

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america

****Her Hidden Children: The Rise of Wicca and Paganism in America****

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america is a fascinating story of spiritual awakening, cultural transformation, and the reclaiming of ancient wisdom in a modern world. Over the past century, a significant shift has occurred in the religious landscape of the United States, as more individuals have turned toward Wicca and various forms of Paganism. These spiritual paths, once relegated to the fringes and often misunderstood, have blossomed into vibrant communities filled with diversity, creativity, and deep reverence for nature.

If you've ever wondered how Wicca and Paganism emerged and flourished in American soil, this exploration will shed light on their origins, cultural significance, and the people—her hidden children—who have nurtured these traditions in the shadows until they could step into the light.

The Origins of Wicca and Paganism in America

Wicca, often considered a modern pagan religion, has roots that trace back to mid-20th century Britain, where Gerald Gardner popularized it in the 1950s. Yet, the seeds of pagan spirituality in America stretch far deeper, connected to indigenous beliefs, European folk traditions, and the occult revival movements of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

When Wicca crossed the Atlantic, it found fertile ground in the countercultural movements of the 1960s and 70s. Alongside the rise of environmentalism, feminism, and alternative lifestyles, Wicca and other Pagan paths offered a spiritual framework that resonated with those seeking connection to the earth, empowerment, and a sense of mystery beyond mainstream religions.

The Influence of the Occult and New Age Movements

Before Wicca's arrival, American interest in occultism and esoteric spirituality had already been growing. The Theosophical Society, Spiritualism, and later, the New Age movement, paved the way for exploring alternative spiritualities. These movements emphasized personal experience, mystical knowledge, and reverence for ancient wisdom—concepts that are central to Wiccan and Pagan practices.

This cultural backdrop created a welcoming environment for “her hidden children”—those who felt called to embrace these ancient paths but kept their beliefs private due to societal stigma or misunderstanding.

Her Hidden Children: The People Behind the Movement

The phrase “her hidden children” poetically captures the Wiccan and Pagan practitioners who historically faced marginalization. For decades, many kept their faith secret, fearing discrimination or persecution. Unlike more established religions, Wicca and Paganism often lack centralized institutions, making community-building a grassroots effort fueled by passionate individuals.

Early Pioneers and Community Builders

Figures like Doreen Valiente, Raymond Buckland, and Starhawk played crucial roles in shaping American Wicca. They not only adapted British Wiccan traditions but also infused them with uniquely American elements—such as a stronger emphasis on environmental activism and social justice.

These pioneers organized covens, wrote books, and created rituals that helped thousands find a spiritual home. Their work laid the foundation for the thriving Pagan communities seen today.

The Role of Women and Feminism

Wicca and many Pagan paths have historically embraced the divine feminine, celebrating goddesses alongside gods, and offering women spiritual authority in ways that traditional religions often denied. This focus attracted many women during the feminist waves of the 20th century, who found empowerment and healing through these practices.

In this sense, “her hidden children” also refers to the many women who reclaimed their spiritual voices through Wicca and Paganism, transforming personal growth into collective liberation.

Why Wicca and Paganism Are Growing in America

The rise of Wicca and Paganism is not just a cultural curiosity; it reflects deeper societal shifts. Here are some reasons why these spiritual paths continue to attract followers:

A Connection to Nature in a Digital Age

As urbanization and technology dominate modern life, many people feel disconnected from the natural world. Wicca and Paganism’s reverence for the earth, seasons, and cycles provides a spiritual antidote to this alienation. Practitioners engage in rituals honoring the

solstices, equinoxes, and phases of the moon, fostering a tangible relationship with nature's rhythms.

Embracing Diversity and Individuality

Unlike organized religions with rigid doctrines, Pagan paths often emphasize personal experience and eclecticism. This flexibility allows practitioners to tailor their spirituality to their own beliefs and values, making it especially appealing to younger generations seeking authenticity and inclusivity.

Community and Belonging

While Paganism includes solitary practitioners, many find joy in joining covens or groves, forming supportive communities that celebrate shared rituals and values. These groups often provide safe spaces for exploring identity, sexuality, and spirituality without judgment.

Modern Practices and Celebrations

Understanding the rituals and celebrations of Wicca and Paganism offers insight into why these traditions resonate so deeply.

