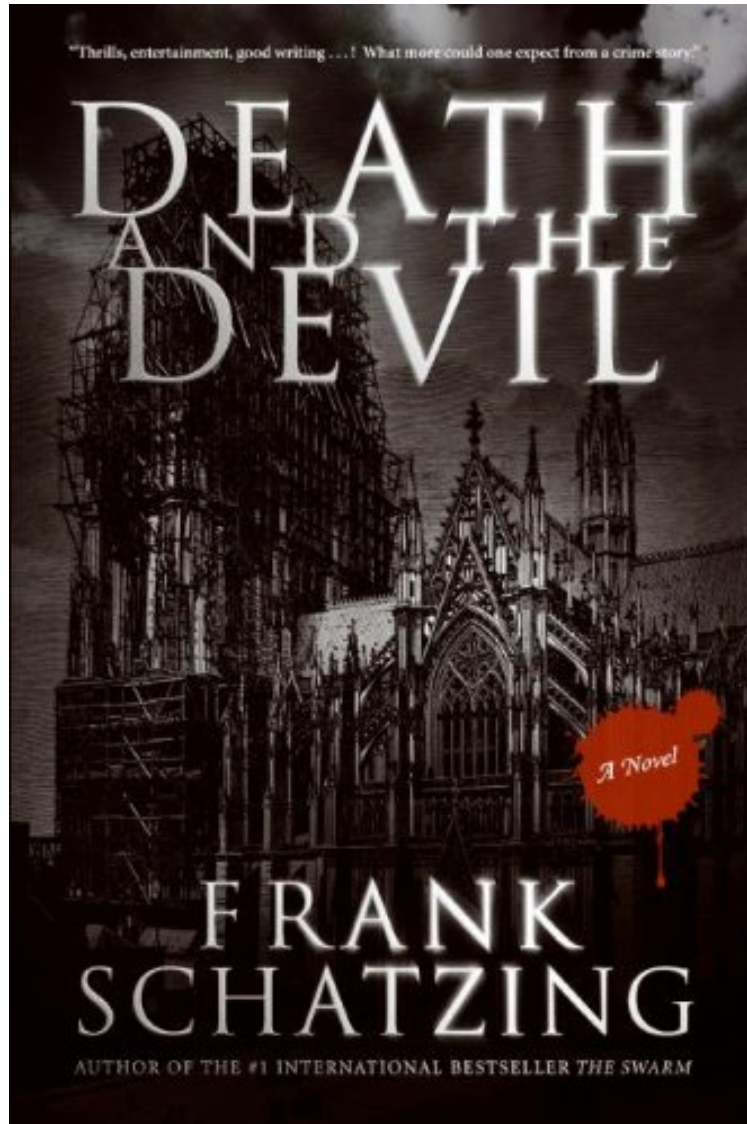


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Death and the Devil: A Novel

Von Frank Schatzing

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Von Frank Schatzing : Death and the Devil: A Novel before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Death and the Devil: A Novel:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Super BuchVon S.C.GruppBin nur durch Zufall auf das Buch gestoen und mute mich erst einmal einlesen. Nach und nach wird der Leser dann in die Welt des 13.Jahrhunderts in Kln eingefhrt und es wird richtig spannend. Groes Lob fr den Autor, der mit groer Sorgfalt alles recherchiert hat um dann so detailliert die Stadt und seine Bewohner beschreiben zu

knnen. Ein großes Lesevergnügen! 2 von 9 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Death and the Devil Von Susan Lippel
Fr Frank Schätzing, ein kurz Geschickte. Hat mir sehr gut gefallen. Sehr zu empfehlen und für Frank Schätzing's Fans ein Muss.

Kurzbeschreibung
In the year 1260, a great cathedral, the most ambitious ecclesiastical building in all of Christendom, is rising high above the bustling city of Cologne under the supervision of the architect Gerhard Morart. Far below the soaring spires and flying buttresses, a bitter war rages between the archbishop and the city's ruling merchant families a deadly conflict that claims Morart as the first of its many victims. But there is a witness to the murder of the unfortunate architect, pushed to his death from the cathedral's scaffolding. A cunning, street-smart, politically naive petty thief called "Jacob the Fox" has seen it all and seeing has made him the target of a relentless and ruthlessly efficient assassin who's been stripped of his humanity by dark, hidden secrets. Ensnared in the strangling vines of a terrifying conspiracy, the Fox must now run for his life. But who and what is he running from?
From Publishers Weekly Starred . German author Schätzing, best-known for his environmental SF thriller *The Swarm* (2006), uses the death of real-life architect Gerhard Morart, the designer of the cathedral of Cologne, as his starting point for this compelling historical suspense novel. Work on what would become the most famous church in Germany has been underway for a dozen years in 1260 when Morart falls from the unfinished building's roof murdered, in the author's fictional scenario, as the result of a shadowy conspiracy. Unfortunately for the plotters, Jacob the Fox, a thief known for his fiery red hair, witnesses the act and actually hears the victim's dying words, leading the murderers to target Jacob and anyone he might have spoken to. The main mystery revolves around the motives of the plotters, whose identities aren't kept secret. Strong action sequences and a dramatic look at a time and place unfamiliar to most readers should help solidify Schätzing's reputation as a versatile storyteller. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.
From Booklist Like his first novel published in English (*The Swarm*, 2006), German author Schätzing's medieval suspense tale buries a great story beneath unnecessary detail. The cathedral at Cologne, a Gothic first, was designed by Gerhard Morart, who died falling from its roof in 1260. Perhaps he was murdered, Schätzing suggests, setting up an intriguing premise: Did the sociopolitical and religious climate of the late Dark Ages persuade the church's enemies to kill the cathedral's creator? However, awkward translation, anachronism ("he swore for the nth time"), repeated clichés ("to hell in a handcart"), and a heavy dose of melodrama obscure the story and get in the way of building suspense. The characters, including the witty, carrot-topped sneak thief, Jacob, have some appeal, but they, too, tend to get lost in a morass of internal monologue and didacticism. Readers with a strong interest in the setting and subject may be willing to ignore the novel's clumsiness, but those expecting suspense won't sit still for a history lesson in lieu of a gothic mystery. Ackroyd's *Clerkenwell Tales* (2004) is the gold standard for this kind of thing. Baker, Jennifer