

the witches of eastwick book

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The Witches of Eastwick is a captivating novel written by John Updike, first published in 1984. This seminal work explores themes of desire, power, morality, and the supernatural through the lives of three women living in the fictional town of Eastwick, Rhode Island. Renowned for its wit, sharp social commentary, and compelling characters, the novel has cemented its place as a classic of contemporary American literature. This article delves into the plot, themes, characters, and the cultural significance of The Witches of Eastwick, providing a comprehensive overview of this intriguing work.

Overview of the Novel

Plot Summary

The Witches of Eastwick centers around three women—Daryl Van Horne, Alexandra Spofford, Jane Smart, and Sukie Rougemont—who share a deep friendship and a common sense of dissatisfaction with their lives. Each woman is portrayed as a complex individual, grappling with her desires and societal expectations:

- Sukie Rougemont: A single mother and artist, searching for love and fulfillment.
- Jane Smart: A repressed and reserved woman, yearning for passion and adventure.
- Alexandra Spofford: A confident and sensual woman, who is unafraid to indulge her desires.

Their lives take a dramatic turn when a mysterious and charismatic stranger, Daryl Van Horne, arrives in town. Daryl embodies everything they secretly crave—wealth, power, and uninhibited pleasure. As the women become enamored with him, they find themselves caught in a web of temptation and moral

dilemmas.

The novel's supernatural element emerges as Daryl reveals himself to be a devilish figure with supernatural powers. As the women experiment with their newfound freedom and sexuality, they inadvertently summon supernatural forces that threaten to destroy their town and themselves. The narrative explores whether these women can regain control over their lives and what moral compromises they are willing to make in pursuit of happiness.

The Structure and Style

Updike's writing style in *The Witches of Eastwick* is characterized by its wit, irony, and detailed psychological insight. The novel seamlessly blends realism with supernatural elements, creating a narrative that is both humorous and thought-provoking. The structure is episodic, with chapters that focus alternately on the women's perspectives, allowing readers to gain a multifaceted understanding of their inner worlds.

The language is rich with symbolism and metaphor, often exploring themes of temptation, power, and societal constraints. Updike's ability to depict the complexities of female desire and the societal expectations placed on women is one of the novel's most praised aspects.

Major Themes of The Witches of Eastwick

Desire and Sexuality

One of the central themes of the novel is the exploration of female sexuality and desire. The three women embody different facets of female longing:

- Sukie seeks love and acceptance.
- Jane desires passion and adventure.
- Alexandra indulges her sensuality without restraint.

Their interactions with Daryl Van Horne serve as a catalyst for exploring these desires, challenging societal taboos, and revealing the tension between personal freedom and social morality.

Good vs. Evil

The novel presents a nuanced portrayal of morality, blurring the lines between good and evil. Daryl Van Horne symbolizes temptation and evil, yet he also embodies charisma and liberation. The women's moral struggles revolve around embracing their desires versus societal expectations of virtue.

Throughout the story, themes of temptation, sin, and redemption are explored, questioning whether true morality lies in adherence to societal norms or in personal authenticity.

Power and Control

Power dynamics play a significant role in the novel, especially regarding gender and sexuality. The women initially feel powerless in their lives, constrained by societal roles. Their interactions with Daryl grant them a sense of power, but also lead to chaos and destruction, illustrating the peril of unchecked desire and power.

The novel examines how power can be seductive and corrupting, and how the characters navigate their control over their lives and bodies.

Supernatural and the Occult

The supernatural elements are integral to the narrative, symbolizing the darker aspects of desire and the unknown. Daryl's devilish nature introduces themes of temptation, evil, and the supernatural's influence over human affairs.

The novel uses these elements to critique societal hypocrisy and to explore the limits of human morality.

Character Analysis

Sukie Rougemont

Sukie is depicted as a compassionate, artistic woman who is eager for love and companionship. Her journey involves overcoming her insecurities and embracing her sexuality, which leads her to confront her own desires and fears.

