

# MATCHES & MAGIC

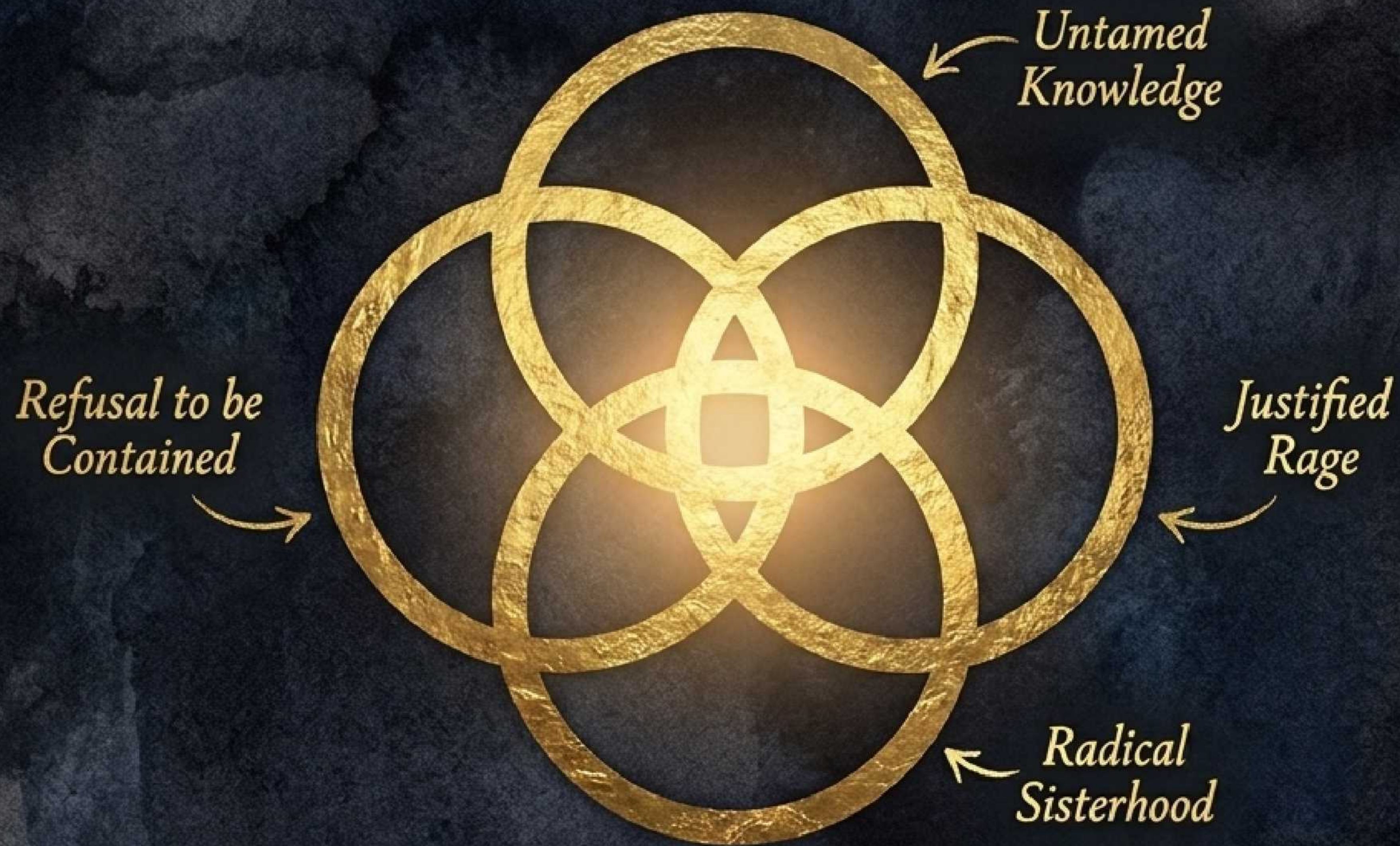


**A fierce, unapologetic reading guide for fans of Witchcraft for Wayward Girls.**

*Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* gave us an uncompromising blueprint for female solidarity, justified anger, and unruly heroines.

