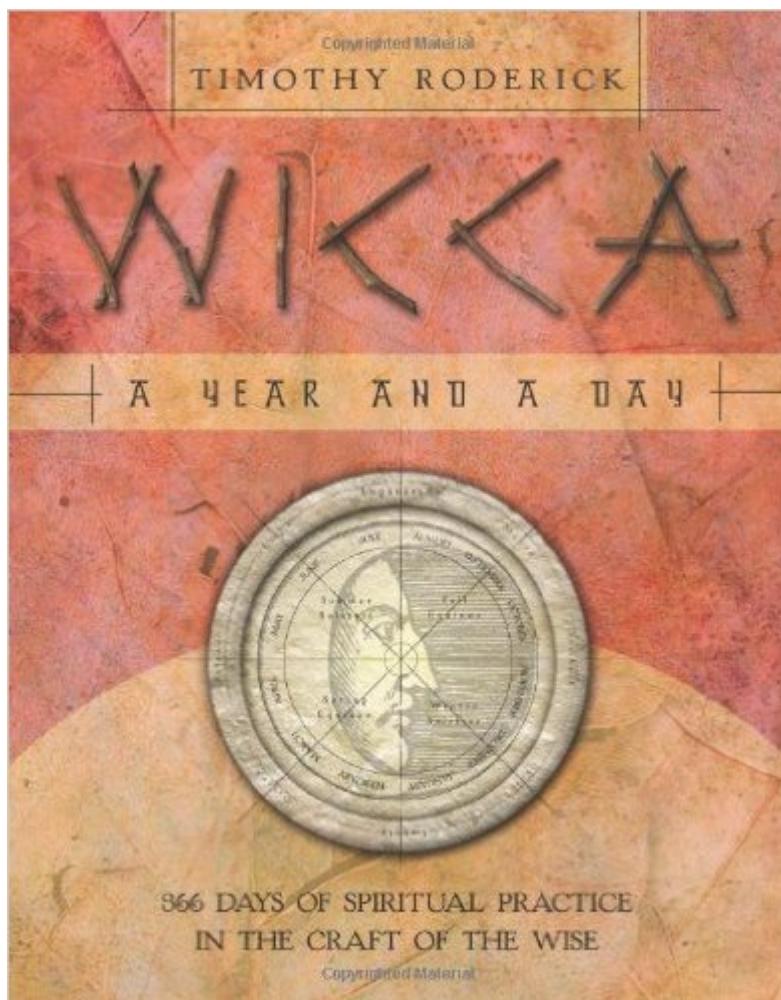


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Wicca: A Year And A Day: 366 Days Of Spiritual Practice In The Craft Of The Wise



Synopsis

There are no short-cuts to becoming a Witch. Traditionally, students take a year and a day to prepare for their initiation into the Craft. Based on this age-old custom, *Wicca: A Year and a Day* is a one-of-a-kind daily guide that introduces Witchcraft over a 366-day cycle. Ideal for solitary students, this intensive study course teaches the core content of Wiccan practice: the tides of time, the wonders of the seasons, the ways of herbs and magic, the mysticism of the Old Ones, and the inner disciplines of seers and sages. Daily lessons include exercises, Wiccan theology and lore, and discussions relating to circle work, magical correspondences, holidays, deities, tools, healing, and divination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a great introduction, but some things should be kept in mind. First off, this isn't a series of lessons in Wicca in general, it is a set of lessons within a specific, very traditional, view of Wicca. That's fine, so long as you know where the author's coming from. As such, I'd strongly, strongly recommend supplemental reading with this book - Cunningham/McLeland during the introductory lessons, Farrar during the section on the deities, Nichols/Campanelli during the lessons on the Sabbats, Lipp during the elemental and circle-casting chapters, and so on. A 'read during this month' section every thirty days would have improved this lesson plan immensely. Second, Mr. Roderick likes to include obscure things without explaining why. He includes sets of sigils to be carved on the magical tools without explaining why or what they represent. He gives chants in

