

Diana Rajchel, Author  
<http://dianarajchel.com>

## Bio

### *About Diana Rajchel*



Diana Rajchel (she/her) has a degree in mass communications from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and a lifetime of experiences ranging from the strange to the stultifying. Many of those life extremes appear in her written work.

She entered the realm of professional journalism by submitting editorials to the local newspapers in her region. Most with a liberal bent got published. At the time, she focused her efforts on such topics as the environment, voter mobilization, and universal healthcare; those old editorials appear centrist by today's standards. Her interests have shifted from the political to those of the more organic and spiritual healing. She has focused on pragmatic approaches to healing the spirit and creating order in life through witchcraft.

In 1999, Diana submitted a piece to Llewellyn Annuals about getting over your fear of starting a magical practice - and has continued to submit to the various publications and incarnations over the last two decades. In 2014 she published her first book, *Divorcing a Real Witch*, to construct a missing resource in the neopagan community. A year later, the Mabon and Samhain installments of the bestselling Llewellyn Sabbat Essentials series were released. In March of 2020, Llewellyn published *Urban Magick: a Guide for the City Witch*, which culminated her time working magic with the energy found mainly in urban environments. Her latest book, *Hex Twisting: Counter Magick Spells for the Irritated Witch*, is due for release in the fall of 2021.

Diana resides in both San Francisco, California, and Kalamazoo, Michigan. In San Francisco, she co-runs Golden Apple Metaphysical, a spiritual supplier startup with dear friend and business partner Nikki Jobin (she/her). In Kalamazoo, she lives with her partner Synty (they/them), their dog, and two to four of their children on any given day. She and Synty run a spiritual services agency, Sun and Earth metaphysical solutions, to assist people in overcoming spiritual obstacles.

Diana has also worked in radio, ran two volunteer organizations, worked for an International Student Office in 2001, and ran a plus-size fashion blog called *Fat Chic*, a much-used resource for people who preferred not to run naked in the streets because of industrial and cultural bias about their size. She is passionate about all topics of the occult, with areas of expertise that focus on American and European folk magick, the tarot, and western herbalism.

Diana is represented by the Red Sofa Literary Agency.

<http://redsofaliterary.com>

## Books

### *Hex Twisting: Counter Magick Spells for the Irritated Witch*



Other occult books focus on general protection methods and the ethics of cursing. The mentality is usually “don’t get cursed and you won’t have a problem.” This, alas, does not always work. Hex Twisting gives you the steps to figure out if you’ve been cursed, and if you have, how to tell multiple curses apart, what methods were used, and what injuries were sustained. From figuring out whodunnit, to how to deal with the pettiest annoyances, and even how to take it to the mattresses when someone goes too far, you will find a cornucopia of tools for customizing provided frameworks to cover your back while shutting down the bastards trying to get you down. Sometimes it’s not a human hand giving trouble but a spirit of some form who is being a jerk. Included is how you lay down boundaries with the misbehaving liminal, as well as how to take stock of your spiritual trauma, some prevention methods, and real talk about what may be needed to recover.

#### *Excerpt from Hex Twisting*

People that intentionally send bad energy tend to fixate. For whatever reason, they want your attention. They want your time. The more time you spend fighting them, the more power they take from you, sapping the energy from your life. For whatever reason, they got loose from the bindings, they got past your cut and clear. They want a response, damn it, so you can give them one. Just make the answer to their call so bizarre it causes a mental shutdown.

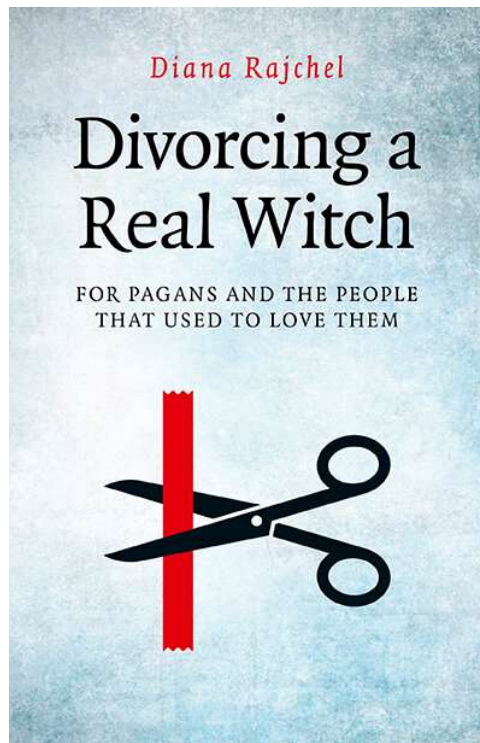
For this, we have confusion spells. I often add confusion elements to defensive workings. If someone can't focus well enough to reverse engineer my protections, my life is that much easier. Truly bizarre occurrences, harmless and exceptionally weird, are a great way to break someone's focus on you.

