

ritual book david pinner

ritual book david pinner: An In-Depth Exploration of a Cult Classic and its Impact on Horror Literature

Introduction

The phrase **ritual book david pinner** evokes a sense of mystery, intrigue, and dark ritualistic themes that have captivated horror enthusiasts for decades. David Pinner, a renowned British author, is best known for his chilling novel *Ritual*, a story that masterfully blends elements of horror, folklore, and the occult. This book has not only influenced the horror genre but also sparked discussions about the portrayal of pagan rituals, religious symbolism, and societal fears surrounding the unknown. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the origins of *Ritual*, explore David Pinner's life and career, analyze the themes and significance of the book, and examine its enduring legacy within horror literature.

Who Is David Pinner? A Brief Biography

Early Life and Influences

David Pinner was born in 1940 in the United Kingdom. Growing up amidst the rich tapestry of British folklore, mythology, and religious history, Pinner developed an early fascination with the occult and supernatural themes. His interest in these subjects was further fueled by his academic pursuits in theology and literature, which provided him with a deep understanding of religious symbolism and ritual practices.

Literary Career and Notable Works

Pinner's literary career spans several decades, during which he has authored novels, screenplays, and essays. His most renowned work, *Ritual* (1971), is considered a cult classic among horror fans. The novel's success led to the adaptation of the story into the 1977 film *The Wicker Man*, directed by Robin Hardy, which significantly boosted its popularity.

Apart from *Ritual*, Pinner has written other works exploring themes of horror, folklore, and the supernatural, including *The Wicca Man* and *The Ritual of the Wicker*. His writings often reflect a fascination with paganism, religious rites, and the darker aspects of human nature.

Understanding the Book: *Ritual* by David Pinner

Overview of the Plot

Ritual centers around the story of a young man named David, who ventures into

a remote Scottish village while on a trip to investigate a series of mysterious disappearances. As he immerses himself in the local community, he uncovers unsettling secrets involving pagan rituals, ancient rites, and a sinister cult that practices dark ceremonies to appease ancient gods.

The narrative is a blend of psychological horror and supernatural elements, gradually revealing the extent of the villagers' involvement in forbidden rituals. The climax involves a harrowing confrontation with forces beyond human comprehension, challenging the protagonist's understanding of faith, paganism, and evil.

The Themes and Symbolism

Ritual embodies a multitude of themes that resonate within horror literature and cultural discourse:

- Paganism and Ancient Rituals: The book explores the resurgence of pagan rites in modern settings and questions the thin line separating ancient beliefs from contemporary society.
- Religious Symbolism: Pinner employs symbolism associated with Christianity, pagan gods, and occult practices to create a layered narrative that examines faith, superstition, and the human desire for meaning.
- Good vs. Evil: The novel delves into the moral ambiguities surrounding ritualistic practices, challenging the reader's perceptions of good and evil.
- Societal Fear of the Unknown: Through its depiction of the secluded village and its secret rites, the book taps into fears of societal hiddenness and the dangers lurking in the unfamiliar.

Literary Style and Influence

Pinner's writing is characterized by atmospheric descriptions, meticulous research into ritual practices, and a suspenseful narrative style. His ability to evoke a sense of dread and unease has cemented *Ritual* as a quintessential horror novel that blurs the lines between psychological and supernatural horror.

The novel's influence extends beyond literature, notably inspiring the 1977 film *The Wicker Man*, which is regarded as a seminal work in horror cinema. The themes and motifs from Pinner's novel permeate the film, making it a cultural touchstone for discussions about pagan practices and societal taboos.

The Cultural and Literary Significance of Ritual by David Pinner

Impact on Horror Literature

Ritual is often credited with revitalizing horror fiction in the early 1970s by introducing a nuanced exploration of pagan rituals and their psychological impact. Its detailed portrayal of rituals and folklore inspired countless

authors and filmmakers to explore similar themes.

The novel's blend of suspense, folklore, and horror set a precedent for future works that seek to confront societal fears about religion, tradition, and the dark side of human nature.

