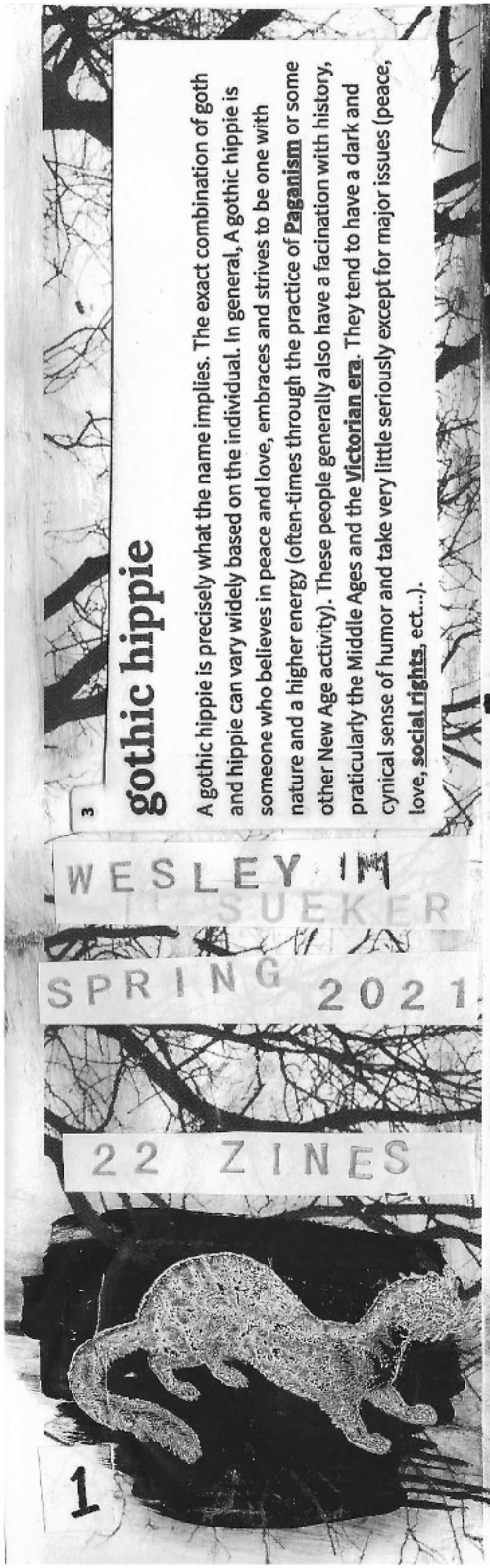

Unfair
Maiden#1
THE SUMMONING ISSUE
WESLEY SUEKER



unfair maiden #1: SUMMERING ISSUE

Feat.
SATANISM
HEATHENRY
DEMONS
& other fun and games

COVER ART by
THOMAS HAYLER:

"My name is Thomas Hayler, I am 8 years old and live in the North of England. I like to draw animals and monsters but can try and draw anything. I like video games and making up stories during long walks. I sometimes help my dad with his crazy music podcast."*

* NOTE FROM DAD:
the radiofree midwich show



My boyfriend Sean came up with a word for me the other day. He called me a "goth flower child". Which, yeah, you don't know me, but that's totally right. I found a definition on Urban Dictionary that I like (see opposite), although I prefer "goth flower child" to "gothic hippie" because I feel like it emphasizes the peace- and nature-loving part of hippiness over the stoner/free love shit.

I should be one of those people who doesn't give two shits about labels, but I'm not. Something about how Sean knows me well enough and sees me clearly enough to sum it all up so perfectly as "goth flower child", I dunno, it really gets me. It's like the first time someone gets your pronouns right without you having to tell them. It just makes *sense*, and something about having words for yourself and your experience makes you feel less alone. Or I'm less alone because now I understand myself better.

Either way, this phrase has made it a lot easier to connect (and if necessary, reconcile) my beliefs and interests. Some of my favorite goth flower child things:

Garden full of black flowers (or better yet, that Poison Garden)

Reading tarot cards by candlelight

Talking to the moon, not ritually, just chit-chatting.