The Wheel of the Year

One of the most distinctive features of many Pagan traditions is the Wheel of the Year—a cycle of eight festivals marking the changing seasons. These include Samhain, Beltane, Yule, and others, each rich with symbolism and communal celebration.

Magic and Ritual

Magic in Wicca is often defined as the art of causing change through will and ritual. It's not about superstition but about intention, meditation, and connection to natural energies. From casting circles to invoking deities, rituals serve as tools for spiritual growth and healing.

Tools and Symbols

Wiccan and Pagan practitioners often work with tools like athames (ritual knives), pentacles, chalices, and candles. These items hold symbolic power and help focus spiritual

energy during ceremonies.

Challenges and Misconceptions Facing Her Hidden Children

Despite growing acceptance, Wicca and Paganism still face misconceptions and challenges in America.

Misunderstanding and Stereotypes

Popular media has often portrayed witches and Pagans negatively, associating them with evil or dark magic. This stigma can discourage newcomers and contribute to discrimination.

Religious Freedom and Legal Recognition

While the First Amendment protects religious freedom, Wiccans and Pagans have sometimes struggled for equal recognition in public institutions, such as the right to perform legally recognized weddings or have their symbols displayed in cemeteries.

Internal Diversity and Debate

Wicca and Paganism are not monolithic; they encompass a wide spectrum of beliefs and practices. This diversity can sometimes lead to debates about authenticity, cultural appropriation, and the commercialization of spirituality.

Looking Ahead: The Future of Wicca and Paganism in America

The story of “her hidden children” is far from over. As society continues to evolve, so too will these spiritual paths. Increasingly, Paganism intersects with environmental activism, social justice, and interfaith dialogue, broadening its impact.

For those curious about exploring Wicca or Paganism, the path often begins with reading, attending local gatherings, or connecting online. Respectful curiosity and open-mindedness are key to appreciating the rich tapestry of beliefs and practices that make up this dynamic spiritual landscape.

In many ways, the rise of Wicca and Paganism in America is a testament to the enduring

human desire to find meaning, community, and harmony with the world. “Her hidden children” have stepped out from the shadows—into the light of recognition, respect, and renewed spiritual vitality.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Her Hidden Children: The Rise of Wicca and Paganism in America'?

'Her Hidden Children' explores the historical development, cultural significance, and social impact of Wicca and Paganism as religious movements in America.

Who is the author of 'Her Hidden Children' and what is their background?

The book is written by Chas S. Clifton, a scholar and practitioner who specializes in the study of contemporary Paganism and Wicca in the United States.

How does 'Her Hidden Children' explain the origins of Wicca in America?

The book traces Wicca's origins from its roots in mid-20th century England, particularly through figures like Gerald Gardner, and its subsequent adaptation and growth within the American cultural and religious landscape.

What role does feminism play in the rise of Wicca and Paganism according to the book?

'Her Hidden Children' highlights feminism as a key influence, showing how Wicca and Paganism provided empowering spiritual alternatives for women during the cultural shifts of the 1960s and beyond.

How has the perception of Paganism and Wicca changed in American society over time?

The book details a shift from marginalization and misunderstanding to increased acceptance and visibility, with Paganism and Wicca becoming recognized as legitimate spiritual paths.

Does 'Her Hidden Children' address the diversity within Pagan and Wiccan communities?

Yes, the book discusses the wide variety of beliefs, practices, and traditions within Pagan and Wiccan communities, emphasizing their pluralistic and decentralized nature.

What impact has 'Her Hidden Children' had on the academic study of Paganism in America?

'Her Hidden Children' is considered a seminal work that has helped legitimize the academic study of Paganism and Wicca, providing detailed historical context and sociological insight.

Additional Resources

Her Hidden Children: The Rise of Wicca and Paganism in America

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america is a phenomenon that has quietly yet steadily transformed the religious landscape of the United States over the past several decades. Often misunderstood and marginalized, these spiritual paths rooted in nature worship, polytheism, and ancient traditions have found a growing number of adherents seeking alternatives to mainstream religious institutions. This article explores the historical context, sociocultural factors, and ongoing developments behind the resurgence of Wicca and Paganism in America, shedding light on their significance as “her hidden children” — those belief systems emerging from obscurity into broader public awareness.