The Wicker Man and Its Legacy

The adaptation of *Ritual* into *The Wicker Man* (1977) by Robin Hardy significantly amplified its cultural footprint. The film's portrayal of a pagan community engaging in ritual sacrifice became iconic, influencing horror films and popular culture.

The phrase "The Wicker Man" has since become synonymous with pagan rituals and sacrificial rites in horror lore, and the film remains a cult classic celebrated for its atmospheric storytelling and disturbing themes.

Modern Relevance and Adaptations

Decades after its publication, *Ritual* continues to resonate with modern audiences. It has inspired reprints, scholarly analyses, and adaptations in various media. Some contemporary horror creators cite Pinner's work as a foundational influence, especially in exploring themes of paganism and societal secrecy.

Additionally, renewed interest in occult and pagan practices in popular culture has led to a reevaluation of the novel's themes, highlighting its relevance in contemporary discussions about religion, tradition, and societal taboos.

Where to Find and Read *Ritual* by David Pinner

Availability and Editions

- **Print Editions:** The original 1971 publication is available through rare bookstores and online retailers. Reprints and special editions often include forewords analyzing the book's significance.
- **E-book and Digital Formats:** Digital versions are accessible via major e-book platforms, making it easier for new generations to discover the novel.
- **Audiobooks:** Some audiobook versions are available, narrated by voice actors who capture the atmospheric tone of the story.

Recommended Reading Order

For those interested in exploring Pinner's work, starting with *Ritual* is essential. Following that, readers can delve into related works such as *The Wicca Man* or explore analyses of *The Wicker Man* film adaptation for broader context.

Conclusion

The phrase **ritual book david pinner** encapsulates a significant piece of horror literature that continues to influence and inspire. David Pinner's *Ritual* stands as a testament to the power of folklore, ritual, and symbolism in storytelling, blending psychological and supernatural horror to create an atmospheric and thought-provoking narrative.

Its impact extends beyond the page, shaping horror cinema and popular culture's understanding of pagan practices and societal fears. Whether you are a horror aficionado, a folklore enthusiast, or a scholar interested in religious symbolism, exploring David Pinner's *Ritual* offers a compelling journey into the dark, mysterious corners of human belief and the unknown.

As the horror genre evolves, the themes and motifs introduced by Pinner remain relevant, reminding us of the enduring power of ritual, belief, and the primal fears that lie beneath the surface of society. For anyone interested in the intersection of horror, folklore, and cultural taboo, *Ritual* by David Pinner is an essential read that continues to haunt and inspire long after the last page is turned.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of David Pinner's 'Ritual Book' in horror literature?

David Pinner's 'Ritual Book' is considered a significant work for its exploration of pagan rituals and its influence on modern horror, blending folklore with psychological themes to create a compelling narrative.

How does 'Ritual Book' by David Pinner compare to his other works?

'Ritual Book' is often viewed as one of Pinner's most atmospheric and suspenseful novels, showcasing his mastery in blending horror with cultural rituals, setting it apart from his other writings which may focus more on satire or social commentary.

Is 'Ritual Book' by David Pinner connected to any existing horror film or media?

While 'Ritual Book' itself is a novel, it has influenced horror filmmakers and writers, notably inspiring elements of pagan and ritual themes seen in certain horror films, though it is not directly adapted into a movie.

What themes are central to David Pinner's 'Ritual Book'?

The novel explores themes of paganism, ritualistic practices, societal taboos, and the confrontation between modern life and ancient beliefs, often highlighting the darkness lurking beneath surface normalcy.

Why has 'Ritual Book' experienced a resurgence in popularity recently?

The resurgence is driven by a renewed interest in occult and pagan themes within contemporary horror, along with its reputation as a cult classic that offers a chilling exploration of rituals and belief systems.

Where can I find a copy of David Pinner's 'Ritual Book'?

Copies of 'Ritual Book' can be found through online retailers, secondhand bookstores, and digital platforms like Kindle or eBook services, making it accessible for new and returning readers.

