

Dearest reader:

Thank you for picking up this book!

As you might already have guessed, this is a book about witches. Now, your mind might wonder to mysterious figures in cloaks, wicked women in pointy hats on broomsticks accompanied by black cats, or perhaps you think of Harry Potter and other fantasy- adventures. This book will not be that! Rather, this is a project about people. Real people, like you and me. The following five interviews are with real women who talk about their personal relationship with what they call witchcraft.

When starting this project back in 2019, I of course had no idea that it would be finished in lockdown, during a global pandemic! However, I did feel a strong urge to start something that involved networking and being socially active with new people- reaching out to individuals I might otherwise not dare to contact. I wanted to give these women's voices a visual platform, to lift them up and highlight them. I also hoped to, through the lens of witchcraft, explore trauma, healing, historical and modern-day political struggles, creativity, and sisterhood. Looking back, I feel grateful for listening to my intuition and focusing my first semester of my course at Glasgow School of Art almost entirely on networking and meeting witches, as I do not know when this type of first-hand research and spiritually satisfying connection-work will be possible again. I feel that the topics brought in this book are more relevant and important than ever to talk about now. According to the World Economic Forum, this pandemic is having a deep impact on women for example in the form of significantly increased burden of unpaid work (such as household, childcare, elderly care etc), as well as a sharp rise in gender-based violence because of the worldwide lockdown. Many of us have also struggled mentally and emotionally due to the pandemic and the lockdowns. I in no way think that this book can save anyone of change faulty systems, but maybe through reading these honest life stories, someone out there (maybe you, dear reader) can feel a little less alone. We need sisterhood, hope and, allow me to say it, magic to get through this and re-build our world and ourselves.

The interviews in this book were made in person, as well as over the phone, using zoom and e-mail. For privacy purposes I have used initials only, or symbols as aliases. An exception is my interview with Noelle Harrison and Becky Sweeney. I am truly grateful to everyone who helped make this book come to life! Special thanks to Pauline for her amazing layout, and to all witches daring to share their stories! Thanks to Nina for beautiful photos, to helpful GSA technicians and staff, and big thanks to Gillian for binding this book so beautifully!

Whether you believe in witchcraft or not, I hope that you can enjoy the text and visual elements within this object. My intention is not to force answers or to "make" you accept or reject anything discussed in these articles. I myself do not know what magic or witchery is, and I might never do. What I know for certain is this:

There is wilderness in life,
there is will and wonder,
and worldly powers.

There are women,
They are V.

Enjoy your reading and your powers,

Nadja xxx