



## Devil In The Grass

*Christopher Bowron*

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**Some things... are best left unfound**

When his pro football career fails, Jackson Walker returns to his home in southwest Florida to sort out his life. He lands an internship with Republican state senator James Hunter, whose Clean Water Bill puts him at odds with influential members of The Brotherhood of Set, a Satanic cult. They have deep roots in Florida, and are led by the sinister Henrietta LePley.

After Walker begins a relationship with a member of the Brotherhood, he is framed for the horrific killing of two elderly people. To clear his name, Jackson turns to his Seminole family to evade the police and a particularly nasty bunch of malevolent characters who specialize in the disposal of dead bodies. The Everglades provides an ancient and frightening setting for the unfolding action that will prove whether Jackson Walker will pull himself free from the dark evil that lurks there.

## Devil In The Grass Details

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Author : Christopher Bowron

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## From Reader Review Devil In The Grass for online ebook

### J. Kahele says

Jackson is an ex pro football player, who screwed up his career by excessively using drugs and alcohol. Broke, he has no choice but to take a position working for a senator. It is here he meets Sarah. She is not like the gorgeous women that he is used to being surrounded by, but he is attracted to her, so when she suggests they meet for coffee he agrees. After that, they don't see each other for awhile and when they hook-up again, she reveals to Jackson that she's a satanist. Okay, at this part I was screaming run the hell away.

But of course, he didn't, he stayed and it proved to be the biggest mistake he would ever make. As he finds himself charged with the murders of an elderly couple.

This story was a bit frightening at times and Jackson's character was so well written I could actually feel his emotions as I read the pages. Great read.

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### Mimi says

'Devil in the Grass' is about Jackson Walker, who is an ex football player. Now, working as an intern to Senator Hunter, he meets a girl named Sarah.

They start to date and Jackson learns that Sarah is a Satanist who is part of 'The Brotherhood of Set' which is a Satanic cult.

At first he wants nothing to do with it, but soon finds himself involved. This leads to Jackson finding himself on the run accused of killing two people.

I enjoyed this story but I admit that the start was a little slow for me. It soon picked up though with lots of twists that I wasn't expecting.

It was the characters that I liked best about this story. Jackson, though I liked him, frustrated me a lot. I wanted him to see what was going on and though he protested that he wasn't involved you could see that he was. I couldn't believe that he could fall for it and I wanted him to be strong and walk away.

Sarah, was a good character but I just felt from the beginning that there was something not right about her. If someone told me they were a Satanist I would be running away.

My favourite characters had to be the McFaddens and Henrietta LePlay. They were well written and they were so dark. They sounded as though they were people you didn't want to cross. From the moment Henrietta comes in it I could tell that she was trouble.

Overall, I enjoyed it and would recommend this to people who are fans of thriller stories. I would say that there are some scenes/references that are of a mature theme.

I received a copy of this book from the author and Booklover Catlady Publicity in return for a fair and honest

review. Thank you.

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### **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

I love my books to have a dark edge to them no matter what the genre so when I read the synopsis for Devil in the Grass I felt I had found something that was really going to be my cup of tea. **This is the debut novel for author Christopher Bowron and for a first book it has been really well written and executed, you would not pick it as being a first book if you were not told.**

Jackson Walker's pro-football career has gone down the tubes and he returns to his native region of Southwest Florida to contemplate what is next in store for his life. Little does he know just how crazy it's about to get! He lands on his feet with a new job working for the local Republican State Senator who is in the process of pushing through a bill called the Clean Water Bill. Avid opponents of this bill are a bunch of dark characters called The Brotherhood of Set, a satanic cult led by a creepy, charismatic woman called Henrietta LePley (what a perfect name for the role! - Anton LeVey was the real life founder of the world's first above-ground satanic sect).

