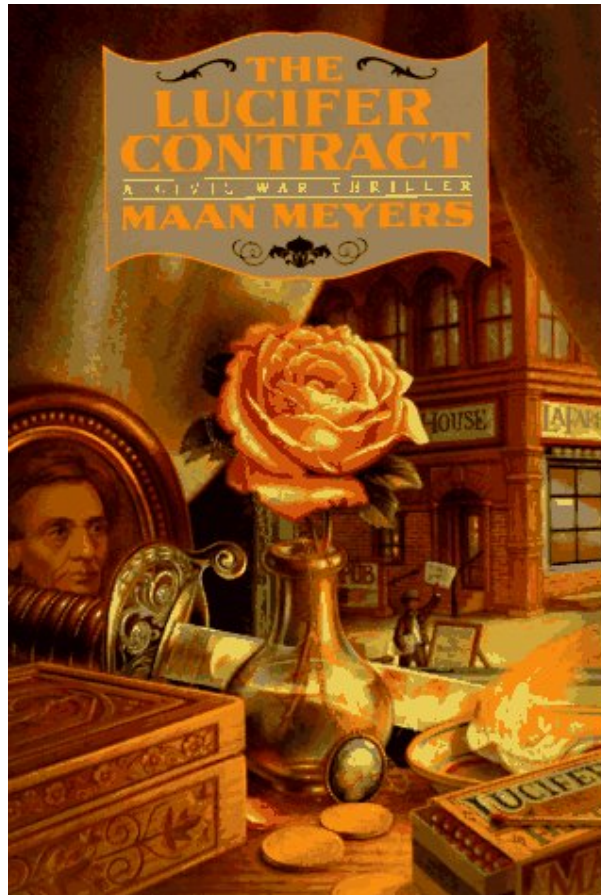
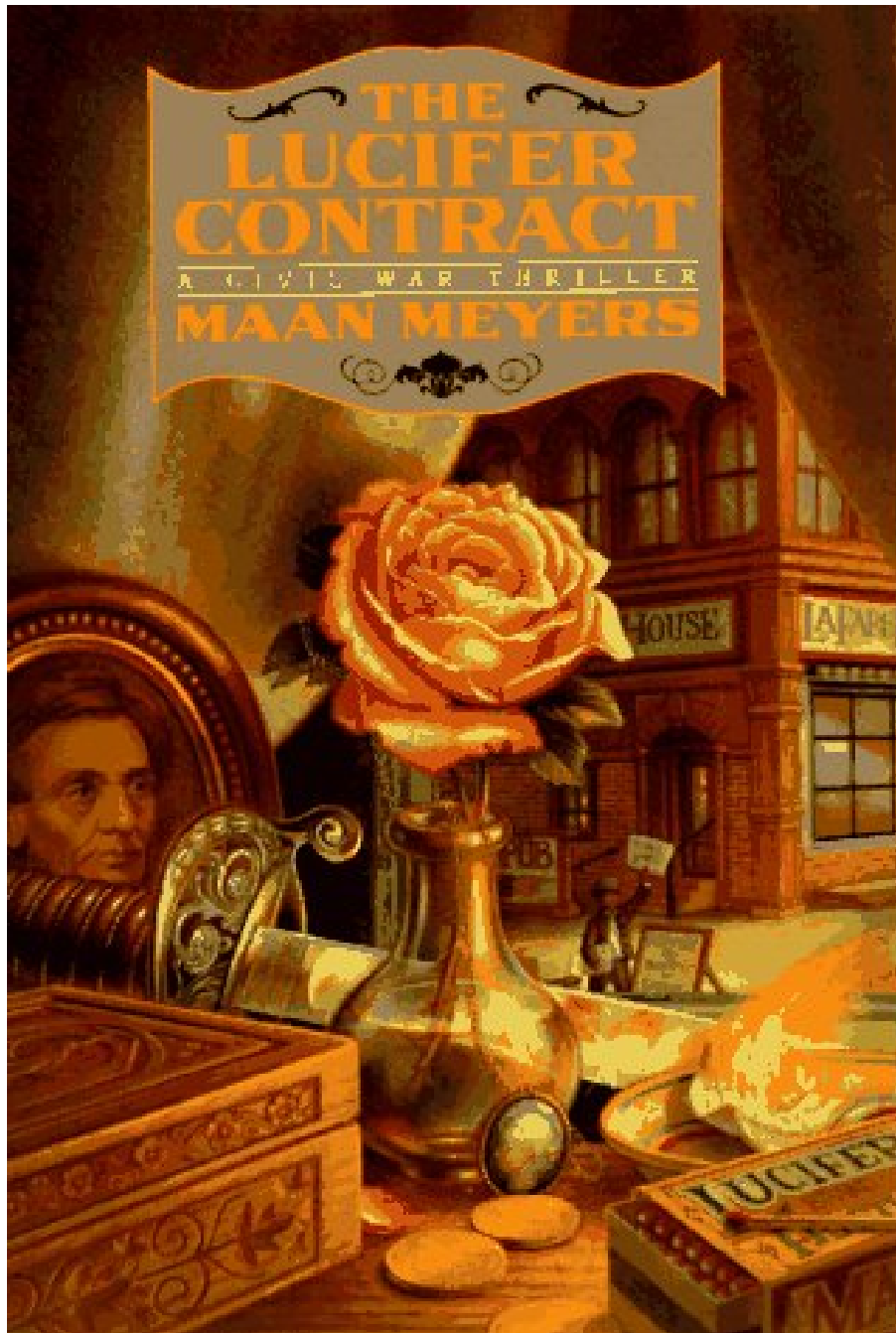


