

the devil's star jo nesbo

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In the world of contemporary crime fiction, few authors have achieved the level of international acclaim as Jo Nesbø. Renowned for his gripping storytelling, complex characters, and intricate plots, Nesbø's works have captivated readers worldwide. Among his most celebrated novels is *The Devil's Star*, a compelling installment in the Harry Hole series that exemplifies Nesbø's mastery of the crime genre. This article delves into the details of *The Devil's Star*, exploring its plot, characters, themes, and its significance within Nesbø's literary career.

Overview of Jo Nesbø and His Literary Style

Before exploring *The Devil's Star*, it is essential to understand Nesbø's background and writing style. Jo Nesbø, a Norwegian author born in 1960, gained fame through his dark, atmospheric crime novels centered around the Oslo-based detective Harry Hole. His writing combines gritty realism with psychological depth, often exploring themes of evil, redemption, and human frailty.

Nesbø's books are characterized by:

- Fast-paced narratives
- Complex, morally ambiguous characters
- Twists and surprises
- Vivid descriptions of Oslo's urban landscape
- A dark, atmospheric tone

His storytelling style makes his books appealing to fans of both traditional detective stories and literary thrillers. *The Devil's Star* exemplifies these qualities, offering readers a dark, immersive experience.

Plot Summary of *The Devil's Star*

The Devil's Star, published in 2003, is the fifth novel in the Harry Hole series. The story begins with a series of brutal murders in Oslo, where victims are found with a peculiar star-shaped tattoo. Detective Harry Hole is assigned to investigate these crimes, which soon reveal a sinister pattern.

The Beginning of the Case

The novel opens with the discovery of a murdered woman, her body marked with a distinctive five-pointed star tattoo. The police soon realize that this is not an isolated incident but part of a series of killings. Each victim is linked to a criminal past, and their deaths seem to be orchestrated with

meticulous precision.

The "Star" and Its Significance

As the investigation deepens, Harry and his team uncover that the star tattoo is a symbol used by a criminal organization involved in trafficking, violence, and corruption. The murders appear to be a form of retribution or punishment, hinting at a darker underworld controlling parts of Oslo.

Harry Hole's Personal Struggles

Throughout the novel, Harry's personal life is fraught with challenges. His struggles with alcoholism, loneliness, and his obsessive pursuit of justice add depth to his character and influence his decision-making.

The Climactic Confrontation

The climax reveals a complex web of deception involving a serial killer who is targeting individuals connected to the criminal underworld. Harry must navigate this treacherous landscape, confronting his own demons while trying to bring the killer to justice.

Resolution

The novel concludes with Harry solving the case, but not without personal cost. The story underscores themes of moral ambiguity, the nature of evil, and redemption.

Major Themes and Symbolism in *The Devil's Star*

The Devil's Star explores numerous themes that resonate with readers and contribute to its enduring popularity.

1. Good vs. Evil

The novel blurs the lines between right and wrong, showcasing morally ambiguous characters and questioning the nature of justice.

2. The Darkness Within

Harry Hole's internal struggles symbolize the darker aspects of human nature. Nesbø delves into the psychological depths of his characters, illustrating how personal flaws can impact their actions.

3. Symbolism of the Star

The five-pointed star tattoo represents multiple layers of meaning:

- A symbol of evil or the devil
- A mark of retribution
- An emblem of the criminal underworld

The star signifies the pervasive presence of evil and the complexity of moral judgments.

4. Corruption and Power

The novel highlights how corruption infiltrates institutions and influences justice, reflecting societal issues beyond the crime itself.

Character Analysis: Harry Hole and Supporting Cast

Harry Hole

As the protagonist, Harry is a deeply flawed yet compelling detective. His characteristics include:

- A relentless pursuit of justice
- Struggles with alcoholism and loneliness
- A sharp intellect and intuition
- A complex moral compass

His personal vulnerabilities make him relatable and add tension to the narrative.

Supporting Characters

- Rachel, Harry's ex-girlfriend and ally
- Oleg, a key suspect connected to the criminal organization
- Katrine, Harry's colleague and confidante
- The Killer, whose identity is revealed in a shocking twist

Each character adds depth to the story, creating a layered narrative that keeps readers engaged.

