

A special Halloween guide to the supernatural in Atlanta.



Haunting Relraies

SITTING at the head of a long native table covered with blue velvet, Lady Siskana, high priestess of Atlanta's House of Ezeremont, laughed. She had just been asked a question that always tickles her: do you know any witches' spells? Composing herself, she answered the query calmly.

"Witchcraft is a religion, not a magic. Sometimes witches work with herbs, but I know nothing about wing of bat or eye of newt." Lady Siskana looks nothing like the stereotypic vision of a witch. She is a handsome, articulate woman who talks intelligently about psychology and comparative religion.

"The church made up those awful stories about witches in order to persecute us," she contended. "If you really want to find witches' spells, herbals, killing spells, look into the Catholic paper of the thirteenth century or the ancient alchemists. There's where you'll find the stuff. They practiced it." Smiling, Lady Siskana glanced at a young adjacent sitting beside her at the Wynn cover on Moreland Avenue. "Buy and get my *Crow's Book of Words*," she told him. "If you insist, this book will give you some idea of what witches' spells are like," she said. "But in all the years I've been a witch, I've never used any of them. Witchcraft is a thing of the mind — not hocus-focus."

A spell to recall one who is forgotten:

Who turns from you shall yet be found,
If signs of him may still be found
Within your house — one hair or thread,
Fragrant or color, scent or word,
Or anything that bears his touch
This spell turn into such:
Sew the relic in a bag
With seven strings tied around for bars.
Each one knotted tight seven times.
Then set on it these seven signs:
Y A E P E M E
Hold in darkness, out of sight
Until the next moon's seventh night.

Then read it to the one you seek
He must return within a week.

A spell to break a curse:

Gather certain fallen twigs
One of hazel,
One of oak,
One of elm, and
One of willow,
Hold them to the fire's smoke,
Say this softly seven times in all
"Turner be Turned,
"Turner be Turned,
"Let only good come out of this wood."
Split on each and break it small,
Cast them in the fire's mouth
The curse will die within the
fire's death.

A spell against enemies or evil:

Hang an ash-bough over your door,
Fill your pockets with iron nails,
Carry always the malice leaf,
But say these words
"Against the worst I stand."

A spell to avert temptation:

If the demon approaches
And gently beseeches your custom
and favor,
And offers you silver
Or gold for your goodness
Or baubles of great sweetness
Or beauty past wanting
Or love overwhelming,
Or pleasures unending
To buy you unbending,
Get from a tangle
Of thorns a long branch,
Tread it around to a ring on the ground,
Pretend you would enter,
Then spit in its center,
And turn back his harm by
repeating this charm:
"Damon slither!
"Sige, Sige!"

A spell to rebuast an apple:

Pick your apple when the moon
has waned three days,
Stretch upon its green cheeks —
Eat it with a scarlet stick,
Saying:
"Fire sweet and fire red,
"Warm the heart and cure the head."
Kiss the red half, put it later in
another's hand,
He who holds it shall awake,
Who eats it shall become yours.

