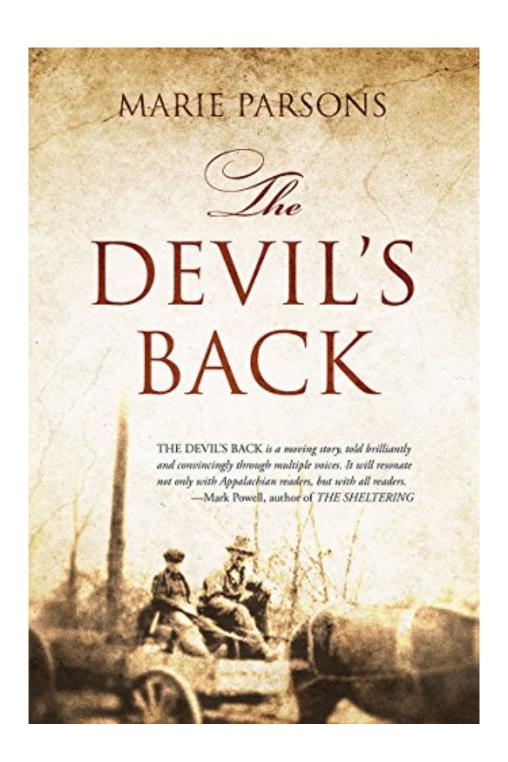


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Review

The Devil's Back is a book of regional distinction telling a great love story covering several decades, including the ways, habits and especially the language and humor of the Appalachian people. The author tells this story from the inside out as a native of the area of which she so knowledgeably and elegantly writes. This is a stimulating and important book that anyone interested in this culture and area should own.

-- Jolene Morgan Boyer, author of Them's My People

About the Author

A Kentuckian, born and bred, Marie Parsons knows the Appalachian region of which she writes quite well. She spent most of her college teaching career in her home state. A few years after retiring, she started writing short stories, and soon these stories morphed into a novel, The Devil's Back.

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The Devil's Back By Marie Parsons. Discovering how to have reading habit is like learning how to attempt for consuming something that you truly don't want. It will need more times to aid. Furthermore, it will certainly likewise little bit force to serve the food to your mouth as well as swallow it. Well, as reading a publication The Devil's Back By Marie Parsons, in some cases, if you need to review something for your new works, you will certainly really feel so woozy of it. Even it is a book like The Devil's Back By Marie Parsons; it will certainly make you feel so bad.

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A Rare Treat for Lovers of Adventure, Romance, and Language.

Set in Eastern Kentucky circa 1900, THE DEVIL'S BACK chronicles the early years of Laurey Castle and Adam Moore's marriage. Theirs is both a joyful and difficult union complicated by a twenty-year difference in their ages. THE DEVIL'S BACK is more than an engaging narrative, however. Parsons' personal roots in the Big Sandy River Region and her careful research combine to authentically resurrect a time, a place and its people. Her original and authoritative voice does not waver as she brings to life the sprawling Castle and Moore families and their Appalachian culture. Reminiscent of Robert Morgan's GAP CREEK, THE DEVIL'S BACK is both a delightful read and a significant contribution to a region's history and folklore.

-- Georgia Green Stamper, author of BUTTER IN THE MORNING and YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE

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Most helpful customer reviews

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

My family in Eastern Kentucky was a nucleus full of interconnectedness - love, support By Jana Spalding

In reading Marie Parsons': The Devil's Back," I had a lot of thoghts and memories triggered...I was blessed to have been born near the end of WWII into a family of essentially two different cultures here in the United States. My family in Eastern Kentucky was a nucleus full of interconnectedness - love, support, tradition, and where you were well grounded in a history of community and family. On the other hand, I was raised in Hampton, Virginia, on the Chesapeake Bay. The area was surrounded by a number of other nearby cities that all supported our military industerial complex. Being one of the original 13 colonies and having the real Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria housed in the river in Jamestown, Virginia, and so much history within a 90 mile radius of my house, I grew up learning and living the history of our state and our place in the world (large scale and not personal history). We had Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock, Langly Air Force

Base, Fort Monroe Military Base, NASA, the CIA School, and all of the other military branch bases nearby. With people constantly coming to the area and being deployed from our nearby areas, the local people knew they were a community, but we were all part of a bigger picture of the history of our area and state at large. This created a completely different culture for the traditional permanent families of the area...

