

Devil in a Blue Dress

By Walter Mosley

"Absorbing... expertly rendered... Virtuosic storytelling [is] on display."

—The New York Times

Thursday, February 20 6:30 pm Archibald Library Story Theater

Rancho Cucamonga Public Library Services

Archibald Library | 7368 Archibald Ave.

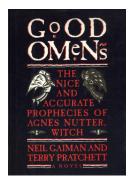
Paul A. Biane Library Victoria Gardens | 12505 Cultural Center Dr.

909.477.2720 ext. 3907 | www.cityofrc.us/library



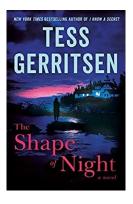
Upcoming Meetings

March 19



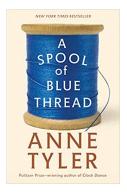
Good Omens by Terri Pratchett

April 16



Shape of Night by Tess Gerritsen

May 21



A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler

About the Book

Devil in a Blue Dress, a defining novel in Walter Mosley's bestselling Easy Rawlins mystery series, was adapted into a TriStar Pictures film starring Denzel Washington as Easy Rawlins and Don Cheadle as Mouse.

Set in the late 1940s, in the African-American community of Watts, Los Angeles, *Devil in a Blue Dress* follows Easy Rawlins, a black war veteran just fired from his job at a defense plant. Easy is drinking in a friend's bar, wondering how he'll meet his mortgage, when a white man in a linen suit walks in, offering good money if Easy will simply locate Miss Daphne Monet, a blonde beauty known to frequent black jazz clubs.

About the Author

Walter Ellis Mosley is an American novelist, most widely recognized for his crime fiction. He has written a series of best-selling historical mysteries featuring the hard-boiled detective Easy Rawlins, a black private investigator and living in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, California; they are perhaps his most popular works.

Mosley started writing at 34 and has written every day since, penning more than forty books and often publishing two books a year. He has written in a variety of fiction categories, including mystery and afrofuturist science fiction, as well as non-fiction politics. His first published book, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, was the basis of a 1995 movie starring Denzel Washington. .



Discussion Questions

- 1. In *Devil in a Blue Dress,* many friends and acquaintances give Easy advice. Which characters are positive mentors to him? Do any characters have a negative influence on Easy?
- 2. The novel's title, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, suggests that Daphne Monet is the villain of the story. Is she a sinister character, or an innocent victim of circumstance?
- 3. Two women, Coretta and Daphne, seduce Easy. What aspects of his character make Easy so attractive to women?
- 4. What similarities do the characters who migrated from Houston to Los Angeles share? How does Mouse exemplify the Houston mentality?