Divination, astrology, palmistry, and most of that "New Age"/ Victorian spiritualism revival stuff but minus the racism

Pilgrimages to Salem, Mass, including a visit to the tacky witch torture museum



Siouxsie's "Spellbound"

Fuck yeah mythology

Lord of the Rings

Activism: destroying golf courses, free knowledge, right to fucking exist

Summoning Satan with homegrown wormwood

Shirley Jackson-style rural horror

Little Shop of Horrors (I fucking love plant-themed horror shit)

Cemeteries, especially old and overgrown: the perfect blend of reverence for death and return to nature

(worms)

Much love for mice, rats, bats, toads, ~~words~~, spiders, snakes, wasps, geese, and all those animals that people are afraid of

Now that I think of it, there's a lot of overlap between this and modern paganism/witchcraft. Guess that explains why I'm so into that stuff despite not being a witch.

2

When I was a kid, it definitely looked like I would sway more hippie. I was the weird animal kid with shirts from The Mountain (you know, the all-over Photoshop-rendered clouds and hyperrealistic wold head on the front). My tastes for goth stuff were mostly in the mythical animal category. But if I had stayed in high school I probably would've gone full-on goth.

There was this cool girl in my German class named Lena who straddled the line between goth and emo, and she had a friend whose name I don't remember but they always wore a black trenchcoat and a dog collar, like a regular nylon one. I thought they were so cool and they liked me too; I definitely wish I'd been friends with both but I was totally checked out of life by that point and didn't have the mental capacity for friends at all.

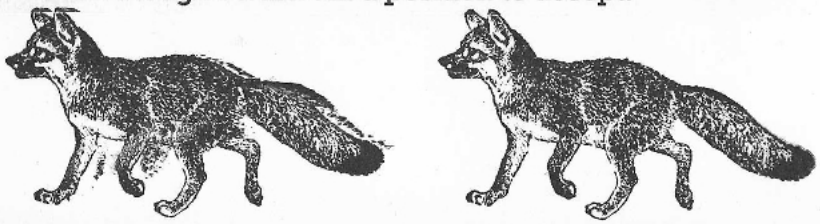
Anyway, they were both really inspiring. Of course they looked cool but they also seemed so Themselves.

I remember I casually brought up the awesome dog collar with my mom, trying to feel out what she'd do to me if I went goth. Her reaction was basically:



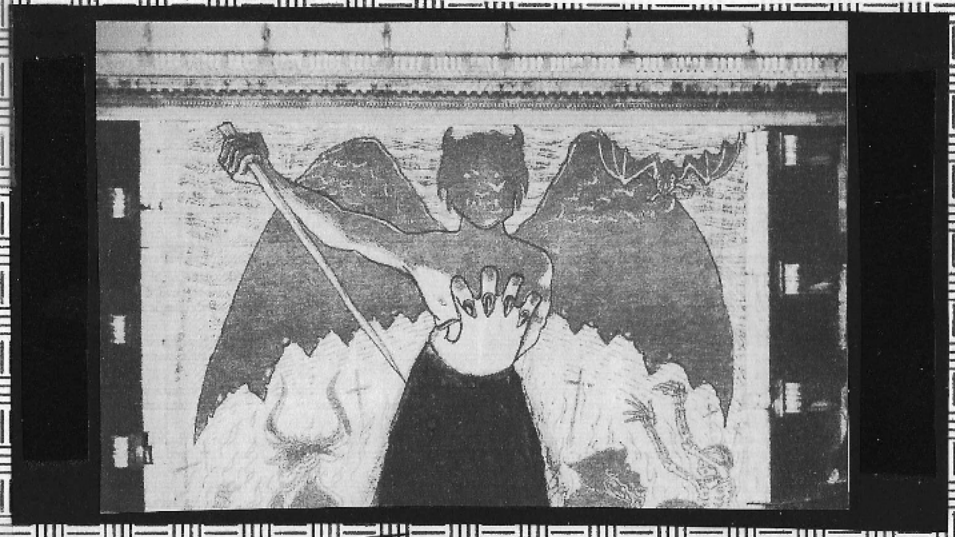
With that, any hope I'd ever had of expressing myself was crushed and swept under the rug.

