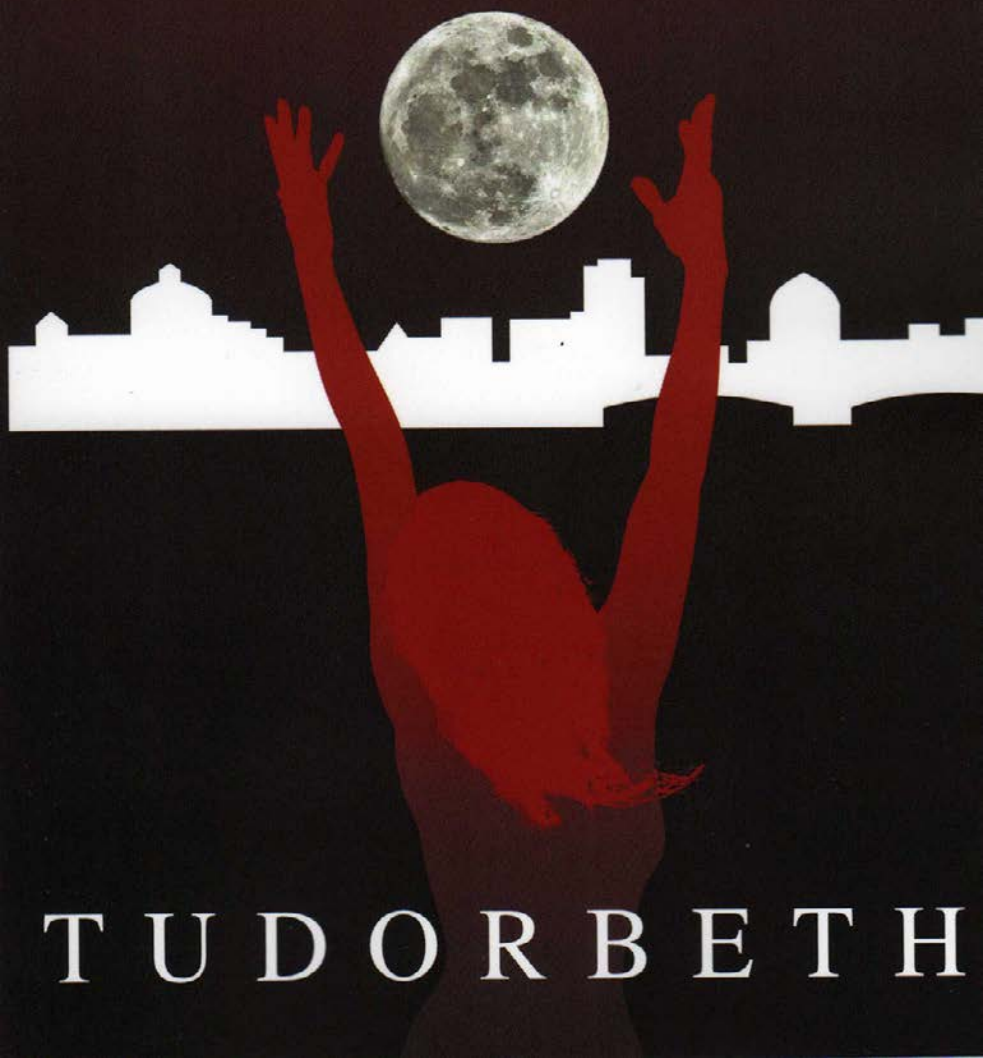


THE CRAFT IN THE CITY



TUDORBETH

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THE CRAFT IN THE CITY

Being a modern witch

by

Tudorbeth

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Majella, Rachel and Kirsty, Sisters three,
May you always have happiness and love.
So mote it be.

Also to Anna, my anam cara, a true and loyal friend who always
knows when to phone or send a card. May angels always be by
your side.

Are You A Witch?

Dear Reader,

If you have picked up this book then the Craft is calling you. If you like nothing better than being outdoors in a park or just feel happier in nature, then the Craft is seeking you. If you like crystals, homemade cures, helping people and animals and if you sometimes know who's `phoning as soon as it rings, then the Craft wants you!

