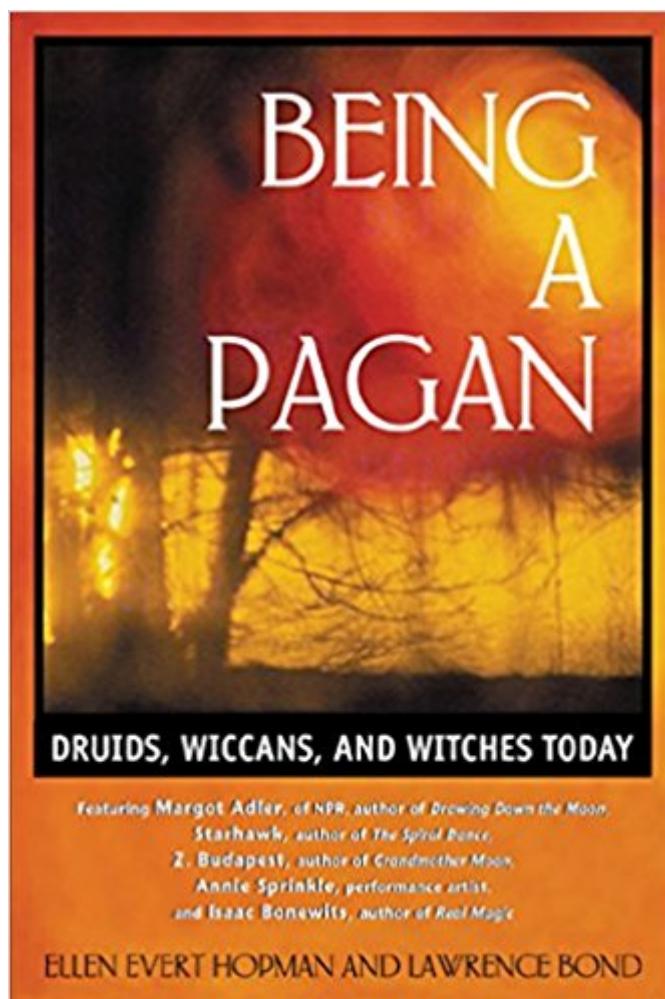


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# Being A Pagan: Druids, Wiccans, And Witches Today



## Synopsis

More than 60 pagan leaders and teachers describe in their own words what they believe and what they practice. Addresses how Pagans view parenting, organized religion, and politics. Introduces the wide range of possibilities within the neo-Pagan movement. By Ellen Evert Hopman, author of *A Druid's Herbal for the Sacred Earth Year*; *Walking the World in Wonder: A Children's Herbal*; and *Tree Medicine, Tree Magic*. Who are the pagans and what do they stand for? Why would some of the members of the best educated, most materially comfortable generation of Americans look back to mystical traditions many millennia old? During the last few decades, millions of people have embraced ancient philosophies that honor Earth and the spiritual power of each individual. Ways of worship from sources as diverse as the pre-Christian Celts, ancient Egypt, and Native American traditions are currently helping their followers find meaning in life while living in the Information Age. In this book Pagan leaders and teachers describe in their own words what they believe and what they practice. From Margot Adler, an NPR reporter and author of *Drawing Down the Moon*, to Isaac Bonewits, ArchDruid and founder of a modern neo-Druidic organization, those interviewed in this book express the rich diversity of modern Paganism. Hopman's insightful questions draw on her own experiences as a Pagan and Druid as well as on her extensive research. With coauthor Lawrence Bond, she examines how Pagans address such issues as parenting, organized religion, and politics. The resulting dialogues illuminate the modern Pagan revival.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Renowned herbalist and druid Ellen Evert Hopman interviews an assortment of artists, prostitutes, militants, scientists, lawyers, writers, and priestesses who all have one thing in common: being a pagan. As a dynamic and growing spiritual movement, paganism offers many diverse voices, as evidenced by this fascinating collection of over 60 interviews. Starhawk (The Spiral Dance) debunks the myth of satanic ritual murders in the U.S.; NPR reporter Margot Adler (Drawing Down the Moon) speaks to being a pagan Jew; Z. Budapest (The Goddess in the Office) offers a primer on "Wind Magic

"This book should appear on the suggested reading list given to any student on a Pagan path." (PanGaia: Living the Pagan Life)"Being a Pagan is well researched and offers a panoramic outlook on a growing spiritual movement offering hope for our Earth." (New Age Retailer)"The collection is refreshingly unlike other spiritual self-discovery books because it is not a how-to, but instead an oral documentation of actual practice, thus providing an extremely valuable historiography of paganism." (Small Press)"Hopman and Bond are evenhanded in their treatment of each individual expression of paganism, never setting one against the other. Their biases never show, which in itself is quite a feat. The questions asked are pertinent and probing. If you are not a pagan, this book is definitely for you. It does not seek to convert, only to inform and challenge your own faith, or lack of it. For both pagan and non-pagan, if nothing else, it will change your understanding of what it means to call oneself 'pagan.'" (Brigit's Feast)"I cannot begin to describe how much I enjoyed this book! Being a Pagan made my December Top Ten list, and I firmly believe that this is a volume every witch should own. Containing dozens of interviews with every major leader of the modern Pagan movement, representing an equal number of paths, Traditions and perspectives, Hopman and Bond have created an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Earth-Based Spirituality." (Stefani Barner, The Pagan Activist, Feb 2007)

Read it for a class. It's okay. A bit dated now. Would like to see a follow up since it's been 20 years.

Its interesting to see so many people and pagans represented. It explains many of the viewpoints of various traditions. I dont think it's a resource that I'd reread, but educational.

This book; unlike many I have read in the past, gives a unique perspective into the different pathways of Neo-Paganism. It delivers the ideas from people who walk and live the pathway. It is

not a manual of practice or a 'how to guide' to practice rituals or spells of a lot of the fluff that is available on the book store selves. It discusses the feelings and experiences of real people in real places. It enriches the feeling of Paganism by the interviews and also dismisses the misconceptions that many people in the mainstream world may have on the idea of what Neo-Paganism is all about.

Excellent book!

Purchased this for my dedicant work, and wow. It has so many interviews and pieces of tidbits about different paths of Paganism. It includes both old and young as well. It was nice to read something like this that wasn't "Drawing Down the Moon." It is well organized and would be a great addition to someone's shelf.

I would give this 4 stars out of 5 -- but the material is quite dated. Written in the 1990s, the entire book is a series of interviews with various folks within the wider-ranging Pagan community. Some of the interviews are very revealing in nature - and others, well...let's just go back to the descriptive of "dated". Personally, I would like to see an updated version of the material....

As a member of Ar nDraiocht Fein (ADF) I have chosen this book as my Modern Paganism studies book, this is a good book that makes it quite worth the read and is highly recommended.

I ordered this book under the impression that it was either a new work by Hopman and Bond or that it was an updated version of their previous work, "People of the Earth: The New Pagans Speak Out," 1996, same publisher. I was disappointed to find that it is neither; it is the same book, with a few deletions in content. Nowhere in "Being a Pagan" or...in the listing of "Other Books" by Hopman at the beginning of the book, is there a mention of "People of the Earth," and one might be inclined to believe that "Being a Pagan" is a new book. The only hint that it is not is in the copyright dates. As an academic and a Pagan who values academic honesty, I am ashamed that Pagan authors would allow such a misleading in their work (or perhaps it was the publishers?). And if it wasn't for the fact that I enjoyed "People of the Earth," I would give this (recently-issued) book a lower rating. So, if you've bought "People of the Earth," don't bother with this one; it actually has less content for your money.

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