



To Beat the Devil

M.K. Gibson , C.T. Phipps (Foreword)

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An alternate cover for this ASIN can be found here.

175 years have passed since God quit on mankind. Without his blessing, Hell itself, along with the ancient power of The Deep, were unleashed upon the world. Two world wars and oceans of blood later, a balance was reached. Demonkind took its place as the ruling aristocracy. Mankind, thanks to its ability to create, fell to the position of working proletariat. Alive, but not living.

Lucky Us.

Welcome to New Golgotha, the East Coast supercity. In it you will find sins and cyborgs, magic and mystery, vices without virtue and hell without the hope of heaven. In the middle of it all is Salem, smuggler extraordinaire and recluse immortal, who has lived and fought through the last two centuries, but his biggest battle is just beginning.

To Beat The Devil: A technomancer Novel is an incredible adventure full of cyborgs and demons, gods, magic, guns, puns and whiskey, humor and heart. Follow Salem as he embarks to discover the meaning of the very nature of what mankind is: our souls. And, who is trying to steal them.

To Beat the Devil Details

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Author : M.K. Gibson , C.T. Phipps (Foreword)

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From Reader Review To Beat the Devil for online ebook

Elusive says

I'll be honest M.K Gibson is a Mediocre author Imo. All the books I've read by him so far has been just that, very average and mediocre. While this is not the same as a bad author I am not a fan of this sort of thing. I feel that he lacks any Ideas of his own and simply borrows and blends already well known successful concepts. This was an interesting book and while pretty predictable still worth reading if you've got nothing better to do. However as I stated I didn't feel that there was anything original about this story at all. God left humanity to fend for themselves. Wait where have I seen this before? Hmm oh yeah the extremely popular tv series Supernatural has been going with this kind of theme for years now. There was also the tv series Dominion similar theme. Are you starting to see what I mean by borrow and blend? I tried the second book. But the ending of this book kinda ruined what I thought would be an actual good series. So once again M.K Gibson falls short of the good book mark.

Haizle The Princess says

I wasn't so sure about this book at first. I felt like there was very little character development in the beginning. After reading the entire book, I still can't picture what any of the characters look like, except for Maz and ol' Danny Boy. After the first couple of chapters, things completely changed. I think the author got more into the story line himself, and it started reading more like a comic book or action movie script. He became a lot more descriptive when talking about tech and science and... fighting. Because I enjoy tech and science and fighting, I enjoyed the book.

I met the author at Super Smash Con this past year, when I decided to purchase the book. I'm glad I did, and I'm happy that I gave it a try. Can't wait to read the next one.

Erin says

This was enjoyable.

However, I think I would have enjoyed it more if I had read it before Ready Player One. Because the futuristic+Past Pop Culture reference overload just was that... Overload.

But this had interesting themes, and it was enjoyable.

I didn't like how he portrayed women in this at all. I think the only woman in this that wasn't a slut/whore was his mother.

BookLoversLife says

This is definitely a case of don't judge the book by the cover!! The cover wouldn't entice me to pick this up in a book store, but trust me when I say that you should definitely pick it up!! This was a funny, unique and addicting read.

Plot wise, it was fast paced, entertaining and fun. This centers on Salem, a mercenary for hire, who has a mysterious background and one that rolls out slowly throughout the story. He is approached by an equally mysterious man, Father Grimm, who has a job for Salem. From the second Salem meets with Father Grimm, his life is changed forever. What follows is a book that is intriguing, entertaining, funny and a must read.

I loved the setting of this. The apocalypse came and God had had enough. He upped and left and left the world in the hands of Demons. Now they rule the world and have a kind of deal with humanity, but with the Demons come depravity and death. Salem and Grimm are on a course that could change the world as they know it, but along the way they have to deal with Demon armies, risen dead, and Demon overlords, to name but a few!!

The characters in this were my favourite part of it. All were well written and developed and charismatic!! I loved Salem and his snarky, quirky attitude. He is a character that is memorable and easy to like. Father Grimm was mysterious and I couldn't wait to see his story unravel throughout the book. We also get some truly unique and fun side characters, that just add to the overall awesomeness of this book.