Through this series of letters, the Craft and the magic within will be explored and released. You will come to realise that it has always been a part of you. Your day-to-day life has lived it and your yearly festivals have always celebrated it. The simplest approach to the Craft will be explored and shown here. The Craft is hidden but it is still here despite the trials of yesteryear.

The Craft is that which was once called witchcraft. The word 'witch' conjures up so many images and has so many meanings that it has become misunderstood, so its use will be limited here. The Craft was a tradition of healing, caring, and belief in magic. It is a belief that power comes from within. It was passed down through families - an oral tradition passed from mother to daughter, sister to brother, father to daughter, aunt to nephew, all to keep the tradition alive. The Craft is not meant to be difficult or challenging; it can mould its way into your lives with such simplicity that you will realise it was already a part of you.

The beliefs, traditions and practices which became a part of our ancestors' everyday lives are alive today just as they were then. There is a saying that something is alive for as long as someone remembers it. That is true of our beliefs and our ways. In these letters the knowledge will be passed on to you, and your questions answered. The old ways of the Craft can be adapted into a busy modern life with focus on the aspects of life that affect us now, such as changes in climate, recycling, the environment, and financial disarray.

Further, as the traditions are written down maybe our ways will not be entirely lost to history and, by adapting and changing, the Craft will survive as long as we do.

What is the Craft? What is Wicca? What does it mean to be a practitioner of the Craft? And more importantly what does it mean to be a witch in the twenty-first century? There are many answers.

In the beginning we did not call ourselves witches, the witch-hunters called us that! But let us break that down into facts. What we do know for certain is that history is written by those who won and those who ruled. However, in truth many records concerning those times of the witch trials and persecutions from the years 1300 - 1700 have been lost and what remains is vague, although there are many answers to the single simple question regarding the persecutions: why?

It is always wise to bear in mind that during those times the world was going through religious upheaval, new worlds were discovered and the ruling status quo was challenged. It is worth noting here in the first few pages that even though we have grown technologically and scientifically from those times, the general prejudice and suspicious attitude towards those who openly declare themselves as witches is still felt today.

Therefore, a word of warning to those who would like to tell colleagues and friends what you are and what you practise: it may be 2012 and the dawning of a new spiritual awakening, but those who openly practise the Craft can still lose their jobs and become the victims of ridicule. We may no longer be tortured and burned, but we can still feel pain!

To be a witch is to be in the service of nature. To respect and honour all plant, animal and human life as a practitioner of the Craft is to be a being of nature. We embrace all nature from the tiniest insect to the largest mammal. Everything has a purpose, everything has a need, and everything must be respected - even that which we fear. Our fears themselves must also be honoured. All feelings and fears are manifestations of the energy that flows through this world,

so do not run and hide but embrace them and use that energy to create a reality you want, using that strength within the power.

Magic is what the Craft tastes like. However, magic is not the hubble, bubble, toil and trouble of playwrights and special effects, the hocus pocus of camera, lights and action, but the belief in something else, something that is ancient and ingrained within this world. Every civilization, every culture, every people has a form of magic or belief in the possibility of magic. By reciting a few words and mixing a handful of herbs together we can get what we desire.

Through the power of positive thinking we can turn the tide of negativity and begin the process of good luck. However, the actual art of spell-weaving and the things that need to be put in place before you begin are what this book will show you.

One of the most important things to remember about being a practitioner of the Craft is that there is no textbook and no religious doctrine that you have to follow; but we do have the Wiccan Rede which is a must:

*“Ancestors of old, this is what’s told,
An it harm none, do what ye will,
Lest it return threefold.”*

This is a similar rule to the Christian concept of ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ (The Gospel of Luke 6:31). Further, Wicca has many characteristics in common with Buddhism, as it is a belief system that asks you to take responsibility for your own actions. You as an individual are solely responsible for your own actions and deeds. Moreover we believe that any action or deed, good or bad, will return threefold - worth thinking about if you are planning to get revenge on a boss or ex-lover!

Living in a city there are many people we meet every day who can enrage us, from the stifling commute to work to the pushing and tutting in the elevator up to the office. It’s tempting sometimes; but remember, even though in a city we are still in the service of nature and balance on all levels is required.