Are there any critical analyses or reviews of 'Ritual Book' available?

Yes, several literary critics and horror enthusiasts have analyzed 'Ritual Book,' highlighting its atmospheric writing and thematic depth, with reviews available on literary websites, horror forums, and academic journals.

Has David Pinner written other works related to 'Ritual Book'?

Yes, David Pinner has authored several other novels and stories that often explore horror, folklore, and societal issues, which can be of interest to fans of 'Ritual Book' looking to explore more of his work.

What makes 'Ritual Book' a must-read for horror fans today?

'Ritual Book' is a must-read for horror fans because of its authentic portrayal of pagan rituals, its suspenseful storytelling, and its influence on the genre, offering a timeless exploration of fear rooted in ancient beliefs.

Additional Resources

Ritual Book David Pinner is a compelling work that has captured the imagination of horror enthusiasts and literary critics alike. As a seminal piece within the realm of horror fiction, this book weaves elements of the occult, mythology, and psychological suspense into a narrative that is both gripping and thought-provoking. David Pinner, known for his skillful storytelling and atmospheric writing, delivers a novel that challenges readers to confront the primal fears lurking beneath the veneer of everyday life. In this review, we will explore the various facets of Ritual Book David Pinner, examining its themes, writing style, characters, and overall impact on the horror genre.

Overview of Ritual Book David Pinner

Ritual Book David Pinner is often regarded as a cult classic within horror circles. Originally published in the late 20th century, the novel explores themes of pagan rituals, the nature of evil, and the thin boundary between the natural and supernatural worlds. The story follows a protagonist who stumbles upon an ancient ritual book that unlocks dark secrets, setting off a chain of terrifying events. Pinner's narrative is rich with atmosphere, immersing the reader in a world where myth and reality intertwine seamlessly.

Plot Summary

The plot centers around a researcher or investigator – depending on the edition – who uncovers a mysterious tome that details long-forgotten pagan rites. As the protagonist delves deeper into the book's contents, they unwittingly awaken dormant forces and unleash chaos upon themselves and those around them. The narrative unfolds with a slow build-up of suspense, punctuated by moments of intense horror and revelation. Pinner's storytelling masterfully balances psychological tension with visceral horror, making the unfolding events both believable and terrifying.

Themes and Motifs

Paganism and Rituals

One of the core themes of Ritual Book David Pinner is the exploration of ancient pagan practices and their enduring influence. The novel examines how rituals, when misunderstood or misused, can have devastating consequences. Pinner's depiction of these rites is both respectful of their cultural origins and chilling in their depiction of their darker aspects.

Good vs. Evil

The novel probes the age-old battle between good and evil, often blurring the lines between the two. The presence of supernatural entities and the characters' moral dilemmas create a nuanced portrayal of morality, emphasizing that evil often lurks beneath the surface of the mundane.

Psychological Horror

Beyond the supernatural elements, Pinner delves into psychological horror, exploring themes of paranoia, obsession, and the human capacity for darkness. This layered approach adds depth to the story, making it resonate on both a literal and metaphorical level.

Writing Style and Atmosphere

David Pinner's writing style is characterized by its atmospheric quality and meticulous attention to detail. His prose is evocative, painting vivid pictures of settings, rituals, and characters' internal states. The slow pacing, while sometimes challenging for readers seeking immediate action, allows for a deep immersion into the story's mood. Pinner's skillful use of description heightens the sense of dread and anticipation, keeping readers on edge throughout.

Features of Pinner's style include:

- Rich, descriptive language that immerses the reader in the setting
- A deliberate pacing that enhances suspense
- Use of folklore and mythological references to deepen the narrative
- Subtle psychological insights into characters' motivations

Characters and Development

The novel features a cast of characters that are both compelling and believable. The protagonist is often portrayed as flawed yet relatable, grappling with their curiosity and the consequences of their actions. Supporting characters add layers of complexity, each with their own motivations and fears.