In all, this was a surprising and engaging read. Filled with amazing characters, action, adventure, Demons, Angels, Magic, Science and enough Pop Culture references that will make you laugh out loud, it's a must read for everyone. I loved pretty much everything about this and can highly recommend.

The narrator, Shawn Purvis, was really good. He had a variety of tones and voices and really put his all into this performance. He brought the story to life.

I received a complimentary copy of this from the author but voluntarily reviewed it. This in no way affected nor influenced my thoughts.

Colin Thompson says

I love this book. Being a fan of Shadowrun and having looked for something in a similar vein, and failing, the premise was up my street. It didn't disappoint. Funny, witty, smartass characters and a surprisingly twisty plot made this a fun and enjoyable read. The humour, intelligent writing and the mix up of sci-fi, angels, demons, werewolves, gods and mythology kept me reading and ignoring my family while on holiday as much as possible! As soon as I get home, I'll be purchasing the next two and diving in.

Vinay Badri says

Quite a super awesome, funny and creative book that mashes religion, magic, and cyberpunkish SF into a dystopian blender where God has bugged out and the demons have won. With a sarcastic first person narrative of a smuggler (with special powers), the story is basically of him moving from a loner working for this own self to become a hero as is the trope. But the journey through that is what makes this book stand out

The sheer creativeness, the fast-paced nature and the character dynamics work brilliantly as does the non-stop pop-culture reference. The worldbuilding is quite awesome (in so far that this is our world, just gotten hellish) and the japes and barbs keep on coming. The action is top-notch and non-stop while some of the escapades would make Mathew Reilly proud. Yes, there is the case of the *deus ex machina* and how certain things conveniently fall into place but the betrayals and double-crosses (not surprising given we are dealing with demons) make this completely worth it. If I had to crib, I would say the tone of the book is a bit weird

in the sense that the content is definitely adult themed but the action kind of seems cartoonish in nature. Plus a rather horrible cover

Kev says

Excellent new urban fantasy. An interesting world, with some really good characters. I look forward to the next installment.

I listened to the audio book, and it was excellent. I hope the next in the series comes out in that format soon.

Sasha Twyst says

This book constantly teetered between being gritty noir and being too damn cool for it's own good.

Getting the downsides out of the way first, there were a couple of minor editing errors that caught my attention mostly seemed to be autocorrect issues (plan for plane, one double indented paragraph in the middle of the book). Also, the author described historical figure as being from, to the best of my knowledge, the wrong country.

The author hit one of my pet peeves: using the exact terminology that was just in a characters internal monologue as dialog within a paragraph; to me, this indicates one or the other could have been trimmed or rephrased and made a stronger bit of writing.

He also switches perspectives from time to time, going from first person to third, a thing that doesn't show up until about 1/3 through the story. I'd have preferred if he'd either let those parts go, despite their narrative value, or perhaps done it more frequently, telling other parts of the story from the first person perspective of other characters.

Thus endeth my displeasure.

I like escapist fantasy. The Black Jewels trilogy, for example, where the antagonists have some suffering but mostly are surrounded by comfort, adventure, and powerful allies. Take that feel, throw in some epic stakes characters, mix in every crazy B to A- action movie in history, and drop in a liberal amount of pop culture references along with a few pagan gods and you've got this book. That may not sound like high praise, but it really works.

The story is engaging and fast paced. A lightrunner, which is apparently a higher class of smuggler, thief, and profiteer, goes from ferrying 200 year old cigarettes to doing legwork for a mysterious Svengali like figure to battling for humanity in a world controlled by demons. The brilliance and strength of this story is that the author commits, being unapologetic for how awesome his antagonist is or the interjection of any of the disparate elements assembled in this story, like a box of Legos made from 12 different sets, constructed into a masterpiece. He embraces cliché and trope shamelessly, lampshades them, turns the absurdity up to 11 and then just says "Deal with it."

And you do, because it's awesome.

What could have been a hot mess turns into juggernaut of adolescent, testosterone powered fun with just enough of a backbone and just enough gravity to make you take it seriously. It's one part League of

Extraordinary Gentlemen mixed with two parts Buffy the Vampire Slayer, garnished with Michael Bay proportion explosions, which the author then fully credits and annotates.

