



# WITCH

[www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk)

## *Midsummer Magick*

Issue 19

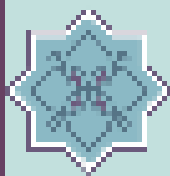
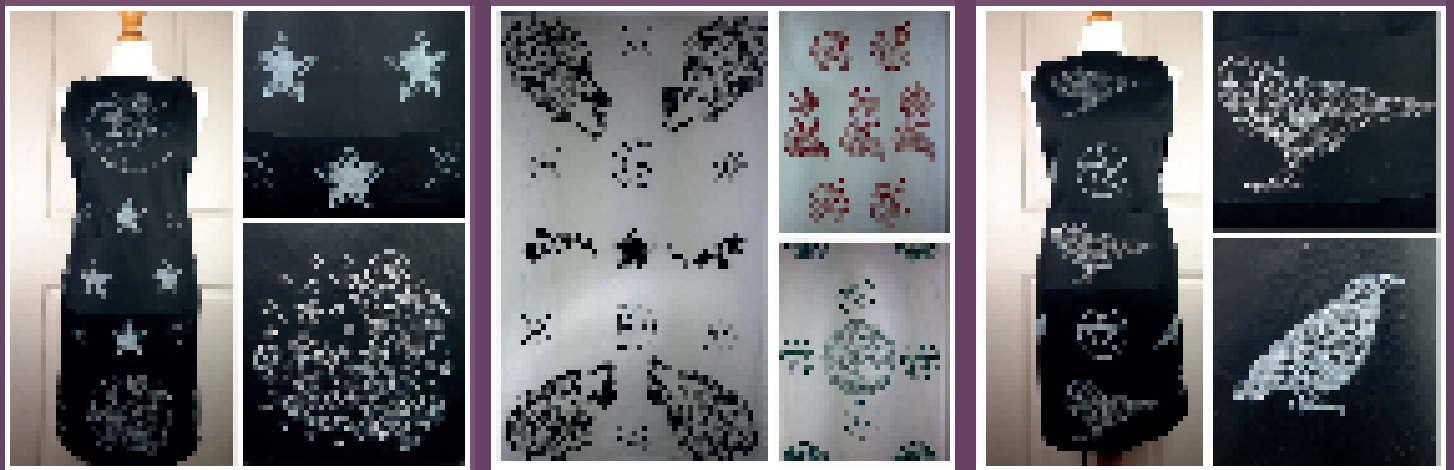
[www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk)

ISSN 2635-2176

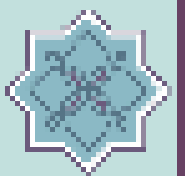


Crows Feet Press





# D O T S & B L O C K S



We specialise in hand printing fabrics using wooden printing blocks with fabric paints - everything we print on is natural fibre, washable & comes with a care tag.

We have hundreds of beautiful designs available, including:

\*Sun, moon, stars, moon phases & triple moon

\*7 chakra symbols, Buddha's & lotus flowers \*Guardian angel & feathers

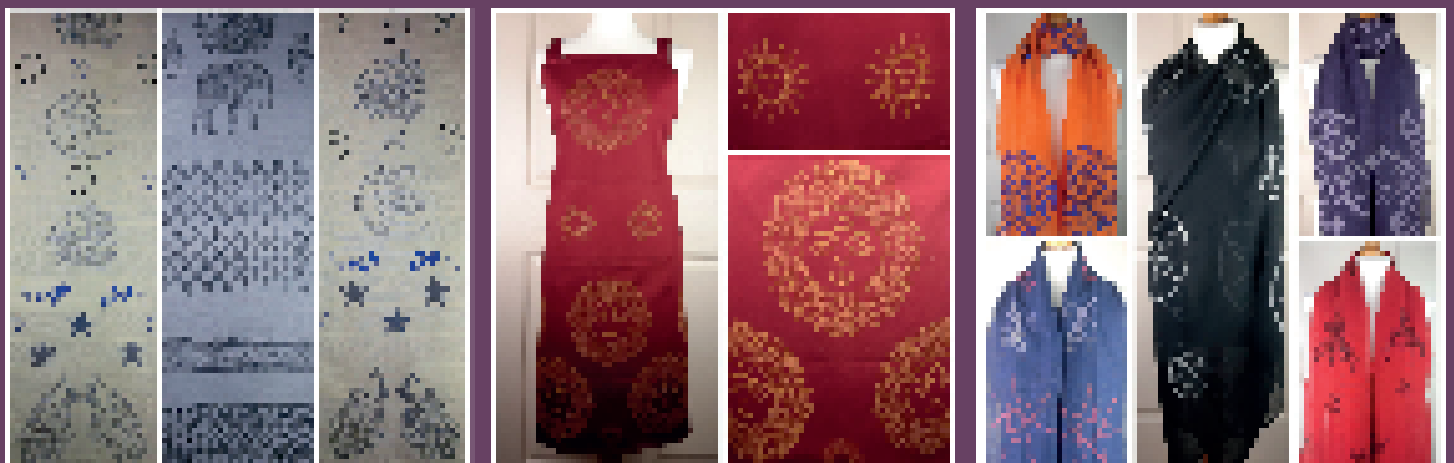
\*Various animals, birds, insects (spirit/lotus), trees & flowers

\*Sacred geometry & mandalas \*Fairies, unicorns, Phoenix, dragons & mermaids

Our range of artisan fabrics includes shawls, crystal grid cloths, aprons, tea towels, cushion covers, tablecloths, tote bags and throws. Most of our work is commission based - we can print any combination of designs in colours bespoke for you.

Contact Karen by email at - [hello@dotsandblocks.co.uk](mailto:hello@dotsandblocks.co.uk)

Visit our shop, discover more, plus check out our product videos on YouTube via [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkbr3ce/Dots\\_Blocks](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkbr3ce/Dots_Blocks)





# WITCH



Merry Midsummer to you!

We hope this Solstice brings you abundance and joy for the

remaining summer months before we start the slow descent back to winter.

As you enjoy these (finally!) warmer days, we also hope you find some joy between our pages, with articles from our Witch Writer family, as well as art and photos from our featured artists.

As always, thank you for your readership and your support!

**Bekki**

Editor

Contact us  
[editor@witchzine.co.uk](mailto:editor@witchzine.co.uk)

ISSN 2635-2176

[www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk)

Printed in the UK by Continuum Digital

Published online and in print by



Crows Feet Press

Additional art and photos by:

Ayshe-Mira Yashin

(@illustrationwitch)

@magiaziemi

Klaire Dawn Ader

Ruud de Korte

Cover photo

Photographer Kees Stravers

Model Anna Melse

Make up Cindy Schuls

All other images belong to the writer/artist or are from the public domain.



# WITCH

FEATURED ARTICLES

## WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN ISSUE 19...

SISTERS OF THE MOON - MICHELLE ROSE BOXLEY

THE FIRE INSIDE - HELEN J.R. BRUCE

SACRED SPACES - STEPHANIE ULPH

THE TREE KINGS - FAIRY BEC

FLOWER POWER - BEKKI JO MILNER

DREAM JOURNALING: PART 2 - CHERRY DOYLE

WE, THE UNCONCIOUS ANGELS - KELLY BUCHAN

WORDS FROM THE WITCHES JOURNAL - PORTLAND JONES

5 LBGTQ+ POETS TO READ THIS PRIDE - JESSICA O'SHEA

IN CONVERSATION WITH BLUE LOTUS - ANYA LUKOVER

WISE WORDS FROM THE OLD CRONE: HOW DO I BEGIN TO BE A PAGAN? - THE OLD CRONE

RAVEN & LUNA'S TAROTSCOPES - BLACK MOON COVE

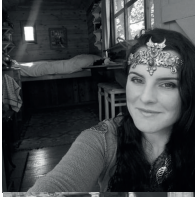
MILES - NYA HOUSE

## PLUS MORE FROM OUR GUEST WRITERS!

RON GEORGE  
ANDREA - FORTUNA LIVING  
AYSHE-MIRA YASHIN



MICHELLE ROSE BOXLEY



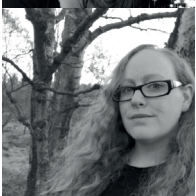
HELEN J.R. BRUCE



STEPHANIE ULPH



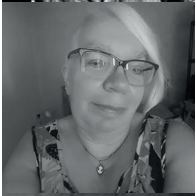
FAIRY BEC



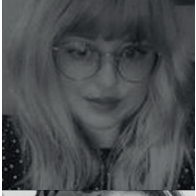
CHERRY DOYLE



KELLY BUCHAN



PORTLAND JONES



JESSICA O'SHEA



ANYA LUKOVER



THE OLD CRONE



NYA HOUSE

*Read more about all of our  
writers and  
our residencies*

[WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK](http://WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK)

*Have something to share?  
email your proposal  
or submission to  
[submissions@witchzine.co.uk](mailto:submissions@witchzine.co.uk)*



CRYSTALS, WITCHY & WELLNESS ITEMS

# GROUND GODDESS

*We have a large range of witch store cupboard items, herbs, spell candles, incense, crystals, altar pieces.*

[WWW.GROUNDED-GODDESS.COM](http://WWW.GROUNDED-GODDESS.COM)

10% Discount on all orders using code WITCHZINE  
Valid until July 2021



The Dancing Goat  
Bookshop

[www.occultbooks.co.uk](http://www.occultbooks.co.uk)

OPEN NOW

# Sisters of the Moon

Michelle Rose Boxley

Dear ones,

For this full moon, the Sun will be in the watery, emotional and nurturing sign of Cancer and the Moon will be in the earthy, wise and masterful sign of Capricorn.

Capricorn is a feminine Earth sign, ruled by the planet Saturn. It's a cardinal sign so has those qualities of initiation and the sense of energies shifting. Saturn rules organization, structure, time, boundaries and practicality.

Cancer season invites us to look at our relationship to our emotions and themes such as allowing ourselves to be nurtured and supported and being a good mother to ourselves as well as those around us.

Under the influence of the Capricorn Full Moon, we can ask ourselves what boundaries do we need to put in place to help honour our emotional needs? You can ask yourself, where are you leaking energy? Sometimes, it's unavoidable when we need to be there for others and offer support but sometimes it's due to a lack of boundaries and taking on other people's emotional baggage.

As we shift into the second half of the year, how can you establish better boundaries? What would they look like?

One of the difficulties for Cancerians is that they feel **IT ALL**, so much sometimes that it can cripple them, boundaries in this context is so helpful, making sure that we are tending to our own emotional needs as well as those of others.

The shadow side of the Cancer's Mother archetype can be it shifting into the Martyr. When we shift into this state, we deny others the opportunity to show their love and support for us. Showing loving kindness to others isn't always about us doing things for them, its about opening up to receive their gift of love too. In your journal, ask yourself, are you open to receive?

THE FULL  
MOON IN  
CAPRICORN  
THE HONEY MOON



Due to Capricorn's placement in the Zodiac and it initiating winter in the Northern hemisphere, one of its archetypes is the Crone, or the Elder. When asserting boundaries it can be really helpful to step into the power of the Crone and assert yourself.



Think of all the wisdom that you have gathered over the years about yourself and what you need. You know what you're about, you know who you are and you know what you need, sometimes we just get too easily swayed by others.

The Crone does not, her days of dedicating an ounce of energy to what other people think are behind her. How much does what others think of you affect the choices and decisions you make? How could you listen to your inner elder more and the noise of the outside world less?

Connect to the wisdom of the archetype of the crone, trust your deep inner knowing and guidance. Channel your inner Baba Yaga!

### MY BODY, MY TEACHER

For both Cancer and Capricorn, intuition is a massive theme. During Cancer season we will explore our intuition via our emotions, during moon in capricorn we can explore our intuition via our body.

Our body is often communicating to us, giving us signs about certain situations, we say things like I feel it in my gut, I felt it in my bones, I felt weak at the knees. Capricorn rules the bones of the body as well as the knees, so this is a really wonderful time to dive into the deep inner knowing of your body. What messages does your body have for you at the moment?

Do you have a decision to make at the moment? Ask questions with your eyes closed and notice how your body responds to them? Journal about your experience.



# *Join Sisters of the Moon*

This is an excerpt from **The Wild Moon Series Lunar Workbook for June.**  
Join us on **Patreon** for monthly moon circles and more!