I have studied satanism when I became qualified as a specialised Counsellor, I had to because I was often counselling members who had left satanism behind but were still impacted by the long term mental, emotional and spiritual damage that it does. I have literally heard it all. Stuff that would make your skin crawl. Scarier still is that satanism is alive and well and usually very, very under ground and it attracts people from all walks of life even positions of power such as politicians, doctors, police, judges, teachers, pastors - all drawn in together. **I was expecting the book to have some specific scenarios that line up with satanic practice.**

**The book is fast paced with lots of action and twists and turns.** After Jackson is framed for the horrific murder of two people and has turn to his own Seminole people for help, some very dark and damaged characters. **I wanted to get some history and imagery in my head about the Seminole family and people so here is what Wikipedia gives us (a very brief part of a large overview):**

*The Seminole are a Native American people originally of Florida. They comprise three federally recognized tribes and independent groups, most living in Oklahoma with a minority in Florida. The Seminole nation emerged in a process of ethnogenesis out of groups of Native Americans, most significantly Creek from what are now northern Muscogee. The word Seminole is a corruption of cimarrón, a Spanish term for "runaway" or "wild one".*

***Seminole family of tribal elder, Cypress Tiger, at their camp near Kendall, Florida, 1916. Photo taken by botanist, John Kunkel Small.***

I found the novel has quite a lot of dialogue in it and much going on at the same time. Some of the scenes really had me on the edge of my seat and I found the dark scenes that the author writes involving torture and killing were done exceptionally well. I did feel the book needed MORE of the darker scenes to really add the chill factor that would have made this book a truly exceptional plot. Therefore I would happily recommend it to those who normally avoid scenes that are too harrowing or too dark as you will be okay reading this (or is that because I am somewhat thick-skinned because of what I read?).

I do have to point out one major flaw in the novel from my perspective that may not bother other readers and that is that I really was not seeing any true representation of satanic cult activity, behaviour, methodology or practices. If those realistic elements were included the book would have been on a darker level as there is nothing nice about any of it but I wish it was there as it would have really added a whole new level to the book overall and given it more authenticity. Many readers may not pick up on this nor be bothered by it, but for me because I do often read books with that theme in it I know when it's represented fully and accurately. This was "soft-core" touching on the edges of a sect in my opinion.

Devil in the Grass is a brilliantly plotted and chilling read! With characters that you don't want to meet in dark places, those that you won't forget in a hurry popping off the pages. The book just grabs hold of you and does not let go until you reach the climax and hopefully remember to breathe. Highly recommended for lovers of fiction that has a darker edge to it, this entertains all the way.

**The book certainly barrels along towards a dramatic and thrilling ending and a page-turner it is. My final rating is 4 stars, minus that last star simply because of the satanic cult representation as per my comments above. The book is getting really good reviews and has been an Amazon best seller so do consider this one for your to-read list. Not everyone wants the darkest of dark like me!**

*Many thanks to the author for a copy of this novel to read in exchange for a fair and honest review.*

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### **Linda Strong says**

Jackson Walker is an ex-pro-footballer who sabotages his own professional career because of drugs and alcohol. Getting himself clean and sober again, he is offered a job by a Florida Republican Senator, James Hunter.

While working for the senator, Jackson meets Sarah, who also happens to be a Satanist. Before you know it, he's enmeshed in this new 'religion' and is accused of killing two elderly people. He returns to his home in the Florida swamp lands to keep from getting arrested on false charges.

The book is well-written and although I'm not familiar with all the aspects of Satanism, the author made it a very comfortable subject. I found it to be a little slow going at the beginning, but the author took the time to introduce all the characters in minute detail. Once the introductions were complete, the action takes off.

Jackson makes a great serial character. I didn't like him so much in the beginning. It was like .... Jackson, you idiot, use your brain! Think, man! ... and of course, he wasn't listening to me at all. I have to admit ... he did grow on me.

A lot of mystery ... a little paranormal thrown in ... and the McFaddens. Oh, I forgot to mention them, didn't I? They are a family run business .... they take out the trash, dispose of bodies, feed the gators... all with no remorse. You won't forget them any time soon.

This is a debut novel by this author, and he is currently working on a sequel.

Many thanks to the author and Booklover Catlady Publicity who furnished a digital copy in exchange for an honest, unbiased review.

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### **Archit Ojha says**

*In the shadows of the cult, lurks the danger. And so does the devil that resides in the swamp.*

#### **4.5 stars out of 5**

Let's do the usual the bit first, before we jump into the review.

Warning for the underage : Contains graphic violence, sexual representations and the cult.

The title is intriguing and you know the blurb and the back story of this football guy named Jack Walker. He runs his star studded career to ground with repeated cases of drug abuse and is on the lookout for a job to earn his daily bread. He's offered a job by the senator and all goes well.

He's a normal citizen, living an average life who goes to the bar to his buddies in the night and does odd jobs in the day for his employer.