My default strategy for adding confusion to spells is to reach into the proverbial herb bag. Invariably, starting with poppy seeds as they are affordable, easy, and reliable in confusion work. Black and yellow mustard seeds also help; vinegar and red pepper can add an element of chaos.

\*For the recipe and detailed instructions, check out the confusion spell recipes. The only way you will likely get confused following the instructions in chapter 7 is if you spill the potion on yourself.

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## *Divorcing a Real Witch: for Pagans and the People that Used to Love Them*

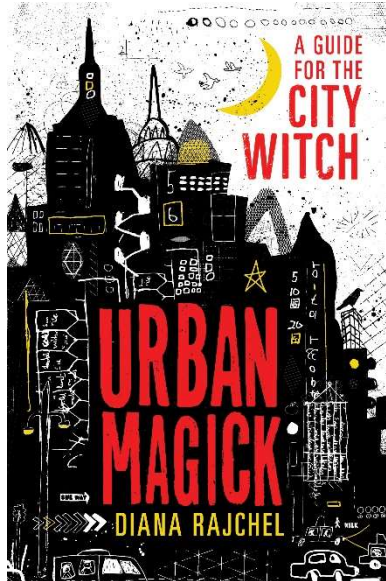


*Divorcing a Real Witch* addresses the painful emotional journey of divorce from a Wiccan perspective. Along with sharing her own experience, author Diana Rajchel solicits the experiences and advice of other Pagans on how to handle this life passage.

### *Endorsements*

*Divorcing a Real Witch* fills a huge gap in the resources that Witches and Pagans have in the areas of family and relationships. This book is not just the story of an individual, but a practical and spiritual companion for what is truly a transformational journey.

David Salisbury, author of *The Deep Heart of Witchcraft* and *Teen Spirit Wicca*.



## *Urban Magick: a Guide for the City Witch*

Excerpt From *Urban Magick: A Guide For The City Witch*

### Chapter 1: What is Urban Magick?

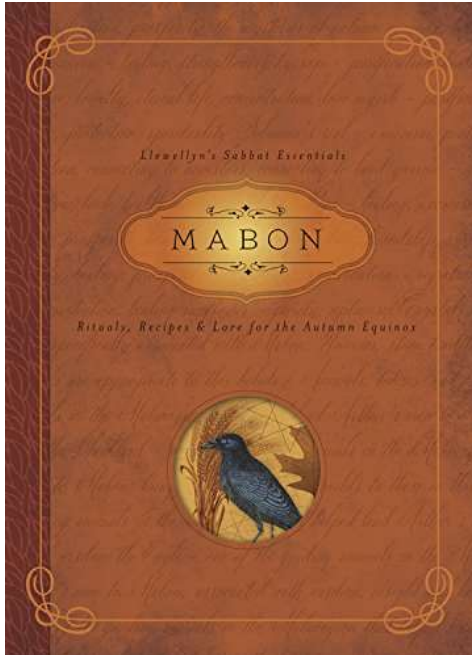
Urban magick has three aspects: working with the spirit of a given city, tapping the energy generated by a city for your own use, and using energy you generate to benefit the city spirit and your neighbors. Aside from believing in the metaphysical, urban magick has no religious framework, and the practice of it at this point is mostly through practitioners that work magick solitary or with one partner.

In some ways, it is a forgotten ancient practice, and in others a version of magick for modern pioneers. If you happen to be Wiccan, or Christian, or Druid (for example), you can work with city magick while still honoring your tradition. If you happen to see yourself as aligned with nature, that doesn't preclude you from city magick; nature lives in the city just as much as it does outside of it.

Each city has its own energy and spirits. I have traveled enough to know that they differ greatly from one another, but they also exist and come about in similar ways.