Tracing the Origins: Wicca and Paganism in America

The term "her hidden children" metaphorically reflects the way Wicca and Paganism, once relegated to the fringes of spirituality, have gradually gained visibility and legitimacy. Wicca, in particular, traces its modern origins to the mid-20th century, largely credited to Gerald Gardner, a British civil servant who popularized the practice in the 1950s. From its UK roots, Wicca crossed the Atlantic, where American practitioners adapted and expanded its principles.

Paganism, a broader category that encompasses Wicca alongside other earth-centered and polytheistic faiths, has deep historical roots but saw a marked revival in the United States beginning in the 1960s and 1970s. This revival coincided with the countercultural movements that questioned institutional authority and championed personal spirituality. The rise of Wicca and Paganism in America reflects not only a search for spiritual authenticity but also a challenge to dominant religious paradigms.

Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the rise of these spiritual movements requires situating them within the broader American religious and cultural landscape. The mid to late 20th century was a period of religious diversification in the U.S., with increased interest in Eastern religions, New Age practices, and alternative spiritualities. The feminist movement also played a

critical role, as many women found empowerment in Wicca's reverence for the Goddess and its emphasis on balance between masculine and feminine divine forces.

Simultaneously, the environmental movement sparked renewed appreciation for nature, which resonates strongly with Pagan values of earth stewardship and seasonal cycles. This cultural shift created fertile ground for "her hidden children" — Wicca and Paganism — to grow beyond secretive covens into more public communities, festivals, and educational efforts.

Demographics and Growth Patterns

The rise of Wicca and Paganism in America is supported by quantitative data reflecting steady growth. According to surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center and other religious studies organizations, the number of Americans identifying as Pagan, Wiccan, or related paths has increased significantly over the past few decades. Estimates suggest there are several hundred thousand adherents nationwide, with concentrations in urban and progressive regions such as the Pacific Northwest, California, and parts of the Northeast.

Demographically, these spiritual paths tend to attract younger adults, women, and individuals dissatisfied with traditional religious institutions. The inclusive and decentralized nature of Pagan and Wiccan communities allows for diverse expressions of belief and practice, appealing to people from various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Features of Wicca and Modern Paganism

Central to understanding why "her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america" continues is an examination of the core features that define these faiths:

- **Polytheism and Nature Worship:** Unlike monotheistic religions, Wicca and Paganism often honor multiple deities, frequently personifying natural elements and forces.
- **Ritual and Magic:** Ritual celebrations of seasonal festivals (Sabbats) and lunar cycles (Esbats) are key components, alongside practices involving magic, seen as a natural force rather than supernatural manipulation.
- **Decentralization:** There is no central authority or single dogma. Individual practitioners or covens interpret beliefs and rituals in ways meaningful to them.
- **Emphasis on Personal Spiritual Experience:** Autonomy and direct connection with the divine or nature are prioritized over institutional mediation.

These characteristics contribute to the appeal of Wicca and Paganism, particularly in an era when many seek spirituality outside conventional religious frameworks.

Challenges and Misconceptions

Despite its growth, the rise of Wicca and Paganism in America faces significant challenges, including persistent social stigma and misunderstanding. Popular culture has often portrayed these religions through sensationalized or inaccurate lenses, associating them unfairly with occultism, devil worship, or criminal activity. Such misconceptions have contributed to discrimination and sometimes legal difficulties, particularly in schools and workplaces.

Moreover, the decentralized nature of these faiths can result in fragmentation and inconsistency in teachings, which some critics argue undermines cohesion and public recognition. Internal debates over authenticity, cultural appropriation, and commercialization also complicate the movement's trajectory.

Social Impact and Community Building

Despite these obstacles, “her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america” has fostered strong, vibrant communities characterized by inclusivity and activism. Many Pagan and Wiccan groups engage actively in social justice, environmentalism, and interfaith dialogue. These efforts have helped to normalize their presence and educate the broader public.

Events such as Pagan Pride Day and various spiritual festivals provide safe spaces for practitioners to gather openly, celebrate their traditions, and raise awareness. Online platforms and social media have further accelerated the spread of knowledge and connection among practitioners worldwide.

Comparative Analysis: Wicca, Paganism, and Mainstream Religions

While Wicca and Paganism share some thematic elements with mainstream religions—such as ritual, community, and moral frameworks—they diverge significantly in theology and structure. Unlike Christianity, Judaism, or Islam, these paths do not rely on sacred texts with fixed interpretations. Instead, they emphasize fluidity and personal experience.