Jane Smart

Jane represents repression and societal conformity. Her character arc involves breaking free from her inhibitions and discovering her passions. Her interactions with Daryl serve as a catalyst for her personal liberation.

Alexandra Spofford

Alexandra is confident, assertive, and sexually liberated. She embodies the archetype of the empowered woman, challenging traditional gender roles and expectations. Her relationship with Daryl is marked by mutual respect and desire, highlighting her independence.

Daryl Van Horne

Daryl is the enigmatic outsider who embodies temptation and chaos. Charismatic and powerful, he manipulates the women's desires but also poses a threat to their moral integrity and the safety of Eastwick. His character raises questions about the nature of evil and the allure of the supernatural.

Cultural and Literary Significance

Impact and Adaptations

The Witches of Eastwick has had a significant cultural impact, inspiring adaptations in various media:

- Film: The 1987 film adaptation, directed by George Miller and starring Jack Nicholson, Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Susan Sarandon, brought the story to a wider audience. The film emphasized comedy and satire, differing somewhat from the novel's tone.
- Theatre: The novel was adapted into a stage musical, capturing the dark humor and supernatural elements.
- Literary Influence: Updike's portrayal of female desire and the supernatural has influenced subsequent writers exploring similar themes.

Critical Reception

The novel has been praised for its sharp wit, complex characters, and social commentary. Critics have highlighted Updike's ability to blend realism with supernatural elements, creating a narrative that is both entertaining and thought-provoking.

However, some have criticized the novel for its portrayal of women and its treatment of sexuality, viewing it as controversial or provocative. Despite this, it remains a significant work in American literature.

Conclusion

The Witches of Eastwick is a multifaceted novel that explores the depths of human desire, morality, and the supernatural. Through its vivid characters and provocative themes, John Updike invites readers to question societal norms and examine the complex interplay between power and morality. Its enduring popularity and various adaptations attest to its significance as a cultural and literary work. Whether viewed as a satire, a supernatural tale, or a commentary on human nature, *The Witches of Eastwick* continues to captivate audiences and provoke thought decades after its initial publication.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Witches of Eastwick' by John Updike?

The novel follows three women in the small town of Eastwick who discover they have supernatural powers and become involved with a mysterious and charismatic man, Daryl Van Horne, leading to themes of temptation, power, and morality.

Who are the three main female characters in 'The Witches of Eastwick'?

The three main characters are Alexandra Spofford, Jane Smart, and Sukie Ridgemont, each of whom has unique personalities and develops supernatural abilities.

How does Daryl Van Horne influence the women in the story?

Daryl Van Horne is a charming and seductive outsider who awakens the women's desires and powers, ultimately challenging their morals and leading to a series of supernatural and moral conflicts.

What are the themes explored in 'The Witches of Eastwick'?

The novel explores themes of female empowerment, temptation, morality, the nature of evil, and the supernatural, often examining the tension between good and evil.

Is 'The Witches of Eastwick' based on real witches or folklore?

No, the novel is a work of fiction that uses witchcraft and supernatural elements allegorically to explore human desires and societal norms, rather than depicting actual witches or folklore.

Has 'The Witches of Eastwick' been adapted into other media?

Yes, it was adapted into a popular film in 1987 starring Jack Nicholson, Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Susan Sarandon, and there was also a stage musical based on the book.

What is the significance of the setting, Eastwick, in the novel?

Eastwick represents a small, seemingly idyllic town that becomes a backdrop for exploring the darker aspects of human nature, desire, and the supernatural.

How does 'The Witches of Eastwick' challenge traditional gender roles?

The novel portrays three women who gain supernatural powers, asserting independence and strength, thereby challenging conventional gender expectations and highlighting female agency.

What is the critical reception of 'The Witches of Eastwick'?

The novel has been praised for its wit, satire, and exploration of complex themes, though some critics view it as a provocative critique of American society and gender dynamics.