obscure languages without providing meanings (including the infamous Bagabi chant, which is most likely gibberish written by a 16th century playwright for the sake of sounding cool, nothing more.) Third, Mr. Roderick has an overly strong fascination with certain specific essential oils - specifically rose and jasmine - which are some of the most expensive essential oils available on the market. Following his recipes would have cost hundreds of dollars when much cheaper alternative recipes are available. Do yourself a favor and buy a copy of Cunningham's 'Incense, Oils, and Brews' and 'Magical Aromatherapy' to go with this book, and use alternative recipes or formulate your own. Anyway, I DO recommend this book to anyone looking for a well-planned, organized approach to learning Wicca, but I recommend using it as a framework, supplemented with your own study and carefully, intelligently altering the exercises as you may find necessary.

I head a study group that uses this book. It's a great introduction, and set up so that you'll have a full closet by the end of the year. However, it does have its drawbacks. Some days are slow, or seemingly pointless. Other days you'll be asked to get up at 6 am or go out in the middle of the day, with no warning the day before. Other times you'll be asked to go through a whole formal ritual simply to "feel the wind" This is, in my opinion, a frivolous use of power and energy. Since the book is written so that you can start at any time. The lessons on the Wheel of the year are "smushed" together, and get tedious. It's hard to celebrate yule when your physical wheel is still in Mabon! This will also be an expensive endeavor. Luckily, I work at a pagan/herb shop that supplied the group with what it needed at a reasonable price, and the group members split more high priced items like oils. You will have a complete closet at the end of your year, but it will not come cheap. He also tends to ask the impossible (there is no such thing as "essential cucumber oil") and he doesn't reassure you that it is okay to make substitutions or skip certain things. I would recommend this book as a good reference book, but I wouldn't try to follow it exactly, or do everything it asks.

This book is almost a perfect guide for the beginner, because it provides daily exercises that introduce you to the Gods and Goddesses, the solar and lunar holidays, and general Wiccan philosophy. For someone like me who needs structure to keep them motivated, this book is really helpful. However, you should take Roderick's information with a grain of salt. I have caught a couple of factual errors in the first 50 pages, such as listing "Dianus" as one of the Horned God deities. Dianus is not a real, historical god but a composite of Celtic and other European pagan gods. He first appeared in Margaret Murray's "Witch-Cult in Western Europe", which was poorly researched and lumped all pre-Christian European religions together. I would recommend this book as an

exercise guide to teach you magical techniques, but you should do your own research if you want actual facts.

As the owner of a large pagan bookstore (Crone's Cupboard), and the High Priestess of Golden Thread Grove Church--ATC, I have had opportunities to read hundreds of Wiccan books and I would rate this one among the best. Over the past 20 years I have taught thousands of year-and-a-day students and I have some understanding of what that takes. Most books fall far short of accomplishing the task. Some teach technique, but lack wisdom. Some teach Wiccan ritual, but neglect the basic and solid psychological and mythological understandings of what the rituals mean and what they do. Timothy Roderick's "Wicca: A Year & A Day" has it all. He lays it out in a deceptively simple format using exercises that are easy to do and lessons that can be clearly understood. Before long, the reader has been touched and educated in technique, mythology, psychology and wisdom without even realizing it. This book has the ability to produce well-rounded and powerful witches capable of wielding the magicks without endangering themselves or others. I enthusiastically recommend this book to anyone wishing to go deeper in the Craft.

I agree with Spooky Kitty; check Roderick's facts on some things. His views that a circle is not meant to contain spiritual or magical energy counters just about everything I've ever been taught or read. Also -- and this may be strictly a typographical error -- he shows the same direction for invoking Air and invoking Water, and the two elements are reversed on the elemental Pentagram. Air should be on the left; water on the right, according to Donald Michael Kraig's "Modern Macgick." And one of its huge lacks is a table of contents. The index isn't sufficiently specific to be of much use. On the other hand, I thoroughly enjoyed the suggestions for different ways to celebrate each Sabbat, and the various ways to work with the Elements and Elementals. I thought his introduction to Tarot and the Runes were very good. The book is thoughtfully done, and if it weren't for some of the errors I would give it four stars rather than three.

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