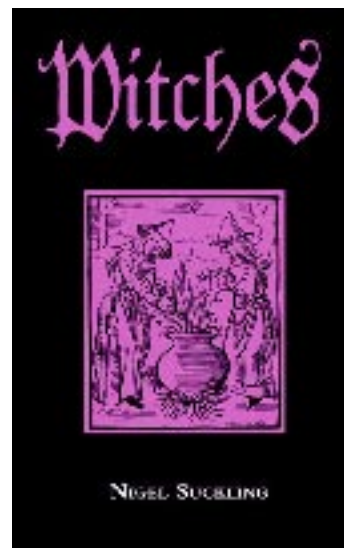


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by Nigel Suckling

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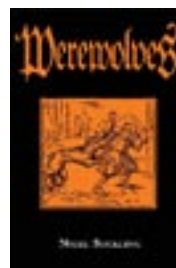
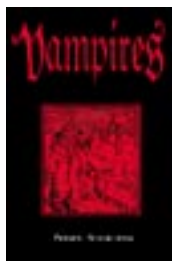
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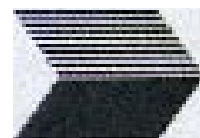


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# Witches

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One of the most famous witches of non-classical legend is Morgan le Fay, King Arthur's half-sister and nemesis. She first appears in the twelfth century *Life of Merlin* by Geoffrey of Monmouth where she is represented as a healer and shapeshifter, possibly one of the faery folk of ancient Britain. She also ruled over the Isle of Avalon with her sisters.

A useful charm against witchcraft is to bind twigs of rowan, ash and birch together with a red thread and carry them on your person. Their combined virtues will turn away any malicious spell.

In Medieval times the broom or besom was a symbol of domesticity, of the woman's realm. Because most witches were female the broom became their symbol by association.