Additional Resources

The Witches of Eastwick Book: An In-Depth Analysis of John Updike's Supernatural Classic

The Witches of Eastwick is a captivating novel by John Updike that masterfully blends elements of fantasy, satire, and social commentary. Since its publication in 1984, the book has garnered critical acclaim and a dedicated readership, cementing its place as a significant work in contemporary American literature. This article offers a comprehensive examination of the novel, exploring its themes, characters, narrative structure, and cultural impact, providing readers with an insightful understanding of Updike's richly layered storytelling.

Overview of the Novel: Setting and Plot Summary

Setting: A Small American Town

The novel is set in the fictional town of Eastwick, a quintessential American community characterized by its idyllic suburban environment. Eastwick, with its quaint charm and seemingly tranquil social fabric, serves as the perfect backdrop for the unfolding supernatural drama. Updike paints a vivid picture of the town's social dynamics, emphasizing its superficial charm that conceals underlying tensions and desires.

Plot Summary: A Tale of Three Women and a Devil

At its core, *The Witches of Eastwick* revolves around three women—Darryl Van Horne, Alexandra Spofford, Jane Smart, and Sukie Rougemont—each embodying different facets of femininity and societal roles. Their lives intersect when Darryl Van Horne, a charismatic and enigmatic millionaire, arrives in Eastwick and becomes the catalyst for both their personal awakenings and supernatural upheaval.

The narrative unfolds as each woman grapples with her desires, frustrations, and aspirations. Their interactions with Van Horne lead to a series of extraordinary events, culminating in a confrontation with evil incarnate. The novel explores themes of temptation, empowerment, morality, and the nature of good versus evil, all while maintaining a sharp satirical edge that critiques American suburban life.

Themes and Symbolism in the Witches of Eastwick

The Supernatural as a Reflection of Desire and Repression

One of the novel's central themes is the use of supernatural elements to symbolize repressed desires and societal constraints. The witches—Darryl, Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie—are not traditional witches but represent empowered women seeking fulfillment beyond societal expectations. Their encounters with Van Horne, who embodies temptation and chaos, act as allegories for confronting hidden passions and breaking free from conformity.

The supernatural also serves as a mirror to the characters' internal struggles. Van Horne's demonic nature symbolizes the darker aspects of human desire, while the witches' powers reflect their awakening to personal agency. Updike masterfully blurs the line between the mundane and the fantastical, emphasizing that the supernatural is woven into everyday life.

Gender Roles and Feminine Power

The novel critically examines gender dynamics within suburban America. The three women, each with distinct personalities and life circumstances, challenge traditional gender roles. Darryl Van Horne's arrival disrupts the social equilibrium, acting as both a destructive force and a catalyst for female empowerment.

- Darryl Van Horne: Charismatic, seductive, and morally ambiguous, Van Horne embodies both male dominance and the potential for chaos.
- Alexandra Spofford: An intellectual and outspoken woman, she seeks independence and self-assertion.
- Jane Smart: Artistic and free-spirited, she symbolizes creative liberation.
- Sukie Rougemont: The most vulnerable, she yearns for love and acceptance.

Through these characters, Updike explores how women navigate societal expectations and discover their inner strength, often through supernatural means. The novel questions whether true power lies in

societal acceptance or in embracing one's authentic self.

The Duality of Good and Evil

Updike's depiction of Van Horne blurs the traditional dichotomy of good versus evil. His seductive charm masks a malevolent core, challenging simplistic moral judgments. The witches' reactions to Van Horne reveal their internal conflicts—desiring his allure yet fearing the destructive potential of evil. The novel suggests that morality is complex, fluid, and often intertwined with desire and temptation.

Character Analysis: Depths and Dynamics

Darryl Van Horne: The Devil Incarnate

Darryl Van Horne is arguably the most compelling character in the novel. Charismatic, witty, and deeply seductive, he embodies the archetype of the devil in modern guise. His arrival in Eastwick acts as a catalyst for chaos, but also offers a mirror to the aspirations and frustrations of the women.

Van Horne's character is layered; he is both a villain and a symbol of liberation. His devilish nature is revealed gradually, revealing a complex personality that challenges readers' perceptions of evil. His interactions with the women expose themes of temptation, power, and moral ambiguity.

