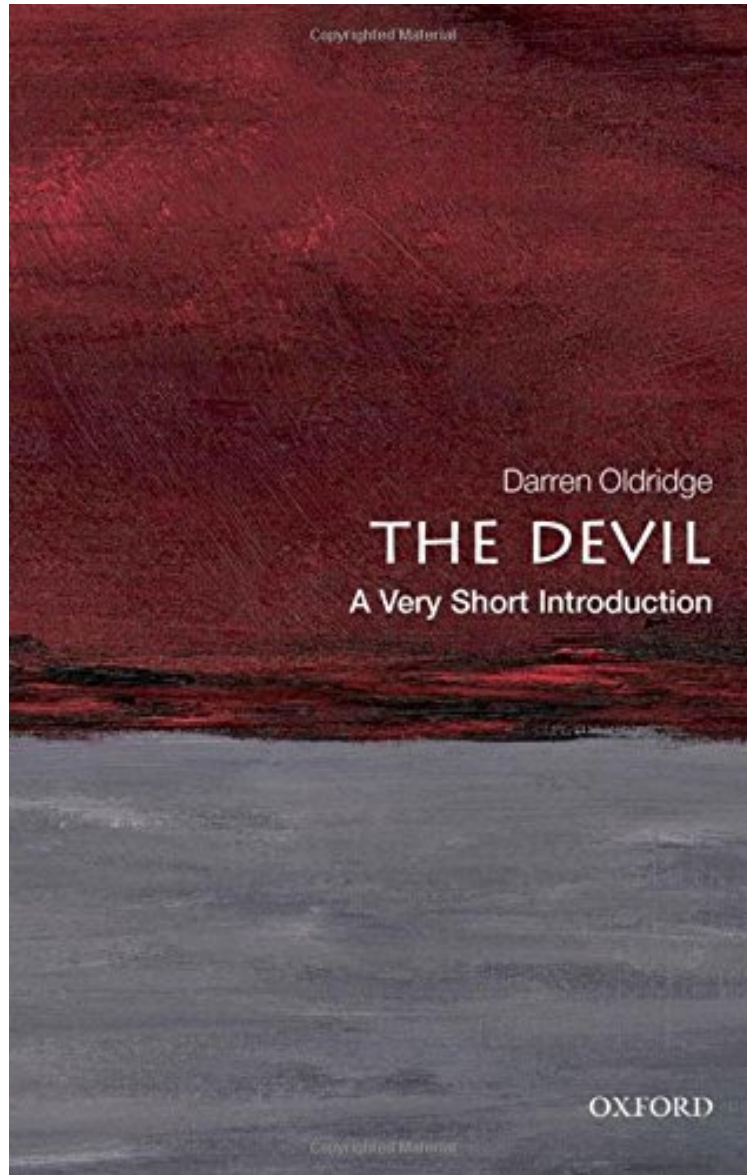


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The Devil: A Very Short Introduction

Darren Oldridge

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Darren Oldridge : The Devil: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil: A Very Short Introduction:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Serviceable, interesting, but slightly disjointedBy C. D. VarnLots of good historical and historically oriented theological information here, even if you are familiar with longer and more coherent works like Jeffery Burton Russell's several volume history of Satan. The main issue is that this covers too

much with too little time, often making examples seem slightly disjointed, and the theological/philosophical commentary being inconsistently interwoven in with historical information. This makes the book a little hard to read even though it is not particularly "difficult" in other senses of the term. Oldridge's discussion of Auden, however, may be worth the price of the entire book, and was the most interesting topic. Overall, it is a serviceable introduction to the Christian idea of "the Devil" in a theological-historical context, and maybe should be paired with OUP's introductions to other Christian topic as well as *Witchcraft: A Very Short Introduction*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Readers would also like "Jenna's Flaw" By Lee Tasey An introduction to the devil as seen by Christian theologians, artists, filmmakers, poets and novelists. A nice book with which to begin your study of the devil. Oldridge also provides a nice "Further Reading" section in the back of the book for further study. Readers would also like "Jenna's Flaw," a novel about Satanism and demonic possession in the Midwest. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. *Historia del demonismo* By pablo.crespovargas Para los interesados en conocer la historia del demonismo (del culto a los seres malficos y al demonio), este libro es un excelente inicio. No es una obra muy condensada ni extensa. Todo lo contrario, de fcil lectura y con una extensin muy cmoda para cualquier lector. Para los interesados en abundar, les recomiendo revisar la bibliografa, la cual puede ser de mucho uso.

The Devil has fascinated Christians since the time of the New Testament, and inspired many haunting works of art. This Very Short Introduction looks at the Devil in the history of ideas and in the lives of real people. Darren Oldridge shows us that the Devil is an important figure in western history--a richly complex and contradictory one. Oldridge focuses on three main themes: the idea of the Devil being integral to western thought from the early Middle Ages to the beginnings of modernity; the belief that the Devil represents the mirror image of goodness; and the multiplicity and instability of ideas about the Devil. Oldridge concludes by exploring "demonological" ways of thinking in our own time, including allegations of "satanic ritual abuse."

In this densely researched and drily elegant book, Satan is pursued through Augustine, Marlowe, Milton, Shelley, Blake, Goethe, Ambrose Bierce, Auden and CS Lewis's *Screwtape*, tales of self-mortification and witch-hunting, painting and the cinema. * Steven Poole, *The Guardian* * Devil believer or devil-denier, you'll find plenty to get your teeth into here. * *Northern Echo* * This book may appeal to those wanting a short but insightful survey of those understandings of evil that the devil represents. * *Reform Magazine* * About the Author Darren Oldridge is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Worcester.