You read it because you demand magic rooted in the brutal, beautiful reality of the female experience. We are entirely done being quiet. Here is your next coven of books, curated for readers with high literary standards and zero tolerance for patriarchal tropes.





## **The Ultimate Feminist Archetype**

*The witch remains the ultimate feminist archetype because she is built entirely outside the patriarchy. She answers to no king. She requires only a forest, a circle of women, and her own brilliant mind. She represents power that has never bothered to ask for permission.*



## **The 2024-2025 Feminist Witch Revival**

Fiction is providing the blueprints for resilience in 2024 and 2025. As systemic attacks on bodily autonomy accelerate, publishing has responded with a massive surge in witch literature. Reading these narratives is no longer about escaping reality. It is about arming ourselves for it.

# Mapping the Coven

Choose your particular brand of magic.

Rage & Vengeance ←→ Warmth & Healing



*Circe*



*Weyward*



*The Very Secret Society  
of Irregular Witches*



*The Witches  
of New York*



*The Year of  
the Witching*



*Cackle*



*A Secret History  
of Witches*



*The Once and  
Future Witches*



*Her Majesty's  
Royal Coven*



*VenCo*

Solitary Power ←→ Community Magic



# **The Once and Future Witches by Alix E. Harrow**

Weaponizing domestic labor

## **The Feminist Angle**

A radical intersection of women's suffrage and the labor movement, proving that political organizing is a literal form of spellcasting.

## **The Magic System**

Rhymes, half-remembered lullabies, and domestic chores weaponized into real, world-bending power.

## **The Plot**

In an alternate 1893, three estranged sisters use hidden magic to turn the women's suffrage movement into a literal witch hunt—where the witches are the ones hunting.



# The Year of the Witching by Alexis Henderson

Dismantling patriarchal extremism

## The Feminist Angle

A blistering takedown of religious zealotry and the deeply entrenched systemic abuse of women and marginalized bodies.

## The Magic System

Visceral, blood-and-bone magic passed down through outcasts. Nature violently reclaiming what religion stole.

## The Plot

A young woman living in a strictly controlled, puritanical society discovers she has the dark power necessary to bring down the monstrous prophets who rule her world.



# Weyward by Emilia Hart

Surviving generational violence

## The Feminist Angle

A profound look at trauma, demonstrating how male violence echoes through centuries, but female resilience echoes significantly louder.

## The Magic System

A deep, symbiotic connection to the natural world, where insects, birds, and flora act as unwavering protectors and spies.

## The Plot

Three women from the same bloodline—living in 1619, 1942, and 2019—navigate abusive men and discover their inherited, life-saving connection to the natural world.



# Her Majesty's Royal Coven by Juno Dawson

Critiquing state-sanctioned feminism

## The Feminist Angle

An unapologetic exploration of gender identity, intersectionality, and the corruption inherent in female institutions that align themselves with the state.

## The Magic System

Rigid, bureaucratic institutional spellcraft violently clashing with wild, ancient, world-ending power.

## The Plot

Four childhood friends who joined the government's official coven are torn apart by a prophecy regarding a young, undocumented trans witch.



# Circe by Madeline Miller

Reclaiming the mythological narrative

## The Feminist Angle

Stripping the narrative away from the 'Great Men' of myth to focus on the quiet, unyielding strength of a woman finding her own voice in total isolation.

## The Magic System

Pharmakeia. Magic born not from divine birthright, but from painstaking study, botany, and relentless trial and error.

## The Plot

Banished to a deserted island by frightened gods, a marginalized nymph hones her witchcraft, tames wild beasts, and eventually stands against the Olympians to protect what she loves.