The Three Witches: Darryl, Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie

- Alexandra Spofford: An educated, articulate woman seeking meaning beyond her conventional life.

Her intelligence and independence make her a natural leader among the women.

- Jane Smart: Artistic, whimsical, and passionate, Jane seeks creative expression and emotional fulfillment.

- Sukie Rougemont: Vulnerable and empathetic, she represents the everywoman grappling with loneliness and longing.

Each woman's journey reflects different aspects of female empowerment and societal constraints.

Their collective evolution underscores Updike's exploration of female agency and the transformative power of embracing one's desires.

Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Updike's Prose and Tone

Updike's writing style is characterized by its wit, precision, and subtle humor. His prose combines lyrical descriptions with sharp social critique, creating a tone that oscillates between satire and seriousness. The narrative voice often adopts a reflective, almost philosophical stance, inviting readers to ponder moral and existential questions alongside the characters' personal journeys.

Use of Symbolism and Allegory

The novel employs rich symbolism, from the witches' powers to Van Horne's demonic traits. These symbols serve as allegories for broader societal themes, such as gender dynamics, moral ambiguity, and the tension between individual desires and social norms.

The supernatural elements are not merely fantastical devices but serve as metaphors for the psychological and social realities faced by the characters.

Structural Elements

The novel's structure is episodic, with each chapter revealing new facets of the characters' lives and escalating the tension. Updike's use of detailed character development and vivid scene-setting immerses readers into the suburban universe, making the supernatural episodes feel both extraordinary and intimately familiar.

Cultural and Literary Impact

Reception and Critical Analysis

Upon publication, *The Witches of Eastwick* was lauded for its inventive blending of fantasy and social satire. Critics appreciated Updike's ability to critique suburban hypocrisy while exploring profound themes of female empowerment and moral complexity. Some commentators, however, noted that the novel's dark humor and supernatural themes could be unsettling or controversial.

Influence on Popular Culture

The novel's popularity was amplified by its adaptation into a film in 1987, directed by George Miller and starring Jack Nicholson, Cher, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Susan Sarandon. The film, while taking liberties with the plot, brought wider attention to the story's themes and characters.

Additionally, the novel has influenced subsequent works exploring supernatural feminism, suburban anxieties, and moral ambiguity within American culture.

Literary Significance

The Witches of Eastwick stands as a quintessential example of Updike's mastery in blending the mundane with the mythic. It challenges readers to reconsider assumptions about morality, gender, and power, making it a vital work that continues to resonate with contemporary audiences.

Conclusion: A Timeless Exploration of Desire and Morality

John Updike's *The Witches of Eastwick* remains a compelling and thought-provoking novel that defies simple categorization. Through its vivid characters, layered themes, and sophisticated narrative style, it offers a nuanced exploration of human desire, societal constraints, and the supernatural's role in revealing hidden truths. Its enduring relevance lies in its capacity to examine the complexities of morality and gender within the familiar yet mysterious landscape of suburban America. As a literary work, it challenges and delights, inviting readers to confront their own notions of good, evil, and the power of the human spirit.

[The Witches Of Eastwick Book](#)

the witches of eastwick book: *The Widows of Eastwick* John Updike, 2009 After traveling the world to exotic lands, Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie -- now widowed but still witches -- return to the Rhode Island seaside town of Eastwick, the scene of their primes, site of their enchanted mischief more than three decades ago. Diabolical Darryl Van Horne is gone, and what was once a center of license and liberation is now a haven of wholesomeness populated by hockey moms and househusbands acting out against the old ways of their own absent, experimenting parents. With spirits still willing but flesh weaker, the three women must confront a powerful new counterspell of

conformity. In this wicked and wonderful novel, John Updike is as his very best - a legendary master of literary magic up to his old delightful tricks.