It's brilliant.

I found myself racing towards the end of the book just because it was so damn interesting and entertaining. This is a book that is absurd, but because it takes itself seriously, you can't help but go along, like listening to someone brag at a bar. Sure, you really invented the Roomba during a conversation with the Queen of England after you did some lines of coke together! What happens next?

This story might not be everyone's cup of tea, but if you're a fan of Saturday morning cartoons, hard rock, or cars with flame jobs, I say give it a chance. Not because any of those things are in the book, mind you, but because of one thing they have in common: they're all just so damn fun.

Ed Nemo says

I was up in the air on picking up this book. Trying out new authors is always difficult. The comparison to Shadowrun brought me over, though. M.K. Gibson's take on religion and mythology was extremely well thought out and made complete sense in a world with so many different deities.

As for the characters: Salem is a fantastic protagonist. He is flawed, yet powerful. His love of comics, movies, and Social D is endearing enough that I forgave his early cavalier attitude. Grimm was a great character, mysterious and ultimately likable. Tesla and Maz were fantastic and played perfectly. Jensen and Ricky were the wildcards. Wow...2 major twists at the very end.

All is all, this was a fun quick read and I am looking forward to reading the second book in the series.

Angie says

God abandoned his creations on Earth and demons walk abroad as if they own the place. Honestly, they kind of do because mankind lost the wars against them and now, mostly, serve at the will of the demons. They are allowed to serve because man understands technology and demons don't. Of course, when there are humans around, there will always be a few that thumb their noses at the ruling class.

Enter, Salem. He is an immortal, sarcastic, bad-ass that loves to give demons trouble whenever he can, but he also isn't above using them for his own benefit. And everything is pretty much about what benefits Salem until he meets Father Grimm and re-discovers his soul. Ironic, considering that shortly afterwards both Salem and Father Grimm learn that other humans are losing theirs. As a result, they work together to discover what is happening. It is gritty, fast-paced action. I loved every minute of it.

Honestly, the urban fantasy genre is one that I have just begun to explore, and I have found two series that I really like; this being one of them. Yes, I know that this is only the first book, but when I start a series enjoying it as much as I did, I definitely plan on reading the others.

Stephen Brown says

I rarely feel the need for reviews. I am of the opinion that a book should hold it's own from cover to cover, and praise from some nameless reader will hardly sway a fan in one direction or another. I do however make exception on rare occasions and I feel Mike's first installment in his "Technomancer" series merits comment.

Michael has it all.

The story is captivating. From page one I found myself thoroughly entertained. So many of this book's contemporaries attempt this marvel and fall desperately short. I will attempt to tell you why I am of this opinion without giving any of the juicy bits away.

As a recovering Roman Catholic and all around geek. I am fascinated by Mike's ability to take subjects such as Angels & Demons, and twist them together with a snarky, anti-hero who reminds you of some guy you knew in high school!

The story is fast-paced, smart enough to make your inner critic say "yeah!" and has the ability to keep you grinning ear-to-ear.

I've already recommend this book to multiple friends and extend that recommendation to anyone who enjoys books like: "Sandman Slim", "The Vampire Bill", and "Hard Luck Hank"

Different, fun, and unpredictable.

Thank you Mike! I really enjoyed your book!

AudioBookReviewer says

My original To Beat the Devil audiobook review and many others can be found at Audiobook Reviewer.

To Beat The Devil: The Technomancer Novels Book 1 by M. K. Gibson centers around Salem (a rogue human/cyborg) and Father Grimm (a mysterious mage with a heart-stopping hard side) who find themselves fighting against the bad guys (demons) since God announced his "forsaking" the people of earth. Now almost 200 years later, the battle for human souls has taken an unexpected turn and it is up to Salem and Grimm to win it!