# The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches by Sangu Mandanna

Building radical chosen families

## The Feminist Angle

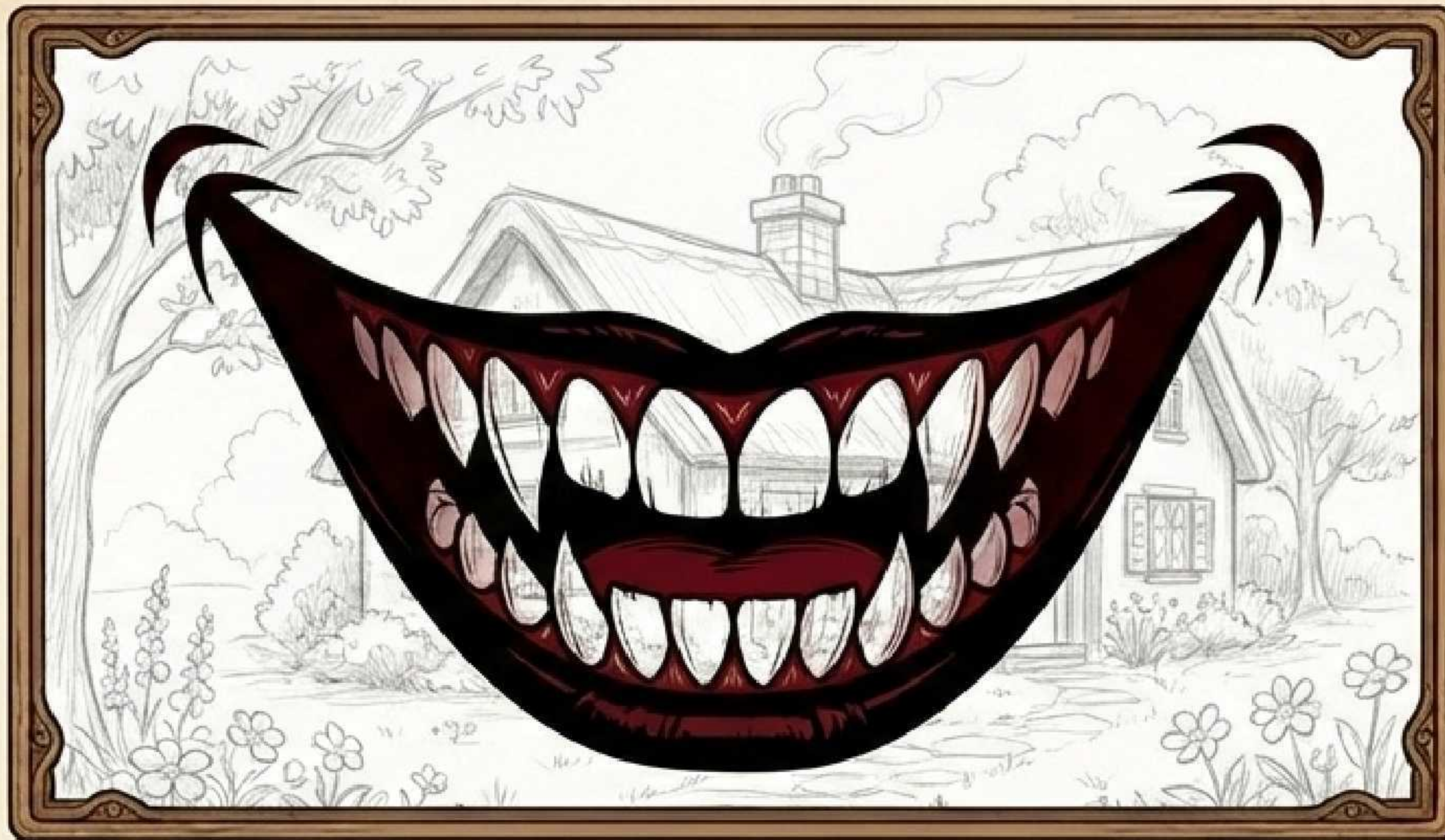
A total rejection of the lie that women must be isolated to remain safe, celebrating the profound, life-saving importance of chosen family.