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick John Updike, 1984 A great deal of fun to read...Fresh, constantly entertaining...John Updike remains a wizard of language and observation. THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER In a small New England town in the late 1960s, there lived three witches. Alexandra Spofford, a sculptress, Jane Smart, a cellist, and Sukie Rougemont, the local gossip columnist. Their supernatural gifts were intriguing, to say the least. Divorced but hardly celibate, content but always ripe for adventure, one day all three witches found themselves under the spell of a new man in town, Darryl Van Horne. His hot tub was the scene of some bewitching delights, but that doesn't bring to conjure the half of it....

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick John Updike, 2012-03-13 "John Updike is the great genial sorcerer of American letters [and] The Witches of Eastwick [is one of his] most ambitious works. . . . [A] comedy of the blackest sort."—The New York Times Book Review Toward the end of the Vietnam era, in a snug little Rhode Island seacoast town, wonderful powers have descended upon Alexandra, Jane, and Sukie, bewitching divorcees with sudden access to all that is female, fecund, and mysterious. Alexandra, a sculptor, summons thunderstorms; Jane, a cellist, floats on the air; and Sukie, the local gossip columnist, turns milk into cream. Their happy little coven takes on new, malignant life when a dark and moneyed stranger, Darryl Van Horne, refurbishes the long-derelict Lenox mansion and invites them in to play. Thenceforth scandal flits through the darkening, crooked streets of Eastwick—and through the even darker fantasies of the town's collective psyche. "A great deal of fun to read . . . fresh, constantly entertaining . . . John Updike [is] a wizard of language and observation."—The Philadelphia Inquirer "Vintage Updike, which is to say among the best fiction we have."—Newsday

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick John Updike, 1987-01-01 Repeat. Now a film starring Jack Nicolson.

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick Prince of Wales Theatre, Piccadilly, 2001

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick/John Updike John Updike, 1985

the witches of eastwick book: The Witch Book Raymond Buckland, 2001-11-01 A look at Witches, Witchcraft and the Wicca tradition from the author of Buckland's Complete Book of Witchcraft From Abracadabra to Aleister Crowley to Gardnerian Witchcraft to Rosemary's Baby to sorcery and Zoroaster, The Witch Book by the late, great Raymond Buckland is unmatched in its coverage of witchcraft's historical, practical, and cultural aspects. A student of the late Wicca pioneer Dr. Gerald Gardner, Raymond Buckland has been widely credited with introducing Wicca to the United States. He was one of the world's foremost experts on Witchcraft, Wicca, and Earth religions. With 560 entries, a resource section, and 114 photos and illustrations, this is an exhaustive exploration of Witchcraft, Wicca, paganism, magic, people, places, events, literature, and more. It shows how, in pre-Christian and early Christian times, Witchcraft (with a capital "W") was a magical and healing practice associated with early spiritual beliefs, including how the word Witch comes from the Old Anglo-Saxon *wicce* or *wicca*, meaning a "wise one": the wiseman or -woman of the common people who had knowledge of herbs, healing, augury, and magic. It also tackles how Witchcraft and paganism were erroneously linked with Satanism, black magic, and pop-culture distortions. It defines both the darker Christian concept and the true concept of Wicca, concentrating on the Western European and later New World versions of Witchcraft and magic. The Witch Book is a broad and deep look at witches, witchcraft and the Wicca tradition.

the witches of eastwick book: Moving Targets Margaret Atwood, 2006 The most precious treasure of this collection is that it gives us the rich back-story and diverse range of influences on Margaret Atwood's work. From the aunts who encouraged her nascent writing career to the influence of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* on *The Handmaid's Tale*, we trace the movement of Atwood's fertile and curious mind in action over the years. Atwood's controversial political pieces, *Napoleon's Two Biggest Mistakes* and *Letter to America* -- both not-so-veiled warnings about the

repercussions of the war in Iraq -- also appear, alongside pieces that exhibit her active concern for the environment, the North, and the future of the human race. Atwood also writes about her peers: John Updike, Marina Warner, Italo Calvino, Marian Engel, Toni Morrison, Angela Carter, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Mordecai Richler, Elmore Leonard, and Ursula Le Guin. This is a landmark volume from a major writer whose worldwide readership is in the millions, and whose work has influenced and entertained generations. *Moving Targets* is the companion volume to *Second Words*.