Critical Reception and Impact of *The Devil's Star*

The Devil's Star received widespread praise for its suspenseful plot and vivid characterization. Critics appreciated Nesbø's ability to craft a dark, atmospheric story that delves into the human psyche. The novel's intricate plot and compelling protagonist have cemented its status as a standout in the crime genre.

The book's popularity has also contributed to the international recognition of Nesbø's work, leading to translations into multiple languages and adaptations for film and television.

Where to Read *The Devil's Star*

For fans interested in exploring *The Devil's Star*, it is available in various formats:

- Hardcover and paperback editions
- E-book versions for digital readers
- Audiobook formats narrated by skilled voice artists

The novel is widely available through major bookstores, online retailers, and libraries.

Conclusion: Why *The Devil's Star* Remains a Must-Read

The Devil's Star by Jo Nesbø stands out as a masterful crime novel that combines suspense, complex characters, and thought-provoking themes. Its exploration of the darker facets of human nature, set against the backdrop of Oslo's gritty streets, offers readers an immersive and emotionally charged experience.

Whether you are a dedicated crime fiction fan or new to Nesbø's work, *The Devil's Star* promises a compelling journey into the shadows of the human soul. Its enduring appeal lies in Nesbø's skillful storytelling, making it a must-read for anyone interested in dark, psychological thrillers.

SEO Keywords and Phrases

- Jo Nesbø books
- The Devil's Star summary
- Harry Hole series
- Scandinavian crime novels
- Best crime novels 2000s
- Norwegian detective stories
- Crime fiction with dark themes
- Jo Nesbø novel analysis
- Oslo crime stories
- The Devil's Star review

If you're a fan of intricately plotted crime thrillers with deep psychological insights, *The Devil's Star* by Jo Nesbø is an excellent addition to your reading list. Its blend of suspense, moral complexity, and atmospheric writing makes it a standout in contemporary crime literature.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Devil's Star' by Jo Nesbø?

The novel follows Detective Harry Hole as he investigates a series of murders in Oslo linked to a mysterious star-shaped tattoo, uncovering a complex web of deception and corruption.

Where does 'The Devil's Star' fit within the Harry Hole series?

'The Devil's Star' is the sixth book in Jo Nesbø's Harry Hole series, continuing the character's journey through Oslo's criminal underworld.

What themes are explored in 'The Devil's Star'?

The novel explores themes of obsession, justice, moral ambiguity, and the psychological toll of police work.

Is 'The Devil's Star' based on real events?

No, 'The Devil's Star' is a work of fiction, though it draws inspiration from real criminal cases and the dark side of human nature.

Who are the main characters in 'The Devil's Star'?

The primary characters include Detective Harry Hole, his colleague Katrine Bratt, and the victims linked to the star-shaped tattoos.

What is the significance of the star-shaped tattoo in the story?

The star tattoo serves as a signature for the killer, symbolizing a mysterious and deadly pattern that Harry must decipher.

How has 'The Devil's Star' been received by readers and critics?

The novel has been praised for its gripping plot, dark atmosphere, and complex characters, establishing it as a notable entry in Scandinavian crime fiction.

Are there any film or TV adaptations of 'The Devil's Star'?

As of now, there are no direct adaptations of 'The Devil's Star,' but the Harry Hole series has inspired several Norwegian film and TV projects.

What makes 'The Devil's Star' stand out among Jo Nesbø's

works?

Its intricate plot, intense psychological depth, and the exploration of Oslo's criminal landscape make it a standout in Nesbø's crime series.

Will there be a sequel or continuation related to 'The Devil's Star'?

While 'The Devil's Star' is part of the Harry Hole series, Jo Nesbø continues to write new books featuring Harry, but there is no direct sequel to this specific novel.