This flexibility can be both an advantage and a disadvantage. It allows for adaptation to contemporary issues and personal needs but can also lead to challenges in establishing a unified identity or broader societal acceptance. In contrast, mainstream religions benefit from long-standing institutional support and cultural entrenchment.

The Role of Media and Literature

The proliferation of books, documentaries, and online content about Wicca and Paganism has played a pivotal role in their rise. Influential authors such as Starhawk and Margot Adler have contributed to demystifying these faiths through accessible writings that blend personal narrative, scholarship, and spiritual guidance.

Media portrayals have slowly shifted from negative stereotypes to more nuanced and respectful representations, reflecting and encouraging the growing legitimacy of these spiritual paths.

Future Trajectories and Emerging Trends

Looking ahead, the rise of Wicca and Paganism in America appears poised to continue, fueled by ongoing societal trends toward pluralism, environmental consciousness, and individual spirituality. Younger generations, in particular, show openness to exploring multiple traditions or creating syncretic practices.

Technology will likely play an increasing role in community-building and education, enabling greater visibility and support networks for practitioners. However, the movement will need to navigate challenges related to public perception, internal diversity, and cultural sensitivity.

The story of “her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america” is far from complete. As these faiths evolve and interact with broader cultural currents, they offer a compelling example of how ancient traditions can find new life in modern society, reshaping the spiritual map of the nation.

[Her Hidden Children The Rise Of Wicca And Paganism In America](#)

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Her Hidden Children
Chas Clifton, 2006 A history of wicca and neopaganism in the United States focusing on the post-WW II period.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Re-riting Woman Kristy S. Coleman, 2009-03-16 Re-riting Woman presents the first in-depth ethnographic study of Dianic Wicca. Its subject, Circle of Aradia, is a branch of the religion based in the Los Angeles area. This religion-of, by, and for women-conceives the Divine as exclusively female, and has infused feminism into Wicca worldwide. Kristy S. Coleman combines ethnography with theory to present a full account of what Dianic Witches' lived practice looks like and what it means. The theorist of focus, Luce Irigaray, asserts that women must reclaim their own space and imagine the Divine as female to achieve full emancipation. Moreover, Irigaray's critical analysis of Western culture creates a subtext that clarifies what is at stake in this practice. Thick description of seasonal rituals dispels fears and stereotypes about Wicca, and offers readers a comforting familiarity and shared healing. Coleman employs ritual theory to suggest why and how these rites wield such meaning-altering possibilities.

Practitioners' statements that describe a shift in worldview and self-conception elicit Coleman's proposal that Dianic rituals re(w)rite the valuation and meaning of woman. Dianic women's stories reveal both the transformative power of the tradition's practice and the organization's challenges related to power politics.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: The Greening of Religion Jonathan Leader Editor, 2018-02-27 Some have said the America is the most religious industrialized country in the world.⁶ The power of politics driven at least in part by religious concerns was demonstrated dramatically in the November election. But are people at this grassroots level- the ones most likely to suffer the consequences of political deafness regarding climate change- do they really understand the truth of the approaching environmental storm? If not, perhaps they will best learn new ways of thinking (and living) from those whom they hold in highest regard, their religious leaders, thinkers, teachers, writers and communicators. With *The Greening of Religion* we hope to have added to a life-saving public conversation, perhaps even started some conversations. And we hope those conversations will lead to actions which can shelter us from the inevitable, and perhaps turn us from calamity, even here at the last minute.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: The Cambridge Handbook of Western Mysticism and Esotericism Glenn Alexander Magee, 2016-04-18 Mysticism and esotericism are two intimately related strands of the Western tradition. Despite their close connections, however, scholars tend to treat them separately. Whereas the study of Western mysticism enjoys a long and established history, Western esotericism is a young field. The *Cambridge Handbook of Western Mysticism and Esotericism* examines both of these traditions together. The volume demonstrates that the roots of esotericism almost always lead back to mystical traditions, while the work of mystics was bound up with esoteric or occult preoccupations. It also shows why mysticism and esotericism must be examined together if either is to be understood fully. Including contributions by leading scholars, this volume features essays on such topics as alchemy, astrology, magic, Neoplatonism, Kabbalism, Renaissance Hermetism, Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, numerology, Christian theosophy, spiritualism, and much more. This Handbook serves as both a capstone of contemporary scholarship and a cornerstone of future research.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *The Study of Witchcraft* Deborah Lipp, 2007-10-01 *The Study of Witchcraft* is a compendium for Wiccans who want to deepen their understanding of their traditions. *The Study of Witchcraft* reaches beyond Wicca, delving into topics as diverse as history, psychology, divination, and lucid dreaming. *The Study of Witchcraft* introduces the reader to these topics, discussing each in depth and offering a one of a kind course of study including recommended reading, offering readers increasingly, solitary witches a self study guide and a rich resource. *The Study of Witchcraft* includes information for all sorts of Wiccans/ traditional, eclectic, radical, groups, and solitary. Wide ranging topics also include Western occultism, myth and folklore, meditation, astrology, the Burning Times, history, herbalism, and much more. Deborah Lipp opens the book with a discussion of the past 40 years of Wiccan history and talks about the diverse people who call themselves Wiccans. Then, throughout the study guide portion, she offers information tailored to different types of Wiccans. Essentially, *The Study of Witchcraft* is a veritable master's degree in Wicca in book form! * Written for the needs of the modern wiccan, who learns primarily by self study * Written by a noted and respected author, whose work is already used in study groups.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Radical Transformations in Minority Religions Beth Singler, Eileen Barker, 2021-11-21 All religions undergo continuous change, but minority religions tend to be less anchored in their ways than mainstream, traditional religions. This volume examines radical transformations undergone by a variety of minority religions, including the Children of God/ Family International; Gnosticism; Jediism; various manifestations of Paganism; LGBT Muslim groups; the Plymouth Brethren; Santa Muerte; and Satanism. As with other books in the Routledge/Inform series, the contributors approach the subject from a wide range of perspectives: professional scholars include legal experts and sociologists specialising in new

