

[Free read ebook] From Witch to Wicca

## From Witch to Wicca

*Leslie Ellen Jones*

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**Leslie Ellen Jones : From Witch to Wicca** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Witch to Wicca:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. interesting and different....By RavenI picked up this book because of its title. I thought it was another book about the history of witchcraft, and wicca. However, once into it, I quickly found out it wasn't.....my mistake. But, that doesn't mean this book is awful, its not. It just wasn't what I thought it would be (read between the covers a bit next time before buying, right???).Anyway, I found it very different from

other books about witchcraft in that it covers what people, through the ages, have felt witchcraft, and witches are. The author presents the most popular ideas/stereotypes of the witch, and his/her craft done mainly through the analysis of literature - mythology and folklore. However, it also examines the image of "witch" as presented through the works of movie makers. And so, the book turns out to be very different and interesting than others on the matter. It is presented in a very readable, and easy to understand format. Anyone can read this book and make sense of it. In the introduction of this book, the author states that, "This book is an outsider's view, based largely on textual sources, and filtered through my background as a mythologist and folklorist." She states that she is "not a witch, Wiccan or Pagan of any stripe." To those who know nothing, or very little about modern witchcraft and wicca, this info needs to be strongly remembered while reading this book, or else, you may fall into the trap of taking the authors every word as the literal truth about what modern witches and wiccans practice. Please be careful, here. There are no spells, no rituals, nor any other info of the sort in this book. It is purely about what people have envisioned witches to be through the lens of literature, film and some history. I recommend it to anyone if you want a different kind of read. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A history of what people think witches are... By a person who reads

In the introduction to this book the author writes "this book is not a history of witches or of witchcraft; there are plenty of those already. Instead, it is a history of what people think witches are. She also writes that she is "not a witch, Wiccan or Pagan" and that hers is "an outsider's view. Two themes that run throughout the book are "my religion vs. your witchcraft" and "men's magick (good) vs. women's magic (evil). the first professes the author's belief that people think of their own practices as religion while practices of "the other" are witchcraft. the second demonstrates the author's opinion that the magic of men is seen as beneficial while women's magic is often demonized. The first chapter "In the Beginning there was Magic" discusses shamanism. chapter two "Witches in Antiquity" talks about witches in ancient greek and roman literature. chapter three "The Daemonic Realms" discusses how deamons were split by chirstians into good angels and bad demons. with chapter four "Mabinogion, Merlin and Morgan" the title of the chapter is self-explanatory. "Burn Her"--chapter 5, is about the witchcraze (or the Burning Times) chapter six "Weird Sisters and Noble Wizards" discusses witchcraft in Shakspear's plays. "Who Needs Magic?"--chapter 7, is about the end of the witch hysteria and the rise of rationalism. chapter 8 "Witches Are So Last Century" covers gothic novels, Goethe's Faust, and Frank L. Baum's Oz books. "From Myth to Religion", chapter nine, covers Wicca. Chapter ten "From Salem to Sunnydale" is an overview of witches in movies and on tv (including early horror films, bewitched, sabrina the teen age witch, "the wiccer man" and buffy the vampire slayer). The conclusion talks about Harry Potter and fundamentalist christians. All in all its an enjoyable but light read.

The origins of modern witchcraft - Wicca - are shrouded in mystery and controversy. One thing is certain: until the 20th century, "witches" were almost universally viewed as threatening figures whose main aim was to steal fertility, yet modern Wiccans are devoted to respecting the forces of nature and cosmic balance. How did this change take place? "From Witch to Wicca" looks at popular beliefs about witches from classical times to the Enlightenment, drawing on new research on the connections between European witches, shamans and folk ideas about the supernatural world, and shows how modern Wicca's roots may be far different, and far older, than is commonly believed. In doing so, it explains what today's Wicca is all about- a modern religion that many people have seen portrayed on TV and in movies but which few understand.