Major characters include:

- The Investigator/Researcher: curious, skeptical, but increasingly unsettled
- The Cultists or Practitioners: embodying the pagan rites and their sinister intentions
- The Supernatural Entity: representing the primal force unleashed by the ritual

Pinner's character development is subtle but effective, allowing readers to understand their fears and moral struggles as the story progresses.

Strengths of Ritual Book David Pinner

- Atmospheric and immersive writing: Creates a palpable sense of dread and mysticism.
- Thought-provoking themes: Explores complex ideas about ancient practices and morality.
- Rich folklore references: Adds authenticity and depth to the supernatural elements.
- Nuanced portrayal of evil: Avoids simplistic good-vs-evil dichotomies.
- Slow-burn suspense: Builds tension gradually, rewarding patient readers.

Weaknesses and Criticisms

While *Ritual Book David Pinner* is highly regarded, it is not without its criticisms:

- Pacing issues: The deliberate buildup may test the patience of readers expecting faster action.
- Obscure references: Some folklore and ritual descriptions might be challenging for readers unfamiliar with certain traditions.
- Limited character development: Certain secondary characters may feel underdeveloped or serve primarily as plot devices.
- Dark tone: The novel's bleakness and themes of evil might be unsettling or off-putting for some readers.

Impact and Legacy

Ritual Book David Pinner has left a lasting mark on horror literature, influencing subsequent works that explore paganism, the occult, and psychological horror. Its depiction of ancient rituals and their potential dangers resonates with readers interested in myth, history, and the supernatural. The novel's atmosphere and thematic depth have earned it a dedicated cult following, and it continues to be recommended for fans of slow-burning, thought-provoking horror.

Moreover, Pinner's work has inspired adaptations and discussions in horror circles, emphasizing the importance of folklore accuracy and atmospheric suspense. The novel is often cited as a prime example of how horror can be both intellectually stimulating and terrifying.

Conclusion

In summary, *Ritual Book David Pinner* is a masterful exploration of ancient rituals, evil, and the human psyche. Its richly atmospheric writing, layered themes, and memorable characters make it a standout within horror fiction. While its slow pace and complex references may not appeal to all, those willing to immerse themselves will find a haunting and intellectually stimulating experience. Whether as a standalone novel or as part of Pinner's broader oeuvre, *Ritual Book David Pinner* remains a compelling testament to the enduring power of myth and horror in storytelling.

Pros:

- Immersive atmosphere
- Thoughtful exploration of themes
- Rich folklore integration
- Nuanced portrayal of morality

Cons:

- Slow pacing
- Potentially obscure references

- Limited secondary character development
- Intense dark tone

For readers interested in horror that challenges the mind as much as it frightens the senses, *Ritual Book* David Pinner is a must-read. Its enduring legacy testifies to its quality and the lasting impact of Pinner's storytelling prowess.

Ritual Book David Pinner

ritual book david pinner: *Ritual* David Pinner, 2011-04 75 years since its first release, a true modern rarity and historical keystone in occult fiction and cinematic pop culture returns. Shrouded in the same brand of mystery and contradiction that forms its tangled plot, *Ritual* is commonly recognised by cult cinema fanatics as the original seed that spawned the towering movie enigma, *The Wicker Man*. A police officer is requested to investigate the presumed murder of a child in an obscure rural village. During his short stay, he is subjected to a spectacle of psychological trickery, sexual seduction and ancient practices and rituals.

ritual book david pinner: *Creeping Flesh* David Kerekes, 2003 Horror and fantasy cinema from around the world with a distinctive retro sensibility, *Creeping Flesh* focuses upon obscure and vilified horror movies, the discovery of lost films, and an appreciation of exploitation. Contents include: An interview with Alan Birkinshaw, director of the surreal drug and schoolgirl opus, *Killer's Moon*; The forgotten inspiration for *The Wicker Man*, and Robin Hardy's disastrous follow-up *The Fantastist*; The lifting of the ban on Ray Brady's controversial *Boy Meets Girl*; Bill Landis and Michelle Clifford on the seminal film zine *Sleazoid Express*, and the grindhouse theaters of old Times Square; plus an overview of BBC television fantasy of the '70s, now gaining cult popularity on both sides of the Atlantic.

