanks are also due, as always, to the awesomest of awesome husbands, Anthony Alongi (he also cowrites the Jennifer Scales series with me). He tirelessly reads, suggests, edits, mocks, enrages, inspires, and annoys. Without him, there's absolutely nothing for me.

My folks and sister, for being completely unwavering in their support, one hundred percent of the time. They wouldn't abandon that stance if I stuck a gun in their ear. Do not ask me how I know that.

The Magic Widows, who have endured me for years and pretend that I'm worth the trouble.

The best of agents, Ethan Ellenberg, who paid me the ultimate compliment of calling me low maintenance. That was a wonderful lie for him to tell!

The always terrific Cindy Hwang, who reads my book suggestions and synopses, edits my manuscripts, exudes copious enthusiasm for same, and doesn't smack herself on the forehead when I can see it, or hear it. (Though I do occasionally hear odd background sounds when I'm on the phone with her.)

And to Leis Pederson, kick-ass assistant editor, who is repeatedly forced to track me down and corner me like a rat to get edits out of me, but does it with such style I feel wanted, not stalked.

Thanks also to the Yahoos, my fans on Facebook, the readers kind enough to write to me, and the readers who don't go near Facebook or the Web, who don't have computers but who write to me, care of my publisher, with real pens on real paper. (I feel bad I received one such snail mail and instantly assumed, as comedian Jim Gaffigan suggested, that someone had been kidnapped.)

I write for myself—I always have. I think if you write for other people, the end result is something of a cheat, for you and for them.

But you guys make the writing that much more fun, for which I am continually humbled and slavishly grateful.

—MaryJanice,
Winter 2009

Author's Note

I've got nothing against Claes Oldenburg or his wife, Coosje van Bruggen. And I've got nothing against the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden.

But at the end of the day, it's just a giant spoon.

A spoon!

The Story So Far

Betsy ("Please don't call me Elizabeth") Taylor was run over by a Pontiac Aztek almost three years ago. She woke up the queen of the vampires and in dazzling succession (but no real order), bit her friend Detective Nick Berry, moved from a Minnesota suburb to a mansion in St. Paul, solved various murders, attended the funerals of her father and stepmother, became her half brother's guardian, still avoids the room housing the Book of the Dead (Book of the Dead, noun: the vampire bible written by an insane vampire, which causes madness if read too long in one sitting), cured her best friend's cancer, visited her alcoholic grandfather (twice), solved a number of kidnappings, realized her husband/king, Eric Sinclair, could read her thoughts (she could always read his), found out the Fiends had been up to no good (Fiend, noun: a vampire given only animal [dead] blood, a vampire who quickly goes feral).

Also, roommate Antonia, a werewolf from Cape Cod, took a bullet in the brain for Betsy, saving her life. The stories about bullets not hurting vampires are not true; plug enough lead into brain matter and that particular denizen of the undead will never get up again. Garrett, Antonia's lover, killed himself the instant he realized she was dead.

As if this wasn't enough of a buzzkill, Betsy soon found herself summoned to Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where Antonia's Pack leaders lived. Though they were indifferent to the caustic werewolf in life, now that Antonia was dead in service to a vampire, several thousand pissed-off werewolves had just a few questions.

While Betsy, Sinclair, BabyJon, and Jessica were on the Cape answering these questions, Marc, Laura, and Tina remained in Minnesota (Tina to help run things while her monarchs were away, Marc because he couldn't get the vacation time, and Laura because she was quietly cracking up).

They hadn't been gone long before Tina disappeared and Marc noticed that devil worshippers kept showing up in praise of Laura, the Antichrist.

In a muddled, misguided attempt to help (possibly brought on by the stress of his piss-poor love life ... an ER doc, Marc worked hours that would make a union-less sweatshop manager cringe), he suggested to Laura that she put her “minions” to work helping in soup kitchens and such.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ethel Ellis:

Now a day folks who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each facts they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specially this Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel book since this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the info in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it everbody knows.

James Dungan:

This Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel are generally reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel can be one of several great books you must have is usually giving you more than just simple reading food but feed you with information that perhaps will shock your before knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere you go and whenever your conditions in e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day action. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

Nancy Hunt:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book may be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Janice Arias:

This Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel is fresh way for you who has curiosity to look for some information mainly because it relief your hunger of knowledge. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or you who still having little digest in reading this Undead and Unfinished: A Queen Betsy Novel can be the light food for yourself because the information inside this particular book is easy to get by means of anyone. These books develop itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, that's why I mean in

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