Additional Resources

The Devil's Star Jo Nesbo stands out as one of the most compelling entries in the Harry Hole series, showcasing Norwegian author Jo Nesbo's mastery in crime fiction. Published in 2003, this novel marks a pivotal point in Nesbo's career, blending intricate plotting with deep psychological insight. As the fifth book in the series, it not only continues the saga of Detective Harry Hole but also elevates Nesbo's reputation as a master storyteller capable of weaving suspense, moral ambiguity, and raw human emotion into a cohesive narrative. In this article, we delve into the thematic richness, character development, stylistic elements, and the broader significance of *The Devil's Star* within Nesbo's oeuvre and contemporary crime literature.

Overview and Context of The Devil's Star

Publication and Series Placement

Published in 2003, *The Devil's Star* follows *The Redbreast* and precedes *The Snowman* in the Harry Hole series. By this stage, Nesbo had firmly established himself as a major voice in Scandinavian noir, known for his gritty realism, complex characters, and intricate plots. The novel's placement within the series allows it to build upon Harry Hole's backstory, personal struggles, and professional evolution, making it a crucial installment for understanding his character arc.

Plot Summary

At its core, *The Devil's Star* revolves around Harry Hole's investigation into a series of gruesome murders in Oslo, each victim found with a distinctive six-star tattoo. The killer's modus operandi and the symbolic significance of the stars propel the narrative into a psychological and philosophical exploration of evil, fate, and morality. The plot thickens as Harry navigates through a web of deception, personal demons, and the dark underbelly of Norwegian society.

The story also features a subplot involving Harry's strained relationship with his colleagues, his own addiction issues, and his moral dilemmas—elements that deepen the narrative's complexity. Central to the story is the discovery of a connection between the murders and a mysterious figure from Harry's past, adding layers of personal stakes to the case.

Thematic Elements and Symbolism

Symbolism of the Devil's Star

The six-pointed star, or the “Devil’s Star,” is a potent symbol woven into the novel’s fabric. Its presence on the victims’ bodies and the title evoke themes of temptation, evil, and destiny. The star’s shape, reminiscent of a pentagram, historically associated with occult symbolism, adds an aura of mysticism and menace. Nesbo employs this symbol to reflect the idea that evil is often intertwined with beauty and complexity—crucial themes in understanding human nature.

The devil’s star also functions as a metaphor for the duality of good and evil, suggesting that darkness resides within everyone, and that evil can manifest in ways that are both visible and concealed. The killer’s meticulous marking of victims with the star indicates a ritualistic dimension, emphasizing the serial killer’s obsession with symbolism and perhaps their own internal demons.

Exploration of Evil and Morality

Nesbo’s novel challenges readers to confront uncomfortable questions about morality and justice. The killer’s actions are not merely for shock but seem to embody a philosophical stance on evil—somewhat akin to a manifestation of societal or personal nihilism. Harry Hole’s investigation becomes a moral quest, forcing him to decide how far he is willing to go in pursuit of justice and whether the ends justify the means.

The novel also examines the idea of the “monster among us,” highlighting how ordinary individuals can harbor darkness beneath a veneer of civility. Nesbo explores this through characters’ psychological depths, blurring the lines between victim and perpetrator, and emphasizing that evil often wears a human face.

Character Analysis: Harry Hole and Supporting Cast

Harry Hole: The Complex Detective

Harry Hole remains one of Scandinavian crime fiction’s most compelling protagonists. In *The Devil’s Star*, his character is marked by vulnerability, resilience, and moral ambiguity. As an alcoholic and a troubled soul, Harry’s personal struggles are at the forefront, often influencing his professional judgments.

Throughout the novel, Harry’s relentless pursuit of truth is contrasted by moments of self-doubt and despair. His obsession with the case and his moral code often put him at odds with colleagues and authorities, reinforcing his outsider status. Nesbo crafts Harry as a deeply flawed yet intrinsically human character, grappling with his inner demons while seeking justice.

Key traits of Harry Hole in this novel include:

- A keen intuitive sense that often uncovers clues others overlook.
- A haunted past that resurfaces through personal connections to the case.

- A complex moral compass that questions authority and legality.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

Several characters in *The Devil's Star* serve to enrich the narrative and deepen its themes:

- Katia, Harry's love interest, whose presence provides emotional depth amidst the bleakness.
- Bjørn, Harry's colleague, who embodies the institutional side of law enforcement but also exhibits moral conflicts.
- The Killer, whose symbolism and psychological profile serve as a mirror for Harry's own struggles.
- The Victims, each representing different facets of Norwegian society and adding layers of social commentary.

