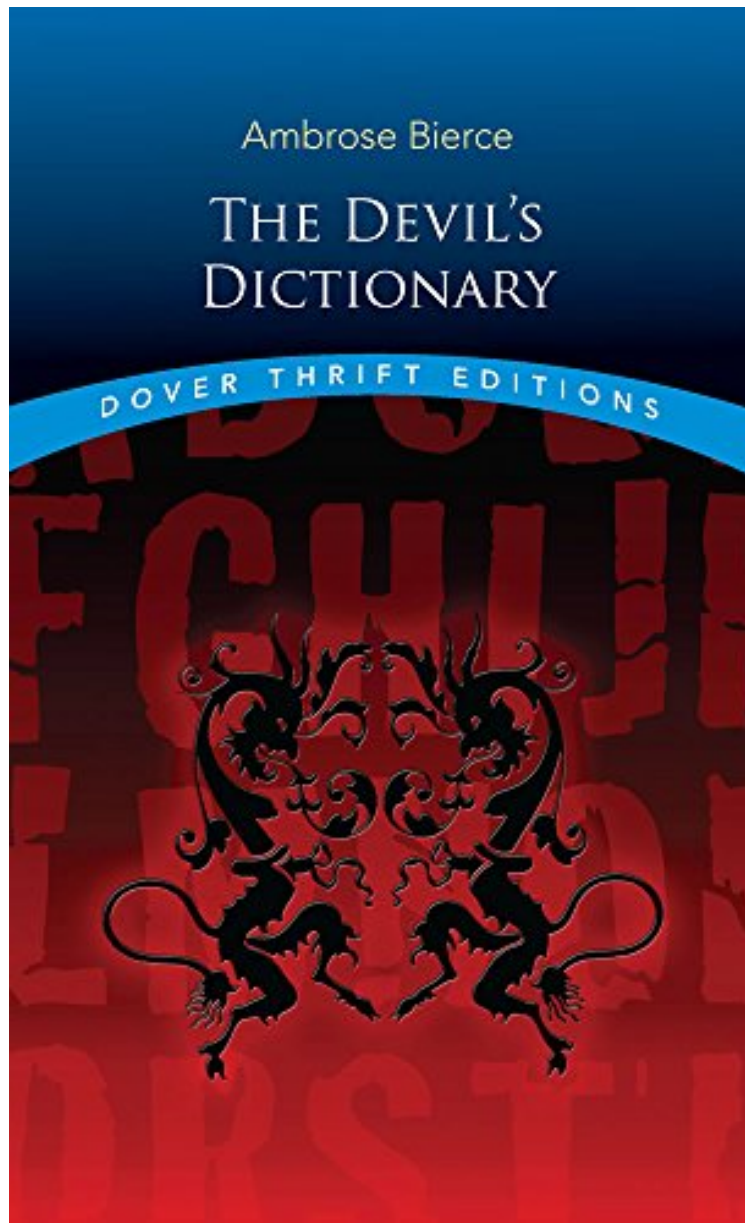


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The Devil's Dictionary (Dover Thrift Editions)

Ambrose Bierce

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Ambrose Bierce : The Devil's Dictionary (Dover Thrift Editions) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Devil's Dictionary (Dover Thrift Editions):

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By Robert A. Hall
For decades I have read and been amused by the cynical definitions from Bierce's "The Devil's Dictionary." Finally I decided to get a copy. Though much of it is outdated from the 1800s, there were more than enough gems to be worth purchasing it. Things like: "Peace, n. In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting." "Politics, n. A strife of interests masquerading as a conflict of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage." And, "In our civilization, and under our republican form of government, Bain is so highly regarded that it is exempted from the cares of (public) office." There are numerous small poems illustrating his definitions by poets I never heard of leading me to suspect they were written by Bierce himself, as doubtless were the many fanciful anecdotes. Well worth a writer's time.
Robert A. Hall
Author: The Coming Collapse of the American Republic
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bierce...
By shvd98z24
Bought as a reader copy so I didn't risk damaging a much more valuable copy. Spot checked a few words and it all checks out. As far as the book itself, great read for any cynics or dark humor types out there....nothing to do with the Devil. When people see the book, they are taken back a bit by the title so be prepared to explain. I love this book and how much of the cynical humor from the late 1800s to early 1900s still translates to our daily lives today. Is considered by many as one of the 100 greatest American literary masterpieces.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. is (in my opinion) better for my use of the dictionary
By Eston Roberts
I purchased the book for purposes of research and as the basis for my own dictionary. It was not as comprehensive as I hoped, but it served my purpose extremely well. My dictionary, which seeks to define and document my theory of metaphor, is (in my opinion) better for my use of the dictionary. (Book published by .com is entitled *Metamorphosis: A Proposed Path to Independent Living*.)

Born in Ohio in 1842, journalist, short-story writer and critic Ambrose Bierce developed into one of this country's most celebrated and cynical wits a merciless "American Swift" whose literary barbs were aimed at folly, self-delusion, politics, business, religion, literature and the arts. In this splendid "dictionary" of epigrams, essays, verses and vignettes, you'll find over 1,000 pointed definitions, e.g. Congratulation ("The civility of envy"), Coward ("One who in a perilous emergency thinks with his legs") and Historian ("A broad-gauge gossip"). Anyone who likes to laugh will love *The Devil's Dictionary*. Anyone looking for a bon mot to enliven their next speech, paper or conversation will have a field day thumbing through what H. L. Mencken called "some of the most gorgeous witticisms in the English language."

About the Author
Journalist, short story writer, and satirist Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914) was equally adept in a variety of genres, from ghost stories to poetry to political commentary. Bierce's fiction is particularly distinguished by its realistic depictions of the author's Civil War experiences.