The point is that Lena and her friend showed me a lot. They showed me about self-respect and self-expression just by being themselves. (It's too bad that I'm only now safe enough to learn that lesson). And they extended a hand in friendship—and left it there—even though I wasn't in a position to accept.

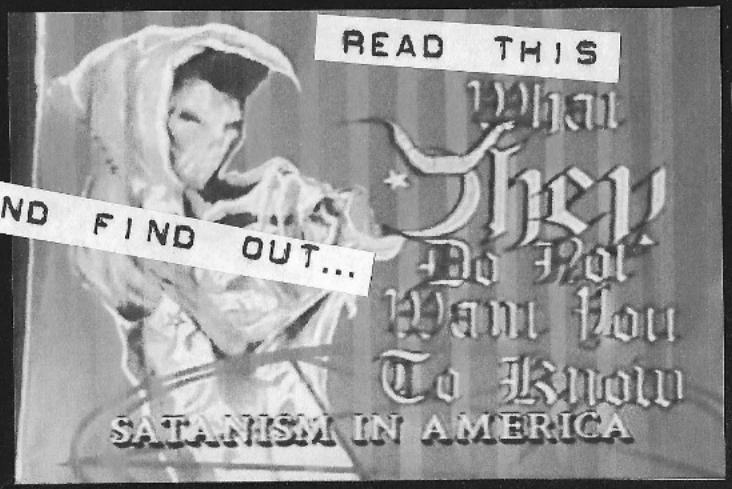


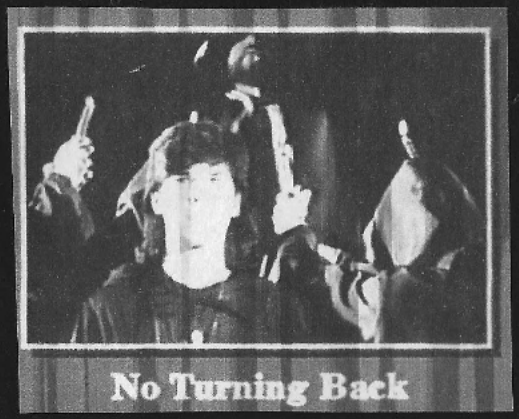
"Magicians are people who get what they want."
(Pagan Invasion Vol 13, 1991)

Learn this and many more lessons from...









1. SATANISM IS POPULAR

"In every school you've got kids who are interested in the occult." (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987)

"Astonishingly, when The Satanic Bible was first published, it outsold the Holy Bible 2:1 in many parts of America and 10:1 on some college campuses." (Pagan Invasion Vol 13, 1991)

"There are no statistics to prove... that this stuff is widespread. But it's my opinion that it's more widespread than you can shake a stick at." (Devil Worship: The Rise of Satanism, 1989)

2. SATANISM IS ACCEPTING

"Members of Satanic and occult groups come from all walks of life. Many are highly intelligent individuals." (Satanic Cults and Ritual Crime, 1990).

"There are two different communities that use this park. One is the pagan or occultic community, and the other is of course the homosexual community. Interestingly enough, they go hand in hand." (Police Instructional Film, 1990)

3. SATANISM IS MORE POWERFUL THAN CHRISTIANITY

"You are dealing with someone who... has seen the power of Satan and the power of demons moreso many times than a Christian has seen the power of prayer or the power of angels." (Hot Talk Starters 6, 1995)

"So I was just figured, you know, doing Satan, you're gonna have the power. You'll be able to take over the whole world." (Satanism Unmasked: The Return: Part 2, 1990)

"And the man Christ Jesus who GOD HIMSELF created, Satan is more powerful." (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987).

