

# Iowa

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*A Faustian Bargain*

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Times to be suspicious:

1. When what we call goodness seems mostly to help people gain power.
2. When all badness is found in one person.

Why do these primitive forms still function? Do animals know God?

I once read the following story of a group of chimpanzees: their leader who had long ruled with an iron fist was growing old. A younger male chimpanzee challenged the leader to a fight and won. In that way, the younger male became the new leader. The old leader was forced to leave and live on his own in the forest. This proved too difficult. He struggled to make it alone, so he tried to return to the group he had once led, sneaking in late one night. But he was caught by low-ranking chimpanzees who attacked and killed him. The next morning the new leader's mother ate the dead chimpanzee's genitals in full view of observing researchers.

There are, in fact, many accounts of female chimpanzees eating the genitalia of males killed in battle.

In each Faust story the conflict changes in its technicalities to reflect the troubles of the time. Fears of heretical magic give way to fears of technology and political evil. This wide view gives our celebrities a paltry look. What they choose is not real power but an image of it that when grasped at turns to dust, the cremated remains of tangible body and potent soul. Which begs the question: what is the true evil of now? What the devil wants is always the same, fundamentally, right?

if i put one foot wrong she won't speak to me for months but..

i exaggerated our friendship

to put it lonely it was an exaggeration

your families were closer.. your husbands were friends

what i did was only a response to the way i was treated

bravocon

– Elise Duryee-Browner

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Ingrid Hansen (b. 1991 Louisville, KY) lives and works in New York.