



LOVE MAGIC

Work a little magic
this Valentine's Day

Everyone has cast a love spell at some stage. It may have been wishing for someone to want you as you blew out the birthday candles, praying for new love, or doing a ritual to boost your self-confidence and thus make yourself more attractive.

Witches are inundated with requests for love spells, even from people who profess not to believe in magic.

Most witches won't cast a spell on anyone, as this contradicts the basis of their beliefs – to do what you will but harm none, and to never interfere with the free will of anyone.

But you can add magic to your life by empowering yourself, raising your confidence and improving your outlook.

'I never cast spells on anyone,' singer, TV star and witch Fiona Horne says.

'The craft fosters a sense of self-respect and self-reliance to the point where romantic partnerships are not the be all and end all of happiness.

'But if you are casting a love spell it's important not to specify a person, as that is manipulative and potentially disastrous. It's interfering with their free will, so the spell will backfire on you and any love created will not be karma-free.

'Plus they might turn out to be a psycho, but because the spell worked you won't be able to get rid of them!'

Fiona has been a witch for 16 years. And she says that far from using magic to make people fall in love with her or be able to control them, it has empowered and improved her own life.

'I love the perspective on life being a witch gives me – that heaven is here on earth and every day can be "the best day ever". That even dark and difficult times can be nourishing. People ask what my favourite spell is, and I can only answer: "My life!" My life is a spell in progress and it is working beautifully.'

It was only a few hundred years ago that women were burnt at the stake if



they were accused of witchcraft, wiping out generations of healers. Until recently it was still viewed with suspicion and fear.

But today it is recognised as a valid spiritual path. In Australia it is the fastest growing religion, and through TV shows like *Charmed* and *Buffy* and educational groups such as the Pagan Awareness Network Inc, people are beginning to see the strength within it and look further than the stereotype of the ugly old woman with the wart on her nose.

Witchcraft is an ancient belief system that has adapted itself over the centuries to reflect the times. Originally it was based on the seasons. And while today people don't rely as much on the cycles of nature, environmentalism and respect for the earth is a big part of wicca.

'If you are practising you'll find that you naturally take steps to minimise the negative impact you have on the earth.

'Recycling, being vegetarian, buying organic and supporting environmental groups are ways to practise the craft as part of your everyday life,' she says.

Fiona has done her bit to alter the craft's misconceptions. She's written five books, including *The Coven – Making Magick Together*, which have all helped

dispel public stereotypes and make it more acceptable in the mainstream.

And her new TV show *Mad Mad House*, screening in the US in March, will lift her profile further and help present witches as intelligent, tolerant and spiritual people who worship a divine force and take responsibility for their own actions and happiness.

Initially it was the emphasis on honouring the goddess that drew Fiona, who grew up Catholic, to witchcraft.

'It was empowering after a religion that recognised only a God and said the feminine is not to be considered divine. The craft honours a goddess and a god, and that is very healing and balanced.'

Fiona has cast the odd spell for LA stars like Cameron Diaz, but she prefers to encourage people to create their own magic and empower themselves.

'The best spells are the ones that you create yourself from a sincere desire to stimulate a positive shift in your life.

'I don't cast spells for people as much as I do a ritual that clears stagnant energies from their environment, helping them gain a more positive perspective so that they can start to experience a happier personal reality,' she says.

FIONA'S LOVE SPELL

By the light of a pink candle, write with a red pen on a piece of pink paper a description of your ideal partner – their qualities, not a specific person. Roll this into a small scroll and tie a 23cm piece of white ribbon around it, leaving a long tail. Stand holding it between the thumb and index finger of your writing hand, and with the other slowly wind the ribbon around your index finger, saying over and over: 'Come to me, my will is great, perfect love is mine to make.' When the scroll is wound up to your finger, kiss the paper three times and slip the ribbon from your finger, sliding the scroll within the ribbon coil, and place under your pillow. Every night kiss the scroll three times, repeating the charm. Do this spell on the first night of the waxing moon, and your ideal partner will appear in your life by the full moon.

TO FIND OUT MORE

- Fiona's website, www.fionahorne.com, features information, stories and a spell book with more than 200 spells in it.
- Her books, including *Witch – A Magickal Year* and *Witch – A Personal Journey*, are also full of details about the craft.
- For information, help with common misconceptions and news of events such as full moon circles, contact the educational group Pagan Awareness Network Inc, at PO Box 1062, North Sydney, NSW 2059, or www.paganawareness.net.au.

