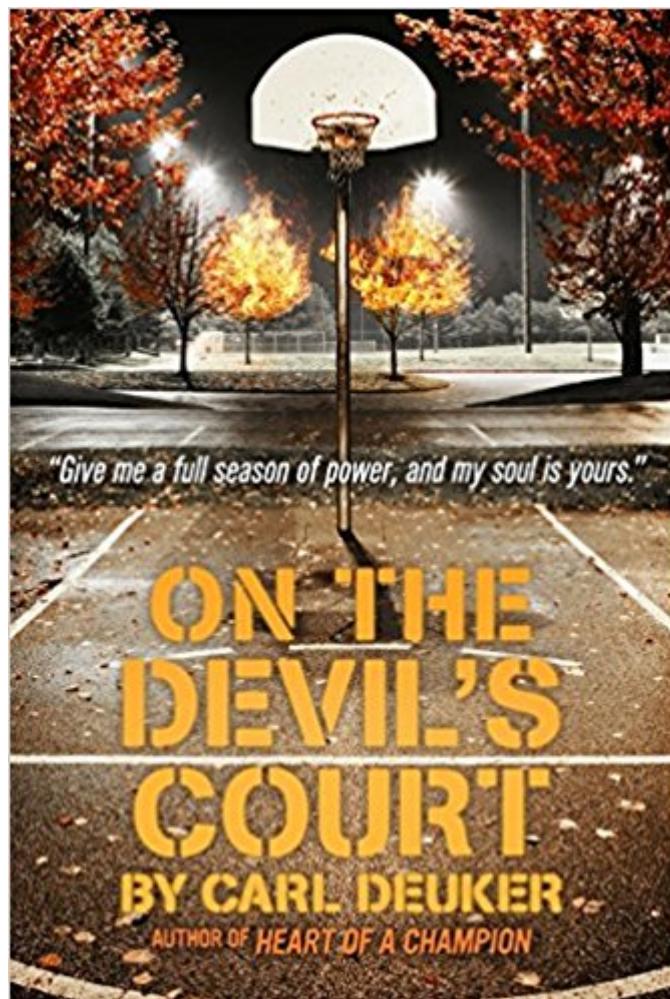


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# On The Devil's Court



## **Synopsis**

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.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)

Paperback: 208 pages

Publisher: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031606727X

ISBN-13: 978-0316067270

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #139,210 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports > Basketball #124 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues #208 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

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. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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 workif he had done anywas 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, Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a teacher I love that! This one has 8th grade boys intrigued, interested, and in line to read it. I think Mr. Deuker hit a homerun (not to mix metaphors) with this title. With a touch of the supernatural, sports, and family issues as a focus for the title, this book appeals to many.

I cannot tell you that I've read this book myself; only that I've had to order three copies thus far because my middle school boys have read the cover off this book! I'm certain I'll be ordering another copy or two in the future.

I'm a fan of Deuker's works, and so I was thrilled to see this one on sale. It's the classic Faust story, but set in a realistic, contemporary world that's easy to relate to.

Thanks!

Was as described and arrived on time.

Don't read it if you don't know anything about basketball and don't have anyone nearby to ask. There are a lot of sports terms in this book and I found myself asking my husband, "What does this

mean?" A whole awful lot. Which is neither here nor there, I suppose, if your audience is a bunch of jocky teenage boys. Overall: it's a little forced, I think. And what does it really say, in the end? Hardly anything. **HOWEVER**, big A+ on the pacing of this one, because even though I don't particularly like basketball or any sport necessarily, I kept turning pages in this one. In fact, I started reading *The Gathering* first, put it down, and then read this one before I even thought about *Gathering*, again. That is **MAJOR** points to this book, because I seriously am not a fan of sports. At all. That said: overall grade: C. Characters are meh, but the relationship between Joe and his dad is nice/real. Plot is unoriginal and blatantly stolen from *Dr. Faustus*...which is actually sort of a **POINT** of the story...Theme: doesn't really add anything, I don't think, to the *Faust* story, soooo...what was the point? To put this into contemporary language/situations? It's interesting as that, but I'm not sure it's something I'd PURSUE for that. But, like I said: pacing is **tooooooo excellent** to ignore. If it hadn't been for the pacing and the **REALLY WELL WRITTEN** suspense, I probably would not have finished the book.

Joe Faust is a high school student. Joe and his family move to Seattle. Joe's absolute passion is basketball. It's basketball anywhere and everyday practically. Joe has to start at a new school in the fall and the most important thing to him right now is basketball. Joe's parents want him to go to a high quality school that has very good teaching, but all Joe wants to do is play basketball and one of the best high school teams is at the school a couple of blocks down. The school Joe wants to go to his parents don't approve of. It's not the best school for Joe. He ends up going to the high school that his parents thought was best for him. It turns out that they have a pretty good basketball team. Joe starts making some new friends and now he is the most popular kid at school. One day Joe finds this abandoned gym not too far away from where he lives. Joe climbs through the window and starts to shoot some baskets. He makes his first three shots in a row. Joe is thinking how in the world this is happening. He keeps shooting and makes every single basket. Later on Joe believes that he has now sold his soul to the devil. In school, Joe's class is reading a novel about *Dr. Faustus*. In the novel, Dr. Faustus is a scientist, like Joe's dad and Dr. Faustus' name has a resemblance to Joe's last name and they both think they sold their souls. Will Joe be the next big basketball star? Did he really sell his soul to the devil or is he just dreaming? I enjoyed this book a lot. Carl Deuker is one of my new favorite authors. All his books take place in Seattle and they are all about sports. Once in a while I like to read all about sports because I think sometimes those stories are the best. This book was very entertaining and the characters were great. I could picture everything in my mind perfectly. The description and the book itself were really great too. I

recommend this book to anybody who loves fiction novels and sports.

This book tells about a boy's life that moved to different towns, and played on several basketball teams. Joe's dad makes him go to a prep school. He thinks that all the guys there are just going to be geeks. It turns out the school had an excellent basketball team. The big question is, do they need Joe, the star on the team, to make it to the state game? I liked how the book told about how hard it was for Joe to change to a new school. The author also did a good job at telling how Joe turned his basketball team around. When Joe got to the first practice for the team, he was sure that he would not make the team as the starting point guard. Joe never quit and makes the team, which showed a lot of perseverance. The part of the book that I did not like was that Joe's dad had a heart attack. That part of the book really got you off topic of Joe's basketball season. A person who would really like this book is someone who is really into basketball. This book is very similar to some of Matt Christopher books. Also anyone who is into books with surprise endings would like this book.

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