## *The Wild Moon Series*

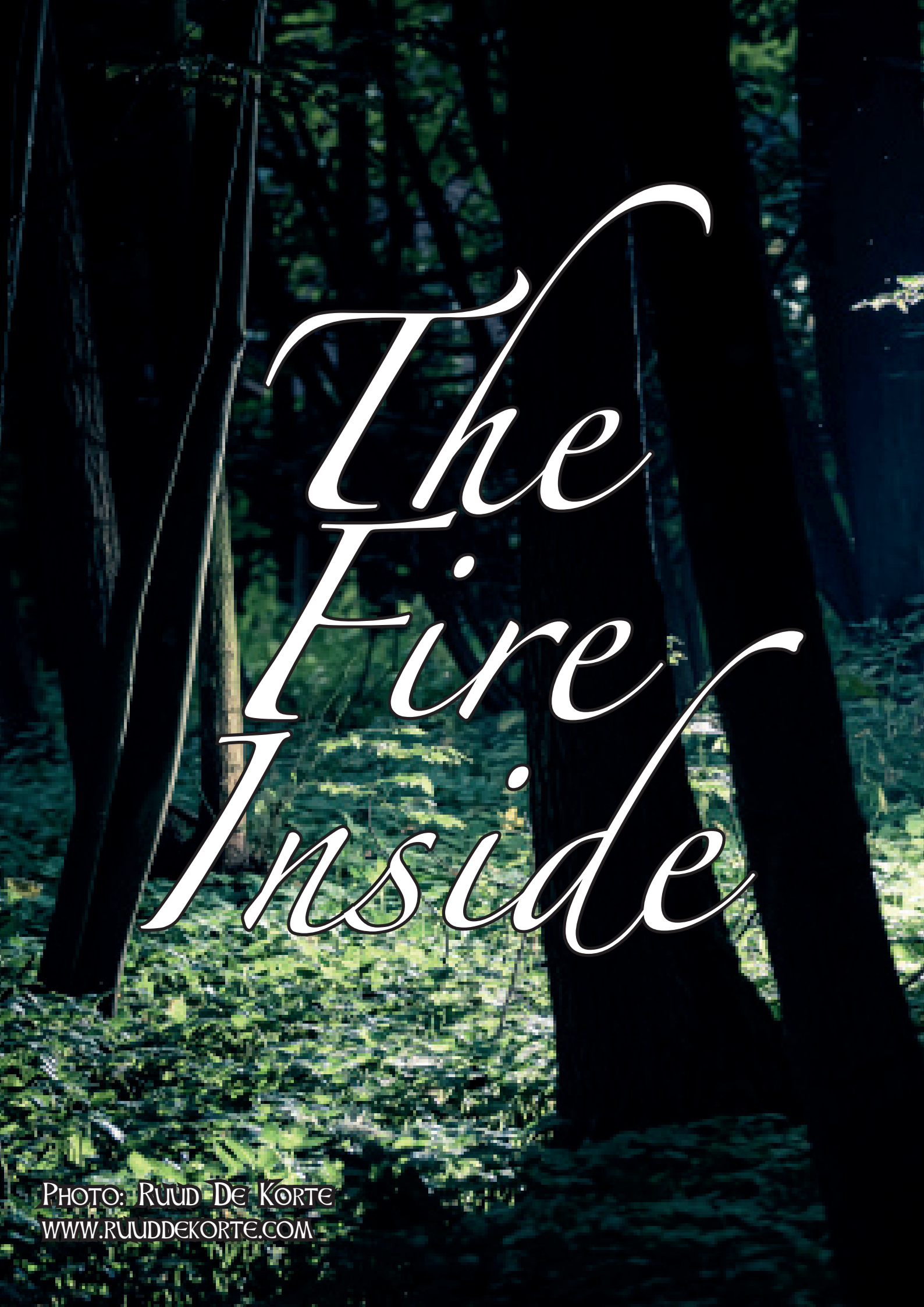
Published exclusively for **Patreon** Members to accompany our live  
**New Moon** and **Full Moon** sister circles.

You can join us from as little as **£2** a month

Visit

[www.patreon.com/sistersofthemoon](http://www.patreon.com/sistersofthemoon)  
for more information





# The Fire Inside

PHOTO: RUUD DE KORTE  
[WWW.RUUDDEKORTE.COM](http://WWW.RUUDDEKORTE.COM)



As we draw close to Midsummer, we feel the full force of the sun in the sky. The breeze has turned warm at last, and around us the fields and the forests are teeming with life. Just like the sap in the trees, which is called to rise up by the heat, we may feel a renewed sense of energy and a lust for life which mirrors the wild creatures around us. Celebrating Lilita, we see the goddess with a full belly ready for childbirth, and the god as proudly at the peak of virility. If we sit very still, and listen as the tall trees creak in the wind, we might even witness the yearly battle between the Holly King and Oak King.

But perhaps it isn't a battle at all. When considering the wheel of the year, the Holly and Oak have always been brothers. The Celtic name for oak is 'Duir', which means doorway, and the passing through, from one stage to another, need not be a struggle. On the longest day, when the night might only last seven hours, the Oak King surrenders his crown to his dark-leaved rival. Exhausted from the frenzied activity from spring through to summer, Oak acknowledges that he must rest. Fresh from six months of sleep, the Holly King is filled with the resilience to carry nature into the dark half of the year. Within the brightness of Midsummer the steady hands of the Holly King carry a dark seed, and the promise of winter. But of course at Midwinter the Oak King will return, bringing with him an ember, and the promise of summer.

With the trees and the flowers all putting on their best show, it can be easy to become distracted from looking within. We can be so busy dancing and feasting and drinking (as we rightly should!) that we become ungrounded, and these turn into hollow acts. Midsummer has a dual nature; we are called both to celebrate but also to acknowledge that we must prepare for winter. From now on the power of the sun will slowly begin to wane, bringing us through harvest towards the first frosts at Samhain. Like the Holly King cradles the promise of summer, we must take time to feed our own inner fire, so that it can sustain us through the long nights of winter.

### GIVING AND TAKING

With those warm summer nights igniting the flames of passion, we may find ourselves embarking on new relationships and meeting new people. For our ancestors, June was often the time for handfastings and couples would be joined together with the blessing of the god and goddess. We might find that our creativity explodes, and we're itching to try out new mediums of artistic expression. Alongside this our friends, who we may not have been able to see for some time, are likely to be coming back into our lives with the desire to get out there and do things together. These are just three elements of the

HELEN J.R. BRUCE  
WITCH WRITER

passionate energy which peaks at Midsummer, and the exploration of any of them can be a wonderful way to feed the fire within us. Ask the Holly King for his help in seeing what is really held at the core of these people and relationships, and create healthy boundaries with anyone or anything which is draining the heat from your fire rather than feeding it. The rune Gebo can be a great assistance in helping us to recognise and nurture balanced relationships, and you may wish to incorporate it into charms or write it on the labels of tinctures made at this time.

## SOAK UP THE SUN

It's more than likely that you have heard or used the phrase above, as even folk who feel little conscious connection to the cycle of seasons will acknowledge that it feels good to sit out in the sun. The long days of summer give us the wonderful opportunity to spend sustained amounts of time out in nature, and walking barefoot or laying flat on the grass allows us to ground and gently shed any energies which no longer serve us. Equally, the sun offers us the opportunity to recharge and bring that solar energy down to be stored in our base centre. To do this, take time to sit by yourself, out of direct sun but somewhere that you can feel the sun's warmth, and visualise the rays of the sun travelling down towards you as a golden beam of energy. Receiving this through the top of your head, draw the energy down, allowing each breath to settle it deeper within your body, until that golden light sits comfortably in your abdomen. However you see your own inner fire, see this golden light gathered around it, and know that the warmth of the sun will remain with you through the winter. This exercise can be repeated as regularly as you like, although if you do it daily it is wise to pay extra attention to grounding and visualise rooting yourself into the earth so that energy can flow and shift as required.

## FORAGING

Many native plants are now at their best time to be picked, and can be gathered for a wide range of magical and medicinal uses. A quick internet search will inform you of many easy ways to collect and preserve your local wild edibles. These wonderful natural allies can then be used both in magical work and as vitamin rich supplements to your diet throughout winter. For me, this is one of the most grounding and tangible ways to very literally 'feed' your inner fire with the bounty of summer, even when skies are grey. Here are two common plants to look for in the UK:

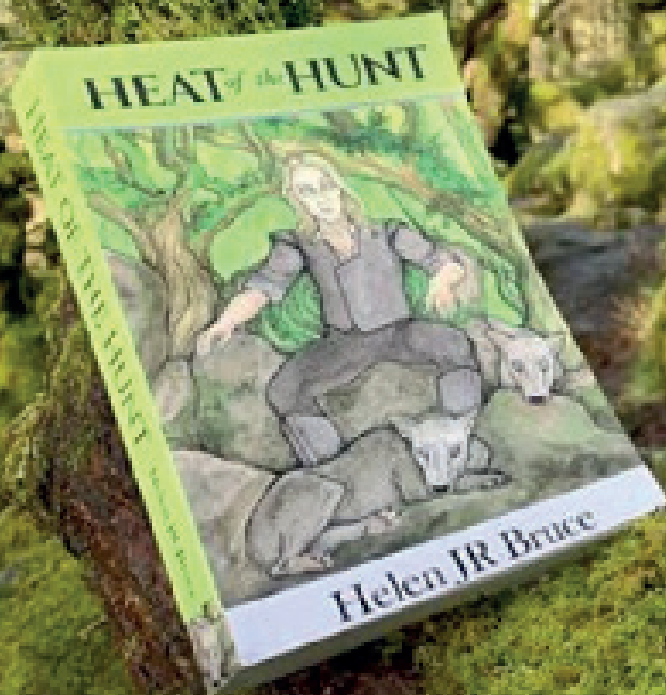
## MEADOWSWEET

Find sweet smelling meadowsweet alongside bodies of water and in damp meadows. The tall stems have fern-like leaves which are covered by a soft, white down underneath and the flowers appear in creamy coloured clusters. Perhaps most well known as a flavour added to mead, this versatile plant was a forerunner to aspirin and has been used traditionally to soothe coughs and colds. Alongside this, modern uses have included treatment for cystitis and indigestion, and the plant can easily be taken as a cordial or added to sweet desserts for flavour.

## SELFHEAL

This wild herb grows in grassy places, anywhere from a meadow to the kerbside. The small purple flowers bloom from cylindrical spikes and the stalked leaves are oval in shape. Tasting a little like Romaine lettuce, this plant in the mint family has been traditionally used to assist in the healing of wounds. Modern herbalism notes its use to reduce blood pressure and as an antioxidant. The leaves also have antibacterial properties, and can be eaten fresh in salads or infused in hot water to make a refreshing drink.

There is no set way to stoke our own inner fire, but the suggestions above may provide a useful starting point for your own summer adventure. Needless to say, read up on any plants you decide to forage and ask for help with identification and understanding any possible side effects. The story of the Oak King and Holly King is the type of tale that can be returned to again and again, and with each new exploration provide us a fresh perspective. Perhaps, like the Oak King, we can surrender to our own inner voice when it asks us to rest. Maybe, like the Holly King, we can hold the fire of Midsummer within us, and continue to create and live passionately with or without the sun.



*Choose  
humanity.  
Choose the fae.  
Or dare to  
choose both...*

The Wild Hunt has been summoned, the fae are abroad and in the wilderness of Dartmoor an ancient power stirs.

Gemma would have been happy to ignore all of these things. But now her best friend has been kidnapped, there's a hellhound in the local pub and all of the myths are real.

Can she join forces with all that frightens her to get him back?

Available now in paperback from [www.facebook.com/heatofthehunt](http://www.facebook.com/heatofthehunt) and as an ebook on Amazon.



# SACRED SPACES

*For many of us  
The Summer Solstice heralds  
a most magical time of year,  
with vibrant and joyous energies  
abound and if we're lucky  
beautiful sunny weather, creating  
the most perfect of times to  
honour our alignment to the nat-  
ural universe through visiting our  
favourite sacred places at this  
sacred time.*

*Stephanie Ulp  
Witch Residency Writer*

For me this usually means a trip to St Nectan's Glenn in Cornwall, where legend says King Arthur and his knights were blessed before embarking on their famous quest for the holy grail. Though with commitments not allowing this year we have the pleasure of instead spending this time at one of England's many other cherished places.

I felt this month to talk about these sacred spaces, particularly what it is that makes them so special. Sacred sites exist all over the world and are often referred to as Axis Mundi.

Axis Mundi being a place where the upper world, underworld and physical world all meet and the universe is said to pivot around. The latter of this description can though cause some confusion, with people thinking of it as the centre of the Earth and creation, and therefore that there can only be one.

However, this is thinking in very physical and logical terms which doesn't represent the true nature of the universe a whole. There are many Axis Mundi across the world - I find the best way to comprehend this, is thinking of Earth and its sacred points much like the Chakras in the human, animal and most likely all living being's bodies, of which there are several main chakras and many smaller chakras, with each acting as individual anchor points connecting the physical and non-physical realms.

I briefly touched on compass hallowing last month, so to somewhat re-iterate, this is one of the prime reasons for compass hallowing, orienting and anchoring a sacral space - with the assistance and blessings of the four directions, whom among other roles hold the duties of guardianship of the boundaries between worlds - if we are to truly orient a compass, rather than simply creating a safe working space.

The last point I wish to mention in my slight digression is that the Otherworld is very different to the physical realm in the physics of space and time and unlike



the physical realm, cannot be mapped out in the same way - which I expect is why we are able to travel to various starting points when journeying from the same Axis Mundi - of which our own bodies can be included as (our bodies really are temples!)

With all this said, although we are able to sanctify our own spaces in time and have our own natural otherworldly alignments (which unfortunately are subject to much interference in our modern world), the places on Earth which hold immense powerful and magically charged energies, the places that call to us and speak to our souls, where ley/chi/serpent energies coil, cross or interchange are as fundamentally aligned on the earth as our chakras are on our bodies.

We cannot move them, or even hope to create a space ourselves that contains so much sacred power - we can only visit them (physically or ethereally), honour them for what they are and make best to keep them free of disruptive energies, in order that the natural current any place governs remains free and clear and can positively influence our physical realm.

To slightly digress once more, I

argely what makes this and other times of year sacred is also due to alignment, but rather than alignment in space, is to do with alignment in time. So the combination of both heralds a moment in spacetime where the Earth and otherworld are at their closest and most aligned orientation to each other.