the witches of eastwick book: The New Witches Aaron K.H. Ho, 2021-07-09 After *Charmed* ended in 2006, witches were relegated to sidekicks of televisual vampires or children's programs. But during the mid-2010s they began to resurface as leading characters in shows like the immensely popular *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, the *Charmed* reboot, *Salem*, *American Horror Story: Coven*, and the British program, *A Discovery of Witches*. No longer sweet, feminine, domestic, and white, these witches are powerful, diverse, and transgressive, representing an intersectional third-wave feminist vision of the witch. Featuring original essays from noted scholars, this is the first critical collection to examine witches on television from the late 2010s. Situated in the aftermath of the #MeToo movement, essays examine the reemergence and shifting identities of TV witches through the perspectives of intersectional gender studies, hauntology, politics, morality, monstrosity, violence, queerness, disabilities, rape, ecofeminism, linguistics, family, and digital humanities.

the witches of eastwick book: Fictional Feminism Kim A. Loudermilk, 2013-08-21 This book focuses on the ways in which second-wave feminism has been represented in American popular culture, and on the effects that these representations have had on feminism as a political movement. Kim Loudermilk provides close readings of four best-selling novels and their film adaptations. According to Loudermilk, each of these novels contains explicitly feminist characters and themes, yet each presents a curiously ambivalent picture of feminism; these texts at once take feminism seriously and subtly undercut its most central tenets. This book argues that these texts create a kind of fictional feminism that recuperates feminism's radical potential, thereby lessening the threat it presents to the status quo.

the witches of eastwick book: Journeys into Darkness James Goho, 2014-03-06 The tradition of supernatural horror fiction runs deep in Anglo-American literature. From the Gothic novels of the eighteenth century to such contemporary authors as Stephen King and Anne Rice, writers have employed horror fiction to unearth many disquieting truths about the human condition, ranging from mistreatment of women and minorities to the ever-present dangers of modern city life. In *Journeys into Darkness: Critical Essays on Gothic Horror*, James Goho analyzes many significant writers and trends in American and British horror fiction. Beginning with Charles Brockden Brown's disturbing novels of terror and madness, Goho proceeds to discuss the influence of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" on H. P. Lovecraft, who is treated in several penetrating essays. Lovecraft was a uniquely philosophical writer, and Goho approaches his work through the lens of existentialist philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, while also probing Lovecraft's racism as exhibited in several tales about Native Americans. Goho also discusses the Welsh writer Arthur Machen's tortured tales of suffering and evil and Algernon Blackwood's numerous stories set in the wilds of the Canadian backwoods. The book concludes with a centuries-spanning essay on the witchcraft theme in the American Gothic tradition and a comprehensive essay on Fritz Leiber's invention of the urban Gothic. In this wide-ranging study, James Goho examines the varied ways in which supernatural fiction can address the deepest moral, social, and political concerns of the human experience. *Journeys into Darkness* will be of interest to readers and scholars of horror fiction and to students of literary history and culture in general.

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick Michael Cristofer, 200?

the witches of eastwick book: The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 21 Stephen Jones, 2010-10-28 The year's best, and darkest, tales of terror, showcasing the most outstanding new short stories and novellas by both contemporary masters of the macabre and exciting newcomers. As ever, this acclaimed anthology also offers the most comprehensive annual overview of horror around the

world in all its incarnations; a comprehensive necrology of famous names; and a list of indispensable contact addresses for the dedicated horror fan and writer alike. The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror remains the world's leading annual anthology dedicated solely to presenting the best in contemporary horror fiction. Praise for Stephen Jones: 'The best horror anthologist in the business is, of course, Stephen Jones, whose Mammoth Book of Best New Horror is one of the major bargains of this as of any other year.' Roz Kavaney 'An essential volume for horror readers.' Locus 'Stephen Jones . . . has a better sense of the genre than almost anyone in this country.' Lisa Tuttle, The Times Books

