

# Marriage Divinations

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<http://www.orkneyjar.com/tradition/weddings/lovediv.htm>

In bygone days a young Orcadian girl, growing up on a croft, or farm, had but two prospects in life.

She could marry, start a home and family, or remain with her parents, a spinster, spending her days looking after the family home.

Needless to say, marriage was high on the list of priorities of most Orcadian girls. It was therefore imperative that they attract and secure a husband.

A classic example of the seriousness with which the Orcadian women regarded marriage is the superstition that it was considered extremely dangerous to let water boil alone in a pot. If this occurred, it was a certainty that the girls within that household would lose their sweethearts. This tradition also serves to indicate the importance placed on superstition in everyday Orcadian life.

The road to marriage may have been rocky but these young ladies were not content to sit and wait for fate to deal its cards. From her earliest days an Orcadian girl took part in numerous forms of divination with the sole intention of finding out any tiny snippet of information relating to her future love.

In most cases the results of these divinations appear to the modern reader as insignificant - the anxious girl could perhaps hope to discover the colour of her the lover's hair, the sound of his voice or perhaps the direction in which he lived. All seemingly pointless and general information.

But with all these we must remember that in small island communities where everyone knew everyone else, the diviner was almost certain to know someone who, in some way, fitted the results. In a land steeped in superstition and lore, could we go as far as saying the idea planted within a maiden's head after her divinations may have been the catalyst in more than a few courtships or marriages?

Across the islands it was generally agreed that there were certain times of the year when an attempt to peer through the veil into the future was likely to be successful.

Traditionally these times were Candlemas (2 February), Johnsmas (Midsummer) and the most commonly used Halloween (31 October).

The forms these divinations took were varied and the methods employed also differed from isle to isle and parish to parish. Some were little more than vague interpretations of natural occurrences while others had stricter almost ritualistic procedures that had to be adhered to. The latter group usually resulted in a "conjured" up a likeness of the future husband.

These divinations existed as oral lore and as such few were actually recorded. Some examples from the former category are:

- At Candlemas each year, the girl should startle the first crow she saw. The direction in which the bird flew was the direction in which her future husband lived. If the panicked bird flew over a churchyard, the girl was certain to remain a spinster.
- Flowers picked from Ribwort Plantain were placed under a stone. If the plant grew more flowers before the heads under the stone withered, the girl and her sweetheart were sure to marry.

- Sweethearts would place two straws - one for each of them and named accordingly - onto a glowing peat. A knot had been tied on one of the straws and the heat within the peat would eventually cause this straw to jump. If the straw leapt toward the other it was a sure sign that the sweethearts would marry.
- On the Orkney mainland, one tradition recorded within the parish of Orphir has the girl removing a burning coal from the fire and extinguishing it in a bucket of water. The coal was then placed under a turf and left. When the next morning dawned, the turf was broken in two and examined. If a hair was found, it was sure to be the same colour as her future husband's.
- After the [bonfire festivities](#), girls often carried home a partially burned peat which would be completely extinguished in a tub of "strang bing" (urine) and placed on the door lintel. The peat would be taken down the next day, broken in two and the colour of the peat within would foretell the colour of the girl's future husband.

The second category are by far the more interesting. Most of the rituals within this group were specifically carried out at Halloween and may hark back to a common Orcadian belief that all living people had a "ganfer" - a supernatural duplicate or "doppleganger".

For a person to meet their own "ganfer" was disastrous for it meant certain death but in these cases they merely allowed the girl to glimpse the form of her intended. For more on the ganfer, [click here](#).

- The most common of the Halloween divinations involved the sieve, the scissors and the knife. The brave girl would leave the house and go to the barn (or other building) where she had to stand in the dark, winnowing "three wechts o naitheen" with the sieve containing the knife and the scissors. If carried out correctly, the girl could expect to see an apparition of her future husband pass the open door.
- A similar ritual had the hopeful young girl hanging a wetted sleeve in front of the fire before retiring to bed. Once in bed she would wait for an apparition of her future spouse to enter her room and "turn the shift".
- A salt herring, eaten before bedtime, would ensure a visitation by the husband-to-be, who would appear sometime during the night to quench the girl's thirst with a draught of cold water.
- In order to hear the voice of their future love, the girl in question had to throw a ball of "worsted" (wool) into the kiln used for drying grain, while reciting:

*"Wha taks had o me clew's end"*

The disembodied voice that answered (if any) was said to be that of the girl's husband. Needless to say, this ritual was the source of numerous japes in and around farms, when local lads would hide themselves within the kiln awaiting the arrival of the anxious maidens.

A final example regarding the spectre of a future love involved the young lass entering the farm's stackyard at night, running round its circumference with her arms outstretched. Upon reaching full circle she would embrace the apparition of an unknown man - the man she was destined to wed.

