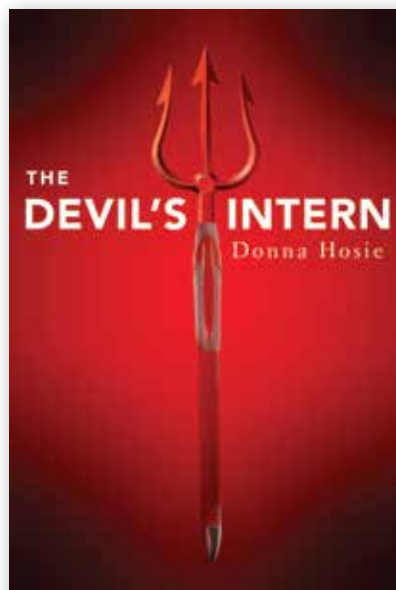


# THE DEVIL'S INTERN SERIES

DONNA HOSIE • AGES 15 up

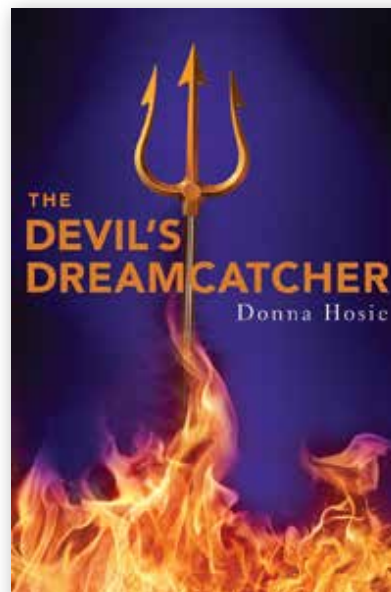


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**YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults**  
**Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of the Year**



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## Once you're in Hell, there's no way out. Or is there?

Hell is miserable, but Mitchell knows things could be worse. After all, he has the coveted job of interning in the Devil's accounting department—plus three close friends who keep him from dwelling *too* much on his untimely demise.

Still, he'd rather be *living*. So when Mitchell discovers that his boss is in possession of a legendary time-travel mechanism called a Viciseometer, he starts forming a plan. With a device like that, Mitchell realizes, he could escape Hell, revisit his death and prevent it altogether. But will he?

## Hell is full of thieves. But only one has dared to rob The Devil.

The Devil's accounting office is hiring an intern, and sixteen-year-old Medusa Pallister wants the job. Not only would she report to the coolest boss in the Underworld, she'd also be working alongside Mitchell Johnson, who, she's certain, is the key to solving a mystery that's been haunting her since her death.

Landing the internship is easy, but answers about her past will have to wait. Medusa has barely made Mitchell's acquaintance when Hell goes into lockdown. Someone has robbed The Devil of his most precious possession: a dreamcatcher so powerful it could be apocalyptic in the wrong hands.