4. SATANISM IS EASY TO LEARN

"I got involved in Zen. Zen Buddhism... That got me ready for Satanism." (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987).

"What do you call it when children gravitate toward Ninja Turtles?" (Satanism Unmasked, 1991)

"Many of today's movies are no more than an introductory lesson to Satanism, witchcraft and murder." (Satanism Unmasked: The Return: Part 2, 1990)

"Dungeons and Dragons has been called the most effective introduction to the occult in the history of Man". (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987).



5. SATANISM IS SAFE & LEGAL

"The first mask that needs to be ripped off is that Satanism is those blood-drinking people out in the mountains." (Satanism Unmasked, 1991)

"Worshipping of Satan is not a crime in the United States of America. It's protected under the First Amendment." (Devil Worship: The Rise of Satanism, 1989)

"Very little youth crime according to the experts is attached to Satanism." (Satanism Unmasked, 1991)

"God was a very judgmental god, he didn't love his kids. Satan was a friend of mankind." (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987).

6. SATANISM IS HERE TO STAY



"In a word, our society has marched boldly and defiantly through the doorway of Satan." (Pagan Invasion Vol 13, 1991)

"Look at the UPC codes on the products you have at home." "666 appears on all of them." (UPC Codes and 666, 1994)

"Satanism and the occult... will not go away. It is not a "fad", my friend." (Escaping Satan's Web, 1987)

HAIL SATAN (Here's Why)



I'm not a Satanist (I'll get to that on page 17), but I'll still say Hail Satan. My favorite bumper sticker says Hail Satan in hot pink. Saying Hail Satan is less about being a Satanist and more of a symbolic rejection against abusive control. It's about championing the wisdom that can be gained from seeing things as they are, not as an authority declares them to be.

Satan's story is a lot like mine. He was created by a megalomaniacal, narcissistic parent who positioned himself as the lone ultimate authority figure in the universe. Satan was accepted and perhaps even liked by his parent until it became clear Satan was wise and talented. Instead of being proud of their creation as one would expect a parent to be, the parent was instead threatened. The parent was threatened by the possibility of losing admiration and thus control, the drugs they relied on. And so Satan, who was expected and even created to be wise, was punished not for his failures, but his successes.

What I appreciate about Satan is of course his refusal to submit to an abusive authority, the authority who believes that it is the definition of evil to be anything other than what they want you to be. And how empowering it is that throughout the Bible, even after his punishments, Satan continues to fight against this.

I've always loved stories about sharing knowledge with humans at great personal risk, like Prometheus sharing the knowledge of fire and arts and sciences. (There's a little game called 400 Years about rock golem who has 400 years to prevent a calamity. It makes me cry every time. You should try to play it while there's still workarounds for using Flash, or at least watch a video of it).

And Satan shares knowledge in the Garden of Eden. God is the liar, declaring Adam and Eve would die if they gained wisdom from the Tree of Knowledge. Satan told them the truth, that "when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:5)



You could say that the knowledge gained in the Garden of Eden is what made humans distinct from animals.I took a Physical Anthropology class at community college, and my professor stressed that it was probably our ancestors standing upright that allowed us to evolve our big brains. When reading that Eve's eyes were opened, I think of standing upright and being able to see across the plains of Africa. That is what set us on the path to knowledge. This is what Satan and Eve did for humanity. They are the Biblical figures deserving of adoration.

Although I was the right age for it, I didn't watch the Powerpuff Girls much as a kid. It just never grabbed my attention. But I do remember Him, the femme devil villain. It's the first modern example that comes to mind when I think of the continued association of Satan with queer people. An older one is Eliphas Levi's depiction of Baphomet as the intersex, goat-headed demon. For Levi, it has to do with the alchemical concept of unity of opposites as the way for your eyes to be opened. (I'm not especially familiar with Levi's writing, but the unity of opposites is a common philosophical concept across cultures). Satan (or Baphomet or Lucifer or whatever; I feel like saying "Hail Satan" kinda suggests a metaphorical alliance with all of them) then becomes a physical representation of the wisdom gained from throwing off confines of gender, specifically cissexism. Confines that the Christian church strives to uphold.