## The Magic System

Chaotic, shimmering, joy-fueled magic that responds directly to emotion and requires a community to safely stabilize.

## The Plot

A lonely witch accustomed to hiding her powers is hired to travel to a mysterious house to teach three young, unruly witches how to control their magic.



# Cackle by Rachel Harrison

Embracing your own monstrosity

## The Feminist Angle

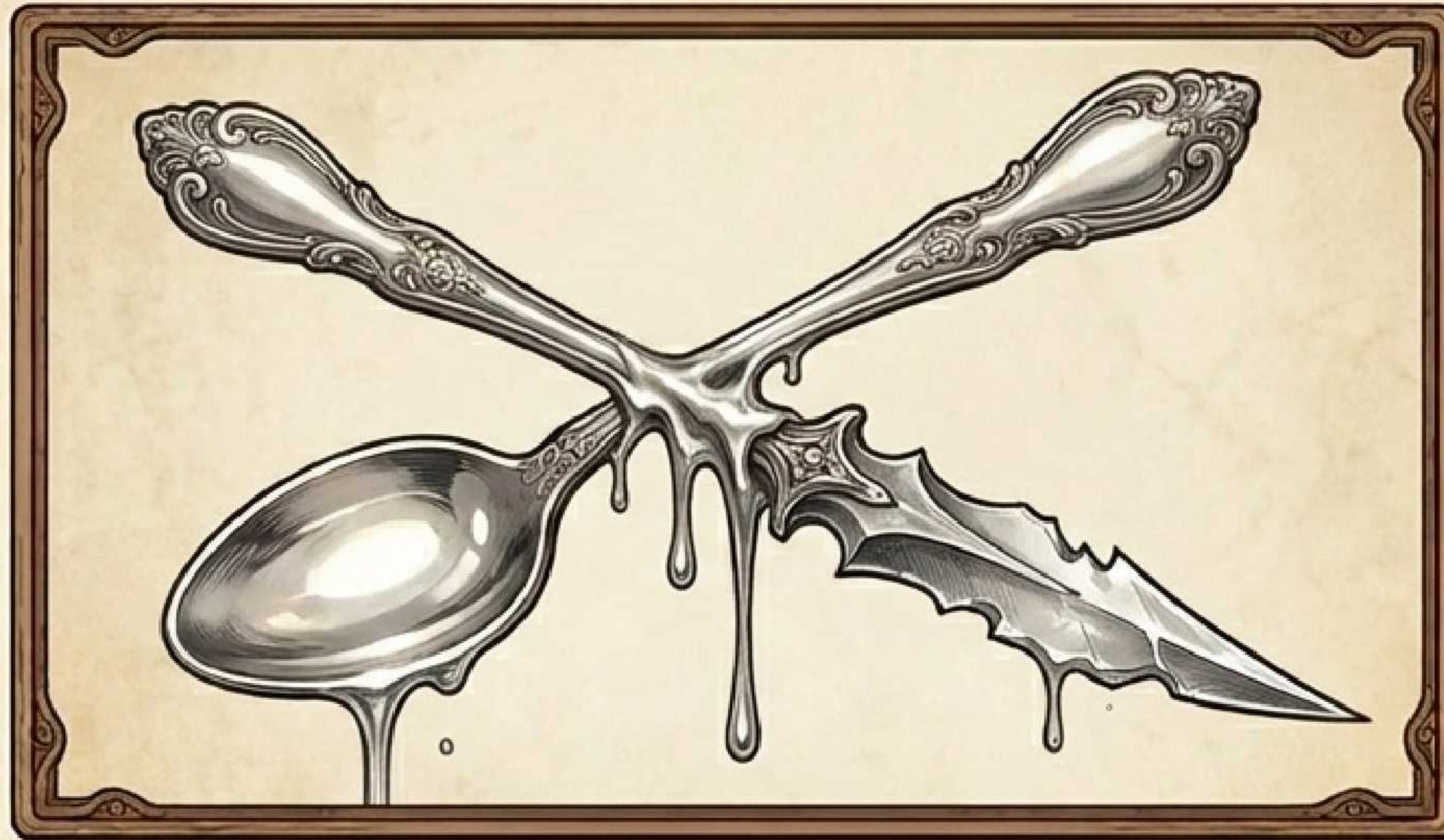
A dark, hilarious dismantling of the "polite, accommodating woman" trope. This is an invitation to embrace your flaws and stop apologizing for existing.

