



Diary of a Witchcraft Shop

Trevor Jones , Liz Williams

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In 2005, fantasy and SF author extraordinaire Liz Williams took the plunge, moving from her beloved Brighton to Glastonbury to live with her partner, Trevor Jones. Trevor ran a witchcraft shop. Liz's life would never be the same again...

"When you find yourself on a London platform shouting into your mobile, 'We haven't got enough demons! Do you want me to order some more?' as folk quietly edge away from you – you know you're running a witchcraft shop."

Full of amusing anecdotes and witty observations, *Diary of a Witchcraft Shop* is a delight, and Trevor Jones and Liz Williams the most congenial of hosts. If Bill Bryson ever decided to settle down embrace paganism and open a witchcraft shop, this is surely the sort of book that would result.

On taking tea:

"A young woman has just bounced (and I mean BOUNCED, like Tigger) into the shop and announced that she is part of a Christian youth camp and could she bless me by buying me a tea? Why certainly! They have apparently been sent out to do good in the community, and if this means buying teas for knackered hard-working witches, then well and good. I offered her a bag of rose petals in return blessing but she was unsure and declined."

Yet *Diary of a Witchcraft Shop* is far more than just an amusing romp. The book offers a glimpse into the pagan world, one that isn't sensationalist or melodramatic but is instead considered and intelligent, while providing insight into the unique community that is Glastonbury.

The narrative is bursting with surprise, delight and humour, but also has its darker moments, as we share twelve months in the company of Liz and Trevor, complete with visits to the Houses of Parliament, Ireland, and Brittany, not to mention Shetland ponies interrupting druidic ritual and a TARDIS manifesting in the most unlikely of places... No, this isn't fiction, honestly.

Diary of a Witchcraft Shop Details

Date : Published 2011 by Newcon Press

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Author : Trevor Jones , Liz Williams

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Vivienne says

I have been entertained by Liz's anecdotes about her life running a witchcraft shop in Glastonbury on Facebook and on learning that she and her partner had produced a book a few years ago I downloaded a copy.

It proved a short, entertaining read with a great deal of humour. It covers a year in the life of the authors, their various animal companions, as well as human friends and others. I just wish it had been longer.

I felt it provided a very down-to-earth perspective on the lives of two modern, very busy pagans and a good introduction for anyone wondering about real life pagans and witches. I certainly know that if I find myself in Glastonbury I shall pay the shop a visit and say hello in person.

Carol says

Lovely book, told tongue in cheek, lots of nice little tales, wryly told. I love the way they don't take themselves too seriously.

Abi Brown says

This is a marvellously funny little book. I'm incapable of having an unbiased opinion on it as the authors are friends of mine and I've spent an amount of time in the witchcraft shop in question, but their voices come through beautifully and I laughed out loud on numerous occasions. I also learned a variety of interesting things that I did not previously know!

Lilly says

I downloaded this primarily as I had looked for a book on witchcraft or druidry to try on my new Yule gift. What a hoot! I found myself nodding & laughing along with various parts. (We have all come across our fair share of crazy making!)

The descriptions of the celebrations and different ways they are kept was inspiring too.

I will be recommending this book to my witch and druid friends, and also a few shop keepers!

My only question, what happened to the "Pan Drum" ;p

Canterpoint says

Fun read. A little slice of life running a witchcraft shop.

Ancestral Gael says

Why did I read it? It was the group read for the Heathens, Pagans and Witches group here at Goodreads.

What's it about? Essentially it is a diary of the lives of the owners of a witchcraft shop in Glastonbury, England: their day-to-day lives; and their encounters with personalities. Though in diary format, following a whole year, the entries are not all from the same year.

What did I like? I found this book very well written; not too heavy, not too light. The diary format made it easier for me to pick up and put down when other matters took precedence. It was a quick read for me.

What didn't I like? The promotional blurb, synopses, and reviews led me to believe this would be a humorous look at the oddities that sometimes converge on Glastonbury and, more particularly, in a witchcraft/occult shop. I was expecting to be as fun a read as *Coarse Witchcraft*, which had me in stitches from beginning to end. Whereas, the situations in *Coarse Witchcraft* were based on real events, and all personalities remained anonymous throughout, this was not the case in *Diary of a Witchcraft Shop*.

Too few entries raised a smile; far more raised an eyebrow. There were some comments made in this book that I personally felt crossed the line; opinions perhaps best aired among friends, rather than copied from a diary to a published book. These entries detracted from the book's (expected?) lightness, occasionally giving the impression of a tool to vent.

I also found the use of both real names (both first and last), and initials puzzling. I'm not sure providing an initial would guarantee anonymity in a small village, or community, so why not use a pseudonym instead? Real names were provided for the well-known, either to the general public or the pagan community.

I felt *Diary of a Witchcraft Shop* could have been a much more enjoyable book, but it missed the mark somehow.

Would I recommend it? If you are looking for lots of entries similar to the one mentioned in the blurb here at Goodreads, I'm afraid you will be disappointed. Personally, I'm not likely to recommend *Diary of a Witchcraft Shop* despite the quality of the writing.

Sian Bradshaw says

So funny. If you think that to run a magic sops you need to be ethereal - this book will bring you right back down to earth with a hilarious bump. It's a lovely story beautifully told.

Anwen says

The title caught my eye and I am glad it did. This is a great depiction of the normalcy of life, dressed with the odd bag of rose petals, demons and other objects off the beaten path. It is also a lovely depiction of the Glastonbury community.

Peggi Warner-lalonde says

Loved it. Want to read the next one!

Angie Lisle says

Interesting musings geared for pagans. The anecdotes and observations are recorded in the form of a journal kept by the owners of a witchcraft shop. While I enjoyed reading the insights, I kept waiting (and looking) for a plot thread to tie everything together and was disappointed when one didn't develop.

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for review.

Ben Lovegrove says

This is a very funny book and they are lovely people too.

Diane Perazzo says

This lovely book is a light, fun and entertaining read. Liz Williams is a druid priestess and science fiction author who runs a shop in Glastonbury with her husband Trevor Jones. The book is a seasonal account of one year in their life. Here is one entry that pretty much sums up the tone:

Priestess of Avalon

6:20: mysterious dark robed figure flits through old farmhouse, mindful that there is a contingent for a hand fasting arriving at 6:30.

6:21: dark robed figure catches sight of self in mirror. Thinks, Fuck!

6:23: dark robed figure wrestles ironing board out of closet, rips off robe, irons frantically, prays that no one will arrive and glimpse unmysterious half-naked ironing figure.

I bet this never happened to Morgaine.

Linda says

Pretty fun look at the life of the owner of a witchcraft shop in Great Britain's witch central - Glastonbury.

The author has a way with words, and her dry, British sense of humour frequently made me giggle out loud. I had hoped there would be a little more about the shop customers, like in *Weird Things Customers Say In Bookshops*, but overall I enjoyed spending this 'year in the life' with the author.

Lyn says

Laugh out loud funny. Be careful where you read this book, you get very odd looks when you start laughing on the train or bus!

Ole Imsen says

Great collection of anecdotes about paganism in England, life in Glastonbury, and everything you always wanted to ask about running a witchcraft shop but didn't ask because you were afraid you'd get cursed. Recommended to everyone who has any interest in paganism and/or witchcraft, and those that just enjoy getting an interesting and often funny insight into a different side of life in the UK.
