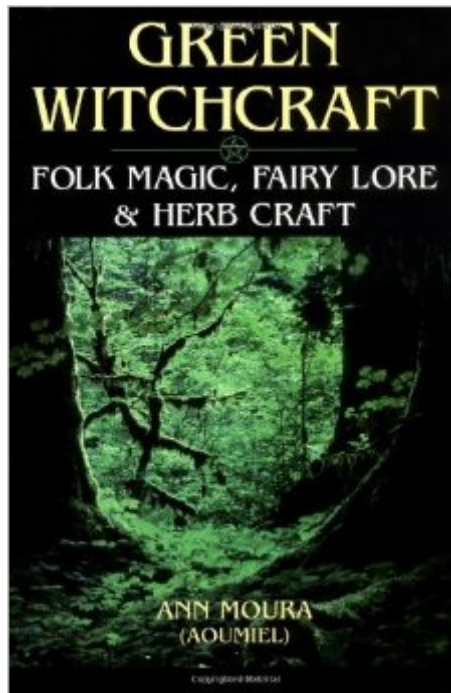


The book was found

Green Witchcraft: Folk Magic, Fairy Lore & Herb Craft (Green Witchcraft Series)



Synopsis

Positive, practical, and easy to use, *Green Witchcraft* brings together the best of both modern Wicca and the author's family heritage of herb craft and folk magic. *Green Witchcraft* explores the fundamentals of the Wiccan religion, providing magical training for the independent thinker. Step-by-step instructions on a wide variety of magical techniques as well as basic rules of conduct make this the ideal book to get you started. Green rituals for self-initiation, rites of passage, seasonal celebrations and activities provide an excellent foundation for your own magical tradition. Paperback, 266 pages

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really liked this book. It is a very practical, responsible book. She definitely writes from a "kitchen witch" or a "folk magick" slant. Chapter 1: The Green - Ms. Moura goes into her definition of Green Witchcraft. She has an interesting family background in that her mother and grandmother had very pagan practices and beliefs while remaining staunch Catholics. She does do some historic tracings but it is mostly a book on what was passed down to her. She takes a definite pantheistic view and deals more with the elementals than any particular aspect of the God and Goddess. She also sees elementals as "whos" not "whats" which to me made a big difference. She is also a solitary so most of the material is written with that slant and the idea that dedicating, initiating yourself is just as "valid" as having it done by an HP. Chapter 2: Basics - goes into a brief explanation of the sabbats

and esbats and how she personally celebrates them. She is one of the first authors I have seen that gives a clear definition of the difference between dedication and initiation rituals. Her explanation (which matches what I believe) is that a initiation ritual is your way of "introducing" yourself and asking for guidance as your learn the basics. You are not pledging yourself to any one path, just kind of saying "here I am". A dedication ritual is one in which you dedicate yourself to a particular path or belief with full-knowledge of what you are pledging to. She also goes over her ideas of the use of craft names as well.

Chapter 3: Witches and Herbs - goes over the usual herb correspondences, some correspondences for candle magic, one of the few places I have seen information about tree correspondences, color relationships, herbs in rituals, ritual timing

Chapter 4: Green Living - Some background info on how she came to her view of witchcraft, some "core traditions" which include the rede, the Charge of the Goddess, 5-fold and 7-fold blessings.

Chapter 5: Magic - basic components of spell and circle casting, brief pages on runes and divination

Chapter 6: Magical Practices - more divination techniques, recipes for ceremonial oils (altar, anointing, cleansing, consecrating etc.)

Chapter 7: Green Rituals: this was the chapter that sold me on the book. She has one of the clearest step by step basic ceremonies that I have ever read. As a solitary, it gets very confusing where, when, and how to use certain tools like wands, athames, brooms, bells, cauldrons etc. Ms Moura walks you through a step by step ritual. She also has initiation and dedication rituals and various others (handfasting etc.) For all of her rituals she gives you candle color correspondences recommended incenses and step by step directions for you to use/improve on.

Chapter 8: The Esbats - full moon and new moon and tool consecration rituals.

Chapters 9 - 16: The Sabbats - rituals for each of the sabbats.

In the swamp of tripe that masquerades itself as information on Witchcraft, mixing fact with fantasy in a misleading amalgam, Aoumiel has created a lush, pleasant garden. 'Green Witchcraft' covers not Wicca, but Paganism -- the old ways, the way the ordinary person on the heath would have identified with them. There is no pretense of titles and degrees, no endorsement of dogma, just quiet affirmation that at heart, each of us knows where and how to find the divine. For they *are* in each of us.

Aoumiel visits more briefly than I would have liked on her family's blending of pagan traditions into a Judeo-Christian framework. But the examples she does give show how paganism isn't just a religion, it's a philosophy and a way of life that can work harmoniously with other religions. She is helpful to those wondering how to blend their Pagan faith with the largely Judeo-Christian world.

I liked the sections on each Sabbat, especially the earthy, traditional activities that she suggests can be incorporated into (or substitute for) more formal observances. Although it

basically bulked out the book for Aoumiel to reproduce the basic suggestions for a ceremony each time she covered a sabbat observance, that was handy too. The appendixes were fascinating, and while again they did not have as much depth as I would have liked, they provided both an intrigue for more information and a jumping-off place to research it. 'Green Witchcraft' is an intelligent, commonsense, fact-based book that no one new to, or curious about, Paganism should be without. I applaud Aoumiel for providing an alternative to the Wiccan fantasy sci-fi convention nonsense that is out there confusing people.

First off, there are some good things in this book. Ms. Moura describes her personal path in a clear and readable way. And she presents a form of practice that will certainly strike a chord with a number of kitchen witches. That said, there are many more things that prevent me from recommending this book - especially to beginners. First, Ms. Moura presents her personal take on witchcraft as the basis for all forms of witchcraft, and blends this form of arrogance with an active hostility toward other religions (especially Judeo-Christian religions). Even though much of what she presents has a strong Wiccan flavor, she twists many elements of modern Wicca, using the problems she perceives from a rather odd mix of misinformation to belittle the entire religion and most of its practitioners. The "Craft history" she presents, and threads throughout many areas, is beyond questionable, and leans strongly toward highly imaginative. (It is the same speculative history that is presented in her "Origins of Modern Witchcraft".) While historical speculation is bound to come into almost any witchcraft work, I believe that it is inappropriate to present personal speculation as fact in a work aimed at beginners. Additionally, Ms. Moura claims to be presenting practices used by simple, common people, but the rituals and spells she provides are more complex than almost anything I've ever seen. They're certainly not the clean, simple workings I would expect in a path claiming a shamanistic style. In addition to requiring inordinate amounts of preparation for very simple workings, she also calls for tools that she never explains or teaches how to prepare or use. In short, there is little in Green Witchcraft that cannot be found in other "101" type books, frequently done much better. While there may be material useful for someone who has a good grounding in basic witchcraft, and there are some useful - if complex - rituals... the problems with history and prejudice as well as the amounts of basic information missing prevent me from recommending this book.

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