Often, we find we are unexplainably drawn to a certain sacred site/sites - maybe it is that our vibes match this place, healing we need can be found there, healing it needs can be given through our energies, possibly past life connections or a number of varying factors. It can be alluring and inexplicable. And often, the folk lore of a wider region is inexorably entwined with these magical places in so far, they become part of the mythology of the land.

So, when people debate, for example, where such a place as Avalon is - Avalon being the Otherworld as described in Arthurian myth, the answers are naturally found in more than one place as any Axis Mundi in any place where spirituality is described through the Arthurian legends may have come to be known as Avalon.

For me, I am very naturally drawn to the Arthurian myths and associated places and as such may visit Merlin's mound for Solstice this year, where I have not yet been (upon writing I am undecided).

I hope, especially given the last year or so, that everyone who so wishes is able to go to where they feel drawn. And for anyone who is unable, remember you are able to create your own magical space or simply connect through your own divine being. In either case we are assisting in the cleansing, charging and much needed positive energy exchange between worlds and in turn amplifying the circulation of truly holy energies across our earthly world, and that is a wonderful blessing from and to us all. Happy Solstice.



# THE TREE KINGS

Fairy Bec  
Witch Writer

What a difficult article to find a title for. I really wanted to write a piece on the significance of the Holly King and the Oak King in Pagan traditions but there seems to be no definitive story. The Nature of folklore dictates that as most stories are word of mouth, there are many different perceptions of a base truth.

The first version of the story I was aware of was that Winter Solstice to Summer Solstice, the Oak king rules and Summer Solstice to Winter Solstice, the Holly King rules. I knew that they gave their crowns/reigns up to each other but I did not really know any more than this. In my hippy head of peace and love I thought that they just got tired and passed the crown on to the other so they can have a rest.

After researching, I discovered that some people believe these transitions happen at the equinoxes (rather than the solstices) so that when we get to Yule/The Winter Solstice, The Holly King is already in full regalia and when we get to Litha/Summer Solstice, the Oak King is at his peak. These timings are also reflected every year in nature. These are the times that these trees grow and flourish so this actually makes far more sense to me.

But who are they exactly? Some people say that they are brothers and that the Holly King is the older brother. They are also often spoken of as twins which does make more sense to me than brothers of a different age.

Additionally, I have read about them being entwined in an endless battle between light and dark.

This has a level of logic due to the turning of the wheel. However, I see everything as both light and dark so if they are light or dark then are they one being that we have separated into two? Can one exist without the other?

There is also a thought that the Holly King is Winter and The Oak King is Summer. Where does that leave Spring and Autumn then?

I believe that they are both aspects of the Green Man.

I have seen many depictions of the Green Man in four forms: Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer. This would mean, in my current perception of them, that the Oak King represents both Spring and Summer and the Holly King represents both Autumn and Winter.

The Green Man himself represents the cycle of life, death and re-birth so that would mean that the Holly King and the Oak King together are simply, at core, leading the wheel of the year through its cycle.

**The Oak King:** The Oak King's general characteristics are of light, fertility and growth. When we see the buds on the trees, this is a sign that the Oak King is in power.

At Beltane it would be the Oak King who represents the God/The Green Man. Therefore, he could also be seen as The Horned God.

The Oak King to me, is the re-birth, birth and life.  
**The Holly King:** The Holly King is usually depicted as an older male. He often is likened to Santa Claus. His red velvet cloak he is so often seen wearing immediately makes us think of the modern-day Santa. There are even stories of him riding a sleigh driven by eight stags.

The characteristics of the Holly King are those of darkness, cold and death. When we see the leaves browning and the deep red holly berries shining brightly through the dark green, we know that the Holly King is in power.

The Holly King to me, is the life and death.

But why do they exist in folklore? There was an historical fear of the changing seasons due to the lack of readily available food, heat and light leading to less ability to fight infection and death. The story that these two opposing kings were vying for dominance throughout the year shifted the focus of fear to natural cycles and the hope of regeneration. This concept therefore, makes the hard winter months easier to deal with and plan for. The two kings help us humans to accept this change in the knowledge that the Earth will be reborn

and the cycle of birth, life, death and re-birth is natural and continuous.

The idea that one falls at each battle is wrong to me. Mistletoe, which is often found in the branches of the Oak tree is relevant at Yuletide and the Holly is evergreen. Therefore, if one falls then they are potentially not in existence but we know that both remain strong throughout the year. The Oak tree drops its leaves in the autumn but remains a strong presence throughout the winter and as previously stated, the Holly tree is evergreen.

Throughout the ages both Oak and Holly have borne historical significance for centuries. This is proven through paintings, murals, tapestries and of course, stories.

The idea of separating these two beings is wrong to me so, in conclusion, I feel that The Oak King is in charge from Spring Equinox to Autumn equinox when The Holly King then takes over for an equal length of time. They have a shared battle to keep the wheel of the year turning rather than a fight for power.

They both feel like they are part of the same concept of the Green Man not different entities. In my mind, they are more akin to the triple goddess. The Maid, Mother, Crone aspects that can all exist within a being at the same time.

The sun's out, the flowers are blooming, and the magick of midsummer is in abundance. Here's some common flowers that you can work in to your practice during these months!

# FLOWER POWER

Photos by @magiaziemi

Bekki Jo Milner  
Witch Editor

## DAISY

The fabled "He loves me, he loves me not" was a love charm used by many schoolgirl upon finding a daisy. It's a game of french origin, and was usually played using a larger, ox-eye daisy, picking a petal at a time as you repeat the phrase, until the last petal revealed your answer. Or maybe you made daisy crowns or chains to wear around your neck?

But these stories aside, the daisy is a powerful ally when it comes to healing, happiness, protection, clarity, luck and love. Try hanging a sachet or chain of dried daisy flowers above your bed or a baby's cot for protection and pleasant dreams.



## CORNFLOWER

As well as being tasty in tea, the cornflower is ideal for workings of spiritual and psychic nature.

It's natural indigo colour helps to awaken and heal the third eye, and they are a great addition to a charm bag or bottle for staying connected to the divine.

Drink as a herbal tea (or with earl grey) during tarot or other divination practice, or place dried flowers in bowls of salt for psychic protection. You can also add the petals to a bowl of hot water to make a summer facial steam bath - try adding chamomile and rose petal too.

## YARROW

Used throughout the ages, Yarrow is a great ally for divination, love spells, and matters of luck, courage and protection.

Hung above the marital bed, it was said to ensure the couples love lasted 7 years. You can add it to a charm bag instead to encourage healthy friendships and inviting in love. Try using in spellwork for personal healing when you've given too much, or during meditation or divination work. You can also add it to dried herb bundles for smoke cleansing.

*As always, when working with flowers, don't take more than you need - or if possible, work with the flower without picking it, whether you're sat in the garden, draw a picture of it, or take a photograph. Bees and other wildlife will thank you for it!*

*Alternatively, you can grow many flowers from seed in a pot on a windowsill for your own personal use.*



# Solstice

## A Channelled Message

*Solstice is a time of the year when the light makes itself manifest in all its many colors. It's a time for regeneration and rejuvenation. It's a time for letting go and building up. It's a beautiful time to weigh in all that you have, all your blessings, all your burdens, all that you carry. All that represents weight in your life. It's time to take inventory of where you are on your life's path.*

*It's time to use that light and bring it in yourself to see without shame, without doubt, what is it in your life that you genuinely need to change? What is it in your life that you truly need to let go? What is it in your life that you need to nurture and become a caretaker? What are the parts of your life that you need to illuminate and love?*

*But light sometimes brings a side of you that you might consider not so pretty. So we're here to tell you that you are perfection all on your own. You don't need to try and be an act—someone you're not. The light you brought to this planet needs to beam out of yourself like a beautiful sunrise. So we are here to give you the gift of life like a beautiful sunrise, wherever you are.*

*We bring the light like waves of comforting, caring hugs. We bring the light to bring love and warmth after a cold winter and the winter of the soul. The light is here to nurture you to a profound level down to your soul. As above, so below. So your inner sunshine also rises. Your inner sunlight also shines. It seeks a way of expressing itself by caring and nurturing the body, by sharing and caring with friends and loved ones, by finally opening the eyes and make the step to what you always wanted to do but never dared to.*

*Solstice is the time of the truth, time of enlightenment, time of the answers. The solstice marks a time when we look at ourselves and the world clearly, without distractions.*

*By tuning up with the energies of the solstice and the summer, without any distractions, we can connect to a higher line of understanding, to a higher energetic line for nurturing your subtle body.*

*You are healing yourself, nurturing yourself, strengthening yourself, and also purifying yourself. And as you know, purifying is not always an easy job or a pleasant one. Because that means the need to let go of addictions, attachments. It would be best to let go of everything that keeps you from taking that step. Everything that is keeping you from evolving. Everything that's keeping you from stepping out of that unpleasant place or situation. Everything that's keeping you from being independent and strong in your energy field and not dependent or feeding yourself up on the energy of others.*

*Solstice brings an excellent opportunity for renewal, renovation, Independence, and empowerment.*

*The Father Sky is up there in the sky shining down to beautiful Mother Earth, and in the middle, you are that holy child supported by Earth and nurtured with liquid gold by the rays of the Sun. It's a time for ripping out the Band-Aids and putting those wounds in the Sun to dry until the scars fall. Nurture yourselves with the golden codes from the Sun. Look up at the skies and let this energy boost the electric field of your eyes.*

*Solstice is a time to ask for clarity, and it's a time to ask the Universe for courage. Solstice is a time of blessings, of reenergizing, of feeling yourself again.*

*Draw the energy and power from within yourself in connection with the Universe with love and compassion; Solstice and summer are a time to receive the Universe's love and gifts. It's a time for opening up and creating new bridges, new relationships, new ways of relating to your bodies. Lovingly, respectfully in a way that is coherent with the time of the year.*

*The Sun has always been a symbol of grace, abundance, protection, and favorable omens. But the Sun, as much as it can make the crops grow, it also can make them burn and die. So protect your inner Sun, preserve your energy. Be conscious of the time you spend doing what, where, and with whom. Your energy is precious.*

*It is time for you to heal and energize yourselves. Share with others in a loving, caring way. Share softly, sweetly, and respectfully, so your energy is contained. Heal and bring together all the pieces of the self that are broken and dispersed.*

*Go out in the Sun for an appropriate amount of time every day. Fill yourselves with sunlight, say thank you, and receive these beautiful vibrations.*

*This is the year of transition and healing from trauma, from things you didn't understand. This year is the year of clarity that might even be painful and necessary to manifest that future happiness in your life. Now is the time to take care of yourself, work on yourself, and use all the tools available to clean and clear everything inside and outside your life. It is a time of love for yourself and compassion for others, respectfully.*

*Respect others and their views and walks of life, as you are all under the same loving Sun.*

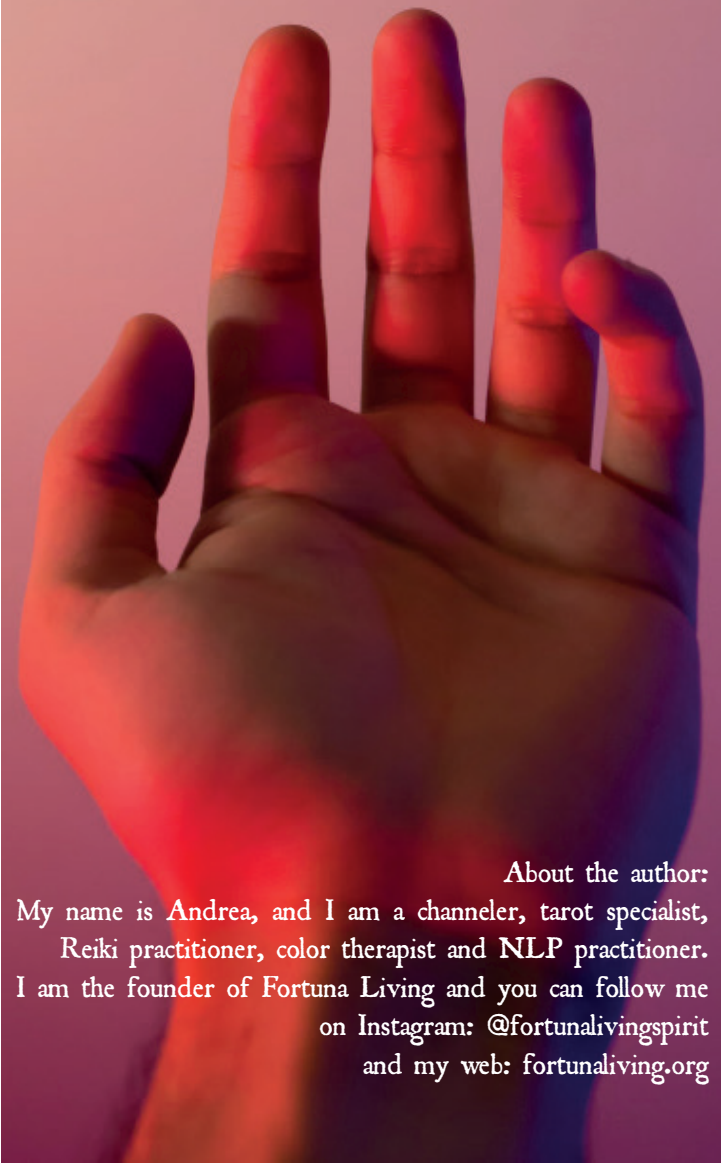
*You are all in the same evolutionary journeys; some might be willing to see and some others not, but those who see and are eager to walk through the fire will be received with the most beautiful, loving, nurturing light at the end of that trance.*

*We love you, and we encourage you to take this time of the year to fill yourselves with light. But, be mindful of whatever distractions keep you from this very needed evolutive step that the soul is asking you to take.*

*You are very blessed, very loved, and we can hear when you talk and when you doubt. But, we are here to remind you that you have never been alone; we support you and love you.*

*We bring this nurturing light over you in hopes that it will help you create the life you want. But remember, you cannot cook in a dirty kitchen; you need to clean yourselves, declutter, detox from feelings, relationships, thought, beliefs, ways of being, people, circumstances, and places. Realize your weak spots and align with the divine purpose of your heart, even if it is to take care of yourself because that's an excellent service to yourself, your soul, and the world.*

*We are sending many blessings to all of you. You are so loved, so very loved.*



About the author:

My name is Andrea, and I am a channeler, tarot specialist, Reiki practitioner, color therapist and NLP practitioner. I am the founder of Fortuna Living and you can follow me on Instagram: @fortunalivingspirit and my web: fortunalive.org

# DREAM JOURNALING

HOW TO TRACK AND UNDERSTAND YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS EMOTIONS

A woman with dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless dress, is captured in a dynamic dance pose against a vibrant purple background. She is leaning forward with her arms raised and legs in a wide, expressive stance. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting her form against the textured, shimmering purple backdrop.

