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Opening Extract from...

The Magpie and the Wardrobe

A Curiosity of Folklore Magic and Spells

Written by Sam McKechnie
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New year's Resolutions



Clean the house
Sweep away the old
and make way for the new.

Don't do laundry on New Years Day.
As you wash away good luck.

Be loud!
It will chase away the bad spirits!

Eat yourself lucky
Grapes – one for each month of the year
Lentils – represent coins
Greens – are the colour of money
Honey – keeps you sweet for the year to come



Out with the
old and in with
the new...

JANUARY



Keys

- Symbolic of locking and unlocking, opening or shutting out.
- Carry an iron key in your pocket to bring good luck.
- The Greeks believed the key symbolized knowledge and life.

CANDLE MAGIC

Remember when you used to blow out cake candles to make a wish? That's candle magic.

Churches only used to use beeswax candles as it was believed that bees came from Paradise.

Light a new white candle in a new home to bring good luck and keep away negativity and bad energies.

Burning incense and candles both purifies and cleanses the home.

A candle with a tall straight flame means the arrival of a stranger.



Candle magic is a simple form of wishcasting. Anyone with a candle can cast a spell.

Always use a new candle, as old ones retain previous energies. Choose a colour to reflect your wish:

RED Courage & love

PINK Friends

ORANGE Attraction

GOLD Money

YELLOW Protection

GREEN Fertility

LIGHT BLUE Health

BROWN Earth

BLACK Negativity & banishment

WHITE Purity & truth

SILVER Reflection



Find a quiet place and concentrate on your wish while lighting your candle with a match. Let your mind fill with your wish as you gently blow out the candle.

'TASSOLOGY



THE ART OF READING TEA LEAVES

Brew a pot of tea using loose tea leaves, and allow to stand as for a cup of strong tea. Pour into your cup without a strainer, add milk if desired, then drain or drink the tea.

Pour off any remaining liquid so that only the loose tea leaves are left.

Look into the cup, and what do you see? You're looking for a shape, form, symbol or letter.

The diviner or 'tea leaf reader' reads and interprets the leaves according to shape and form. The use of a 'fortune cup' is handy if you're a beginner.

Good Luck!



PAPER FORTUNE



Also known as
Bumbledumpling
Flapdapper
Fortune Teller
Salt Cellar
Whirlybird

A simple origami-based construction used by children for fortune telling. Hand decorated and labelled with colours and numbers, it opens out to reveal a hidden message.

To work the fortune teller, put your thumbs and index fingers inside each of the four corners. Hold the four corners together and ask your friend to choose a colour. Spell that colour out, while moving the fortune teller in and out. You can then ask your friend to choose a number from the options inside. Again, move the fortune teller in and out according to the number chosen, then ask your friend to choose another number. Open that flap to reveal their fortune.



See a robin overhead - marry a sailor.
See a sparrow - marry rich of heart
but poor of pocket.
See a goldfinch - marry money.

The Romans believed that birds picked
their mates on St. Valentine's Day.



Many are the stars I see,
But in my eye no star like thee.
-English saying used on posy rings



Walk on roses...

- Symbolic of locking and unlocking, opening or shutting out.
- Carry an iron key in your pocket to bring good luck.
- The Greeks believed the key symbolized knowledge and life.



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LOVE

Luhv/

Enjoyment, attachment, tenderness, devotion, desire, protection, adore, like, admire, worship, passion.

BIRTHSTONE: Amethyst

FLOWER: Violet



The rose is red, the violet's blue,
The honey's sweet, and so are you,
Thou art my love and I am thine,
I drew thee to my Valentine:
The lot was cast and then I drew,
And fortune said to shou'd be you.

WEARING ONE'S HEART ON ONE'S SLEEVE

This saying dates from a tradition in medieval times. Women would write their names on pieces of paper and place them in a jar. A man would draw a lady's name from it and pin it to his shirt sleeve and she would then be his Valentine.



CURIOUS DAYS

Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday)

The day before Ash Wednesday – the last chance to indulge yourself before the abstinence of Lent.

Kissing Friday

The Friday after Ash Wednesday. Schoolboys were entitled to kiss girls without fear of rejection.

LUPERCALIA

From *lupus*, the Latin for wolf. Lupercus was the Roman god of shepherds.

Lupercalia was a Roman festival of fertility where young people chose their sweethearts by lottery and cleansed themselves of evil spirits by burning candles. Various other rituals were carried out including chasing out wolves.



FEBRUARY DIARY

- 1st Imbolc / Snowdrop Festival
- 2nd Candlemas / The Wives' Feast
A pagan festival signifying the beginning of spring. The wives' feast is a gathering of women to celebrate home-making.
- 6th St. Dorothy's Day

Periwinkle fair
Held in Pooyl Vaaishi in Wales.
- 14th St. Valentine's Day / Eve of Lupercalia
- 29th Leap Day
A woman can propose marriage on this date which occurs only once every four years.



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