The interactions among these characters reveal the societal and personal dimensions of crime, emphasizing Nesbo's interest in human complexity.

Stylistic Features and Literary Techniques

Narrative Style

Jo Nesbo employs a tight, fast-paced narrative style that keeps readers engaged through short chapters, vivid descriptions, and a blend of third-person perspective with internal monologues. His prose combines brutal realism with poetic language, often contrasting the cold Norwegian setting with the warmth of human stories.

The novel balances procedural detail with psychological insight, making it both a compelling detective story and an exploration of character psyche. Nesbo's use of suspense is meticulous, with plot twists and red herrings that maintain tension until the final pages.

Use of Symbolism and Imagery

Beyond the titular star, Nesbo uses imagery associated with darkness, snow, and cold to evoke a sense of bleakness and isolation—elements characteristic of Scandinavian noir. Symbolic motifs recur, such as the recurring presence of the star, the color red (blood, danger), and the motif of masks or concealment, underscoring themes of identity and deception.

Psychological Depth and Moral Ambiguity

Nesbo's narrative does not shy away from exploring the darker aspects of human nature. The killer's psychological profile is detailed, revealing motivations rooted in trauma, obsession, or philosophical nihilism. Harry's internal struggles mirror these themes, making the novel not just about solving a crime but about understanding the nature of evil itself.

Impact and Critical Reception

Critical Acclaim and Awards

The Devil's Star was widely praised for its intricate plotting, character development, and atmospheric writing. It solidified Nesbo's reputation as a leading figure in Scandinavian noir, earning accolades such as the Norwegian Booksellers' Prize and positive reviews from international critics. Its success helped propel the Harry Hole series into global recognition.

Influence on Crime Fiction

The novel's blend of psychological depth, social critique, and suspense has influenced contemporary crime writers. Nesbo's stylistic approach—combining brutal realism with poetic sensibility—has become a hallmark of Scandinavian noir, inspiring a new wave of authors exploring similar themes.

Broader Significance and Themes

Scandinavian Noir and Cultural Context

The Devil's Star exemplifies the characteristics of Scandinavian noir: bleak yet insightful, morally complex, and socially aware. It reflects Norway's societal issues, such as corruption, alienation, and the dark side of modern life, offering a mirror to contemporary Scandinavian society.

Philosophical and Existential Themes

At its core, the novel questions the nature of evil and the human condition. Harry's confrontations with the killer and his own inner demons serve as allegories for larger philosophical debates about morality, free will, and the capacity for evil.

Relevance in Contemporary Crime Fiction

Nesbo's work, including The Devil's Star, demonstrates that crime fiction can transcend mere entertainment to become a vehicle for exploring profound human and societal issues. Its enduring popularity underscores the genre's capacity for both thrill and reflection.

Conclusion

The Devil's Star stands as a testament to Jo Nesbo's storytelling prowess, blending compelling characters, layered symbolism, and a gripping plot into a novel that challenges and captivates. Its exploration of evil, morality, and human complexity makes it more than just a crime story—it is a mirror to the darker facets of human nature and society. As a pivotal entry in the Harry Hole series and Scandinavian noir, it continues to influence and inspire readers and writers alike, cementing

Nesbo's place among the greats in contemporary crime literature.

[The Devil's Star Jo Nesbo](#)

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the devil's star jo nesbo: *The Devil's Star* Jo Nesbo, 2012-01-03 "It's fascinating to watch this Norwegian author adapt our homegrown monster [the serial killer] to a foreign culture.... When things go wrong, Harry goes on a bender, but when he's on his game, no one is better than this obsessive detective. He systematically works his way through the intricacies of a plot that speeds along like a bullet train."—New York Times Book Review Detective Harry Hole is on the trail of a diabolical serial killer terrorizing Oslo in another electrifying thriller in the Harry Hole series from the author of *The Snowman*. In the heat of a sweltering Oslo summer, a young woman is found murdered in her flat—with one of her fingers cut off and a tiny red star-shaped diamond placed under her eyelid. An off-the-rails alcoholic barely holding on to his job, Detective Harry Hole is assigned to the case with Tom Waaler, a hated colleague whom Harry believes is responsible for the murder of his partner. When another woman is reported missing five days later, and her severed finger turns up adorned with a red star-shaped diamond ring, Harry fears a serial killer is at work. But Hole's determination to capture a fiend and to expose Waaler's crimes is leading him into shadowy places where both investigations merge in unexpected ways, forcing him to make difficult decisions about a future he may not live to see.