## PART 2: INTERPRETING AND ANALYSING YOUR DREAMS

**I'VE BEEN WRITING MY DREAMS DOWN FOR A WHILE NOW...**

If you read our Beltane issue, you'll remember we talked you through how to set yourself up ready to keep track of your dreams. Hopefully by now you'll have at least a few dreams scribbled down in your journal, or recorded on a device. If not, don't worry - get started whenever is good for you.

If you followed our guide, you might also have some other details jotted down - what happened in the day or overnight, perhaps how you felt before or after the dream. That's a lot of raw data to sort through, so let's get started!

**WHAT DO I DO WITH ALL THIS INFORMATION?**

The first thing to start with is the interpretation. If you looked up your dream and its symbolism when you woke up, you should have some notes on the meanings. It doesn't matter if you go back over it at a later date, although your dreams will probably read hilariously surreal in retrospect. As long as you have the key images identified, it doesn't matter whether there's a complete or even an obvious narrative.

You should have settled on a preferred interpretation guide but if you haven't, there are plenty of books and websites available. However, their reliability will differ hugely, so try to choose one which looks good quality, seems to have a community based around it, or which comes recommended.

It can be time consuming looking up dream interpretations, and you may have to spend a while poring over each one. One event could be interpreted in various different ways, depending on which part you focus on. For example, say you dream about going on a car journey in an old-fashioned red car. You pass through country lanes with fields on either side. Which do you think is most relevant - the fact you are going on a journey? In the car? Who you are with? How old you are? The colour of the car? How old the car is? How the road looks? What you can see from the windows?

CHERRY DOYLE  
WITCH WRITER



According to one dream interpretation website, this is what the dream means:

- Going on a journey in a dream signifies self-discovery, or progress towards a goal.
- Being in a car represents your direction in life.
- Where you are sitting in the car denotes how in control you are of your ambition and direction.
- The age of the car will indicate whether your life goals are long term or recent.
- The colour red represents raw emotion, anger, danger, sexuality, passion, or can signify a lack of energy.
- A road is significant in telling you about how your journey towards your goals is going. A winding country lane signifies that you may be coming up against obstacles.
- Fields symbolise freedom and happiness through personal growth.

Each of these on its own is not a very convincing argument, but when viewed together in context, they paint a compelling picture. This dream is clearly indicating a predisposition with your direction in life. It seems to be suggesting that you currently lack the energy to meet your long-held life goals, or are facing obstacles. However, you know that by taking control, you can achieve the happiness you seek. Unfortunately, you need to look up every detail in order to understand the full context of the dream and what it represents.

### WHAT KIND OF PATTERNS SHOULD I BE LOOKING FOR?

Once you've written down some key interpretation notes about your dreams, you might be able to spot some common themes among them. What we're looking for patterns in is chiefly the interpretation of the dreams. For example, you may have many dreams, varied in nature, but when you look them up you see they all suggest a concern with work. However, do not dismiss any obvious themes presenting themselves to you in the content of the dreams - dreaming of water every night signifies attention is required on your emotions, regardless of which emotions they are.

If there is something particularly troubling you in your waking life, you may relate this to your dream symbolism straight away. Similarly, if you are celebrating or feeling positive about life, this will become obvious through your dreams.

However, don't become complacent in your analysis. Remember that dreams are driven by our subconscious - the part of our thought processes we're not aware of. Don't let your conscious brain bias you to interpretations which fit its own narrative, without considering all the options - regardless of what we're consciously aware is affecting us, something else may be lurking. You might also be feeling generally stable and calm in your daily life, but wondering what your dreams represent. In either case, it's best to do a bit more digging.

If you spot a theme, go back to all the dreams whose interpretations relate to it. See if there are commonalities between the additional information you've captured - what happened in the day, in the night, your emotions, the dates or days. Researchers from the University of Bologna found that dreams altered significantly throughout the menstrual cycle, while the suggestion of dream influence from the moon has been a long-held but rarely-studied belief.

You should start to build up a picture of the circumstances around your dreams. Do particularly stressful days give you highly symbolic dreams? Do interactions with family or friends prompt particular themes? Of course, some dreams are difficult to interpret and are likely nonsense - just the brain sorting out your day. Even if there are no discernible patterns to your dreams, you might still spot patterns in the circumstances in which you best remember them.

### I THINK I SEE A PATTERN EMERGING HERE...

Take a fresh page in your dream journal, another notebook, or a new voice recording. Using the interpretations which ring most true to you and other details on the page, articulate the theme you believe is emerging. Taking our car journey example from above, you might write something like this:

*I am struggling to commit to my long term goal of saving money and moving to a larger house. I know I need to take more control of my behaviour but I just can't seem to stop spending the money because being able to afford a new house seems so far away at the moment. This is exacerbated when I see my brother as he is in a place financially that I wish I were.*



Now you have pinpointed something to work on. Don't worry if it's not exact, doesn't have much detail, or doesn't feel quite right. Even if you just have one sentence or one word - this is a great starting point!

Next time, we'll be talking about how to address the issues which are presenting themselves to you through your dreams.

Until then, sweet dreams!



# THE SAPPHIC ENCHANTRESS

## TAROT DECK

A MAJOR ARCANA DESIGNED AND HAND MADE  
BY ARTIST AYSHE-MIRA YASHIN

*Last month we introduced you to featured artist  
Ayshe-Mira Yashin (@illustrationwitch on instagram).*

*This month we'd like to introduce her Major Arcana deck - hand cut  
and made with love, and a definite must-have for established and  
beginner tarot readers alike.*

- The Sapphic Enchantress Tarot Deck was made with the intention of creating a card system that could resonate with an audience especially consisting of people of marginalised genders and sexual orientations. The deck consists exclusively of women, as a deliberate expression of the intrinsic wholeness of women within themselves.

This deck explores not only the love that can exist between women, but also the strength that exists in women themselves.

- the cards are sepia, matt, and have a thickness of 350GSM. Please be kind to the cards and don't expect perfection - they are all lovingly hand-cut at home!

- all tarot decks come with a handmade zine detailing key meanings of each card (upright and reversed), analysis of tarot symbolism and imagery, and guidelines for how to read and use the cards. This is widely palatable and perfect for beginner witches and tarot practitioners!

- the deck and the zine are packaged together in lovely brown boxes, and filled with rose petals to infuse them with loving energy. They will be shipped to you safely in a bubble-wrapped mailer bag.

- you also have the option of getting a lovely red velvet tarot bag, handmade by Ziggy Cooper, my sapphic business partner! This bag is perfect to protect your cards physically from scratches and smudges, and also to spiritually protect your cards from negative energies.

- please note that this is a Major Arcana only deck, I am hoping to complete a full 78-card tarot deck - buy this deck to help me fund future tarot projects!



**THE WORLD**

# WE, THE UNCONCIOUS ANGELS



*It was a surreal experience walking into Laura's office for the very first time.*

I was jammed between several life limiting situations and emotional states for far longer than I'd care to admit, even now. Unloved, unworthy of success and painfully neurotic. I hadn't yet realised that I'd brought most, if not all of this negativity on myself. It was time to heal the ancestral cycles of suffering and to finally realise my true potential. That's where Laura came in. A string of sublime synchronicities had heralded her arrival into my life, and she couldn't have been more welcome. Laura's energy field pulsed with grace and kindness. She conducted the pleasantries as I eyed her vast collections of books. Shimmering crystals seemed to glow from their shelves, inviting in a palpably nurturing energy into the space. Tarot decks of the most beautifully ornate designs were nestled on her desk. I'd never before felt so at home in a strangers' company and I felt instinctually that one day, I'd look back on this energy alignment session as a defining pivotal landmark for the rest of my adult life

Within an elaborate grid of crystals and wands, and perhaps sensing my ego's clattering soliloquay, Laura dove straight into my energy centres. Having her potent energy charged into me was like being plugged into an awareness which had lain dormant for many lifetimes. A magnetic pressure engulfed us which forced my consciousness inwards. Hundreds of pairs of eyes began flashing into my mind's eye, and I knew I was looking at the eye's I've peered through in past incarnations. As Laura made her way down my physical body, my astral body was thrust into hidden dimensions. Indescribable alien entities greeted me enthusiastically as I abruptly popped into their realm. They led me down a cavernous corridor, which led to an atrium where souls were being born from a giant golden glowing vagina. I was looking straight at the ouroboros. The fractal nature of our reality unfolding before us like a perpetually yawning flower.

For the next hour, Laura pulled hundreds of years worth of misery and suffering from my aura before performing one of the most profound tarot readings I've ever seen. I felt comfortable in my own skin for the first time in a decade "You've been a witch for many of your life cycles here on earth. You've been humiliated, ostracized and killed for your craft in the

**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
ANGEL MAGICK  
WITH ENERGY HEALER,  
THERPIST AND AUTHOR,  
LAURA MORRICE.**

**KELLY BUCHAN**

**WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER**

past. The time has come to fully embody who you are truly meant to be. You need to turn your passions for tarot and witchcraft into your livelihood, It's time to fully commit to a magickal spiritual path." Laura's eyes twinkled and radiated with wisdom and faith. "And its time you started working with the Angels and Archangels Kelly. They are here, and they've been waiting for you."

\*

Laura, thank you so much for taking the time to talk to Witch Magazine today, I know you're incredibly busy with clients. Could you begin by giving us your definition of what Angel Magick is, and telling us how your life changed since finding it?

The angels and archangels have specific energies attached to them. They are conscious intelligences which, when invoked or contacted, can help us access and align with our higher selves. Ideally, we shouldn't just use the angels for manifestation and gains within our 3D realities. They are better suited to enhance our spiritual connection to the divine source.

Gaining awareness of our 'soul contracts' (the programming we chose enter before we are incarnated into this life) can massively help break our conditioning, and bring clarity and gratitude into our lives. The angels have a vested interest in every single one of us. We will all at some point in our life cycles break completely free of the false conditioning which has blighted humanity, and the angels are there to help us do just that. The more we work with the angels and archangels specifically, the closer we become to being who we are at the source energy level- our source energy blueprint.

I've been working with the Angels daily for over 15 years now. They've helped me understand the reasoning behind our ancestral cycles of suffering, and the power of self sacrifice. Within my own family, I've managed to break the generational curse of addiction. My mums alcoholism ultimately served an important purpose, one that was shown to me by Archangel Michael and Archangel Raphael. I understood the reasons behind pain and suffering that had once seemed so harsh and brutal. And by healing from that, I managed to ensure that it will not be passed on to future generations. Ultimately, they showed



me what loving someone unconditionally truly looks like, and what unconditional love feels like.

How do the Angels and Archangels differ from one another? Are they easy to contact?

Archangels are the closest energies to the entity I'll refer to as "God", and they each have speciality roles assigned to them. Each of the archangels have powerful abilities that can be used for protection, healing, enhancing divination, creativity, spiritual sustenance etc. Archangel Michael is the ruler of the entire angelic realm.

The "lesser" angels reside in the astral realm closest to where we are now. They are primordial energetic intelligences who adhere to the free will of the source consciousness. Within the magickal system the lesser angels have zodiacal, planetary and elemental correspondences as well as ties to the tarot. It is an incredibly vast subject, because the catalogue of angels can be seen reflected in many of the worlds modern and ancient religions. But there is no one way to contact the angels and archangels. With just a small amount of research, its possible to find a system which complements your own philosophy.

At first when we contact them, we may feel as though nothing is happening, or that we are making it all up in our heads. This is the ego working it's hardest to retain control of the programming instilled within us since birth. Programs of self loathing, melancholy, jealousy, and self pity, along with many others, each need to be processed then shut down through healing.

Meditation and visualisation can help us connect and foster the trust and faith that the angels hear us, and will be working to deliver our requests of them. After a few months of prayer or invocation, a confidence will arise which will build on itself and magnify naturally. Once you develop a relationship with them, there's no turning back. It's taken me many years of practice to be able to simply call in the Archangels with confidence without performing any rituals or prayer. But with time, you too will realise that the ritual is only there to strengthen the intention.