religious movements, but there are also chapters from those who have experienced a personal involvement. The volume is divided into four thematic parts that focus on different impetuses for radical change: interactions with society, technology and institutions, efforts at legitimation, and new revelations. This book will be a useful source of information for social scientists, historians, theologians and other scholars with an interest in social change, minority religions and 'cults'. It will also be of interest to a wider readership including lawyers, journalists, theologians and members of the general public.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Encyclopedia of Women in World Religions Susan de-Gaia, 2018-11-16 This reference offers reliable knowledge about women's diverse faith practices throughout history and prehistory, and across cultures. Across the span of human history, women have participated in world-building and life-sustaining cultural creativity, making enormous contributions to religion and spirituality. In the contemporary period, women have achieved greater equality, with more educational opportunities, female role models in public life, and opportunities for religious expression than ever before. Contemporaneously with this increased visibility, women are actively and energetically engaging with religion for themselves and for their communities. Drawing on the expertise of a range of scholars, this reference chronicles the religious experiences of women across time and cultures. The book includes sections on major religions as well as on spirituality, African religions, prehistoric religions, and other broad topics. Each section begins with an introduction, followed by reference entries on specialized subjects along with excerpts from primary source documents. The entries provide numerous suggestions for further reading, and the book closes with a detailed bibliography.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *Cults and New Religions* Douglas E. Cowan, David G. Bromley, 2015-04-27 This unparalleled introduction to cults and new religious movements has been completely up-dated and expanded to reflect the latest developments; each chapter reviews the origins, leaders, beliefs, rituals and practices of a NRM, highlighting the specific controversies surrounding each group. A fully updated, revised and expanded edition of an unparalleled introduction to cults and new religious movements Profiles a number of the most visible, significant, and controversial new religious movements, presenting each group's history, doctrines, rituals, leadership, and organization Offers a discussion of the major controversies in which new religious movements have been involved, using each profiled group to illustrate the nature of one of those controversies Covers debates including what constitutes an authentic religion, the validity of claims of brainwashing techniques, the implications of experimentation with unconventional sexual practices, and the deeply rooted cultural fears that cults engender New sections include methods of studying new religions in each chapter as well as presentations on 'groups to watch'

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: **Handbook of Contemporary Paganism** Murphy Pizza, James R. Lewis, 2009 Contemporary Paganism is a movement that is still young and establishing its identity and place on the global religious landscape. The members of the movement are simultaneously growing, unifying, and maintaining its characteristic diversity of traditions, identities, and rituals. The modern Pagan movement has had a restless formation period but has also been the catalyst for some of the most innovative religious expressions, praxis, theologies, and communities. As Contemporary Paganism continues to grow and mature, new angles of inquiry about it have emerged and are explored in this collection. This examination and study of contemporary Paganism contributes new ways to observe and examine other religions, where innovations, paradoxes, and inconsistencies can be more accurately documented and explained.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: **World Religions and Cults Volume 2** Bodie Hodge, 2016-05-01 Recognize and refute the Far East false religions What do these religions teach and why? How can a Christian be an effective witness for Jesus Christ when presented with ideas that are so different from a biblical perspective? How can these religions be refuted and biblical authority be the standard? This eye-opening second volume deals with many