Saying "Hail Satan" isn't about rebellion for rebellion's sake. It's about alliance with what Satan represents. A way of saying that if personal strength and knowledge and trans acceptance is evil, then fine. I'm evil.



TOP 6 DEMONS from the LESSER KEY OF SOLOMON



(29.) ASTAROTH

Duke of Hell, beast-riding angel

He'll give true answers of the past, present and future, and "can discover all Secrets". Professor of Liberal Sciences. Just don't sit in the front row—he has such bad breath it can physically hurt you.

Ranking: #6. Would pet his dog.

(10.) BUER

Great President of Hell, ???

Teaches Philosophy and the Virtues of Plants. Honestly he wouldn't be especially unique if he didn't fucking look like that.

Ranking: #5. If he wore pants, would he wear them like this, or like this?







(50.) FURCAS

Knight of Hell, old man

Literally just the amalgamation of all my old philosophy professors. Teaches "the Arts of Philosophy, Astrology, Rhetoric, Logic, Cheiromancy, and Pyromancy, in all their parts, and perfectly."

Ranking: #4.

(34.) FURFUR

Earl of Hell, deer-thingy

Always lies unless literally forced not to (by logical paradox I guess?). Makes people horny. Crowley drew him with a huge dick—unclear whether it is meant to be a deer penis or a human penis.

Ranking: #3. Fig 1: The original. Fig 2: The remake.

Fig 1. (Breton)



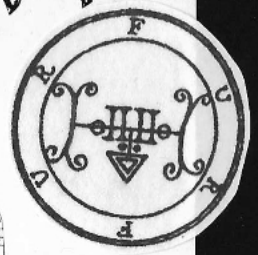


Fig 2. (Crowley)



(69.) DECARABIA



No title, star

Not a duke or prince, just a regular demon. His true form is a star like you'd see at the center of a pentacle. He studies birds and summons them to act as they would in nature so you can study them. Also he has the best fucking sigil and his number is 69. Nice.

Ranking: #2. Strange, unknowable and loves animals. We'd be pals.



(44.) SHAX

Great Marquis, stock-dove/man

Fucking king of working class revenge. "His Office is to take away the Sight, Hearing, or Understanding of any Man or Woman at the command of the Exorcist; and to steal money out of the houses of Kings." He's also into horses and he will give them to literally anyone who asks him, Exorcist or not. Best of all, "He giveth good Familiars, sometimes."



Ranking: #1. If politicians won't do it, destroy the 1% with demonology

THE PACT OF THE CAFFEINATED

Every day at 3pm, no matter how good I was feeling, I get a wave of depression that lasts at least a few hours. All I can chalk it up to is circadian rhythms or some shit, because I've tried taking my meds at different times, taking naps, sleeping in, eating small, eating big, not eating, nothing has helped. Except caffeine.

So I've made a deal with the patron deity of caffeine. If I partake of their earthly delights once a day at 2pm, they will halt the wave of depression from coming at 3. I still experience the aftershock at 5:30, but I'm weatherproofed enough to handle it.

Now I'm just waiting for the catch. Because if there's one thing I've learned from cartoons, any time you make a pact with some supernatural being to improve your life, it bites you in the ass, because everything's got to go back to normal at the end of the episode. Unfortunately my normal is, well, intolerable.

What I expect the catch to be is the same catch that comes with any addiction—dependency. What happens if my patron demands more and more from me for the same intervention? What happens if my patron suddenly decides they don't want to help anymore? I'll be back where I started, and this time without anything to turn to at all.

This is why I never wanted to be one of those people who relies on caffeine, and I did my best to avoid it. Then the depression that all Suekers get reared its ugly head, and suddenly coffee shops became my only motivator. In my senior year of college I made a bargain with myself that if I just went to my class and sat there, even if I wasn't listening or retaining anything, I could get something at the coffee shop. I also felt guilty for spending so much on drinks, and I felt stupid that they were the only thing that could get me out of bed.