These angelic beings are so eager to help us, we must simply ask and wait with no lust for results. It is worth remembering though, the desired outcome is often achieved, but not in the way we assumed it might. The stronger and purer your intention when contacting them, the more you will feel their connection to you.

For many witches and magicians, Angel Magick is synonymous with John Dee's Enochian Magick. What are your thoughts on this?

Personally, I can't endorse John Dee's system because as fascinating as his research is, the rituals and magick square tables simply arn't complete and consistent across publications. Of course, the system itself is infamous due to the incredibly complicated and precise rituals and instruments needed to make contact with the angels. I don't doubt in any way that they were successful in doing this. But I must ask myself whether the fact that Dee and Kelley were doing this for what could be seen as selfish material gains, would have limited the amount of help they were likely to receive.

It simply isn't necessary to try to exercise such constricted control over these energies. Self mastery and enlightenment should be the core foundations of intention, rather than wanting some sort of kudos for doing such things. Naturally, the two sides of the argument for whether Enochian magick should be practised at all are in stark contrast to one another, but i would advise any aspiring witch to look for more modern and less forceful approaches.

Both Damien Echols and Doreen Virtue have excellent books cataloging the angels and I would very much recommend them as an introduction into the subject. They provide descriptions of the anthropomorphised forms which helps with visualisations, and also prayers, spells and rituals you can use as a framework to build upon your on practice. Always aspire to make your grimoire in angelic magick as personal to you as possible, securing your connection to your divine and authentic source energy blueprint. And finally, on the subject of Enochian Magick, whispers of potentially insanity-inducing interactions with ethereal beings have been exchanged within occult circles for many generations. Should the rituals be as effective as practitioners say, I can quite imagine how someone could be sent insane should they simply not be spiritually strong enough to cope with such a profound, terrifying and all encompassing experience.

What advice would you give to anyone looking to work with the Fallen Angels?

The 72 fallen angels are directly tied to the 72 angels in the same way that there are two sides to one coin. The fallen angels are feral and quick acting. But unlike their

angelic counterparts, they do not adhere to free will. Meaning that should you ask them to carry out a task for you without asking them to do so causing to harm to anyone, the energy will take the path of least resistance no matter the cost, to achieve success.

This is what would be categorised as black magick. A fallen angel wouldn't think twice of causing harm to another human in exchange for a result. This quickfire, kneejerk energy is the reason behind the evil and dark connotations associated with the fallen ones. I would strongly advise you to do your research before embarking down this particular path. Fear is the enemy when undertaking such intense rituals, so never begin unless are absolutely certain of your courage, knowledge and abilities.

Laura, thank you so much for sharing your knowledge on the subject of Angel Magick today. Do you have any parting words for our readers?

Yes, please don't hesitate in initiating contact! Working with these beautiful intelligences has enhanced my life in more ways than I could describe with words. We are all worthy of finding and merging with our divinity. The source is waiting for us to make contact.

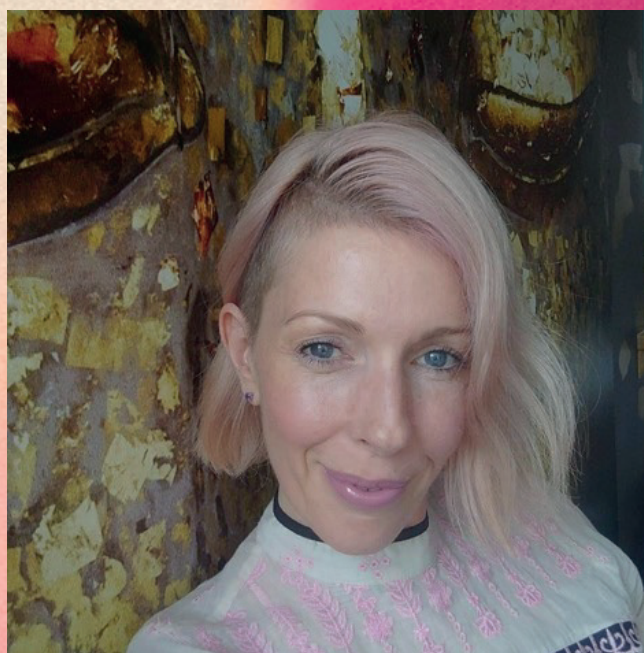
Trust in the faith of your own gut instincts and follow the signs and synchronicities, they are designed to guide you home. Angel numbers, feathers and prophetic dreams are all indicators that your angelic relationships are strengthening. Never be afraid of these beings, they want the very best for you, always. And above all else, enjoy and embrace your spiritual journey with them, it's the most enlightening and mesmerizing path you're ever likely to take,

*Laura Morrice is an Energy Alignment Specialist and Distance Healer from the north-east of Scotland. Her book Signposts to Source is available to buy on Amazon. Contact her at [www.lauramorrice.com](http://www.lauramorrice.com).*

## Laura Morrice Energy Alignment Healer and Coach

My journey with energy healing began over 20 years ago. After hitting rock bottom not once but twice, it was energy healing that

I credit with giving me the right tools and techniques to re-align with my true state of being and to take my power back fully. Now I enjoy a life of purpose, that's full of abundance and joy, and best of all, I get to be of service to others and help them re-connect with their purpose for a life of empowerment. Reiki, crystal healing and vibrational sound therapy form the foundations of my signature healing sessions. Developing a deep understanding of our chakra/energy systems helps me to guide clients to release the false programming they've picked up throughout life that has manifested itself in limiting beliefs and behavioural patterns, allowing them to connect with their internal source of power and, become their own magic wand.



# Words from the Witches Journal

*I have a large wooden cupboard in the alcove off my living room where I keep my 'witchy' stuff*

*~ anointing oils blended from a selection of essential oils, candles, drying leaves from the eucalyptus tree.*

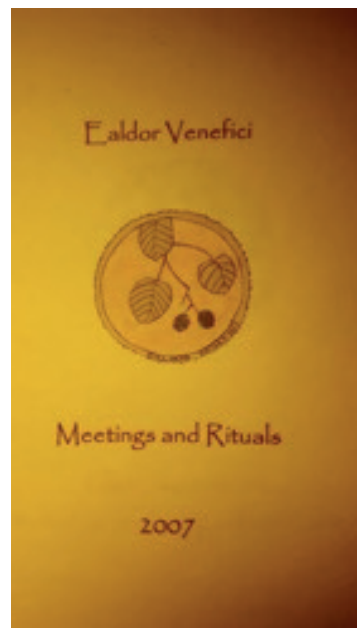
*It also houses my journals, records of things I've attempted, things I've learned. There are scribblings of my personal feelings, and my coven history, things we have done together.*

*Portland Jones  
Witch Writer*

Looking back through my journals made me realise that as time passes the memory dims. Even with the teasing prompts scribbled on the soft pages, I have lost the image of what exactly we were up to!

Some of it looks so interesting that I wish I could remember the full details.

2007 looks like it was a busy year. The notes I took were brief and therefore vague. On 24th June, my notes record that we made a midsummer's eve procession through Waseley Hills, an area of rolling open hills a short drive from my home.



One theory based on its name suggests that it may have been one of four watchplaces along the northern boundary of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of the Hwicce. We have made specifically pagan forays into this area several times since, alongside purely leisure visits, a little haven not far from the city.

Why midsummer's eve? After all, we had only just celebrated the solstice. The summer solstice is the beginning of the astronomical summer, the longest day of the year. Midsummer is a time not so strictly measurable, related more to experience of the seasons. It has been suggested that it would have fell later in the year, towards the middle of July, before the change from the Julian to the Gregorian Calendar in 1752. Days were dropped from the calendar to make it more accurate. Midsummer's Eve is a time associated with witches, magic, fairies and dancing.

Also in June that year we decided to have a ritual under the blue moon that took place on the 30th of that month. We also decided to make a weekend of it, venturing to Tal-y-bont in Wales, to our favourite campsite. Family and coven family packed our tents and set off for what we hoped would be a great weekend.

One member of the coven came in for some ribbing when she announced that camping was not for her and booked herself into a bed and breakfast. With hindsight our Crone had, of course, made the wisest decision.

What we had not taken into account was the Welsh propensity for rain. We set up camp in relatively dry weather. By night time, the sky was cloaked in thick cloud. The moon did not put in an appearance at all.



As the skies opened, we huddled in our tents listening to the rain pelting the canvas, wrapped in all our woollies to stave off the cold. In the middle of the night we heard the zzzz of the zip and two bedraggled campers dambled into the tent seeking refuge. They had a good impression of a river flowing through the middle of theirs.

I cannot honestly remember if we went ahead with the ritual. I have no notes to confirm that we did, but I think I will always remember that soggy weekend, surrounded by people who meant so much to me, and the laughter that survived the rain.

It was around this time that I had thought to refresh the Latin that I had learned as youngster, with a view to using it in my spell work. A long time had passed since my school days. I had indeed written a spell in Latin. I came across it as I was reading my journals to find out what I had been up to. Of course, I had not recorded the translation so I spent some time prior to writing this running it through a Latin to English translator found via Google. (What little knowledge of Latin I had definitely no longer exists!) I chuckled muchly as I read the translation. Apparently, I wasn't much good at it even then. I share with you a couple of the sentiments:

PERMISSUM BRIAN EXSISTO SANUS - let Brian be healthy.

A POSTERUS PLENUS QUOD PERSPICUOUS - a future full and bright.

I am not making any claims. However, the average life expectancy for someone suffering from kidney failure and on dialysis is five to ten years. Brian's kidneys failed in 2007. He passed in 2019, some twelve years later, and what life he had was certainly full and upbeat despite his illness.

Looking at my journals has brought back many happy memories, even though incomplete. What I would recommend to everyone is to keep a journal with enough detail to pick up where memories fail. Keep them safe, and settle down to read them when you need a reminder of how wonderful life can be.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waseley\\_Hills\\_Country\\_Park](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waseley_Hills_Country_Park)  
<https://www.crowl.org/Lawrence/time/britgreg.html>  
<http://projectbritain.com/midsummer.htm>





# 5 LGBTQ+ Poets to Read This Pride

Jessica O'Shea  
Witch Writer

Happy Pride Month readers!

I'm back with another countdown to help you expand your reading endeavours.

These writers I've listed are trailblazers, inspirations and just all-round amazing members of the LGBTQ+ community. Let's celebrate!

## 1. Kae Tempest

I know I've recommended Kae Tempest many times on my countdown, but it's undeniable they are one of the most brilliant and refreshing contemporary poets in the world right now. Most recently, Kae Tempest has come out as non-binary, and their poems contain some of the most beautiful poems about the women they have loved before.

Pleading with my loved ones to  
wake up  
and love more.

## 2. Audre Lorde

Audre Lorde described herself as 'black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet'. She is one of the leading voices in the poetry world for queer black women, her poems in the 20th century were ground-breaking and so poignant. If you're looking for some soul igniting motivation to march this pride, Lorde is one poet you can't overlook.

But I who am bound by my mirror  
as well as my bed  
see causes in colour  
as well as sex

## 3. James Baldwin

James Baldwin was an American poet who is often hailed as one of the most out and proud gay black poets of the contemporary art world. Unapologetically queer and intersectional, Baldwin's poems paved the way for other up and coming queer writers from around the world to express their voice.

If the hope of giving  
is to love the living,  
the giver risks madness  
in the act of giving

#### 4. Frank O'Hara

A prominent pioneer in the art world, O'Hara's poems are some of the best outpourings of queer love. O'Hara was also a curator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, making him one of the most important figures in contemporary art world. He was a leader of The New York Art School of poets which saw some of the worlds most famous poets under him.

My heart's aflutter!  
I am standing in the bath tub  
crying. Mother, mother  
who am I? If he  
will just come back once  
and kiss me on the face  
his coarse hair brush  
my temple, it's throbbing!

