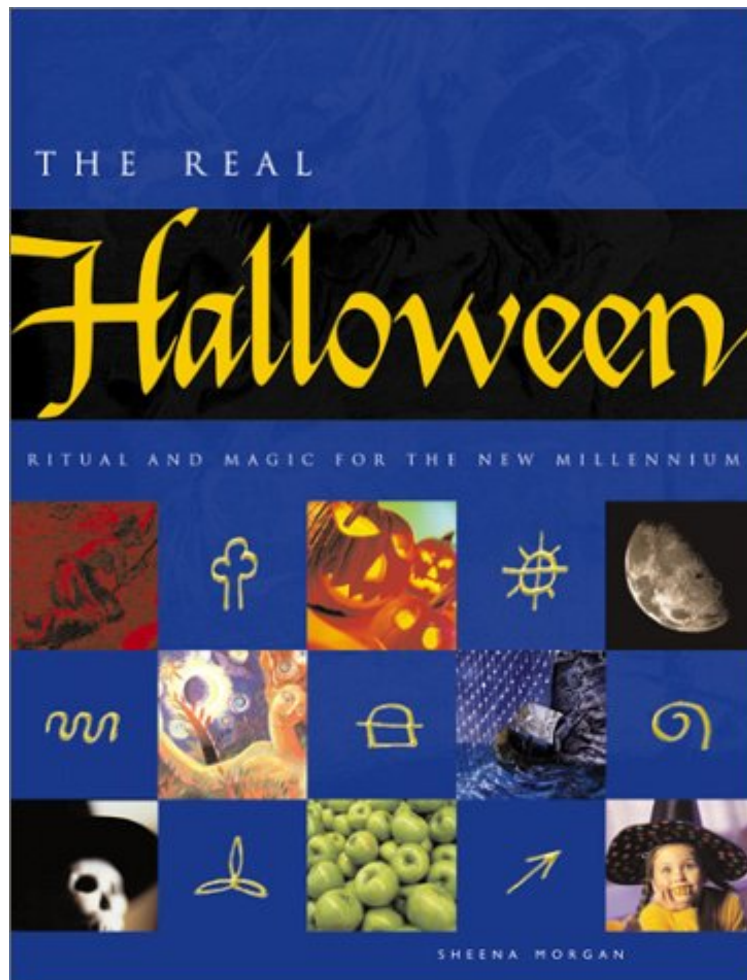


# The Real Halloween: Ritual and Magic for the New Millennium

*Sheena Morgan*

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**Sheena Morgan : The Real Halloween: Ritual and Magic for the New Millennium** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Real Halloween: Ritual and Magic for the New Millennium:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great grab bag of history and ideas for HalloweenBy alexxczThis book is an interesting collection of all things Halloween. It runs the gamut exploring the inter-related holidays from All Hallows, to the Neo-Pagan Samhain, to the secular Halloween. With a wonderful visual collection of photos folk art, the book unveils the history and symbolism of Halloween, and how we might celebrate today. In a very practical "how to" section, the book reveals recipes, spells, games, practical jokes, and divination that all feel steeped in the history of this ancient celebration. It isn't long enough to be a scholarly resource, but for a fun read, this book is a winner.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Nancy J PaulsenVery fun book on Halloween.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. BORINGBy Linda W.I'm not sure who the intended audience was for

this book, but by trying to be something for everyone, it is in my opinion nothing at all. It doesn't have the joie de vivre of "Halloween Merrymaking" by Diane C. Arkins. It doesn't have the information of "Death Makes a Holiday" by David J. Skal. And it doesn't have the Wicca credibility of "Halloween: Customs, Recipes and Spells" by Silver RavenWolf. The pictures are dull. The 13 (how cute) recipes are printed so small that the measurements are almost undecipherable; and one of the "tricks" involves breaking empty bottles in front of someone's house so they'll think their window was broken. So every human and animal who passes by after this "trick" will track broken glass around. And if I had to read one more poem or reference to "soul cakes" I would have screamed. At least that would have had some Halloween-y feeling to it. Totally unredeeming book. If I hadn't paid so little for it, I would return it, but it just isn't worth my time.

Most Halloween books are for kids, but here's one that adults will enjoy, too! Filled with vivid, atmospheric color photos and illustrations, *The Real Halloween* opens with a fascinating history of Halloween's past and changing traditions. It's an overview of the holiday from ancient times to the present, shedding light on sacrificial pagan rituals, describing the medieval autumn religious festival, and concluding with the modern secular holiday's goblins, ghosts, costumes, and trick-or-treat rituals. Part Two takes readers to the present time, putting the emphasis on fun. It's a collection of games, crafts, recipes, and treats for Halloween party time. It also includes ideas for making jack-o'-lanterns, and presents recipes for pumpkin pie that everybody will love. The book's third and final section is a whimsical look into the future, with fortune-telling methods that use autumn leaves, nuts, cakes, and mirrors. It also features directions for making several magic charms, including "love apples" to keep romantic relationships sweet. Approximately 100 full-color illustrations.

From Publishers Weekly For older readers, *The Real Halloween: Ritual and Magic for Kids and Adults* by Sheena Morgan begins with Halloween's Celtic origins; explains current traditions, along with recipes, tricks and crafts; and details means for predicting and influencing the future. All ages. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties this is what most people think Halloween is about. And, while monsters and being frightened are all part of it, most forget the rich traditions that lie behind this special, spooky day. *The Real Halloween* describes all the popular Halloween legends, and then puts them in the ancient context from which they came. Packed with practical projects, rituals, games, and recipes, this book shows you how to bring the spirit of Halloween into your life. About the Author Sheena Morgan's articles have appeared in many publications, including *Elle* and *Country Life*. She lives in England, where she lectures on the traditional and magical uses of Britain's native wild plants.