



The Devil in Silver: A Novel

Victor Lavalle

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NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY
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New Hyde Hospital's psychiatric ward has a new resident. It also has a very, *very* old one.

Pepper is a rambunctious big man, minor-league troublemaker, working-class hero (in his own mind), and, suddenly, the surprised inmate of a budget-strapped mental institution in Queens, New York. He's not mentally ill, but that doesn't seem to matter. He is accused of a crime he can't quite square with his memory. In the darkness of his room on his first night, he's visited by a terrifying creature with the body of an old man and the head of a bison who nearly kills him before being hustled away by the hospital staff. It's no delusion: The other patients confirm that a hungry devil roams the hallways when the sun goes down. Pepper rallies three other inmates in a plot to fight back: Dorry, an octogenarian schizophrenic who's been on the ward for decades and knows all its secrets; Coffee, an African immigrant with severe OCD, who tries desperately to send alarms to the outside world; and Loochie, a bipolar teenage girl who acts as the group's enforcer. Battling the pill-pushing staff, one another, and their own minds, they try to kill the monster that's stalking them. But can the Devil die?

The Devil in Silver brilliantly brings together the compelling themes that spark all of Victor LaValle's radiant fiction: faith, race, class, madness, and our relationship with the unseen and the uncanny. More than that, it's a thrillingly suspenseful work of literary horror about friendship, love, and the courage to slay our own demons.

Praise for *The Devil in Silver*

“A **fearless** exploration of America’s heart of darkness . . . a dizzying high-wire act.”—*The Washington Post*

“LaValle never writes the same book and his recent is a **stunner**. . . . Fantastical, hellish and **hilarious**.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“It’s simply too **bighearted**, too gentle, too **kind**, too **culturally observant** and too idiosyncratic to squash into the small cupboard of any one genre, or even two.”—*The New York Times Book Review*

“Embeds a **sophisticated** critique of contemporary America’s inhumane treatment of madness in a fast-paced story that is by turns horrifying, suspenseful, and comic.”—*The Boston Globe*

“LaValle uses the thrills of horror to draw attention to timely matters. And he does so without sucking the joy out of the genre. . . . A **striking** and **original** American novelist.”—*The New Republic*

From the Hardcover edition.

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