THE LUCIFER CONTRACT (CIVIL WAR THRILLER) BY MAAN MEYERS



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From Kirkus Reviews

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Review

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From the acclaimed author of *The Dutchman* and *The House on Mulberry Street* comes another darkly thrilling mystery rooted in New York's historic past.

In November 1864, Manhattan mirrors the tumult of the Civil War. Bowery toughs rub shoulders with fashionable theatergoers, crippled veterans beg on the streets, and runaway slaves huddle in Underground Railroad safe houses. Last year's Draft Riots tore the city apart; many fear another uprising on Election Day.

But a far greater threat hangs, unseen, over New York. Eight men from Kentucky--one barely old enough to shave--have signed a Confederate blood pact. Its code name is Lucifer; its mission is to burn this Yankee town to the ground. Already, one of the men, cutting a Union spy's throat, has left a Lucifer matchstick clenched between the unfortunate's teeth.

Infiltrating the city, the conspirators draw into their orbit many an unsuspecting citizen--plus a handful who glimpse something amiss. One of these is Pete Tonneman, who can't resist a glass of whiskey or a good story. When barmaid Meg Clancy reports an overheard conversation, Pete finds himself on the scent of a rumored plot and a string of seemingly random corpses--each dispatched with a slashed throat and marked with a matchstick between the teeth. It is a trail that forks often, and dangerously, for Pete and his informants, such as stagestruck Meg, who mingles with theater folk, including the notorious rake John Wilkes Booth; flamboyant, Madonna-faced prostitute Claudia Albert; and Patrick Duff, the Union veteran who will cross paths again with the Rebel devil who half blinded him in battle. Spurred by General Sherman's burning of Atlanta, the Lucifer plot moves relentlessly toward its target. And joining his Tonneman relatives' police expertise with his own journalist's savvy, Pete must pick apart the tangle of politics and greed, firebrand insanity and cold-blooded butchery, that sweeps the city toward an unimaginable inferno.

Stamped with Maan Meyers's vivid authenticity and novelistic flair, *The Lucifer Contract* is an unforgettable work of history and intrigue, romance, vengeance, and murder.

- Sales Rank: #3416004 in Books
- Brand: Bantam
- Published on: 1997-12-01
- Released on: 1997-12-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 6.50" w x 1.00" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

Features

- Great product!

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--Booklist

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

The best in historical mystery

By A Customer

In 1864 New York City is divided over the Civil War. However, none of the residents are split over a rumor that a militia of Kentuckians are poised to burn down the city in an act of terrorism. Almost no one believes it since the residents mostly support the democratic party and think Lincoln and his cohorts are the source of the rumors.

Not even thirty, Peter Tonneman is already a weary journalist on the New York Evening Post, whose assignment is the nation. Peter learns that the rumor has a lot of substance as Morgan's Raiders have been seen in the vicinity. Now all he has to do is prove it before he loses his life.

The sixth book in the Meyers' "Tonneman family" saga is a brilliant novel that brings to life the various prejudices that shaped the Civil War. Peter like his ancestors of the past two centuries, is a wonderful lead character and the historical factoids add a taste of authenticity to a well written, exciting historical novel. Anyone who enjoys historical fiction will want to read the entire six books that breathlessly describes two hundred years of New York City (starting when it was New Amsterdam), turning this into one of the best series in the genre.

Harriet Klausner

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Not the best in the series

By A Customer

Although the descriptions and details of this Civil War mystery were very interesting and obviously well-researched, the plot was not as tight as previous Tonneman books. While character development was fair, not great, the very short chapters seemed to jump from place to place in the city - a little helter skelter. Overall I would recommend this book, but again, the earlier ones are better.

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