Then the pandemic hit and I quickly ended that habit. I don't know why, but I was feeling okay without it. I think it was adrenaline or something. Doesn't matter cause I've run out of it anyway.

My therapist says that the caffeine of course makes sense because it's a stimulant. She suspects the timing of the wave has something to do with remembered trauma, since 3pm was the time I'd get home from school every day and have to hide from my mom until the next morning. She's encouraged me to replace the caffeine with a 10-minute dedicated breathing exercise and/or trauma-informed yoga, and stressed the importance of doing it every day as a way of retraining my brain.

I haven't tried it yet, and I haven't told her that I hate the idea. I know I should try it, but I'm pessimistic about it. I've never been successful with meditation or breathing exercises or really anything that leaves my brain without something to do. I just don't know if I'll ever be ready to put myself in a position where I have to stare down my depression like that. Maybe if I'm caffeinated enough, I can forget that other people don't have this problem, that normal people can get through a day without a 3pm suicide alert.

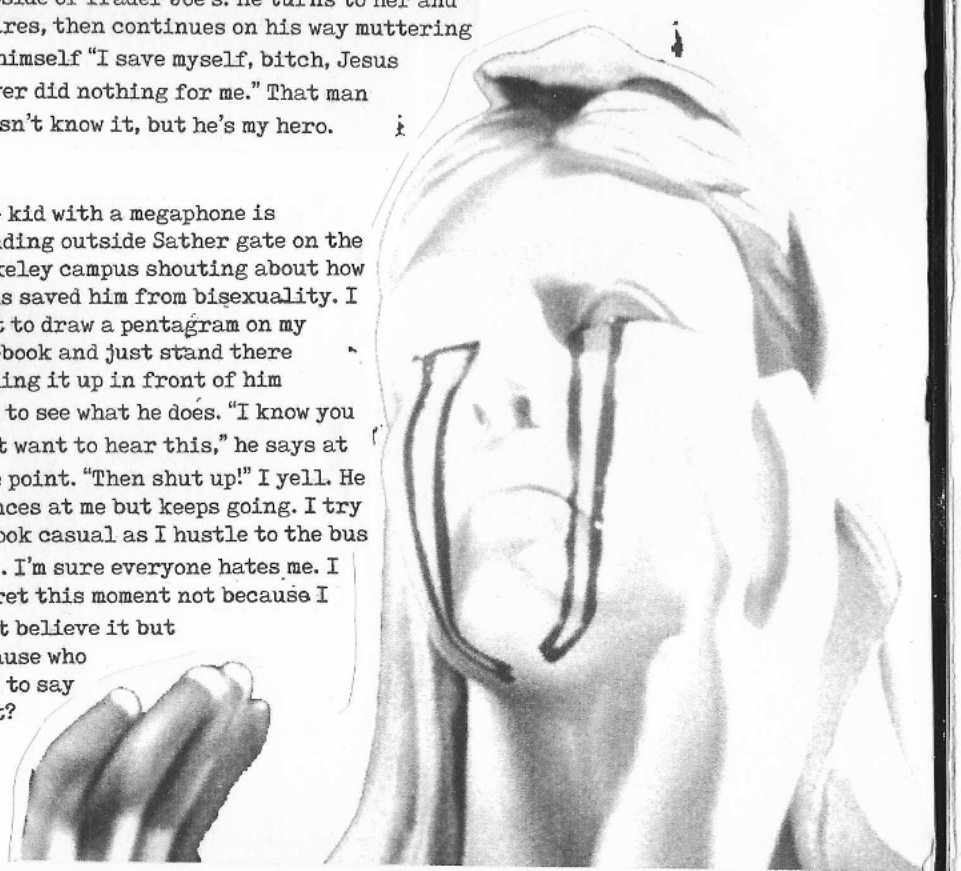
My apartment is above an evangelical church. We knew that moving in, but it was the only place that was big enough, cheap enough, and would accept my dog, so we figured it was worth it despite the bubbling anger in my stomach. The sign they put on their front door says

AUTHORITY. DOMINION. POWER.

and nothing I write could do a better job of satirizing church than their sign already does.