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the devil's star jo nesbo: *The Devil's Star* Jo Nesbo, 2016-02-15

the devil's star jo nesbo: The Devil's Star (Heroes & Villains) Jo Nesbo, 2018-05-29 THE MARK OF THE DEVIL, THE SIGN OF A KILLER... A young woman is murdered in her flat and a tiny red diamond in the shape of a five-pointed star is found behind her eyelid. Detective Harry Hole is

assigned to the case, alongside his long-time adversary Tom Waaler, and initially wants no part in it. But Harry is already on his final warning and has little alternative but to drag himself out of his alcoholic stupor when it becomes apparent that Oslo has a serial killer on its hands. 'Shocking and surprising...expertly paced' The Times 'Terrific... A stunning twist turns this into a first-rate thriller' Daily Telegraph

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the devil s star jo nesbo: The Dragon Tattoo and Its Long Tail David Geherin, 2012-02-15

The enormous popularity of Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy has raised awareness of other contemporary European authors of crime fiction. As a result, several of these novelists now reach a receptive American audience, eager for fresh perspectives in the genre. This critical text offers an introduction to current European crime writing by exploring ten of the best new crime and mystery authors from Sweden (Stieg Larsson and Henning Mankell), Norway (Karin Fossum and Jo Nesbo), Iceland (Arnaldur Indridason), Italy (Andrea Camilleri), France (Fred Vargas), Scotland (Denise Mina and Philip Kerr), and Ireland (Ken Bruen), who are reshaping the landscape of the modern crime novel. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

the devil s star jo nesbo: Nemesis Jo Nesbo, 2010-12-17 Grainy CCTV footage shows a man walking into a bank and putting a gun to a cashier's head. He tells her to count to twenty-five. When he doesn't get his money in time, she is executed. Detective Harry Hole is assigned to the case. While Harry's girlfriend is away in Russia, an old flame gets in touch. He goes to dinner at her house and wakes up at home with no memory of the past twelve hours. The same morning the girl is found shot dead in her bed. Harry begins to receive threatening e-mails. Is someone trying to frame him for this unexplained death? Meanwhile the bank robberies continue with unparalleled savagery. Gripping and surprising, Nemesis is the new thriller by one of the biggest stars of Scandinavian crime fiction.

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- Inspector Harry Hole pursues an assassin bent on revenge in this "fast-and-furious" installment (The New York Times Book Review) of the bestselling series. Shots ring out at a Salvation Army Christmas concert in Oslo, leaving one of the singers dead in the street. The trail will lead Harry Hole, Oslo's best investigator and worst civil servant, deep into the darkest corners of the city and, eventually, to Croatia. An assassin forged in the war-torn region has been brought to Oslo to settle an old debt. As the police circle in, the killer becomes increasingly desperate and the danger mounts for Harry and his colleagues.

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the devil s star jo nesbo: Retold Resold Transformed Christiana Gregoriou, David Platten, Gigliola Sulis, 2019-08-02T00:00:00+02:00 In recent decades crime fiction has enjoyed a creative boom. Although, as Alison Young argues in her book *Imagining Crime* (1996), crime stories remain strongly identified with specific locations, the genre has acquired a global reach, illuminating different corners of the world for the delectation of international audiences. The recent fashion for Nordic noir has highlighted the process by which the crime story may be franchised, as it is transposed from one culture to another. Crime fiction has thus become a vehicle for cultural exchange in the broadest of senses; not only does it move with apparent ease from one country to the next, and in and out of different languages, but it is also reproduced through various cultural media. What is involved in these processes of transference? Do stories lose or gain value? Or are they transformed into something else altogether? How does the crime story that originates in a specific society or culture come to articulate aspects of very different societies and cultures? And what are the repercussions of this cultural permeability?

