



# The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over

*Starhawk, M. Macha NightMare*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# **The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over**

*Starhawk , M. Macha NightMare*

**The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over** Starhawk , M. Macha NightMare  
RITUALS AND RESOURCES FOR HONOURING DEATH IN THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Birth,growth,death,and rebirth are a cycle that forms the underlying order of the universe. This is the core of Pagan belief – and the heart of this unique resource guide to de

## **The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over Details**

Date : Published October 8th 1997 by HarperOne

ISBN : 9780062515162

Author : Starhawk , M. Macha NightMare

Format : Paperback 384 pages

Genre : Spirituality, Religion, Paganism, Wicca, Nonfiction, Witchcraft

 [Download The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over Starhawk , M. Macha NightMare**

---

## **From Reader Review *The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over* for online ebook**

### **Heather K Veitch says**

Essential and powerful reading. One I read decades ago, and recently re-discovered. A classic, and there's nothing else quite like it on the subject of death, dying, and bereavement within Paganism.

---

### **Susan says**

I'm grateful to Starhawk for including chapters on suicide and other sudden, violent deaths. That she also has a lot to say about how to care for someone who is dying is also important. So often, this part of life is ignored, and people are uncomfortable in dealing with the needs of the person passing away on a physical or spiritual level. Starhawk's view is a compassionate, unflinching one, and is a ray of hope in a world full of dull tomes on the subject.

As I am currently dealing with the deaths of two people who were instrumental in helping me get my life together when I most needed inspiration, this book has been doubly important as a comfort and a resource.

---

### **Chris Poupart says**

*The Pagan Book of Living and Dying: Practical Rituals, Prayers, Blessings, and Meditations on Crossing Over* by Starhawk (1997)

---

### **Katherine says**

First of all, I think this book fills a void. As *Grieving: A Beginner's Guide* points out, our culture is really anti-death to the point where even talking about death or dealing with the grieving is really unexplored territory. And I enjoyed this book and found it comforting, but at the same time ended up feeling like paganism is "warm" when it comes to my personal spirituality, but I'm not quite there. But I don't think any "off-the-shelf" religion is going to do it for me, and it really is an excellent book.

---

### **C.J. Prince says**

I read many books on living and dying. At times. A reference book along with the *Tibetan Book of Living and Dying*.

---

## **Molly says**

Extremely well-done, practical, useful, thought-provoking, serious. Excellent resource.

---

## **Sable says**

Too often we neglect the end of life in our desire to celebrate its joys. This book is probably the best Pagan resource I have seen for dealing with death and grief with a Pagan spiritual perspective. If you are going to initiate past the first degree or teach others in the Craft, sooner or later you will be called upon to council someone in pain and grief. This is a wonderful guide on how to do that. Even if you don't choose to use the rituals provided because your tradition differs, this will give you a place to start.

---

## **Danni says**

My older sister, Heather, started practicing Wicca while she was in high school. One of the books I always remember seeing on her shelf with Pagan books was the Pagan Book of Living and Dying. It looked thick and meaty. Heather's copy was well read with dog eared pages, highlights, and notes in the margin. Heather also lived with the idea of death in a much different way than most of us do. She had a disease called FOP, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, which is a genetic mutation which causes muscles and ligaments to turn to bone. There was very little research or support when she was first diagnosed. It was a lot to handle growing up for her, I think.

I finally read Starhawk's The Pagan Book of Living and Dying as my sister lay in Hospice Care. I wanted to honor my sister's wishes for death, and I knew that this book had had a huge impact on her desires. What surprised me while reading this book was how useful it was. Not only did I discover why my sister wanted the things she did for her death, but thought about the things I wanted. I discovered a whole world of legal issues surrounding how our culture and country handles dead bodies, burial rights, and the care for those dying. It was eye opening.

Beyond what was useful and insightful about the book was the enchantment. I found myself delighted by the music, real sheet music for chants during rituals. There were ritual ideas to help those transition to death and majestic rites for those still grieving. All of these ideas and aids were presented by not just Starhawk but by other voices in the Reclaiming Collective who could share stories of other deaths and other griefs. It would be impossible to cover every situation that might be presented around those dying and those grieving. However, so many heartfelt stories were shared by these authors, that one felt as if the whole picture of this process was presented all while giving voice to the silence and mystery of death that we do not yet understand.

I think that this is a book that everyone should read, hopefully before they find themselves confronting death. It is also a book that I think deserves to be on every Pagan's bookshelf. For I have yet to find another book that presents as much practical, spiritual, or beauty for working with and around death from a Pagan viewpoint as this book. I hope it inspires our community to take these gifts out into the world and bring a more balance viewpoint around the culture we have with death.

---

## **Adrienne says**

This was an interesting book from a Pagan perspective on the care of the dying and deceased. I especially liked the Practical Work section that tells how to prepare ourselves for our eventual death and to prepare and get things in order to help those we leave behind. The poetry was dark and beautiful, as were the Pagan ceremonies. I especially liked the idea of green burials and planting a tree in memory of one's deceased. This book is helpful because it is not anti-death, like so much of our culture. It reflects on what will inevitably happen. I also really liked the fact that it included sections on miscarriages, abortions, AIDS victims, and suicides, without passing judgment on those who have suffered.

---

## **Araminta Matthews says**

By no means and exhaustive exploration into death and dying, this book is an appreciative step in the right direction. It was helpful to me now, particularly in light of so many suicide bombings and the senselessness of the deaths these create. This book, at times, took an authoritative stance that I could not consciously support--that is, I struggle to hear authoritative lenses from a religious perspective that was essentially self-perpetuated in the 1960s and which purports to place the emphases of its spiritual tenets on the process of revelation for individuals (and thus \*not\* on the authority of any one or "other" source than the self). Still, a good read (and expected from Starhawk, to be sure).

---

## **Kelly says**

This is one of the only books I've ever been, able to find that covers these various topics. This book has come in very handy for me over the years.

---

## **Jennifer Wyld says**

What a healthy way to think about this totally normal and natural part of the life cycle, and what a wonderful way to work through it all...

---

## **Eli says**

**Notes upon rereading, May 2013:** What I said before holds true. The practical aspects seem even more useful this time (and make me feel very lazy about my own planning!). And while I still disagree with some of the metaphysical aspects, this time they, too, seem much more useful in terms of dealing with dying Pagans and/or their survivors in these transitional times.

**Notes from first reading, January 2007:** The pragmatic aspects I find incredibly useful. The theology (despite the fact that I myself practice Reclaiming-tradition Paganism, Starhawk's own tradition) and

"history" drove me bonkers. Ignore those, and you'll be fine.

---

**Karen Morgan says**

Beautiful book full of ideas on how to honor the life of someone you care about. I found it both soothing and uplifting.

---

**Stephen says**

helped me immensely in preparing for and processing my mother's death

---