

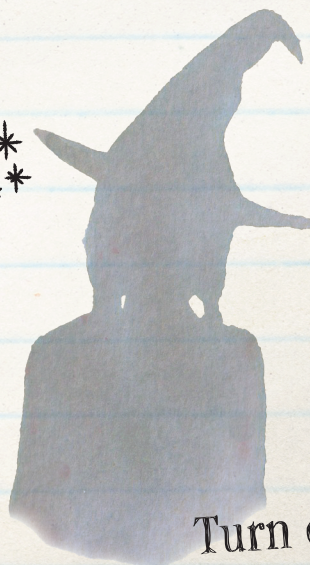


☆ Hettie Nettle's ☆
Handbook for Hedgewitches

Written & Illustrated by CLAIRE BARKER

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

Hettie Nettle



Turn over



WELCOME TO MY HANDBOOK FOR HEDGEWITCHES.

As you are reading my book you will already know that hedgecraft is **TOP SECRET AND IMPORTANT** work. Here are some facts. According to research conducted at the Royal Institute of Magic:

- ★ Seventy per cent of people don't give the Wild Wood a second glance.
- ★ Twenty-nine per cent of people look into the Wild Wood and see mud and leaves.
- ★ "But that's only ninety-nine per cent, Hettie!" I hear you say.
"What about the other one per cent?"

Yes, I'm getting to that.

- ★ One per cent of people look into the Wild Wood and see magic.

Dear reader, that one per cent is YOU. ←

With this month-by-month guide, you'll never be late waking up the bats, spotting cobweb diamonds, or collecting moonlight again. If you don't have the right ingredients for a spell don't worry—just imagine you do. Your imagination is the most magical ingredient of all. *You* are the magic and the magic is *you*.



REMEMBER: Be especially polite to faeries, who are wilder than you think.

Repeat after me:

BE WISE. HARM NONE. DO GOOD.

Are we ready? Then there is no time to lose.

Blessed be.

Hettie Nettle x

Copperpot Caravan, The Wild Wood



P.S. If you spot any suspicious scribbles in this official guide, pay no attention. It's just Larkin showing off.





WHAT IS A HEDGEWITCH?

We are solitary witches, working on our own, organizing the natural world. We arrange calendar events, take care of creatures, and even perform spells. It's our job to deal with everything from remembering bumblebees' birthdays to color-coding birds' eggs.

Hedgewitches, big and small, have one foot in the everyday and the other stuck in magic. One day we might be bandaging a squirrel's tail and the next we are having tea with the Moon. It's a big job.

Little witches, like us, are particularly in tune with the magic of the wood and can see lots of things that grown-ups have forgotten. This book is a record for me too, just in case I forget one day.

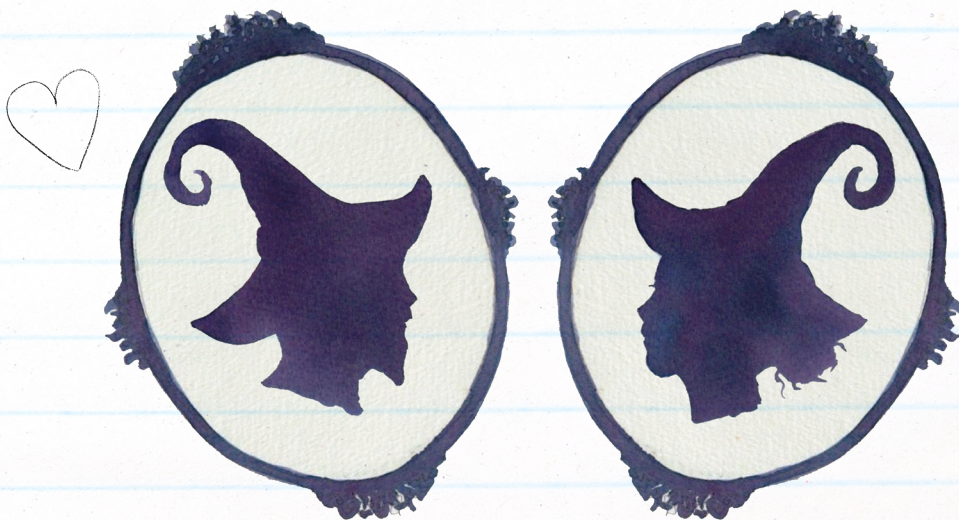
Most importantly, hedgewitches, young and old, can feel magic all around them. It hums in ancient forests and sparkles in patches of roadside weeds. It is near you right now.



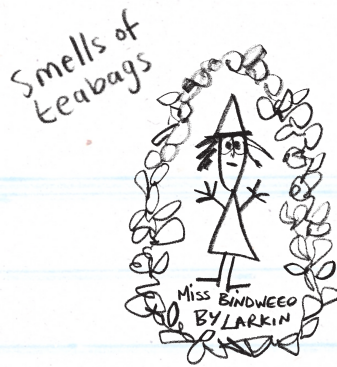
ABOUT ME (*Hettie Nettle*)

I am eight years old and precisely three-and-a-half hats tall. I live in the middle of the wood in a cozy caravan, all by myself. This means I can go to bed when I want (sunset) and eat what I like (apples). My caravan is cozy and bright, full of dried herbs, books, and jars of sunshine.

Yes, I come from a long line of English hedgewitches and yes I **AM** the granddaughter of the great Agatha Walnut! I don't remember my parents but Granny says they are very nice. She gave me a picture of them to put on the wall, so I will recognize them when they come back.



My job is to take care of the Wild Wood and everything that lives in it. I am never bored because there is so much to do and think about.



One morning a week, I attend Miss Bindweed's School for Young Hedgewitches on the other side of the valley. I go to learn new spells and play with my friends, Daffodil Jones and Edward Nightshade. But when the bell rings, I am always happy to go home.

I love the wood and the wood loves me. There is nowhere else in the world I would rather be.



My Qualifications

- ★ I hold the Halloween record for keeping the highest number of apples under my hat.
- ★ I've won the Helpful Broomstick Award (junior level) twice at the Witchkin Gongs tournament.
- ★ I recently won a school prize with my Wheel of the Year poster (third place).
- ★ I do my best at all times.



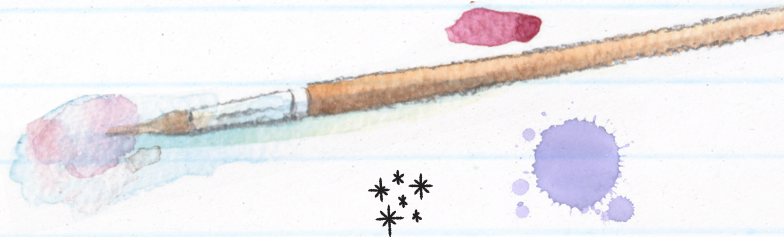


✧ My Goals ✧

When I grow up I want to:

- ★ run my own hedgewitch school
- ★ have this book published
- ★ make my granny proud

Oops!



All official illustrations in this handbook are from my enchanted paintbox.



P.S. Sometimes things go wrong, like the time when I accidentally turned a bunny into a bluebell. No witch is perfect, especially when they've got to fit in homework too. This book is more a set of guidelines than rules.