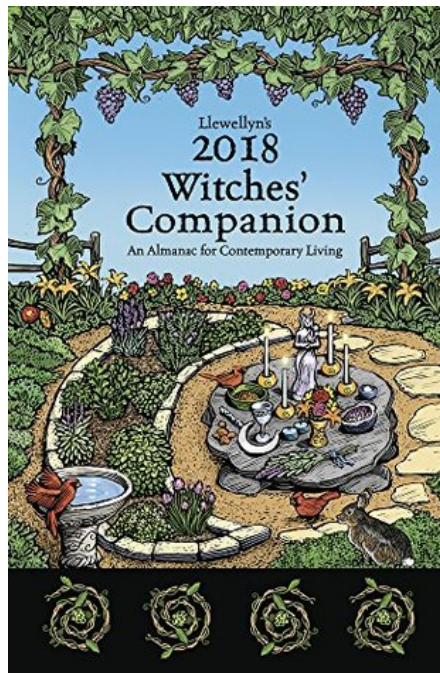




Llewellyn's 2018 Witches' Companion: An Almanac for Contemporary Living

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Llewellyn's 2018 Witches' Companion: An Almanac for Contemporary Living Details

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From Reader Review Llewellyn's 2018 Witches' Companion: An Almanac for Contemporary Living for online ebook

Dominika says

This is more of a periodical, with more long-form articles about a wide range of topics from more beginner friendly or crafting items, to more witchy history, to other practices. I generally found a lot of them to have good ideas but felt a little underwhelmed by some of the articles (the pagan mourning and color magic ones particularly). There were a few (the beginner one and the one on cultural appropriation) where it is a good place to lead people to (or give words when you see other people acting a bit too police-y), and I will try to incorporate some of the simple tips (the journaling and some of the crafty ones). I think my favorites were the broken Goddess and the history ones. It was simple, but a nice thing to spark ideas.

Cara says

There is an article in this book about cultural appropriation that I was particularly interested in. Imagine my disappointment when the author, rather than taking the opportunity to discuss the issue, mostly demurs about how she's being respectful, therefor the appropriation is okay. In addition, the author seems to have a very flimsy grasp on what cultural appropriation is and how it works.

Cultural appropriation is a neutral term that describes the taking of important aspects of one culture, removing them from their context, and using them for the benefit of someone not of that culture. So yes, that means that unless you are part of the culture your God/dess came from, you are appropriating that culture, no matter how respectful you feel you are being (and I think it's interesting the author considers her behavior respectful without asking a member of the culture whether they would agree).

The worst thing about this is that there is a conversation that needs to be had here. Wicca DOES culturally appropriate whether you like that fact or not, and it is something that should be confronted and wrestled with. There should be conversations had with people who know about and are part of these cultures and spiritual traditions, or historians and sociologists who study them, rather than just books and articles on the Internet. If someone is offended by your use of their God/dess in your worship, they are incredibly entitled to that offense, regardless of what you do in response to it.

This was an opportunity to open up a dialogue about the "history" Wicca likes to cling to as a justification for its rituals and actions and the potential harm that can cause cultures and especially people of color in the religion, and it was dropped in favor of making the author and people the author knows feel better about behavior they know and understand to be problematic.

To be clear, I am not condemning nor encouraging the culturally appropriative practices of Wicca - there is simply a discussion that NEEDS to happen, and this was a shamefully poor attempt at it.

milou ?? (grumpy hobbit) says

There was a lot of useful information in here and I adored all the little drawings

Adrian Brown says

The subtitle for this book is, "An Almanac for Contemporary Living," but I think it should be, "Various Conversations with Modern Practitioners About Modern Issues."

I am at a special place in my spiritual journey and have been reading almost everything about modern witchery that I can get my hands on. I was excited in the bookstore as I read the table of contents and saw articles about cultural appropriation, embracing the dark side, bug totems, color and crystal magic, and more. Unfortunately, most of the pieces I was looking forward to the most fell flat; the essays felt too much like, "this is how I do it, so I think you should try it," instead of deep discussions about the relevant information. All of this is not to say that I didn't enjoy parts of the book. The articles on embracing being broken, magic meditation, and clean eating, as well as little bits and pieces sprinkled throughout resonated with me. I also very much appreciated all of the black and white illustrations!

Alia Makki says

And then, when I thought that I could not be more beaten raw to my barest elements with hard knowledge, this books passes under my readership to console the sores and soften the hard edges.

Like a balm, *"Here you go, missus; something to fortify your faith in the Unknown and heal what dents your brain has had to endure in order to fit the hard things in life."*

BoozyBookworm says

A Good Companion

This book has a lot of good articles, ideas and opinions. It offers insight from various sources and writers and gives a unique viewpoint on relevant topics.

Cynthia says

There were certainly some good articles here, but none so profound as to cancel out a few really bad ones. The piece on cultural appropriation in particular read more like a rant on a subject the author didn't take the time to properly research. A guide to clean eating came off as borderline orthorexic. A few more were so laden with New Age buzzwords that they were hard to follow.

While this wasn't without some virtue of usefulness and entertainment, either the quality of Llewellyn annuals is going down or I'm getting way more critical of the content I consume. This almanac left me more frustrated than anything else, to be honest.