## Questions for Discussion

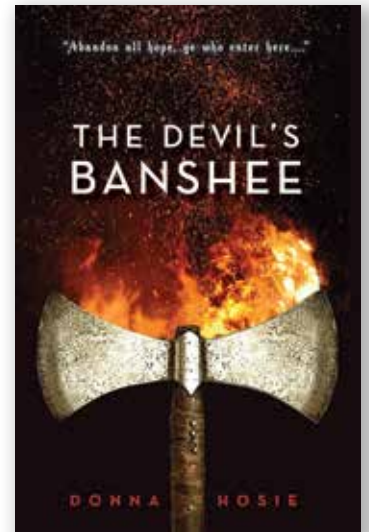
- \* The Viciseometer is at the center of the action in both THE DEVIL'S INTERN (DI) and THE DEVIL'S DREAMCATCHER (DD). In what ways does the author use it as a writing device? Can you think of other books or movies where a time machine is central to the plot? What do they have in common with these books? Why are people fascinated by the idea of "ownership of time," (p. 179, DI) as Mitchell calls it?
- \* What would you do with a time machine? Would you want to change your death, like Mitchell? Or at least witness it, as Alfarin does? Is there a day in your past that you would like to live over again? Is there a day that you would absolutely NOT want to relive?
- \* Septimus says: "It is the biggest tragedy of mankind that the young are taken too soon" (p. 63, DD). Share examples of people (famous or not) who have died at an early age. Do you believe that they had unrealized potential? How would you feel if you could watch your parents and friends continue living their lives after your death?
- \* Given that the books' main characters are angels and devils, why do you think the author chose to leave religion completely out of the book? In the world she has created, being good or bad doesn't seem to affect whether you are sent to Heaven or Hell. Team DEVIL seems to be very ordinary "good guys," as does Team ANGEL. What point is the author trying to make?
- \* Anger is a recurring theme in THE DEVIL'S DREAMCATCHER, culminating in the characters learning how to immolate. Discuss how the different characters handle being angry. Are there differences due to gender or "team" affiliation? In the books and in real life, is anger always destructive or can it ever be used for good? How does the author use the characters' anger to advance the plot?
- \* "I never really appreciated living until I stopped doing it," says Mitchell (p.3, DI). Do you think that you and your friends take things for granted? Is that a trait of the young or does everyone do it? What do you think Mitchell would tell the friends he left behind, if he could? What would you tell your friends to feel grateful for?
- \* Do you think that one of the books has more humor than the other? Which one? Is it due to the difference in the narrators' voices, or to events in the story? Do you think the author did this deliberately? Would it be helpful to have a sense of humor if you were sent to Hell? Why is much of the humor provided by girls-vs.-guys moments?
- \* Discuss how The Devil's character evolves from the first book to the second. Were you surprised to find out that he is (apparently) capable of a great love? Do you think that he is innately evil, or was his character formed by events? Why has the author chosen to not tell us anything about his history? Why hasn't she chosen to include the leader of Heaven in the story so far?
- \* Based on the descriptions of Up There and Down There in this book, where would you rather end up? Why? Mitchell gets to keep his iPod and his wallet after he dies—what would you keep, if you could choose? What would be the top three things on your what-I-really-miss-about-being-alive list?
- \* Discuss some of the moral dilemmas that the characters face, especially in the second book. What are the repercussions of some of the choices they make? Are there choices that no one should be forced to make? Is it sometimes right to do a bad thing, to prevent more bad things? Is there ever a good reason for killing someone?
- \* Mitchell says: "I don't believe in fate, or destiny in the stars, or any of that crap, because I think you make your own luck" (p. 88, DI). Medusa says: "Fate I can believe in, for better and worse" (p. 49, DD). Whose philosophy do you agree with? Who do the other characters agree with? Give examples from the books that support both statements. Is the author promoting one side or the other, or is she simply presenting both sides?