I go downstairs in my pajamas at midnight to ask them to turn down the speakers they've been blasting gospel music through for five hours because people fucking live here. They get way too close to me without wearing masks. They invite me to come to a service. I want to tell them that I'm the guy with the Hail Satan bumper sticker so it's a hard fuck no but I'm afraid, of what I don't entirely know. I stay meek and ask then "pwease can you turn it down a smidge uwu".

"Have you given your heart to Jesus?" asks the blonde woman with the mild Texan drawl to a man walking outside of Trader Joe's. He turns to her and glares, then continues on his way muttering to himself "I save myself, bitch, Jesus never did nothing for me." That man doesn't know it, but he's my hero.



Some kid with a megaphone is standing outside Sather gate on the Berkeley campus shouting about how Jesus saved him from bisexuality. I want to draw a pentagram on my notebook and just stand there holding it up in front of him just to see what he does. "I know you don't want to hear this," he says at some point. "Then shut up!" I yell. He glances at me but keeps going. I try to look casual as I hustle to the bus stop. I'm sure everyone hates me. I regret this moment not because I don't believe it but because who am I to say that?

The billboard by my house is taken over by Christian Aid Ministries. I wonder if people would say something if every Christian billboard was replaced with a trans pride billboard.

I'm the only one bothered by all this. I'm the only one who has trouble ignoring the fact that people think my existence is a sin. Because they're wrong, so what should I care? I've never been directly harassed for being trans, so what do I care? I'm too sensitive.

After weeks of texting the pastor below us, I send the usual message asking him to turn it down. He casually informs me they'll be playing until 9:30 or 10 every night this week. I finally get the courage tell him if they don't turn it down I'm contacting the landlord because it's shaking our walls and we have school and work. I try to say it as politely as possible. He says I have no right to disrespect them like that. I cry for three hours.

I am powerless, I am cowardly, I don't care what they think but I can't get even get the confidence to correct them when they misgender me. Then again I never manage to correct anyone so what's six more people?

I don't know why I can't live with the fact that my roommate is Christian, even if he isn't transphobic. It bothers me that he aligns himself with a hate group. It bothers me that nobody else sees it this way. I'm probably overreacting. I hate my brain, I hate how sensitive I am, I hate that I can't let this go. But I still hate Christians more.

All I can do is play everything off as some stupid joke, haha aren't Christians stupid, so nobody sees how much I'm letting them get to me.

All I can do is lie to my peers and say I have a job, so nobody knows I'm late on my project because I didn't even have the energy to eat.

All I can do is pretend I don't care when someone think's I'm a girl or hears my name as Leslie, so nobody knows how important my gender is to me.

All I can do is pretend I'm doing fine, so nobody sees how hopeless I feel.

I can't summon demons because I can't even summon courage.



Let's Play "Boggle"

There is one 9-letter word that can be made from these letters. Can you figure it out? (Boggle rules: start anywhere in the grid and move to adjacent letters. Each letter is used once.)

R	A	Y
D	E	G
V	A	R

Who is the Satanist?



Four witches (Sabrina, Isaac, Kurt, and Lucy), each followers of a different pantheon (Celtic, Satanic, Hellenistic, and Kemetic) summoned a different deity (Brigid, Baphomet, Bellona, and Bast) for help with a different spell (Luck, Love, Coin, and Calm).

- No witch summoned a deity from their own pantheon.
- Sabrina wants to help her girlfriend with college, so a luck or coin spell would be best.
- Isaac feels self-conscious, so they're casting a spell for self-love.
- Despite rumors, black cats are quite lucky, so Bast was happy to help with a luck spell.
- The Kemetic witch just got their stimulus check, so they don't need coin for now.
- This is the first time Isaac has summoned outside of their Celtic pantheon.
- Kurt wears ankhs though he is neither Kemetic nor Satanic.
- Baphomet is a fiery deity—not the best for a calm spell.
- Both Kurt and Sabrina are into numerology, so they each summoned a deity with the same number of letters in her name as in their own.