Eastern religions like Hinduism, Taoism, New Age, Sikhism, Confucianism, Shinto, and Buddhism, as well as other pagan-based systems like Witchcraft, Voodoo, and Greek mythology (and many more)! This volume dives into these styles of religions and looks at their origins and their basic tenets as well as why they fall so short. Understanding the basic tenets of these religions helps the Bible believer see the flaws in these philosophies and discern how to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ while standing on the authority of the Bible.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Religions in Focus

Graham Harvey, 2016-04-08 Religions in Focus engages with the religious lives of members of some of the most significant religions today. It presents religions as contemporary ways of life that motivate and inspire people. Because religious people refer to sacred texts, honour the founders of their religions, learn from elders, or mould their lives according to authoritative teachings, Religions in Focus explains the relationship between tradition and contemporary practice. It offers an introduction to religions that is rooted in the best scholarship of the Study of Religions and provides a secure foundation for further study. A team of Religious Studies scholars from many countries, all skilled communicators about the contemporary religions with which they are thoroughly familiar, introduce what it means to live as a religious person today. They insist that however old or young these religions may be, what is most interesting is the ways in which people express them today. This is not a history of religions but an insightful introduction to living religions. A guide to further study and a companion website will point to ways of building on knowledge gained in studying this book, and applying skills developed in studying people's religious lives.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Witch's Book of Shadows

Jason Mankey, 2017-02-08 Discover the fascinating history, tradition, and modern uses of the Book of Shadows. This fun and easy-to-use guide provides essential information on creating and consecrating a Book of Shadows, as well as how to make it a part of your practice. Learn about the various types of Books of Shadows, their roles throughout history, and how they differ from regular spellbooks. Enjoy advice and excerpts from the grimoires of well-known modern and historical Witches. Explore a wide variety of ideas for what to include in your own Book of Shadows. Like a magical chart showing where you've been and where you're going, this wonderful tool is your personal guide to Witchcraft. Praise: This is the complete guide to the Book of Shadows...Mankey has given Wiccans a great gift.—John Beckett, blogger at Under the Ancient Oaks and author of The Path of Paganism This engaging, personal, and well-researched book explores a little-considered subject, the Book of Shadows, from every angle.—Yvonne Aburrow, author of All Acts of Love and Pleasure: Inclusive Wicca (Avalonia, 2014) If Books of Shadows are your bag, then look no further. Jason Mankey once again shows off his skill as a well-practiced Witch with this collection of stories, tips, and tricks about that most personal of magical tools: the Book of Shadows. A great addition to every Wiccan's shelf.—Jenna T. Beachy, author of The Secret Country of Yourself: Discover the Powerful Magick of Your Endless Inner World As always, Mankey brings insight and delight to the magical process. The Witch's Book of Shadows is an in-depth, yet approachable guidebook to all the elements of crafting your own Books of Shadows. Dive in and enjoy!—Lasara Firefox Allen, bestselling author of Jailbreaking the Goddess: A Radical Revisioning of Feminist Spirituality

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: Introduction to Pagan Studies

Barbara Jane Davy, 2007 Pagan Studies is maturing and moving beyond the context of new religious movements to situate itself in within of the study of world religions. Introduction to Pagan Studies is the first and only text designed to introduce the study of contemporary Paganism as a world religion. It examines the intellectual, religious, and social spheres of Paganism through common categories in the study of religion, which includes beliefs, practices, theology, ritual, history, and role of texts and scriptures. The text is accessible to readers of all backgrounds and religions and assumes no prior knowledge of Paganism. This text will also serve as a general introduction to Pagan Studies for non-specialist scholars of religion, as well as be of interest to scholars in the related disciplines of Anthropology, Sociology and Cultural Studies, and to students taking courses in Religious Studies, Pagan Studies, Nature Religion, New Religious Movements, and