ritual book david pinner: *The Wicker Man* Steve A. Wiggins, 2023-07-15 Many fans of Robin Hardy's *The Wicker Man* (1973) may know that this classic is considered a fine sample of folk horror. Few will consider that it's also a prime example of holiday horror. Holiday horror draws its energy from the featured festive day, here May Day. Sergeant Neil Howie (Edward Woodward), a "Christian copper," is lured to the remote Scottish island Summerisle where, hidden from the eyes of all, a thriving Celtic, pagan religion holds sway. His arrival at the start of the May Day celebration is no accident. The clash between religions, fought on the landscape of the holiday, drives the story to its famous conclusion. In this *Devil's Advocate*, Steve A. Wiggins delineates what holiday horror is and surveys various aspects of "the Citizen Kane of horror movies" that utilize the holiday. Beginning with a brief overview of Beltane and how May Day has been celebrated, this study considers the role of sexuality and fertility in the film. Conflicting with Howie's Christian principles, this leads to an exploration of his theology as contrasted with that of Lord Summerisle (Christopher Lee) and his tenants. Such differences in belief make the fiery ending practically inevitable.

ritual book david pinner: *Gothic Kernow: Cornwall as Strange Fiction* Ruth Heholt, Tanya Krzywinska, 2022-01-11 Focussing on written and visual culture that is made in or made about Cornwall, this book argues that Cornwall and the Scilly Isles (known as 'Kernow' in the Cornish language) have a special relationship with Gothic, one that has been overlooked in the literature on regional Gothic.

ritual book david pinner: *Faith Horror* LMK Sheppard, 2022-04-04 Faith horror refers to a significant outcropping of mid-1960s and 1970s films and adaptative novels that depict non-Christian communities of evil doers and their activities. Before this period, the classical horror villain was ultimately ineffectual. The demonic monster was an isolated, lone individual easily vanquished by an altruistic Christian protagonist. Alternatively, the villain in faith horror is

organized into identity-affirming, likeminded religious congregations that successfully overcome protagonists. Faith horror was a cinematic trend that depicted Satanism, witchcraft and paganism during a cultural deliberation over the Death of God, which debated the legitimacy of alternative spiritualities and the value of alliance to any faith at all. Covering popular works like *Rosemary's Baby*, *The Wicker Man* and *The Omen*, this book regards these films and their literary sources in relation to this historical moment, providing new ways of understanding both the period and the faith horror movement more generally.

ritual book david pinner: *Inside The Wicker Man* Allan Brown, 2012-02-15 *Inside The Wicker Man* is a treat for all cinemagoers, exhaustively researched and achieving a near-perfect balance between history, trivia and serious analysis. Allan Brown describes the filming and distribution of the cult masterpiece as a 'textbook example of How Things Should Never Be Done'. The omens were bad from the start, and proceeded to get much, much worse, with fake blossom on trees to simulate spring, actors chomping on ice-cubes to prevent their breath showing on film, and verbal and physical confrontations involving both cast and crew. The studio hated it and hardly bothered to distribute it, but today it finds favour with critics and fans alike, as a serious - if flawed - piece of cinema. Brown expertly guides readers through the film's convoluted history, attempting along the way to explain its enduring fascination, and providing interviews with the key figures - many of whom still have an axe to grind, and some of whom still harbour plans for a sequel.