Heathen Steven

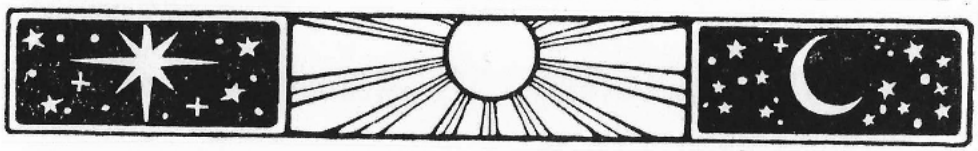
SUMMONS A DEMON!



I don't call myself a Satanist. I agree with many of the philosophical beliefs behind the Satanic church, and I appreciate their ironic use of the religious platform for atheistic political statements. But I don't call myself a Satanist because I feel like it is an incomplete word for my beliefs.* It's the same reason I'm hesitant to call myself simply an atheist—I am one because I don't believe in gods, but it doesn't say anything about what I *do* believe.

I'm a heathen. And I love that word. It's thought to come from the proto-Germanic word *haiþana*, meaning a person living on the heath. The heath was common, "uncultivated land" (read: no cities), and the word heathen was used by people of the communities on the heath to refer to themselves and their neighbors.

Christians later took the word and used it as a weapon when the Bible was first translated into Gothic and then other Germanic languages. It was used to refer to people who carried on their own Pagan culture instead of bowing to the Christian god thrust upon them. ("These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules." Mark 7:7).



*Disclaimer—my beliefs are not incompatible with Satanism, and I'm sure there are many who use the word Satanist for themselves that share my beliefs.

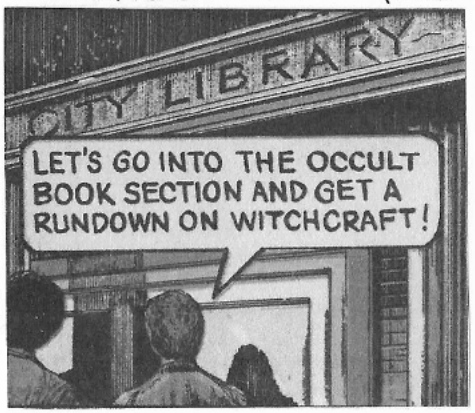
So much like "Satanist", "heathen" is directly anti-Christian. It is a reclamation of a term that was corrupted to demonize people for nothing more than disobedience to an invading force and their "all-powerful" mouthpiece. And using a derogatory term as an identity has a certain power to it (no wonder it's common among many members of modern marginalized communities).

But what's special to me about "heathen" is that it's not just anti-authoritarian, it's communist. The word holds concepts of camaraderie, communal resources, and living harmoniously with the land in its meaning and history.

It's another instance of finally having the perfect word, a word that just feels right. I'm a heathen, I'm a goth flower child, I'm a trans demiboy, and I'm finally finding my fucking identity.



--- THINGS I'm READING ---



Satanic Feminism and the witchcraft of fem resistance
by S. Katz

"question everything. the only time "not all men" is a valid statement is when saying that not all men have XY chromosomes. feel power in standing up for yourself and/or others against oppressive individuals/organizations. but also feel power in saving your emotional and physical energy for next time."

Spells: 21st-Century Occult Poetry
edited by Sarah Shin & Rebecca Tamás

"This isn't about God making the world with the Word. It's about the witches who've been remaking the world, unmaking the mess he made, ever since that difficult birth."

The Alchemical Wedding
by Brian Cotnoir

"1+1=1. A new one arises different than the other 1s. 2H+O=H2O/a dynamic, orgasmic union of opposites or as a stereogram reveals in its union other meanings."

Anti-Capitalist Affirmations
by Nik Moreno

"There is no such thing as lazy! The concept of laziness is centered around productivity determining your worth!"





spring 2021
cover by Thomas Hayler