- ✧ Regardless of their beliefs about fate, both Medusa and Mitchell find unfairness in their afterlives. Discuss the concepts of fair and unfair, and how they relate to the concept of destiny. Does believing in destiny mean that there is no fair and unfair, just events that are “meant to be”? What examples from the book can you give of events that the characters seemingly had no control over?
- ✧ Septimus believes that Mitchell’s stoicism is a good quality to possess in Hell. Name one good helpful-in-Hell quality from each of the other team members, and from Septimus himself. Based on the description of Hell as provided in the books, what are some other qualities that might be helpful?
- ✧ Discuss the writing qualities that make these books a compelling read. How does the structure of the plot, including the time-travel flashbacks, create suspense? How does the interaction of the characters, especially Team DEVIL, encourage you to keep reading?
- ✧ What is a paradox? Describe the paradox of time travel in this book. Are you aware of other paradoxes in books, movies or life?
- ✧ The four members of Team DEVIL are very different. How do their differences make them stronger as a team? Do you identify with one of them more than the others? Why? What is each one’s most admirable quality? Most undesirable quality? Do you find one of them more believable than the others? Who, and why? Share examples from the book to show how their fates are intertwined.
- ✧ Elinor says: “We are all liable for our actions” (p. 174, DI). Do you agree or disagree? How does the author prove this point in the books? Do the Unspeakables get what they deserve?
- ✧ Discuss the quality of sacrifice as exhibited in the books. Which characters are capable of it, and why? Share specific examples of when someone offers, considers or makes a sacrifice. In your opinion, does this make them noble or foolish? Is it surprising that devils seem as capable of sacrifice as angels do?
- ✧ Name some of the multiple examples in both books where the dead characters retain their humanity in some way—such as taking a deep breath.
- ✧ “I may be a devil, but I will always be a human first,” says Medusa (p. 78, DD). How is this different from what is traditionally believed about the residents of Hell? Do you think the author added these elements as a way to help readers connect with the characters? What other reasons might she have had?
- ✧ Can you recall specific examples of humorous language used in the books, such as when the Devil’s masquerade is described as “one Hell of a party?” (p. 9, DI). How does the author’s use of these words and phrases affect the tone of the books? Can you think of other phrases that she might have used?
- ✧ Elinor and Medusa become friends despite their very different natures. For example, Elinor is open and trusting while Medusa finds it difficult to trust anyone. Give examples from the book of times when Medusa has trouble extending trust, and when Elinor doesn’t. Do you think the difference between them is due to the time they were born in, or to their specific life events? Why is it easy for the four friends to trust each other? To trust Septimus?
- ✧ Who is the most powerful character in the books? Discuss the different ways that someone can be powerful; for example, with the choices they make, over other people or with physical strength. Which characters exhibit which types of power?
- ✧ Why did the author choose to end the second book with the suggestion of another journey? What can you guess about the next book from this ending? Did you find the ending satisfying, or did it leave you hanging?

## Writing

- Write a character analysis of Medusa, especially in regard to these quotes of hers from the books:
  - “I’m irrelevant, and I have been since the day I was born” (p. 181, DD).
  - “I’m not right. I’m not right. I’m not right” (p. 239, DD).
  - “Feeling powerless makes me angry” (p. 125, DD).
- Discuss how the author’s creation of certain aspects of Medusa’s character prompts many of her actions and interactions in the book. Use specific examples.
- “How did you die?” is the first question everyone asks in Hell. As Mitchell says, “You can make your death as heroic as you want” (p.2, DI). Write an exciting and heroic description of your own death.
- Compare and contrast the points of view of the two narrators. How are Mitchell’s and Medusa’s voices different? Do they have anything in common? Which voice seems more comfortable for the author? Which adds more authenticity to the story? Which voice do you like better?

COMING SOON!



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## Research/Current Events

- How authentic are Alfarin, Elinor and Medusa as representatives of their time periods? Conduct research and write a report about the likely life of a Viking teenager in 970, a witness to the Great Fire of London in 1666 and a girl living in San Francisco in 1967.
- Conduct research and write a report comparing two different cultures’ views of Heaven and Hell. Alternatively, compare two works of art (books, paintings or movies) and how they depict Heaven and Hell.

### THIS GUIDE ALIGNS WITH COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS GRADES 9-12

RL.9-10.1, RL.11-12.1, RL.9-10.2, RL.11-12.2, RL.9-10.3, RL.11-12.3, RL.9-10.4, RL.9-10.5, RL.11-12.5, RL.9-10.7, W.11-12.1, W.9-10.2, W.11-12.2, W.9-10.3, W.11-12.3, W.9-10.4, W.11-12.4, W.9-10.5, W.11-12.5, W.9-10.7, W.11-12.7, W.9-10.8, W.11-12.8 SL.9-10.1, SL.11-12.1 L.9-10.1, L.11-12.1, L.9-10.2, L.11-12.2

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**DONNA HOSIE** is a full-time geek who fell into writing while working as a Warner Brothers fan consultant on movie tie-in video games. Writing reports about different characters and worlds eventually inspired her to create her own stories for young adults. Originally from England, Donna now lives in Australia with her husband, three children and a crazy golden retriever named Harry (after a certain boy wizard). Connect with her on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @DonnaHosie.

#teamdevil  
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