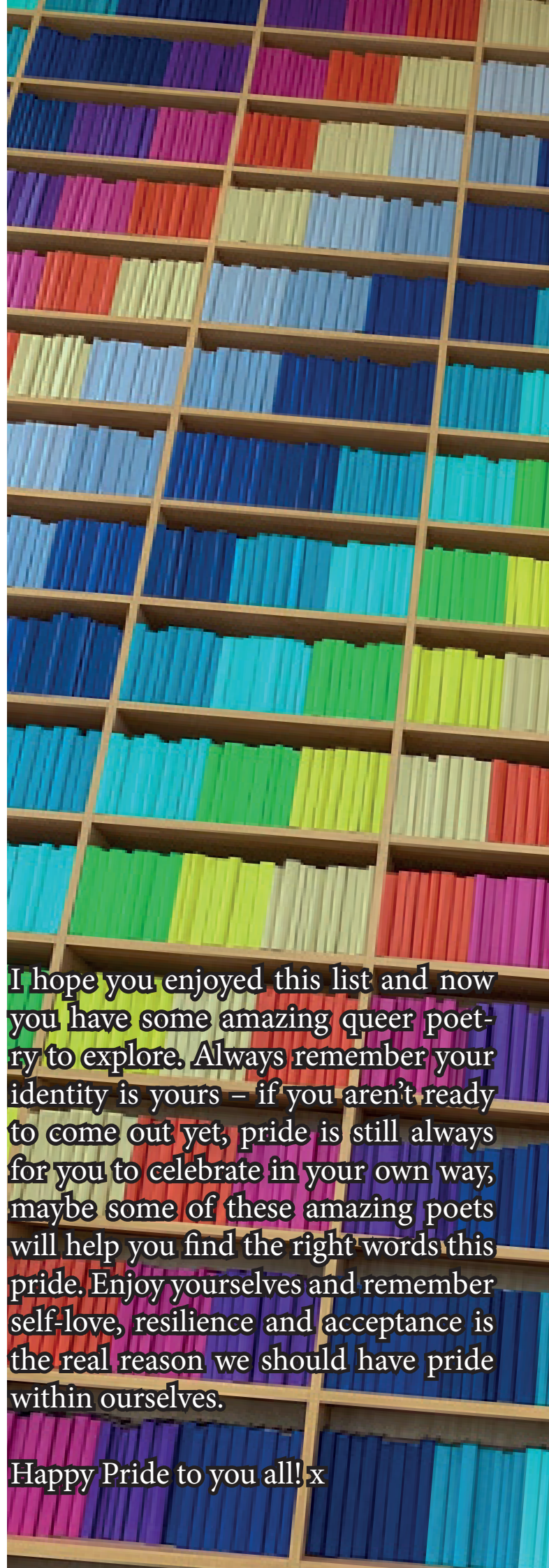
#### 5. June Jordan

A proud bisexual black woman – who defended and wrote openly about her bisexuality, June Jordan is one of the most prolific queer writers we have the privilege of reading. Jordan wrote a lot about gender, race, immigration and representation and was passionate about using Black English in her writings.

a womanly mirage  
I am amazed by peace  
It is this possibility of you  
asleep  
and breathing in the quiet air

I hope you enjoyed this list and now you have some amazing queer poetry to explore. Always remember your identity is yours – if you aren't ready to come out yet, pride is still always for you to celebrate in your own way, maybe some of these amazing poets will help you find the right words this pride. Enjoy yourselves and remember self-love, resilience and acceptance is the real reason we should have pride within ourselves.

Happy Pride to you all! x



In Conversation with...

# Blue Lotus

Anya Lukover  
Witch Residency Writer

*When you feel drawn to or a plant pops up in your life to create a closer connection with, they will present to you a name that they prefer you to call them by.*


This name isn't necessarily the same for each person because the relationship we create with any plant is personal to you and that plant. Just like a friendship you might create with another human. It's the same as a plant. Each plant relationship is a special union that no one else will have. And the plants may not initially reveal their preferred name. Or they might - because there are no rules to this, just unique connections. And that is the joy. Creating unique partnerships with life.

When I was first introduced to Blue Lotus on a Shamanic Ceremonialist training, my womb lit up, and our friendship began. But it wasn't until 14 months later that She revealed her preferred name to me. Just one day. Out of the blue. You know, when a piece of information simply drops in when you're not even focussing on it. When you're just washing the dishes, or just waking up from a night's sleep...

And on that day, 'Lady Lotus Blue', landed at a deeper level inside my being and in that moment a smile spread across my face and that inner knowing told me I was ready to share Her majick with the world. To create spaces for people to gather together and invite this beautiful gracious spirit to share Her ancient wisdom;

"The Egyptians treated me as a God. I was the official flower connected to the sun God 'Ra' and I was widely used in celebrations and as an aphrodisiac, sleep aid, and assistance in lucid dreaming & meditation due to my extreme relaxation properties".

For me, this has been the case. As someone who use to live predominantly in my head, not even realising the debilitating physical symptoms that came from such disconnection from my body, Lady Lotus Blue has helped me on my journey from my head down into my sacral space; My womb, my creativity.



AWAKENING  
YOUR  
CREATIVE  
FLOW

So it's no surprise that the first introduction to Lady Lotus Blue my womb immediately lit up. She showed me how dark and congested my sacral space was. Layers of sticky black tarmac from millenia of collective and ancestral shame, guilt, resentment and sexual repression and trauma living inside of me.

But in that moment of introduction something shifted. It was as if Lady Lotus Blue paved a new stream to float down on my timeline. One that opened up awareness, waking me up to another level of healing that I came here for. I was asleep to it all and suddenly the light got switched on. I woke up. And by allowing this healing of the sacral to move through me, I have dropped deeper and deeper into the flow.

That's what Lady Lotus Blue brings in with the element of water - teaching us how to flow and when to be still. Because when we listen and are lead by our sacral space, the mind shuts down, the need to figure things out drops away and Creativity flows through and out of us.

"You are a Creative energy. That's it. Creation flows through you at every moment of every day. You don't need to set aside time to sit and create anything, just switch your lens to creation throughout each day. What do you create for breakfast? What delicious hot drink do you create that brings you joy? Tidying up... don't let it be the usual chore, because you are creating space for energy to flow.

Create mindful moments, create quality time with friends, family and your partner, create moments to close your eyes and breathe.

And if you get caught back up in your mind, know that this is your sign to bring energy and light into your sacral space, to stop trying to figure anything out and to create.

Create a dance, create a tune, create a photo collage of your favourite memories.

There is a lightness in the air  
Wave your hands like you just don't care  
Can you feel it?

When your mind pressures you to create  
That's the time to be still and wait  
Until you feel it

When you feel you have the blues  
Just ask which path you need to choose  
And feel the direction you are pulled  
Because you mind will only have you fooled

Notice in your sacral when something feels good  
And ignore the voice in your head that says that you 'should'

Create your life as if it's a song  
And know there's no such thing as right and wrong

So open your sacral and switch on the light  
And free your creation like a free flying kite

Ignore the thoughts that make you run  
And feel.

Feel

Feel

Because the frequency of creation is light, playful and fun"

Happy Creations, kids!

With love from Lady Lotus Blue & Anya xxx



# Wise Words from the Old Crone How do I Begin to Be a Pagan?

I am asked a lot of questions about being a Pagan practitioner and one which crops up a lot is 'How do I start? Where do I begin? How can I fit into this practice and do I need special tools?'

This is not the easiest question to answer as so much depends on what you already know, where you come from in terms of spirituality and also what it is you want to give to the Pagan community or get out of it.

I have several suggestions to these queries and I would suggest the person read a few books on a subject where their interest lies, such as crystals, tarot reading, pendulum use but most important, especially to me is to google the wheel of the year. This gives a basis to the sabbats and rhythm to the practice.

First of all to address the 'How do I start.' I have known some people who think our Craft is just about telling fortunes and dressing up with a pointy hat. Well that's OK if that is what you want to do. I know that some hopefuls just want to be able to tell fortunes either with cards or other I am very gentle and explain to them that our Craft is so much more and that fortune telling is only one place to start.

I know of some newbies who have bought several different pendulums, several different packs of tarot cards, oracle cards, runes and so on hoping that one will work for them. When one does not resonate immediately some seem to think that they need to try another and another.

Our craft is not a quick fix and most of us who practice regularly have learned over many years and built up our practice. My advice is to stick with one method first and give it a chance, and give yourself a chance to understand what it entails for instance to read the cards. Yes one can read all the books in the world and not understand the fundamentals. It is advisable to really get to know one method before moving on to another.

When my own daughter was a young and keen teenager, she sat with me while I read cards and made notes for the person I was reading for. She jotted down the salient messages on pretty, decorated paper and this was rolled up and tied with a ribbon and given to the querant. By doing this she was learning her craft and is now a very competent Pagan practitioner herself. Whoo Hoo.

I do sometimes loan out some of my collection of books and artefacts which will guide the person asking how to, and also suggest



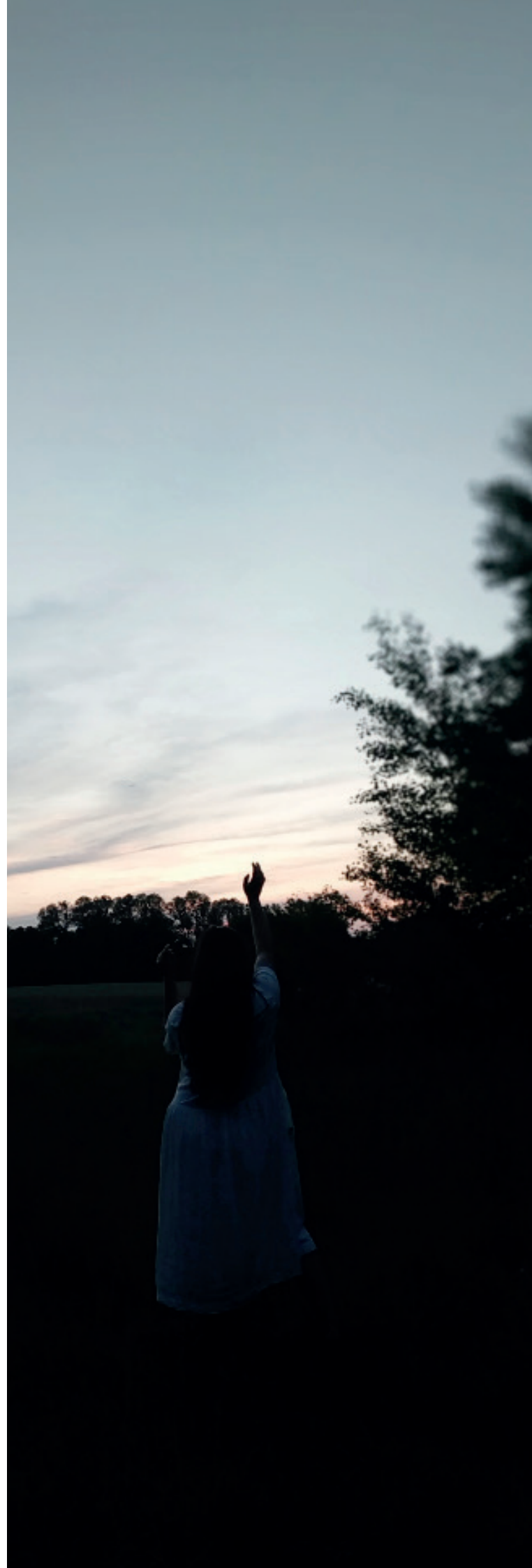
they attend a psychic fair, a spirit and destiny fair in order to meet others who can help them. Another thing would be to buy a couple of magazines of which there are plenty around. Including this wonderful example. and now it is possible to have printed copies I am sure I will be loaning them out as well as encouraging everyone to purchase their own copies.

If they ask about rituals I suggest they buy some tea lights and incense and practice some deep breathing exercises and jot down a few notes as to how that makes them feel. I do tell them about rule of three and the Witches Rede, just to ensure they don't start practicing rituals which can cause harm in any way.

If they are local to me I invite them to join in my Circle Of The Crystal Moon and attend a circle casting (currently on Zoom) so they can work out which part of the Craft they want to find out more about, and if this is for them. This to me is the very best part of pagan life in that nobody needs to follow strict rules and regulations as in some religious practices, but work out one's own pathway. Of course some covens are very strict and follow very tight rules and that is also fine, and sometimes it is a good idea for someone new to see this side of the Craft. This is not for me as I am much more laid back and relaxed about the circles I cast, and my coven meets are just as much about laughter and good company.

I know it is not always possible to join a group , a coven, a grove, especially if you don't know where to look. It is sometimes easier to become a lone practitioner. This was where I began. This and reading cards and lots of practice.

Blessed Be  
The Old Crone  
theoldcrone5@gmail.com



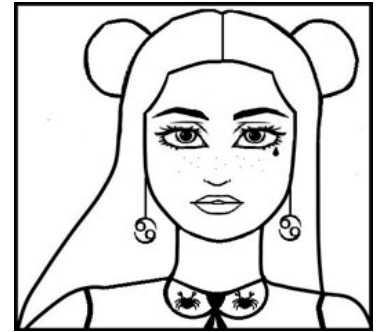
# Raven & Luna's Tarotscopes

## Forecasts For Your Sun Sign

### CANCER

*Page of Swords, 8 of Wands, The World*

It's a time of movement in something you've been waiting on for some time. You may be planning to move, change your job or plan a holiday- possibly travelling over a vast distance. A visit from someone, or perhaps it's you visiting friends and family. There could be someone you sometimes struggle to understand or communicate with (especially Gemini placements), but it seems this connection will see some progression. A child, or someone you feel responsible for, may want more independence- they could be moving away, making a big change or going on holiday on their own.



### LEO

*9 of Swords, 2 of Swords*

You're all in your head and it's overwhelming!

Do you need to ask for help or admit you're struggling? Don't keep it all inside, ask for support. You may be refusing to see things as they are or unwilling to admit what you need to do next. Look at what's in front of you, it isn't going away on its own so you need to face it.



### LIBRA

*6 of Pentacles, Ace of Pentacles*

You could receive a bonus, recognition, compensation or a payment of what's owed, especially if you've lent money to someone recently. Be careful not to see anything as a handout, charity or be too proud to take a favour. You may be tempted to tell someone to forget about it but it keeps everything in balance in your relationships- you don't always have to be the person who is giving.

### VIRGO

*The Chariot, King of Pentacles*

There will be more stability in the home, perhaps through a (new) job or a boost in your finances. You'll be generally feeling less scattered and more grounded as things improve and you won't feel like you're being stretched too thin as you may have done previously. You could purchase a holiday or a new car, but ensure you're keeping the books balanced!