## The Magic System

Effortless, ancient, reality-warping power fueled by absolute self-acceptance and a distinct lack of remorse.

## The Plot

After a bad breakup, a woman moves to a quaint upstate town and befriends a glamorous, terrifying local who might just be a centuries-old witch intent on teaching her how to stop being a doormat.



## VenCo by Cherie Dimaline

Reclaiming the power grid

### The Feminist Angle

Indigenous feminism meets anti-capitalism. A sharp critique of corporate feminism and a celebration of marginalized women seizing control of their own destinies.

### The Magic System

Elemental, ancient magic tied to specific, culturally significant artifacts hidden in plain sight across the modern world.

### The Plot

A millennial Métis woman discovers a magical silver spoon and is drawn into a covert coven operating out of a front company, racing to find seven artifacts before a network of patriarchal warlocks destroys them.



# The Witches of New York by Ami McKay

Forging economic independence

## The Feminist Angle

Celebrating the diverse, ingenious ways women survived and built economic power in the Gilded Age through spiritualism, medicine, and absolute solidarity.

## The Magic System

A practical blend of herbalism, mediumship, and fortune-telling, rooted deeply in women's historical roles as healers and seers.

## The Plot

In 1880s New York, a naive young woman answers an ad for a shop assistant, only to discover her employers are formidable witches fighting a deeply misogynistic society.



# A Secret History of Witches by Louisa Morgan

Honoring maternal sacrifice

## The Feminist Angle

A powerful testament to the invisible, uncredited labor women perform throughout history to keep their daughters alive in a world built to crush them.

## The Magic System

Bloodline magic tethered to a hidden family grimoire and a scrying crystal, fueled entirely by profound emotional necessity.

## The Plot

Following five generations of a Romani family from 19th-century Brittany to World War II, revealing how each mother uses magic to survive and protect the next in line.



## The Architecture of Feminist Magic

Magic in these narratives is never merely aesthetic. It is a direct, calculated response to how women experience the world. It manifests across three distinct pillars:

- Through the power of the collective.

- Through the deep, healing dive into the self.

- Through the uncompromising weaponization of our anger.



# Ritual One: Community Magic

For when you require warmth, chosen family, and the vital reminder that we are infinitely stronger together.



*The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches* by Sangu Mandanna



*The Witches of New York* by Ami McKay



*VenCo* by Cherie Dimaline

# Ritual Two: Solitary Power

For when you need to retreat, heal your own wounds, fiercely reclaim your space, and find absolute power in your own company.



*Circe* by Madeline Miller



*Weyward* by Emilia Hart



*A Secret History of Witches*  
by Louisa Morgan





## Ritual Three: Rage-Fueled Witchcraft

For when you are entirely done playing nice. Books to read when you want to watch patriarchal structures burn to the ground.



*The Year of the Witching*  
by Alexis Henderson



*The Once and Future Witches*  
by Alix E. Harrow



*Her Majesty's Royal Coven*  
by Juno Dawson

*Cackle* by Rachel Harrison



# The spell is cast.

Go find your magic. Which grimoire are you opening first?