Things turn awry when the character named Sarah walks into his life. She's a worshiper of the Satan and the next thing we know is Jack being tangled in the web of a Satan cult. His new beliefs earn him the tag of a fugitive. He is said to have murdered two people and is not safe for the public.

The story is disturbing to the point that you shall not keep it down. It worries you and you twitch in the sleep. It would not be exaggeration to say that this one is a very different book despite having all the masala that you can typecast it into.

Jack being caught in the crossfire of the brotherhood has something to do with the employer he works for. The story scurries back and forth from multiple-yet-non-overlapping POVs.

The plot narration picks up after being sluggish for the first quarter or so in the buildup. The setup made me yawn a couple of time and could even make you put the book away.

But once the loading is done, there's no looking back. The story moves briskly from there on and then rips

apart your lungs.

I will tell you where that page is. **Bookmark the chapter #3 : *The McFaddens*.**

Just goes on to show the diverse motivations that diverse people have. Tough to pick right from the wrong. Narration is splendid and one that will be on my mind for a very long time. Christopher Bowron is a writer who should come out with more of these.

I am hooked.

*Now comes the best part.*

### **Characters**

The characters are *extremely intriguing*.

*I here present to you the top 3 for your consideration.*

#1 Jack : You meet Jack in the first page and he's not the same when you turn the last page over. He grows on from a bash rogue to a person with deep conflicting emotions.

#2 Sarah : A set of mesmerizing features that work in coherence with a complex mind. A beauty that relishes in command. Loves getting what she desires. And the cost she desires. There's almost a pull towards the venomous character.

#3 The creepy McFadden brothers : There are a three of them. Their job is to do the cleaning. They clean everything and anything from dirt, cars, animals and even humans.

And when the pay is nice, they kill.

They are methodical and bear no remorse. There's almost a spine-chilling elegance about their doctoral precision. They carry an eccentricity that is unique to this book.

Read the chapter they are introduced and you'd place them very high in your *Characters of the year* list.

*Bottom Line : Devil in the Grass gives you a run for the money.*

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### **N.N. Light says**

I've been trying to think of the right words to describe this book. So please forgive me, if it doesn't really make any sense.

Devil in the Grass is one of the darkest books I've ever read. Yes, it deals with drug/alcohol addiction but it's the inside glimpse into a Satanist cult that shook me to my core. I'll never see the Everglades the same. lol!

The writing was superb, drew me in instantly, and didn't let go until I finished reading. Descriptive narration plunged me in the middle of everything and the POV was spot-on.

Highly recommend, especially if you like your books uber-dark.

My Rating: 4

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### **Stacie says**

Devil in the Grass is an intense thriller filled with riveting suspense and chilling characters which quickly capture and hold a reader's attention from beginning to end.

Jackson "Jack" Walker, is an ex-NFL player who, after a disgraceful fall from glory, is set on turning his life around. After landing a job with a prominent Republican Senator, Jack thinks he's done just that however things aren't always what they seem. Shortly after meeting Sarah, Jack's life begins to spiral out of control. He tries to overlook her membership with The Brotherhood of the Set, but soon feels himself getting pulled into the satanic cult. Just when Jack decides enough is enough he wakes up in a pool of blood. It doesn't take a genius to realize he's been played, but for the life of him he doesn't have a clue why. Until he can sort things out Jack must lay low and rely on his family and their strong Seminole roots to clear his name. But, those loyal to The Brotherhood of the Set don't give up that easily and Jack finds himself in the fight of his life.

?I found Devil in the Grass to be an absolutely gripping novel. The complex characters are well-developed and credible, aiding in bringing the shocking plot to life. The author artfully spins this sinister tale through his appealing writing style and rich detail making Devil in the Grass a story worth reading.

I highly recommend pre-ordering a copy.

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### **Victoria says**

This debut thriller is an ambitious mix of Florida politics, Satanic cults, Seminole tradition, and alligators. And a bull shark. Author Bowron is clearly familiar with the southwest Florida setting, which he describes expertly, bringing the story to vivid life.

The Florida Everglades is home to any number of dangerous predators, including humans of the sort who don't mix well with civilization. The 9-foot tall sawgrass that gives the Everglades its nickname—River of Grass—provides Canadian author Bowron's inspiration for the book title as well as superb cover for his characters as they ply their small boats through its waters.