### SCORPIO

*3 of Pentacles, Justice*

This calls for collaboration or a reunion of some kind. It could be time to get some legal advice! You may have to compromise or negotiate on a project, job or business idea- make sure you're getting compensated for all your hard work. Don't get defensive but be sure to set things straight or put things right. They won't know what you need unless you tell them.



## SAGITTARIUS

*8 of Cups, 6 of Pentacles*

You feel restricted. There's not enough time in the day or you can't keep running away from your problems, especially when it comes to your emotions. People don't always need grand gestures, find simple ways to show them you care. You need to heal, filling your life with "stuff" or with unhealthy outlets isn't going to help. Keep an eye on your bank balance! Is your health suffering because of a job?



## CAPRICORN

*The World, Ace of Wands*

A new beginning after a long wait of stillness or stagnancy- finally an acceptance or advancement in study, work or in your spiritual journey. A breakthrough after a period of darkness, feeling lost. You could be going through a spiritual awakening. You may decide to relocate, perhaps even to a different country! Make a radical change if you feel stuck.



## AQUARIUS

*9 of Wands, Knight of Swords*

It's likely you're being very hard on yourself with negative self may feel attacked through differences in opinion and feel the need to stick up for something you care about. Choose your battles wisely, you'll end up worn out if you're always fighting for a cause. People's opinions aren't truth, let it go. Why are they impacting you? It's time to reflect on what triggers you and heal. Take back your power.



## PISCES

*3 of Swords, Strength*

You'll need to dig deep into your emotional resilience, as a possible heartbreak is on its way. Try not to take everything so personally or hold it in your heart. You're stronger and more powerful than you think. You're responsible for your own happiness, you don't need validation, attention, permission or approval from anyone. Learn to love who you are.



## ARIES

*King of Swords, 4 of Swords*

A giant leap is needed to be open to an oChill out! You can't force this situation, you need to try to let things happen and go with the flow. No matter how hard you push it, it won't make a difference in fact it could make things worse! You're overworked- take a step back and look after yourself. Even the boss needs a holiday.

## TAURUS

*King of Pentacles, Death*

If money's been good be careful that you aren't falling into poor spending habits. If it's been difficult, this could be the end to your troubles. An ending could have great benefits such as retirement, selling a house or changing your job. It's just what was needed. Time to eliminate what isn't necessarily, starting with your possessions. You may find you have more time on your hands soon, use it wisely. Make choices that are good for you.



## GEMINI

*4 of Cups, 2 of Cups*

Ensure that your relationships are balanced and equal. Things may feel stagnant or you could be falling back into poor habits. You may feel discontent or bored, reassess why you wanted to do something in the first place. Reach out to someone you care about, they're struggling and you may not realise just how much. If it's you struggling, ask for help.

*Raven and Luna are High Priest and Priestess for Black Moon Coven.*



*Black Moon Cove Intuitive Tarot  
Spiritual Healing and Spells  
Find out more about their services  
at  
[www.blackmooncove.com](http://www.blackmooncove.com)*

*Connect with them on Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr,  
Pinterest, Instagram and YouTube*



# Midsummer Meditation

Connect with the  
King of the Forest

*Head to the forest (or field)  
this midsummer, and connect  
with The Mighty Oak.*

Find an oak tree. You may already have one in mind, or know where some grow. Sit down beneath his heavy, wise boughs and find a comfortable position, resting your back against his trunk if you can, or as close as you can be. You might like to be barefoot, but be sure to keep your shoes safe nearby. You can also bring water as an offering, or seed for the birds.

Get comfortable and take some deep breaths. Imagine that the tree breathes with you, renewing your air for you as you do the same - for plants use the carbon dioxide we exhale as we use the oxygen produced by photosynthesis..

Visualise imaginary roots reaching in to the soil, from your feet or lower back. Allow them to dig deep between the roots of the oak, and stay a while in his cool shade, connecting with his wisdom, strength and protection.

When you feel ready, take three deep breaths, and place your hands upon the earth, pressing your fingertips in to the soil. Feel the connection with the Oak tree, and with all the trees of the forest, a vast network of roots beneath the ground, unseen.

Then, slowly, sit back, and open your eyes to the cool green canopy. Reach your arms upwards just as the oak reaches his branches. Stand up if you like, feet firmly planted, arms raised, and stretch your fingers to the sky.

Feel the power that you share. You exist between the earth and the sky, just like the trees, just like the oak, between root and branch.

Feel that connection as you stand beneath the Oak, and store it in your heart. Carry it with you, and tap in to it when you need strength or courage.

Before you leave, thank the Oak with your offering, and maybe find a fallen leaf to take home for your altar or to press between the pages of a book.



Contactless Payments accepted



# ROWAN'S CLOSET

Witchy & Elven Inspired Custom Designed Clothing

**Kelly Archer**

Tel: +44 7546007564

[kelly@rowanscloset.co.uk](mailto:kelly@rowanscloset.co.uk)

Rowans Closet

thepurplerowanscloset

Also available from:

Crystal Spirit Shop Swindon

CRYSTAL SPIRIT

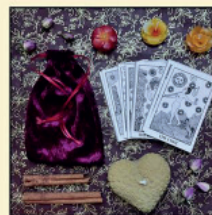
☉ PRIDE MONTH DISCOUNT ☉

ON THE ILLUSTRATION WITCH SHOP

20% OFF ON ALL SAPPIC ENCHANTRESS TAROT PRODUCTS



☉ TAROT DECKS ☉



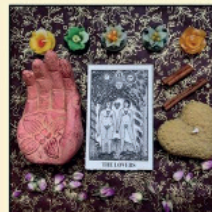
☉ w/ TAROT BAGS ☉



☉ TAROT ZINES ☉



☉ PRINTS & SETS ☉



☉ A6 NOTEBOOKS ☉



☉ TAROT BUNDLES ☉

☉ DISCOUNT CODE: WLW2021 ☉

VALID UNTIL MIDNIGHT, 30 JUNE 2021. WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AVAILABLE.

Interested in advertising with us?

Visit [www.witchzine.co.uk](http://www.witchzine.co.uk) or email

[advertise@witchzine.co.uk](mailto:advertise@witchzine.co.uk)

# CONNACH

FIRST ALBUM  
COMING SOON!

The Uk Goth band CONNACH, introduced in our earlier magazine, is currently working hard towards the release of their first album.



Visit their website to get their new T-shirt.

[Connach.com](http://Connach.com)

Be the first to see new track "Legion of Angels" with a video on Saturday, 20th March, ON STREAM! (Crows Feet Ostara Market)

Follow us on:



THE LOVERS

THE FOOLS TAROT  
[WWW.THERITUALMUSE.COM](http://WWW.THERITUALMUSE.COM)

Free UK  
delivery on  
all orders



Commissions  
Welcome



@blackbirdoak  
**BLACKBIRD  
OAK**  
Hand Crafted Keepers  
[www.blackbirdoak.co.uk](http://www.blackbirdoak.co.uk)



[www.allthegirlspearls.co.uk](http://www.allthegirlspearls.co.uk)




Crystal Balls  
Tumble Stones  
Wands Skulls Geodes  
Minerals Free Forms Carvings  
Follow us for Events and Special Offers

 Tracey.Allthegirlspearls  /allthegirlspearls



Pagan Poetry  
&  
Fiction

Photo by Klaire Dawn Ader

A person is sitting on a grassy field, their legs and feet visible in the foreground. They are wearing light blue denim jeans. In the background, there is a large, glowing circular pattern on the ground, resembling a mandala or a large-scale fractal, with a bright yellow and orange center that fades into green and blue towards the edges. The overall scene is surreal and ethereal.

## As Within, So Without.

There's been a shift,  
A definite subtle change.  
An alchemical brew boils internally.  
Mercury being spun into beads of gold.

I've stared at it for hours,  
The unblinking eye living in my head.  
Does it know who I am? What is it?  
As I wonder, it stares back.

It sits on a web of geometry.  
The mechanisms twisting infernally,  
Like a psychedelic trip I've never left.  
It melts into itself like wax.

Eyes within triangles within squares.  
A living fractal vortex.  
A consciousness breathes behind the forms.  
It whispers in angelic tones.

There's been an intrinsic shift.  
A most divine connection made.  
The outside pulling forth a new path.  
Locked into death and creation.

Kelly Buchan. May 2021.



# MILES

AN EXCERPT FROM AN UPCOMING NOVEL  
ART AND STORY BY NYA HOUSE  
WITCH RESIDENCY WRITER

We thought this was the end, the final judgement that we all knew was coming in the back of our minds. Some thought it was biblical, Godly and would come in a predicted sequence as foretold by men many years ago. So many thought they were going to be saved because they were promised they would be by a person who claimed to have the authority to grant them asylum from the chaos of world upheaval and death. Chaos that we are all responsible for. I digress. I've little space. My anger comes from a life of knowing that most of the world moved through their days with blind faith and arrogance. I was taught better. I knew better. And here, I still live. Although I'll be honest, there is little paradise left on Earth. I could be delusional, dead and in hell.

This is the beginning of the story of what may or may not be the end. My caramel colored leather bound journal began as a way to document my trip around the world so that my Mom, the writer, would lock herself onto a blanket under a tree for hours and absorb it. Maybe even make a novel out of it. This was my way of thanking her and Mama for the graduation gift of a lifetime. Three months of carefully planned travel and excursions. Friends arriving at different times and once in a lifetime adventures.

Then everything went pear shaped. I have filled every page of this journal and am adding here on the last available space inside the tattered front cover. I have no idea if I'll be able to find another journal somewhere, but I have a few things I could trade for one. There's a different story to be told now, so much more ahead of us...I hope.

I'm not sure that I want to be the one to write it, but something keeps pushing me to continue to document my days. Sydney thinks its morbid and I should just continue writing letters to my moms and burning them for delivery. "The old post" Mom calls it. I haven't heard back yet though. I would think they would have sent word back. I haven't spoken to them in forty-nine days and Sydney hasn't been able to see them in a little while longer than that.

They're not dead. They are too smart and both possessing abilities to warn them of danger and keep them safe, but in this fact lies my fear. Why send me away if they knew all of this was coming? Why carefully plan an itinerary that kept me a day-sometimes an hour or even minutes ahead of the next disaster-when they could have just taken me with them to the safest place.

I don't understand it. I can't sense them at all. I can't travel through my sleep because the chaos and pain in the world has created an energy cloud so dense that I can't move around it and neither can Sydney. Still, I hear their voices in the moments

before waking each day. There's pain and sadness but the words are clear, "Come Home Miles." Where is home now?

We are as far East on the once continental US and here we sit at the top of House Mountain in Knoxville, Tennessee. This was once home. Not on the actual mountain, but down in the valley. I know my moms left for the cabin when the heat became unbearable mid-March. Our cabin would be a four hour drive from here and although I can see the peaks on the horizon, I can't see anything between us but water. Uncharted and unpredictable water. I used to find solace when before the ocean, I think everyone in the world did, but now it's this blanket of danger. The Earth has been quiet for a few weeks now which is unsettling to say the least. It can't be over yet, too much has changed. Sometimes I find a break in the trees and lie in the sunlight. I can only stay there for a few moments before it feels like my skin is on fire, but I'll close my eyes and pretend that I can hear birds up in the branches. I'll pretend that Wrigley is curled up beside me taking a nap and the smell of coffee and pancakes will wake me at any moment. There is only silence now. Silence and heat and hunger. The memories of how I got here are all jumbled in my brain and at times I wonder if some of it was a dream. The Earth has spoken. That's what I'm choosing to call this. It sounds so much better than "Armageddon" or just "The End Times". Maybe this is it, maybe I'm just one of the unfortunate bastards that gets to watch it all die before it takes me too.

Well, I'm almost out of room... If you're reading this, my name is Miles Bowyer and I am from Knoxville, Tennessee. Today is May 19th, 2024 and this is my account of what I believe to be, the first wave. I am currently stuck on House Mountain with a few friends and a handful of strangers. I am doing everything I can to try and get to my moms, but I don't know if we will make it out of here alive.

*(To follow along the writing of this novel, follow The Ritual Muse on facebook and instagram.)*



# ESMERALDA

Model by Katrin Lanfire  
Artwork by Bathoriya Art

## BLADE OF THE SISTERHOOD

A short story by  
Ron George

bathoriya

# BLADE OF THE SISTERHOOD

## RON GEORGE

### PART 2

*...later that night...*

Evening had set in as Esmeralda tiptoed up the rickety steps that seemed so desperate to announce her presence, creaking and cracking under her weight as she ascended. She needed to get a message to the Queen discreetly. Maldoriya, her mother's crow, would do just that. The problem was getting to the attic where she kept him without her mother knowing. Her bedroom was directly below it and although she had went to sleep early, she had a habit of being easily awakened. Reaching the door and cringing from the loud sound of it squeaking open, she stumbled through the pitch darkness bare-foot until her toe slammed into the cage.

"Ouch!" she inadvertently yelled, followed by a squawk from the startled bird. "Shh!" she whispered to him, drawing back a curtain from the window next to her and welcoming the moon's glow into the room. "I have a mission for you, Maldoriya," she said quietly, lowering herself on her knees and opening the cage. "You must deliver this to the Queen's chambers," she instructed, pulling a small note from her pocket. "But make haste. If you're not back here before sunrise, I'm in big trouble." Eagerly taking the note from her fingers into his beak, Maldoriya spread his wings. No sooner than she had opened the window, he was gone.