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the devil s star jo nesbo: Scandinavian Noir Wendy Lesser, 2020-05-05 Even those unmoved by its subject will thrill to [Scandinavian Noir], a beautifully crafted inquiry into fiction, reality,

crime and place . . . Perhaps when it comes to fiction and reality, what we need most are critics like Lesser, who can dissect the former with the tools of the latter. --Kate Tuttle, *The New York Times* Book Review

An in-depth and personal exploration of Scandinavian crime fiction as a way into Scandinavian culture at large For nearly four decades, Wendy Lesser's primary source of information about three Scandinavian countries—Sweden, Norway, and Denmark—was mystery and crime novels, and the murders committed and solved in their pages. Having never visited the region, Lesser constructed a fictional Scandinavia of her own making, something between a map, a portrait, and a cultural history of a place that both exists and does not exist. Lesser's Scandinavia is disproportionately populated with police officers, but also with the stuff of everyday life, the likes of which are relayed in great detail in the novels she read: a fully realized world complete with its own traditions, customs, and, of course, people. Over the course of many years, Lesser's fictional Scandinavia grew more and more solidly visible to her, yet she never had a strong desire to visit the real countries that corresponded to the made-up ones. Until, she writes, "between one day and the next, that no longer seemed sufficient." It was time to travel to Scandinavia. With vivid storytelling and an astonishing command of the literature, Wendy Lesser's *Scandinavian Noir: In Pursuit of a Mystery* illuminates the vast, peculiar world of Scandinavian noir—first as it appears on the page, then as it grows in her mind, and finally, in the summer of 2018, as it exists in reality. Guided by sharp criticism, evocative travel writing, and a whimsical need to discover "the difference between existence and imagination, reality and dream," *Scandinavian Noir* is a thrilling and inventive literary adventure from a masterful writer and critic.

the devil s star jo nesbo: *The Round Britain Quiz Book* Paul Bajoria, 2019-10-17 'The nerdiest and longest-running quiz around' The Spectator Have you got what it takes to tackle Radio 4's most fiendish quiz? Question: A fictional criminal psychologist, a former Conservative minister, and the eponymous protagonist of a Peter Hedges novel, might all serve on the board alongside some big cheeses. Can you explain?* The Round Britain Quiz is the oldest broadcast quiz anywhere in the world. Created in 1947 it has built and maintained a cult following from across the generations. Each series sees six teams from around the UK competing against each other to solve a series of seriously cryptic clues, with a chairman giving a steer on how to get to the answer. Compiled by long-serving series producer, Paul Bajoria, and with an introduction from the Chairman, BBC journalist Tom Sutcliffe, *The Round Britain Quiz Book* features 250 of the toughest and most challenging questions from the last 70 years as well as many new and exclusive conundrums, drawing on unpredictable fields of knowledge, to truly test the nation. *Answer: They might all be found on a cheeseboard, as accompaniments to the cheese. The psychologist referred to is 'Fitz' in the TV series *Cracker*, the former MP is Eric Pickles, and Gilbert Grape is Peter Hedges' creation.

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Devil ≠ **Demon** 悪魔と悪鬼 - 悪魔 Simply put: Devil is the ultimate evil spirit or the god of evil. Demons are spirits that do the work of the devil. However, sometimes they are used interchangeably. Another popular way to use

demon **devil** - 悪魔 (akuma) Devil: デビル (debiru) Satan/Lucifer (satan/lucifer) **devil**

devil **demon** **evil** - Evil - he is so evil Devil demon
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Satan **Lucifer** **demon** **evil** **ghost** Devil Demons Devil
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DEVIL? - Devil 2008

Speak of the devil - Speak of the devil talk of the devil someone you have just been talking about walks into the room where you are.

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Another popular way to use

demon **devil** - demon devil Devil: devil devil Satan Lucifer devil

devil **demon** **evil** - Evil - he is so evil Devil demon

Demon **Devil** Devil The devil

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Satan **Lucifer** **demon** **evil** **ghost** Devil Demons Devil
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