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# Hellhole



## Synopsis

A devil is a bad influence.... There was a time when geeky, squeaky-clean Max Kilgore would never lie or steal or even think about murder. Then he accidentally unearths a devil, and Max's choices are no longer his own. The big red guy has a penchant for couch surfing and junk food - and you should never underestimate evil on a sugar high. With the help of Lore, a former goth girl who knows a thing or two about the dark side, Max is racing against the clock to get rid of the houseguest from hell before time, and all the Flamin' Hot Cheetos this side of the fiery abyss, run out. Gina Damico, author of the Croak series, once again delivers all the horror, hilarity, and high-stakes drama that any kid in high school or hell could ever handle.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

4 out of 5 gnomes This book is well pretty super duper insane but in a good way. The only reason I rated it 4 instead of 5 gnomes was that I saw what the ending was going to be a little too easily and some questionable choices the characters made. Overall though this is one heck of an interesting read. There are a myriad of funny quotes/lines in this book as you can see from my previous post. The humor really makes it though especially in the beginning and when Max gets drunk even one of the deaths in the book was pretty darn hilarious. I do like Damico's Croak series better but I do continue to love her writing style and dark sense of humor. I'm always looking forward to whatever she writes next. This book also shows how great the author is at setting up the scenes emotion wise and getting your feelings all jumbled up (just like Max.) Burg, well he was quite the devil but I think I

was expecting him to be less evil than he was (in that way I guess I underestimate him just like Max does.) Saying that though there are some really darn funny lines from him and of course plenty of bad behavior. There are some great characters in this book. Max's mom was a really cool, I loved her attitude and how she treated Max. Lore and her secrets made for some awesome twists and turns. I thought Audie was going to have a bigger part to play. The ending really worked well because it shows you why Faustian bargains aren't exactly the best ideas and then shows how Max and everyone will move on with their lives.

In Hellhole, we meet Max Kilgore, nerd extraordinaire. Max leads a pretty geek-fabulous life. He works a dead end job and spends his days trying to beat his own record for the most crossword puzzles done in a day. It's all so very exciting. But there's a little more to Max than meets the eye. His mother is dying. His dead end job is the only thing keeping the lights on at home - sometimes. And he seems to have accidentally summoned a devil who just won't leave! I've always loved a great Deal with the Devil story. And of course, the real key to enjoying one of these is in figuring out how you, the reader, could make an air tight deal yourself. And like the inestimable Charlie Daniels tells us in *The Devil Went Down To Georgia* - this devil is looking to make a deal. Basically, Max needs to find this devil a house (with a hot tub). The house must be obtained illegally. And, by the way, if this doesn't happen. Max's life is going to go to hell. Now Max needs to keep the devil living in his house a secret from his dying mother, supply said devil with junk food, keep that devil from trying to date his mom (ick!), and keep working that dead-end job while going to school and keeping anyone from knowing what's really going on in his house. The book is funny, clever, and, at times, pretty horrific. There's a little sweet geek love (melt), quite a bit of danger, and some pretty startling situations. And yes, I kept trying to figure out how I could make a better deal than Max did. While I couldn't figure out a better deal - this is a tricky devil - I did figure out a way to solve Max's little problem before he did. Well written, sly, and a fun, fast read. I thoroughly enjoyed Hellhole and would read the author again in a heartbeat. Note: For more fun Deals with the Devil, you can try to get a hold of *Deals with the Devil*.

I loved Hellhole! This is a smart, funny, and incredibly well written story that effectively combines humor and horror while still managing to mix in some pretty significant life issues for our hapless hero, Max Kilgore. When good guy Max accidentally unearths his own devil, he sees it as a way to solve his biggest problems. He then does what everyone knows you're not supposed to do. He makes a deal. The result is a wild ride of a novel filled with action, horror and a surprising number of

laughs. This is a very fast read with a ton of heart. I really fell in love with Max in all his flawed glory. His friend Lore is a perfect accomplice, and their interactions and dialogues were priceless. I totally believed these two kids, which is a testament to the author's character building skills and fine ear for dialogue. Teen readers will be totally engaged by this story as they will no doubt find themselves thinking about what kind of decisions they would make when faced with a situation that could change your life but just might not be all that smart. Hellhole is simply fantastic storytelling. It's been quite a while since I've read a book that made me laugh out loud so much, and made me care so much for its characters. There's language and violence not uncommon to works of horror, and there are also plenty of poignant moments as Max gets to figure out a few important things. This is an enthusiastic recommend for fans of this author's prior work and any young fan of horror seeking a humorous look at the dark side.

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