ritual book david pinner: *The Blackout Murders* Neil R. Storey, 2023-02-16 Nostalgic recollections of wartime Britain often forget that when the blackout was enforced at night in an attempt to foil Nazi bombers a crime wave, cloaked by the inky black darkness, ensued on many of our streets. There were petty crimes, robberies, sexual assaults and, as *The Blackout Murders* reveals, some horrific murders took place on our home front during the Second World War. Some of them still rank among the most shocking crimes in modern British history. Some of the murders recounted within the pages of this book remain infamous, others are almost forgotten and some remain unsolved to this day. Several cases have new light shed on them from recently released archives and records uncovered by the author. Every case has been carefully selected for its reflection of wartime conditions and each one has a powerful, poignant and tragic story to tell. Readers will gain insights into the darker narrative of our home front and learn about some of the men and women who strove to maintain law and order under the most challenging circumstances. Others innovated and developed ground-breaking forensic techniques to identify bodies, recognize if foul play had occurred and as a direct result brought murderers to justice who may otherwise have gone undetected and unpunished. Anyone reading *The Blackout Murders* will never look at Britain's Home Front during the Second World War in the same way again.

ritual book david pinner: *Classic Horror Films and the Literature That Inspired Them* Ron Backer, 2015-05-11 Classic horror films such as *Dracula*, *Frankenstein* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* are based on famous novels. Less well known--even to avid horror fans--are the many other memorable films based on literary works. Beginning in the silent era and continuing to the present, numerous horror films found their inspiration in novels, novellas, short stories and poems, though many of these written works are long forgotten. This book examines 43 works of literature--from the famous to the obscure--that provided the basis for 62 horror films. Both the written works and the films are analyzed critically, with an emphasis on the symbiosis between the two. Background on the authors and their writings is provided.

ritual book david pinner: *The Quest for the Wicker Man* Benjamin Franks, Jonathan Murray, Stephen Harper, Lesley Stevenson, 2020-05-22 One of the greatest films ever to be made in Scotland, *The Wicker Man* immediately garnered a cult following on its release for its intense atmosphere and shocking denouement. This book explores the roots of this powerful, enduring film. With contributors including *The Wicker Man* director Robin Hardy, it is a thorough and informative read for all fans of this indispensable horror masterpiece.

ritual book david pinner: *Folk Horror* Adam Scovell, 2017-10-24 Interest in the ancient, the occult, and the wyrd is on the rise. The furrows of Robin Hardy (*The Wicker Man*), Piers Haggard

(Blood on Satan's Claw), and Michael Reeves (Witchfinder General) have arisen again, most notably in the films of Ben Wheatley (Kill List), as has the Spirit of Dark of Lonely Water, Juganets, cursed Saxon crowns, spaceships hidden under ancient barrows, owls and flowers, time-warping stone circles, wicker men, the goat of Mendes, and malicious stone tapes. Folk Horror: Hours Dreadful And Things Strange charts the summoning of these esoteric arts within the latter half of the twentieth century and beyond, using theories of psychogeography, hauntology, and topography to delve into the genre's output in film, television, and multimedia as its sacred demon of ungovernableness rises yet again in the twenty-first century.

ritual book david pinner: Seventies British Cinema Robert Shail, 2019-07-25 Seventies British Cinema provides a comprehensive re-evaluation of British film in the 1970s. The decade has long been written off in critical discussions as a 'doldrums' period in British cinema, perhaps because the industry, facing near economic collapse, turned to 'unacceptable' low culture genres such as sexploitation comedies or extreme horror. The contributors to this new collection argue that 1970s cinema is ripe for reappraisal: giving serious critical attention to populist genre films, they also consider the development of a British art cinema in the work of Derek Jarman and Peter Greenaway, and the beginnings of an independent sector fostered by the BFI Production Board and producers like Don Boyd. A host of highly individual directors managed to produce interesting and cinematically innovative work against the odds, from Nicolas Roeg to Ken Russell to Mike Hodges. As well as providing a historical and cinematic context for understanding Seventies cinema, the volume also features chapters addressing Hammer horror, the Carry On films, Bond films of the Roger Moore period, Jubilee and other films that responded to Punk rock; heritage cinema and case studies of key seventies films such as The Wicker Man and Straw Dogs. In all, the book provides the final missing piece in the rediscovery of British cinema's complex and protean history. Contributors: Ruth Barton, James Chapman, Ian Conrich, Wheeler Winston Dixon, Christophe Dupin, Steve Gerrard, Sheldon Hall I. Q. Hunter, James Leggott, Claire Monk, Paul Newland, Dan North, Robert Shail, Justin Smith and Sarah Street.