There were a lot of pop culture references throughout the audiobook; I immediately connected Salem to the Chris Pratt character in Guardian of the Universe and Father Grimm to a mix between Obi-Wan and Yoda. The references added a comedic value to the book which made it even more interesting and fun. I loved the parents and their interaction with Salem.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book as it was fast paced, not too techno or complicated to follow and the characters were well described and built. The use of deities from ancient mythology was impressively entertaining. I enjoyed Salem's "fly by the seat of your pants" attitude. It was a perfect audiobook - creative, entertaining and fun.

Gibson built the plot and characters with care and strength. It is an epic book but one that cannot be put down, it holds not only your attention but thoughts as well. The listener may find themselves asking what if ... OMG, I never thought of that ... Gibson takes one action – one we never think or want to believe could happen and shows us what could happen if humankind is left unchecked.

The narrator, Shawn Purvis provided a striking performance. He performed the audiobook expertly, keeping the story going at a rhythmic pace and speaking clearly and concisely. He owned the book! He jumped between characters without missing a beat keeping all the voices correct.

There were no issues with the quality or production of this audiobook.

Audiobook was provided for review by the author

Montzalee Wittmann says

To Beat the Devil (The Technomancer Novels #1) by M.K. Gibson is a great combo of funny, snarky, witty dialogue, fun fantasy, and great sci-fi. Lots of action, adventure, and an overall just a great read. Don't go by the cover, this is an awesome read! I already got the next book and I hope it is as good as this one. Great book.

C.T. Phipps says

Before we begin, I should let it be known I wrote the Foreword for this book because I helped "discover" M.K. Gibson and directed him to Amber Cove Publishing. I read To Beat the Devil in its manuscript form and was asked to give a fellow writer an honest critique. Clearly, I liked it because I passed it along to Amber Cove Publishing and thought I should take the time to say why I liked it.

There's areas I don't much care for, like the fact I think the cover is garish and cartoonish for the fact it's a fairly serious cyberpunk fantasy novel. Well, serious in the same way the Dresden Files or Esoterrorism (plug-plug) is. Likewise, I think the story would benefit from going a little darker and sexier but, otherwise, I heartily recommend it.

The premise is the apocalypse has come and gone. Only, in this universe, God decided to bug out before the promised Armageddon and let the demons have Earth. After a lengthy stalemate, demons realized destroying humanity would leave them nothing to rule and made a treaty with the surviving humans to convert the world into a sleazy cyberpunk paradise. For demons, at least.

The protagonist, Salem, is another in a long line of deliciously sarcastic first person narrators which dominate the urban fantasy genre. I think it started with John Constantine in Hellblazer and it shows no sign of slowing down. Possessed of advanced nanotechnology and what's best described as superpowers, he could have been a hero during the Demon Wars but chose, instead, to work for himself.

Salem starts the book as nothing more than a professional criminal and mercenary working on the edges of demon society, making money by doing odd jobs for them before getting wasted at his local watering hole. Salem's life changes forever when he meets an immortal human client who proceeds to make him an offer he tries to refuse but fails miserably in doing so. From there, our hero goes through a series of misadventures which ultimately put him on a collision course with Earth's demonic overlords.

But will Salem fight against them or join them?

The setting is superficially similar to that of the popular tabletop roleplaying game Shadowrun. In both settings, supernatural beings come back after millennium of absence before setting themselves up as the

rulers of the world. In both settings, the protagonists are cyber-enhanced criminals and antiheroes out for themselves. The big difference is Michael Gibson's world is Judaeo-Christian rather than fantasy themed and his hero actually has a chance of significantly changing the world.

The supporting cast is where this books shines and I've got to say I love all of the garish and memorable characters Michael Gibson comes up with. I was especially fond of the twins for example and would have happily read an entire book about them. Interestingly, There's quite a bit less sex, violence, and nihilism than expected in this book with the general setting running about PG-13 versus R. Despite being a career criminal in a hell-dominated world, Salem is more lovable rogue than villain and the demons are more selfish jerks than psychopathic monsters.

In conclusion, I recommend this book if you can get past the eye-traumatizing purple neon of the cover. The quality of the book is professional level and it's definitely fun for an afternoon's read and would make a good series.

9/10

Nicolas Knight says

[Now for the bad parts: All of them are story related therefor spoiler warning. Scene 152 or 359 of mindless violence and killing humans without worry