Having made it back successfully to her room, her mother still sound asleep, Esmeralda opened her window to await Maldoriya's return. With each passing hour, her eyelids grew heavier and her resistance to keep them open grew weaker. She was about to succumb to her own body's deprivations when the fluttering of wings awakened her sleepy eyes.

"You have come back!" she rejoiced, jumping out of bed and rushing to the window. He squawked a language perhaps her mother understood, but unfamiliar to her. It didn't matter. He had a note in his beak. "You did great," she said, taking it from him and rubbing the top of his head with her finger. "Now, return to your cage."

"And what say you, Queen?" she asked aloud, unfurling the note as he flew away. The note read:

"South side of the castle.

Next Friday at midnight.

Wear a gown."

"That's it?" she questioned. "I don't even own a gown." It was perplexing to say the least but she had her answer. She would sleep on it.

*...the next morning...*

"I have a gown," Joan said. "Well, it was my sister's, but I think it would fit you rather nicely."

"Really?" Esmeralda asked, feeling appreciative. "But I shouldn't involve you in these matters."

"It's a gown, Esmeralda," Joan sighed.

"I suppose you're right," she agreed. "I'm just nervous is all."

"Esmeralda," Joan said reaching out to take her hand, "Do what you must, but please do not invoke our sisterhood of Witches Valley. They are afraid to come here but if you give them reason to..."

"I am doing this on my own," Esmeralda said. "I would die before I allowed them to come here."

"Let's hope it doesn't come to that," Joan replied.

*...the following Friday...*

"Queen Anne?" Esmeralda called out into the night, doing her best to whisper her arrival. She was standing in front of the massive stone walls of the castle's most southern side as instructed but she saw no one.

"Normally, I would not answer to someone brandishing a weapon," the Queen's voice spoke, appearing out of nowhere from the darkness in front of her. There was little, if any, moonlight. Most of it hid behind the clouds that evening, but it was just enough for Esmeralda to make out the Queen's facial features. She sighed with relief from the apprehensions that had been building up inside her.

"Surely you didn't expect me to come unarmed," she returned.

"You are Esmeralda, I presume?" the Queen asked, her eyes washing over the sword strapped to her waist.

"And you, my mother, I presume as well?" she countered.

"If I didn't think you knew that by now, I would have never accepted this meeting," the Queen responded.

"Your lies were well conceived," Esmeralda said. "A Witch's deception is her greatest ally."

"Yes," her mother agreed, smiling with satisfaction. "Including your supposed grandmother, Eleanor Ashby. She played her role well, even for my own guards that accompanied me to the village that day. One cannot be too careful."

"Why?" Esmeralda asked. "Why did you fill my dreams with hatred for the King? Why has my life been a lie?"

"Your note was quite interesting actually," her mother said, ignoring her question. "You speak of your love for Witches Valley and your dedication to protect it. I, for one, agree with you. It is why I sent you there. But, you would have never been so adamant about that had you not had a reason to do so. I gave you one."

"You lied," Esmeralda said.

"On the contrary," her mother disagreed. "It is the spirit of your sister I conjured that comes to you in your dreams."

"My... My sister?!" Esmeralda stuttered as her eyes widened from such a shocking revelation.

"Yes," her mother confirmed. "She was murdered by the King's own hands less than a week after her birth and I was raped and beaten nearly to death for not bearing him a son. This is what you see in your dreams. She seeks revenge."

"You're a witch," Esmeralda stated. "Why didn't you stop him?"

"You know the answer to that question," she replied. "I have longed to see death erase the smug expression he wears on his face, but I could not do it myself. My position of power better suits our sisterhood, rather than my head in a guillotine."

"Then I must rid him from this world," Esmeralda gritted through her teeth as the anger inside of her began to swell.

"You are the blade held by the hands of our sisterhood, Child," her mother professed, her eyes beginning to radiate. "Redeem us!"

Esmeralda followed her mother's instructions, turning down a long corridor faintly lit by torches that were beginning to fade out. Their flickering flames, fighting against their impending doom, casted an eerie glow against the stone walls. She wasn't sure if that made her feel more empowered or nervous.

The evening had been a celebration of the King's latest victory against an enemy that apparently was of some importance. To her, she couldn't care less. Now, all was silent. The drunken fools had returned to their quarters to sleep off the wine. She was hoping the King had done the same or else the plan would fail. Taking a deep breath, she approached the door to his chambers her mother had said would be his.

"Begging your pardon, Your Grace!" she exclaimed after opening it and seeing him standing in his nightshirt beside the bed. "I must have mistaken the directions to my sleeping quarters," she said, covering her eyes with her hand and doing the best acting job she could muster. "I am a guest of the Queen."

"Hmm," he murmured suspiciously, looking over to her. "I don't recall seeing you at the banquet."

"Well, I'm not much for crowds, Your Grace," she replied, keeping her head down. "But, the queen insisted that I come. Actually, I was occupying my time in your library."

"I hope you found it satisfactory," he replied, intrigued by her. "Come closer."

"It is quite a collection, yes," she said moving out of the shadows and into the light casted by the bedside candles. "You don't recognize me, do you?" she asked, drawing her sword from beneath her gown.

"That is not a toy, little girl," he growled. "I shall have your head for this!"

"I am told I resemble my mother," she continued. "The one you raped and nearly beat to death after you murdered my sister!"

"No... It can't be!" he hesitated to say before coming to the realization of who she was.

"Oh, but it is," she replied, spinning the sword in her hand to demonstrate her skills. "And you're right, this is not a toy."

"Guards!" the King called out.

"Hahaha! Your Queen has relieved them of their duties for tonight," Esmeralda laughed. "But if you insist... Guards!" she yelled. "Guards, please help the King!"

Silence prevailed.

"So you see... It is only you and I."

"What do you want?" the King spat.

"Well, to kill you of course," Esmeralda answered. She could see the beads of sweat accumulating on his forehead as he stood motionless, eyeing her with contempt.

"Damn you!" he yelled lunging for his own sword at rest against the stone wall behind him. Within a second, before the King could even reach for it, it was sailing through the air and into Esmeralda's outstretched hand. "You're a witch!" he exclaimed, spinning back around to her.

"Correct, and you would have lost anyway," she acknowledged, dropping his sword to the stone floor beside her with a loud metal clang. "You're making this much too difficult," she said, extending her free hand and dropping his sword to his knees purely by will. "Time to die," she declared, lowering her blade to his throat. "You will see the wisdom in it."

"How can I see anything if I'm dead?" he questioned.

"It will be said that you took your own life... a man of God repenting from his own sins. A King of a Kingdom. You will be a martyr and that's much more than you deserve."

"Please, I beg you," he whimpered.

"Beg all you want," she returned, pulling back on her sword to send it into motion and slicing a fatal gash across his neck.

*...moments later...*

"It is done," Esmeralda said, arriving back outside to the castle walls and wiping the blood from her sword on her dress as she approached her awaiting mother.

"You have done well," she smiled.

"This belongs to you," Esmeralda said, offering her sword as she held it out across the palms of her hands. "You are the true blade of the sisterhood, Your Majesty."

"And I shall rule this kingdom in the name of witchcraft," her mother hailed, accepting it.



RON GEORGE

Available at  
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Elizabeth Franklin  
A Witch's Tale

A bright sun shining in a clear blue sky, with a silhouette of a tree and yellow flowers in the foreground.

Grimoire

Summer  
Solstice

The Summer Solstice - the midpoint of the year, the sun at it's highest and strongest, and the daylight at it's longest - before we descend (hopefully slowly!) in to Winter again.

The Earth is currently abundant with fertility and flowers, and it's a time of celebration and joy. So before the Holly King takes his reign, here's a few simple ways to celebrate and honour the Goddess and the Sun King this Litha.

## BONFIRES

I'm pretty sure most pagan holidays recommend a bonfire as part of your celebrations! But fire is the power of life and an essential element with which any good witch works. So, prepare a feast, gather friends and family and have a Solstice fire - dance, play music, bang drums and sing - and now we are finally allowed to gather in gardens, maybe invite your neighbours! They might not be familiar with the Solstice - or they may just surprise you! But welcome in a guest or two to join in the celebrations, share the joy and happiness that summer brings with others.



## FLOWERS

Bring in wild flowers, or buy some flowers to decorate your house, your altar - even yourself! Make flower crowns with the children or with friends, and enjoy the bright vivid colours and beauty of our flower allies. Afterwards, you could dry them or press them between the pages of books (line with parchment paper if you don't want pollen smears on your pages!) to use as decorations or in spellwork.

Dried flowers can also be bound in herb bundles for smoke cleansing, or mixed with bath salts for a ritual bath.

## HONEY

June's full moon is often called the Honey Moon - and you can celebrate with the honey-based drink, Mead. This is available in several places online and is sometimes found in supermarkets.

If alcohol isn't your thing, you can use honey in your tea and coffee as an alternative to sugar, or look online for a Solstice honey cake recipe for your celebrations.

Honey and milk are also a great offering for your altar - be it to spirit, The Lord and Lady, or to your personal deities. You can also leave a bowl outside for the Fey as an offering - beneath a tree in your garden is ideal. Be sure to return it to the earth before the milk sours upon your altar!

Celebrate this gift from the bees and thank them by planting bee friendly plants in your garden - my favourites are lavender, ox-eye daisy, poppies and sunflowers.



# Summer Reading List

## OUR BEST WITCHY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR SUMMER BOOK LIST!

### THE SACRED TREE GLENNE KINDRED

These hand written, hand bound books are a must have for any witch or pagan bookshelf. The art and magick pours from every page. The Sacred Tree is my favourite of this very affordable, very beautiful collection.

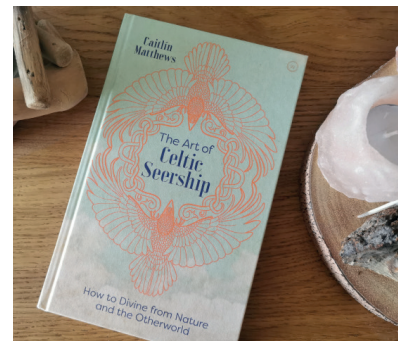
*Available directly from*  
[www.glenniekindred.co.uk](http://www.glenniekindred.co.uk)



### THE ART OF CELTIC SEERSHIP CAITLIN MATTHEWS

I love Caitlin Matthews books and work - and this is no exception. Packed full of knowledge and beautifully designed, I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book as well as holding it in my hands!

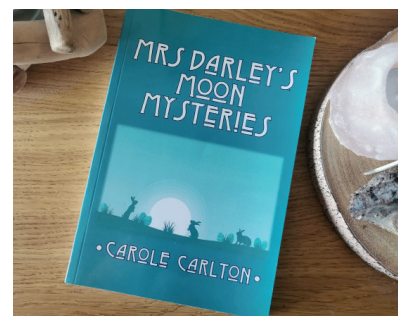
*Available directly from*  
[www.hallowquest.org.uk](http://www.hallowquest.org.uk)



### MRS DARLEY'S MOON MYSTERIES CAROLE CARLTON

Carole weaves her marvellous storytelling with in-depth moon magick in this wonderful book. Follow the author on their journey with Mrs Darley, their neighbor when she lived in Cornwall during the 1990's. A delightful book full of first hand experience combined with witch wisdom.

*Available directly from*  
[www.arcanus.co.uk](http://www.arcanus.co.uk)





# Solstice

# Blessings

An early golden dawn  
Peace, but for the waking birds  
The slow chime of the bluebell  
The prostrate fern uncurls  
And reaches for the heavens

An altar of soft moss  
Incense of earth, of holiness  
My church has no walls to speak of  
With unwashed feet upon the soil  
My hands find sacred ground

To reach a stillness, only found  
Right here, amongst the trees  
Divine light, distilled by leaves  
And dew dropped blooms of summer  
Who bow their heads in reverie

Beneath a choir of calling birds  
A congregation of creatures  
Called, in Her creation, known  
The flat foot hare and fenny snake  
The five toe toad and rasping crake

Behold the branch and blood red berry  
The arms of trees, ripe  
With knowing fruit  
Hung heavy, within arms reach  
For the waiting tongue of  
Those who seek



★  
WITCH  
Magazine

# The alternative Gift Shop Based on the Isle of Portland

10% OFF  
ENTER  
CODE  
SUNSHINE



Apothecary, Aromatherapy,  
Books, Crystals, Candles, Clothes,  
Herbal teas, Handmade Inks,  
Tarot & oracle cards, Mead, Jewellery,  
wax Melts, Steam Punk,  
workshops, Courses & Events

**PORTLANDMAGIC.ONLINE**

Proud Stockists of:  
Venepia Publications Ltd  
Ginger Fire Press  
Tarn & Moon Herbal Teas,  
Bramble & Bone Inks and Incense  
Honour Your Flow

8/9 Easton  
Shopping  
Centre,  
Portland.Dorset  
DT5 1EB



**DHEMIAH**

**Fantasy Artist & Channeled Art**

**[www.dhemiah.com](http://www.dhemiah.com)**

**<https://www.etsy.com/shop/RaggleTaggleFaeries>**

*MAGICK PORTALS  
TO OTHER WORLDS*



WITCH  
Magazine

*For previous issues & information on submissions visit*

**WWW.WITCHZINE.CO.UK**

*Find us on  
Facebook.com/thewitchmagazine  
Instagram @\_witchzine*