The impetus for the plot is also grounded in real life: the ongoing political battle between those who want to save the Everglades as a unique and irreplaceable natural resource and the agricultural interests making vast fortunes growing sugar cane and raising cattle along its edges. In Devil in the Grass, former pro football player and half-Seminole Jackson Walker works as an intern for Republican State Senator, James Hunter, who supports Clean Water legislation. Walker, in his mid-20s, meets and falls for a woman working for the state Republican Party. She seeks him out, seduces him, and gradually exposes him to the Satanic cult called The Brotherhood of Set.

After a while, Walker does what he believes will be an innocent errand for the cult leader, and at the book's opening we find him hiding out in Big Cypress Swamp, accused of slaying a man and woman in a Satanic ritual. Although he believes he's being framed because of his work with the Senator, letting himself become soft and apathetic may have contributed. He regrets the demise of his football career and its heroes: "It was the fearlessness with which they marched onto the field that had mattered to him." Inevitably, Walker will be called upon to demonstrate that same fearlessness before the book's last page.

If the leaders of the Satanic cult weren't creepy enough, they have for generations used a particular local family—the McFaddens—to be their clean-up crew. They are prone to torture and killing, and they let the vastness of the Everglades hide the evidence. I'm a little burned out on serial killers with chain saws, but the alligators make for heart-pounding excitement.

As the story gets rolling, not only the police, but also the Satanists and their instruments, the McFaddens, are after Walker. And don't forget the gators.

The book clearly ends with the promise of a sequel, which I hope can make the bad guys as believable as the environment and that Bowron gets a little help with dialog. I'm not sure when this novel takes place, but if Buck Henderson's "old Cadillac" was manufactured after 2002, it has a trunk release lever. And I ardently wish he hadn't laid Jimmy McFadden's psychotic behavior at the door of "severe autism." Scientific study has failed to link the two.

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### **Maxine (Booklover Catlady) says**

Full review on way!

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### **Christopher Bowron says**

Hard to enter a review on your own book. All I can say is that I hope you enjoy it as much as I had fun writing it.

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### **Misfits farm says**

Wow! Where do I start? This book draws you in very quickly. Jackson meets who he thinks may be the love of his life. Trouble is she is "religious". This turns out to be a satanic cult that she says is more about "discussion of like minds and following the left hand path (as opposed to following others)". Jackson gets pulled in to doing a favour for an old lady and very quickly realises that he has been set up good and truly. Family loyalties come to his rescue for a while whilst the Police do their job and an investigator works on Jackson's behalf. Both sides know that this could be a set up as this is not the first time that this has happened, however he could still be culpable of murder.

A fast paced book that you can't put down. I thought this would take me a while to read (from the kindle estimate) - wrong! You somehow know that Jackson is one of the good guys and is an innocent in a very bad situation. The scenarios are well written and the characters very believable. The ending is good and leaves a possible link into another book- please??!!

5\* from me (the first this year out of 15 books)

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an open and honest review

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## **Barbara Tsipouras says**

I'm glad to have won this book in Booklover Catlady Maxine's contest. I probably wouldn't have bought this book. For me titles with "devil" aren't really appealing.

I would have missed a terrific terrifying book.

You'll need a strong stomach and the ability to block out visualization to read this book, but it is not only cruelly graphic, it has a wonderfully crafted plot and well-developed characters, a pleasant flowing writing style, good life-like dialogues and a lot of Florida atmosphere.

Although Jack, the naive half-blood Seminole ex NFL pro, is trapped in a dark web woven by a Satanist group, this is not a ghost story full of demons lurking in the dark.

It doesn't matter if you believe in supernatural powers. Satanists do exist. And they are evil. They will do whatever it takes to manipulate, to increase their wealth, influence and power, just as Harriette and her "Brotherhood of Set" do.

Be careful never to mess with them, the consequences are devastating.

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## **Traci says**

This book was sitting on my shelf for a while, and I don't know why I didn't read it sooner! I thoroughly enjoyed it. I can't wait for book #2 to come out.

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## **Shannon says**

I received a copy of this from BookLover CatLady in return for an honest review. Thank you for another great read.

I don't even know where to start, I loved it.

Do these things really happen? I'll never look at the Everglades the same way again after reading this!

I love how there wasn't a really long build up, there was enough of a build up and then you're thrown right into it.

From the start I read eyes wide desperate to find out more.