Even now as an adult I still try to understand and pull my different "roots" and life experiences into a cohesive unit that makes more sense to me. In this effort I have become very fortunate to have come into the possession of a new novel by Marie Parsons called "the Devil's Back," Parsons' book draws focus to the joining of two families in the 1900s in her fictional account of family life and interdependence of the family unit during that time period. Some of her characters, places, events, and descriptions of family are based on her knowledge of her own family history, well-known facts, legands, places, and realities that she fictionalized. She uses the language and expressions that I heard and remembered as a very yound child during my vacations with a large close-knit family.

I became so immersed in the Moore-Castle families, I had a hard time putting this book down to get on with things in my own life. Needless to say, I scoffed up all 276 in three days. It ignited my childhood memories and my questions that I still had that were unanswered for my satisfaction.

Even today some of the subitle differences in language and expressions may have a vastly different meaning to an outsider unfamilar with the Appalachian Region as a whole. You must keep this idea in mind as you read this book to get the most out of it. For example, I moved to Floyd County in Eastern Kentucky, after a time I decided to return to college to become an RN. After I reached my goal and began working in the emergency room of the local hospital,, I had a patient that arrived by ambulance in obvious distress. I had him transferred to our stretcher and began pwreparing IVs and the set up of the crash cart as I tried to question what had brought him to the hospital. I had asked, "how are you?" He answered, "fine." I was at a loss, he was turning a bluish-grey, I tried to question him again what was wrong to which he said he was fine as he blacked out...I began running a code while my ward clerk called it over the intercom. Much later I asked my nursing assistant who had worked there for many years what I had Missed. She told me that I just did not understand +folk-ways." I began a search to discover what that was. It turned out that healmost died because it is impolite to be negative and complain. Since I had asked what was wrong, he was forced to deny having a problem. The major lesson I learned that if you want to help people, you must first learn their culture, beliefs, and traditions. I learned the English language has many different meanings depending on where and who you are with and the gap in generation that you want to talk to, and who the people actually are.

The true beauty of Appalachia is the love of family and pride of its seople, which gives them the strength to endure and to support one another. This truly is a beautiful thing that is becoming a more rate thing in today's world at large. I highly recommend reading "The Devil's Back" because it leaves you with new insights. It could also make you more appreciative of the life you may be living today, in spite of all of the negativity in the news and downturns in the economy...

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

An engrossing novel set in eastern Kentucky.

By Sandra Robertson

"What goes over the Devil's back, comes back over its stomach" is an Appalachian expression that means "What goes around, comes around." In this love story of the May-December marriage of Laurey Castle and Adam Moore and details about their families, the events that go over the Devil's back threaten the marriage and peaceful lives of the two families. I was pulled into this novel with its depiction of life in eastern Kentucky around the turn of the twentieth century. I kept turning the pages to see if love and forgiveness

would prevail or who might end as "a blight on the family tree."

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

The Devil's Back is a beautifully written story of an Appalachian family in the early ...

By Eric H Herrin

The Devil's Back is a beautifully written story of an Appalachian family in the early 20th century. It is a perfect read for individuals, academic classes and book clubs that want to transport their minds to another place, another time, another sect of people. The writer tells the life journey of a working class family in the hills of Kentucky as they experience economic hardships, family conflicts and resolutions, tragedies, love and simple joys. The story, which is redemptive in nature, leaves the reader feeling satisfied and hopeful.

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