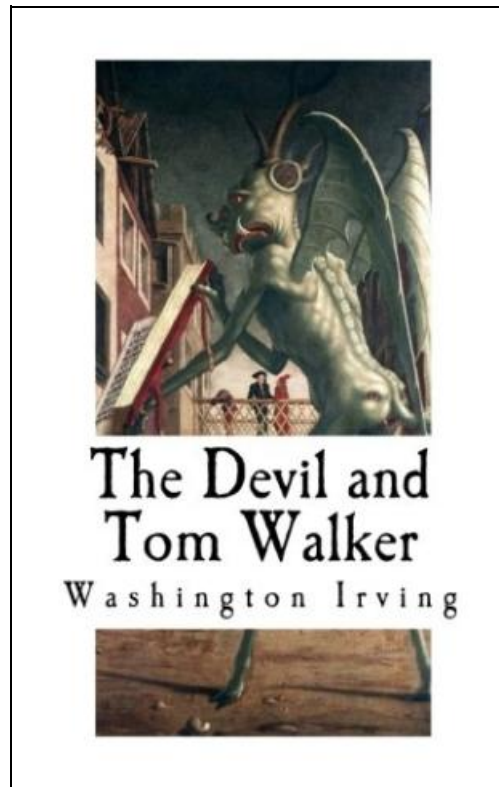


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THE DEVIL AND TOM WALKER: SHORT HORROR STORIES (PAPERBACK)



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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.The Devil and Tom Walker by Washington Irving Classic Short Horror Stories - The Devil By his interest in popular legends the first of the great American writers shows his sympathy with the Romantic movement, which prevailed in his time in all the countries of Europe. His devil, however, has not been imported from the lands across the Atlantic, but is a part of the superstitions of the New World. The author himself did not believe in Old Scratch. The real devils for him were the slave-traders and the witch-hunters of Salem fame. It is interesting now to read a contemporary critic of Washington Irving s devil-story: If Mr. Irving believes in the existence of Tom Walker s master, we can scarcely conceive how he can so earnestly jest about him; at all events, we would counsel him to beware lest his own spells should prove fatal to him (Eclectic Review, 1825). Few people in those days had the courage to take Old Nick good-naturedly. Even the clever Madame de Stael, said Goethe, was greatly scandalized that I kept the devil in such good-humour. The devil appears in many colours, principally, however, in black and red. It is a common belief in Scotland that the devil is a black man, as may also be seen in Robert Louis Stevenson s story Thrawn Janet. There is no warrant in the biblical tradition for a black devil. Satan, however, appeared as an Ethiopian as far back as the days of the Church Fathers. The black colour presumably is intended to suggest his place of abode, whereas red denotes the scorching fires of hell. The devil was considered as a sort of eternal Salamander. In...



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