ritual book david pinner: Classical Myth in Alfred Hitchcock's Wrong Man and Grace Kelly Films Mark William Padilla, 2018-12-12 Mark Padilla's classical reception readings of Alfred Hitchcock features some of the director's most loved and important films, and demonstrates how they are informed by the educational and cultural classicism of the director's formative years. The six close readings begin with discussions of the production histories, so as to theorize and clarify how classicism could and did enter the projects. Exploration of the films through a classical lens creates the opportunity to explore new themes and ideological investments. The result is a further appreciation of both the engine of the director's storytelling creativity and the expressionism of classicism, especially Greek myth and art, in British and American modernism. The analysis organizes the material into two triptychs, one focused on the three films sharing a wrong man pattern (wrongly accused man goes on the run to clear himself), the other treating the films starring the actress Grace Kelly. Chapter One, on The 39 Steps (1935), finds the origins of the wrong man plot in early 20th-century British classicism, and demonstrates that the movie utilizes motifs of Homer's Odyssey. Chapter Two, on Saboteur (1942), theorizes the impact of the director's memories of the formalism and myths associated with the Parthenon sculptures housed in the British Museum. Chapter Three, on North by Northwest, participates in the myths of the hero Oedipus, as associated with early Greek epic, Freud, Nietzsche, and Sophocles. Chapter Four, on Dial M for Murder (1954), returns to Homer's Odyssey in the interpretive use of "the lay of Demodocus," a story about the sexual triangle of Hephaestus, Aphrodite, and Ares. Chapter Five, on Rear Window (1954), finds its narrative archetype in The Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite; the erotic theme of Sirius, the Dog Star, also marks the film. Chapter Six, on To Catch a Thief (1955), offers the opportunity to break from mythic analogues, and to consider the film's philosophical resonances (Plato and Epicurus) in the context of motifs coalesced around the god Dionysus/Bacchus.

ritual book david pinner: Imagining the Pagan Past Marion Gibson, 2013 Imagining the Pagan Past explores stories of Britain's pagan history. These tales have been characterised by gods

and fairies, folklore and magic. They have had an uncomfortable relationship with the scholarly world; often being seen as historically dubious, self-indulgent romance and, worse, encouraging tribal and nationalistic feelings or challenging church and state. This book shows how important these stories are to the history of British culture, taking the reader on a lively tour from prehistory to the present. From the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century, Marion Gibson explores the ways in which British pagan gods and goddesses have been represented in poetry, novels, plays, chronicles, scientific and scholarly writing. From Geoffrey of Monmouth to Edmund Spenser, William Shakespeare to Seamus Heaney and H.G. Wells to Naomi Mitchison it explores Romano-British, Celtic and Anglo-Saxon deities and fictions. The result is a comprehensive picture of the ways in which writers have peopled the British pagan pantheons throughout history. *Imagining the Pagan Past* will be essential reading for all those interested in the history of paganism.

ritual book david pinner: Encyclopedia of Weird Detectives Paul Green, 2019-09-26 The detective genre has explored supernatural and paranormal themes throughout its colorful history. Stories of detectives investigating spiritualists, ghostly apparitions, the occult and psychics have spanned pulp fiction magazines, comic books, novels, film, television, animation and video games. This encyclopedia covers the history of the genre in its multiple forms and informs and adds to the knowledge of either the new or informed reader. Its A-Z format provides ready reference by title. Detective fans browsing for new discoveries will enjoy the entertaining style.