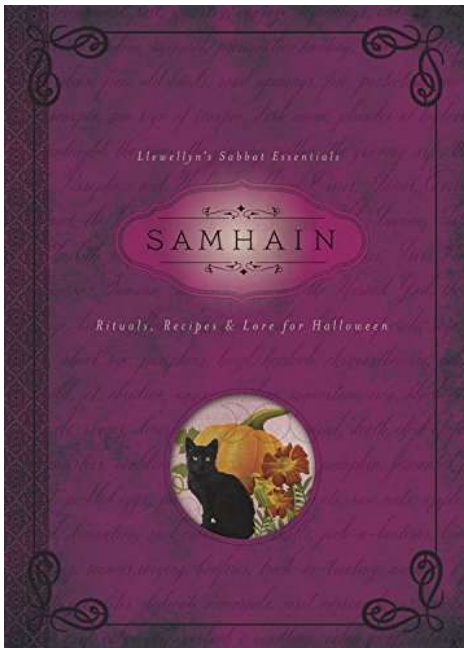
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*Mabon: Recipes, Rituals and Lore for Autumn Equinox*



Mabon—also known as the Autumn Equinox—is a time to honor the spiritual significance of harvest, sacrifice, and survival. This guide shows you how to perform rituals and work magic that incorporates the shifting balance between light and dark that reaches its pinnacle during the equinox.

*Samhain: Recipes, Rituals & Lore for Halloween*



Samhain—also known as Halloween—is the final spoke in the Wheel of the Year. At this time, the harvest has finished and the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest. This guide shows you how to practice the serious work of divination and honoring the dead along with the more lighthearted activities of Halloween.

## FAQs

### *Who are you again?*

I'm Diana Rajchel. I write about topics relating to spirituality, witchcraft and the occult. I have practiced witchcraft as my spirituality for over 25 years, and it is the topic that has most engaged my passionate interest for all that time. I love all things science, gardening, folklore, and poetic and the occult brings all these wonders together.

I also bring my spirituality into both my career and my community life. I serve as a spirit worker in both the Midwest and the Bay Area, and I assist people in resolving personal blocks that keep them from doing what they need to do in life - sometimes the block is a spirit, sometimes it's a belief that no longer serves.

I help people move from their crossroads to their paths, both through my writing and through my spiritual practice.

### *What tradition/cultural foundation do you practice?*

I am a practicing, practical animist/pantheist. Because I have some common-to-white-North American issues like big gaps in portions of my ancestral knowledge, I choose to feel my way through what works and what speaks to and with me. When I do work with deities, I tend to gravitate towards the Hermetic pantheons; in personal magickal practice I am heavily influenced by Hoodoo, Conjure and PowWow because they are North American originated and at least the first two align quite well with an animistic perspective. I also work with my ancestors as best I can; they are a melange of Polish-Finnish, German-English-Irish, and a few genetic curveballs thanks to exposure to all sorts of people along the way.

My personal outlook is that as a spirit worker. I work with whatever Being is willing to talk to me about a given situation. These aren't relationships of worship, and I am not willing, interested, or able to co-opt any practices that require initiation or a specific family relationship. These are, however, relationships and keeping my agreement with these entities is sacrosanct.

### *What got you interested in writing about witchcraft, spells, and spirituality?*

Like many people in the occult field, I am a huge nerd. I love to read. I love to imagine stories. I love to find out what works. I also love language, the dance of life and death that every gardener knows, and the way a little bit of magick can take an unfair situation and turn it into a very even playing field. I write what I think about. I think about witchcraft, spirituality, growing things and the way the mind works a lot. When I sit down at the keyboard, what pours forth is usually something at least tangentially related to the topic.

*I would like to contact you about a prospective project. What's the best way to do that?*

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I am represented by Red Sofa Literary Agency, so if you want to work with me on a specific project your best bet is to contact my agent, Dawn Frederick.

If you would like me to appear on your vidcast or podcast, use my contact link and my scheduler will follow up as soon as possible.

*Why do you go against the grain with so much of what is available on the topics of Paganism and Witchcraft?*

I swear it's not in purpose! If I were a true contrarian, I would probably work a lot harder to know the current Pagan buzz so I could keep that whole schtick going. I try to limit how much social media and group talk I consume, in part because I rabbit hole far too easily, but also because it becomes too easy to accept things at face value when my spiritual practice calls for me to question everything and to listen to my inner voice.

I struggle to hear my inner voice over the din of others' opinions, so I remove myself and seek opinions from specific people at specific times. The end result is that rather than reading x book that is super popular, or hanging out on y message board, I glance at and glance off these things and end up going down my own rabbit hole. Thus, even though I love to garden I prefer urban spaces, and even though I identify as a witch, Goddess theaology no longer fits with me the way it once did.

*Why should I read your books?*

I hope you read my books because you have a relentless curiosity about the real world of magic. I hope what you take away from my work is a new way to think about magic, especially as a problem-solving tool. What I really hope to see are more inspired people lighting up the world with their own creativity.

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