Religion in America. The book will also be useful to non-academic practitioners of Paganism interested in current scholarship.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *After the New Age* Steven H. Propp, 2008-12-16 Its 1976, and Janet Tanhurst is a teenager who feels stifled by life with her strict mother, and the authoritarian church she must attend. Once out of high school, however, Janet is initiated into a fascinating new world of Astrology, Tarot cards, and Spirit Mediums. Next, she encounters the mysterious world of UFOs?a bewildering and sometimes frightening realm encompassing ancient astronauts, alien abductions, and shadowy government conspiracies. As the 1980s arrive, the Christian-dominated Piscean Age seems to be giving way to a long-anticipated Aquarian Age, with its hope for a coming revolution in higher consciousness. There are new paradigms in philosophy and science?promoting a holographic conception of the universe as engaged in a Cosmic Dance?along with the emergence of an introspective type of instrumental music known as New Age. With the help of bookstore owner Whisper Wynn, Janet investigates subjects such as reincarnation, quartz crystals, chakras and the human aura, in addition to an exciting new form of spiritual teaching called channeling. Following movement leaders including Shirley MacLaine and Marianne Williamson, studying enigmatic teachers like G.I. Gurdjieff and Carlos Castaneda, and inspired by medical doctors such as Deepak Chopra and Andrew Weil, she learns about Alternative Medicine and Holistic Health, as well as traditional health practices from China, Japan, and India. She assimilates wisdom from the ancient Celts along with rituals from contemporary Goddess worshippers, in formulating her own unique concept of the Divine that is within us all.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *Magic and Witchery in the Modern West* Shai Feraro, Ethan Doyle White, 2019-06-26 This book marks twenty years since the publication of Professor Ronald Hutton's *The Triumph of the Moon*, a major contribution to the historical study of Wicca. Building on and celebrating Hutton's pioneering work, the chapters in this volume explore a range of modern magical, occult, and Pagan groups active in Western nations. Each contributor is a specialist in the study of modern Paganism and occultism, although differ in their embrace of historical, anthropological, and psychological perspectives. Chapters examine not only the history of Wicca, the largest and best-known form of modern Paganism, but also modern Pagan environmentalist and anti-nuclear activism, the Pagan interpretation of fairy folklore, and the contemporary 'Traditional Witchcraft' phenomenon.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *The Rowman & Littlefield Handbook of Women's Studies in Religion*, Helen T. Boursier, 2021-06-15 The handbook offers interreligious and multicultural perspectives on women's studies in religion in conversation with specific contextualized gender-biased justice challenges. Contributing authors address 25 current and trending themes from their diverse socio-cultural-religious backgrounds. Themes move across the spectrum of women's studies in religion, blurring the boundaries beyond "religious studies" to include perspectives from ethics, philosophy, sociology, economics, and law as. Religious diversity addresses challenges for women's studies through the lens of Wicca, Buddhist, Asian Trans Pacific, Hinduism, Judaism, Muslima, and Christian. The handbook is practical, contemporary, and relevant as it moves theory to practical application in the section on challenging and changing system gender injustice with chapters on sexual violence and the #MeToo movement, femicide and feminicide, a Mohawk response to colonial dominion and violations to Indigenous lands and women, and a religio-politico witness for love and justice, include how to engage the theories of women's studies in religion in the public square through civic engagement to create empowerment for actual, practical change. It shows the future movement of the becoming of women's studies with chapters digital activism, reimagining women's mosque spaces online, minoritized sexual identities, and spiritual homelessness, and charges readers to see "hope now" by challenging and changing gender injustice.

her hidden children the rise of wicca and paganism in america: *Encyclopedia of Religious Controversies in the United States* Bill J. Leonard, Jill Y. Crainshaw, 2012-12-05 This book provides a thorough introduction to historical and contemporary issues in American religion,

tackling controversial hot-button topics such as abortion, Intelligent Design, and Scientology. Surveying key aspects of the controversial issues, persons, and religious groups of today, *Encyclopedia of Religious Controversies in the United States*, Second Edition is a thorough update and expansion of the first edition of this book. This two-volume work contains many new entries that reflect current 21st-century religious controversies. Written by a variety of scholars with varying specializations, the content covers major people, ideas, terms, institutions, groups, books, and events. The A-Z format allows for easy location of materials, a chronology of developments and events enables readers to trace the development of contentious topics over time, and a section of primary document excerpts gives readers further perspective on the issues.

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