I was ready to shout at Jack that the sex cannot be worth it! I don't think anything would be worth it!

I'm still rather speechless to it, I've raved about this book already to people hoping they read it. I felt like I was there, the muggy feeling in the Everglades, my lips ended up with a very strange sensation

too. (If you read it you'll know why)

I really hope there will be a lot more chances to read more of your work Christopher Bowron. I was hooked and didn't want it to end, thank you for one page turner of a book.

Five stars!

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### **Wayne Sutton says**

I understand that this is a debut novel for Mr. Bowron, so I must say bravo. I am quite impressed. I do believe that he took a lot of time and research into writing this book. I enjoyed the setting, I enjoyed the premise, and I enjoyed the characters a lot. From a literary standpoint the book has all the bases covered. However, it is not without its flaws, but for the purposes of this review, I provide my observations through my lens which is an academic who likes a good story.

First off, let's start off with the characters. We have our main character Jack Walker who is a former NFL player, who also played for Florida, with a past that involves drugs, alcohol, and violence. Walker seems like your normal American boy who is just looking for a second chance at life. He works for his Republican senator's office. Nothing too out of the ordinary there. Walker is also half Native-American and his grandfather lives on a reservation in the Everglades

He meets a girl at his work named Sarah, who is super hot and likes sex. But he can't seem to figure out what's wrong. Then he finds out she's a Satanist and reluctantly agrees to go to some of her sessions. He dates her for a few months before all the craziness happens.

Enter his boss James Hunter, the Republican senator. From the beginning the author makes the senator out to be your typical shady politician: he's sleeping with his secretary.

Walker and Hunter are connected not because of work, but because the same group of Satanists that Sarah worships, happens to be using Walker as bait and then they frame him for a gruesome murder. I won't go into too much details about the murder or the framing, all I know is that the Satanists did this so that they could get the senator to change a bill that has to do with their farmland.

Once Jack escapes from his bizarre encounter and realizes that he is framed for murder, he goes back to his girlfriend's apartment only to see that she's gone and then his attacked by some random swamp goon. Gramps is his grandfather on the reservation and we also learn of his Native family and friends, Josh, Nate, to name a few. At points Gramps likes to get philosophical and discuss Native American values, family values, and the history of the area. Then he sends Jack into hiding.

Through this crazy ordeal we are introduced to a lawyer named Pete Robertson, with a spunky, sassy, cigarette smoking, paralegal named Janie. Her character is likable, funny, smart, and knows how to get the job done. Robertson and Janie are summoned by a family member of Walker's to represent him.

Henrietta LePley is the matriarch of the Satanist group. Seems like she has a way with words and a big agenda. She has a strong character and we learn a little about her past as well.

Not only do we have the Satanist group as bad guys, but we also have the infamous McFaddens who happen

to be a family of swamp goons, who know how to "take care of things and make them disappear"

There are a few other characters, but so minor they are unimportant. So what do all of these characters have in common? They're all trying to get to the senator to change a bill and are going to great lengths to make it happen. The book was moving, well-paced, and had a lot of decent dialogue that brings up some discussion of Native American culture, Satanism as an idea to the left as opposed to what American and Christians consider "right", swamp culture, and the magic, spiritual powers which could be real or made up.

There aren't many dull moments. The book is full of action, fights, and a few twists. However, I think that because this is more of an action book than a psychological thriller. It seems like the book really wanted to focus on the violence and gore. Which, I'm ok with, but throughout the book I was trying to find out what the main point was. We have all kinds of characters that are connected, but I find it kind of far fetched that all the violence, the supernatural powers, and the framing itself just to change a bill. There were several parts of the book I was thinking "why don't they call the police?" or "if she has powers, just use them and get the job done" (I won't spoil too much, but you'll see what I'm talking about).

My other criticism is that there were so many characters and situations that seemed to jump around from scene to scene, like in a movie. I'm ok with that, but there are a few characters and side stories in this book that could have been left out and the story would have been fine.

Overall I liked this book, it's a quick read and could easily be transferred to a made for TV movie. I would recommend this book if you wanted to learn more about the Florida Everglades and maybe learn a little about Native American history of Florida as well as have an intellectual conversation about Satanism and what it really is. Besides the characters, those are just three of the main topics I liked about this book. The overall plot seemed rehashed from movies or other books I've read and at times was a little too predictable.

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