the witches of eastwick book: Terrifying Texts Cynthia J. Miller, A. Bowdoin Van Riper, 2018-08-28 From Faust (1926) to The Babadook (2014), books have been featured in horror films as warnings, gateways, prisons and manifestations of the monstrous. Ancient grimoires such as the Necronomicon serve as timeless vessels of knowledge beyond human comprehension, while runes, summoning diaries, and spell books offer their readers access to the powers of the supernatural--but at what cost? This collection of new essays examines nearly a century of genre horror in which on-screen texts drive and shape their narratives, sometimes unnoticed. The contributors explore American films like The Evil Dead (1981), The Prophecy (1995) and It Follows (2014), as well as such international films as Eric Valette's Malefique (2002), Paco Cabeza's The Appeared (2007) and Lucio Fulci's The Beyond (1981).

the witches of eastwick book: The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror 20 Stephen Jones, 2009-10-15 The year's best, and darkest, tales of terror, showcasing the most outstanding new short stories and novellas by contemporary masters of the macabre, including the likes of Ramsey Campbell, Neil Gaiman, Brian Keene, Tanith Lee, Elizabeth Massie, Kim Newman, Michael Marshall Smith, and Gene Wolfe. The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror also includes a comprehensive annual overview of horror around the world in all its incarnations; an impressively researched necrology; and a list of indispensable contact addresses for the dedicated horror fan and aspiring writer alike. It is required reading for every fan of macabre fiction.

the witches of eastwick book: Writing with Intent Margaret Atwood, 2009-04-21 From one of the world's most passionately engaged and acclaimed literary citizens comes Writing with Intent, the largest collection to date of Margaret Atwood's nonfiction, ranging from 1983 to 2005. Composed of autobiographical essays, cultural commentary, book reviews, and introductory pieces to great works of literature, this is the award-winning author's first book-length nonfiction publication in twenty years. Arranged chronologically, these writings display the development of Atwood's worldview as the world around her changes. Included are the Booker Prize -- winning author's reviews of books by John Updike, Italo Calvino, Toni Morrison, and others, as well as essays in which she remembers herself reading Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse at age nineteen, and discusses the influence of George Orwell's 1984 on the writing of The Handmaid's Tale. Atwood's New York Times Book Review piece that helped make Orhan Pamuk's Snow a bestseller can be found here, as well as a look back on a family trip to Afghanistan just before the Soviet invasion, and her Letter to America, written after September 11, 2001. The insightful and memorable pieces in this book serve as a testament to Atwood's career, reminding readers why she is one of the most esteemed writers of our time.

the witches of eastwick book: The Witches of Eastwick / Иствикские ведьмы Джон Апдайк, 2025-03-07 Жизнь в Иствике скучна и размеренна, но не зря говорят, что в тихом омуте черти водятся. Здесь обитают настоящие ведьмы. Правда, они не летают в ступе и не приносят жертвы в полнолуние, наоборот, заняты тем же, чем и обычные горожанки: изо всех сил пытаются найти своё счастье, но на деле их жизни наполняют интрижки, семейные проблемы, заботы о детях, болезни...Спокойный быт трёх ведьм и тихую жизнь всего городка разрушает внезапное появление красавца мужчины: богатого, образованного, с прекрасными манерами. Героини начинают борьбу за сердце таинственного соседа, и происходящие в связи с этим события убеждают, что в схватке за свою любовь каждая женщина – истинная ведьма.Текст сокращён и адаптирован. Уровень B1.

the witches of eastwick book: *Bell, Book and Camera* Heather Greene, 2018-04-26 The witch as a cultural archetype has existed in some form since the beginning of recorded history. Her nature has changed through technological developments and sociocultural shifts--a transformation most evident in her depictions on screen. This book traces the figure of the witch through American screen history with an analysis of the entertainment industry's shifting boundaries concerning expressions of femininity. Focusing on films and television series from *The Wizard of Oz* to *The Craft*, the author looks at how the witch reflects alterations of gender roles, religion, the modern practice of witchcraft, and female agency.

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