ritual book david pinner: **Folk horror on film** Kevin J. Donnelly, Louis Bayman, 2023-10-10 What is folk horror and how culturally significant is it? This collection is the first study to address these questions while considering the special importance of British cinema to the genre's development. The book presents political and aesthetic analyses of folk horror's uncanny landscapes and frightful folk. It places canonical films like *Witchfinder General* (1968), *The Blood on Satan's Claw* (1971) and *The Wicker Man* (1973) in a new light and expands the canon to include films like the sci-fi horror *Doomwatch* (1970-72) and the horror documentary *Requiem for a Village* (1975) alongside filmmakers Ken Russell and Ben Wheatley. A series of engrossing chapters by established scholars and new writers argue for the uniqueness of folk horror from perspectives that include the fragmented national history of pagan heresies and Celtic cultures, of peasant lifestyles, folkloric rediscoveries and postcolonial decline.

ritual book david pinner: **The Screen Traveler's Guide** DK, 2023-10-24 Put yourself in the movie! Step inside dozens of real-life locations with this gloriously geeky, map-filled compendium. Locations are everything. They transport us to far-flung worlds and dystopian futures, and provide the backdrop to intergalactic battles and rampaging monsters. Our most obsessed-about stories would be nothing without them. Meticulously researched and compiled by self-proclaimed superfans and travel experts, *The Screen Traveler's Guide* maps the real-life locations behind your favorite shows and scenes. Follow the Avengers' battle of New York, discover the Croatian location for *Game of Thrones'* King's Landing, find out how New Zealand transformed into *Lord of the Rings'* Middle Earth, uncover exactly where the magical world of *Harry Potter* is set - and much more. Along the way, you'll discover the landmarks to avoid during an alien invasion, the strangest location stand-ins (did you know, for example, that Liverpool stood in for Brooklyn in *Captain America?*), the place that's doubled as more countries than any other, and lots of travel inspiration from your pop culture cornerstones. Welcome to the ultimate travel guide for every screen geek.

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ritual book david pinner: The Magic Box Rob Young, 2021-08-03 A LOUDER THAN WAR BOOK OF THE YEAR A riveting journey into the psyche of Britain through its golden age of television and film; a cross-genre feast of moving pictures, from classics to occult hidden gems, *The Magic Box* is the nation's visual self-portrait in technicolour detail. 'The definition of gripping. Truly, a trove of wyrd treasures.' BENJAMIN MYERS 'A lovingly researched history of British TV [that] recalls the brilliant, the bizarre and the unworldly.' GUARDIAN 'A reclamation, not just of a visual

'golden age', but of Britain as a darkly magical place.' THE SPECTATOR 'A feat of argument, description and affection.' FINANCIAL TIMES 'Young unearths the ghosts of TV past - and Britain's dark psyche.' HERALD 'Highly entertaining . . . [A] fabulous treasure trove.' SCOTSMAN 'Young is a phenomenal scholar.' OBSERVER 'Impassioned.' THE CRITIC Growing up in the 1970s, Rob Young's main storyteller was the wooden box with the glass window in the corner of the family living room, otherwise known as the TV set. Before the age of DVDs and Blu-ray discs, YouTube and commercial streaming services, watching television was a vastly different experience. You switched on, you sat back and you watched. There was no pause or fast-forward button. The cross-genre feast of moving pictures produced in Britain between the late 1950s and late 1980s - from Quatermass and Tom Jones to The Wicker Man and Brideshead Revisited, from A Canterbury Tale and The Go-Between to Bagpuss and Children of the Stones, and from John Betjeman's travelogues to ghost stories at Christmas - contributed to a national conversation and collective memory. British-made sci-fi, folk horror, period drama and televisual grand tours played out tensions between the past and the present, dramatised the fractures and injustices in society and acted as a portal for magical and ghostly visions. In The Magic Box, Rob Young takes us on a fascinating journey into this influential golden age of screen and discovers what it reveals about the nature and character of Britain, its uncategorisable people and buried histories - and how its presence can still be felt on screen in the twenty-first century. '[A] forensic dissection . . . this tightly packed treatise takes pains to illustrate how what we view affects how we view ourselves.' TOTAL FILM

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