## Love Divinations



- To Know Your Love is True

In the magical tradition of the granny women of the Appalachian mountains if a girl wished to know if her boyfriend loved her she would hang a bible on a string and recite a [Ruth 1:16-17](#) (*where you go there shall I follow...*) followed by the name of her beloved. It is said that if the bible turns on the string so that the open end would face the girl, then her sweetheart loves her and that they will one day marry. Similar procedures have also been reported for discovering a thief as well as taking off a spell.

- To Dream of Your Future Husband

Place your shoes in the shape of a capital T before bedtime while reciting "*I make of my shoes a T, hoping to my true love see!*" and it is said that you will dream of your future husband.

- Another For the Same

Place a sprig of rosemary in one shoe, and thyme in the other and then sprinkle them with water three times. The shoes are placed at the foot of one's bed and it is said that the owner of the shoes will have a dream of her future husband.

- To Know If You Will Be Married Within the Year

Finally, a girl wishing to know if she is to be married within the year is instructed to wait until the Eve of St. Andrews Day, which is observed on November 30th, and then throw her shoe at a door. It is said that if the shoe points in the direction of the door then she will marry.

<http://www.carolinaconjure.com/rituals-of-divination.html>

# Old Matrimonial Divination Games and Superstitions

## Nut Roasting, Pippin Paring, and Wedding Cake Dreams

By Sheri Stritof - Updated February 05, 2016.

Although not to be taken seriously, pippin paring and the roasting of nuts were old matrimonial divination games often played during Halloween and All Souls Day festivities.

### Nut Roasting Results

Place two nuts (usually hazel-nuts) side by side on a roasting grate over a fire. If you are doing this for several couples, or different pairings, make sure you name the nuts for the supposed lovers. A nut burning brightly and quietly is equated to having sincerity of affection. If one of the nuts cracks and jumps, this could foretell unfaithfulness. When the nuts burn together, then the couple will be married.

### Pippin Paring Prophecy

To discover the first letter of the name of a future husband, peel a pippin (apple) in a single spiral strip. Take the paring and swing it three times around your head, and then let it drop. The paring will fall and land in the shape of a letter which will be the initial of a future spouse's name.

### Future Spouse Dreams

Sleep with a piece of wedding cake under your pillow. / Wear your pjs or nightgown inside out. / Put a mirror under your pillow. / Rub lemon peel on your headboard. / Place some mistletoe under your pillow. / Look for and count nine stars every night for nine nights in a row. / Find some daisies and put them under your pillow. / Look for a falling star on St. Lawrence's Day (August 10th). / On Midsummer Eve (June 24), after picking seven different wildflowers, be quiet as you walk home backwards, then put the wildflowers under your pillow. / Before going to bed, brush your hair three times in front of a mirror.

### Herbs

Take a pair of shoes. Place a sprig of rosemary in one shoe, and a sprig of thyme in the other. Sprinkle them with water three times. Position the shoes at the foot of your bed to have a dream of your future spouse.

### Boiled Egg Superstition

Cut a boiled egg in half. Remove the yolk from one half and fill the cavity with salt. Put the egg back together and try to eat it before going to sleep. Whoever who brings you some water to drink in your dream will be your future mate.

### Mules' Ears

Find a mule with really long ears. Ask it if you will fall in love soon. The answer is yes if the mule shakes its head. If only one ear moves, the answer is maybe. If the mule is still, with no ears moving, the answer is no.

## Apple Stems

Begin twisting the stem of an apple. Say the names of those you might marry. The name of your future spouse will be the one you are saying when the stem falls off.

<http://marriage.about.com/cs/customstraditions/a/divinationgames.htm>

## § **Who Will you Marry?**

How to discover your future husband the Dorset way

Instructions on how to conjure a vision of your future husband  
***Who will my Husband be?***

An ancient piece of folklore says ...

“ Two young unmarried girls must sit together in a room by themselves, from twelve o'clock at night till one o'clock the next morning, without speaking a word.

During this time each of them must take as many hairs from her head as she is years old,

and, having put them into a linen cloth with some herb, (true-love)

as soon as the clock strikes one,

she must burn every hair separately, saying:

I offer this my sacrifice,

To him most precious in my eyes;

I charge thee now come forth to me.

That I this minute may thee see

- upon which her husband will appear,

walk round the room, and then vanish.

The same event happens to both the girls, but neither sees the other's lover.”

## ***Dream of Your Spouse***

Instructions from circa 1800 suggest ...

“ ... the parties inquiring must lie in a different county from that in which they commonly reside;

and, on going to bed,

must knit the left garter about the right-legged stocking,

letting the other garter and stocking alone;

and, as they rehearse the following verses,

at every comma knit a knot

This knot I knit,

To know the thing I know not yet,

That I may see The man that shall my husband be;  
How he goes, and what he wears,  
And what he does all days and years.  
- Accordingly, in a dream,  
the desired one will appear,  
with the insignia of his trade or profession. ”

### Dream of your future Husband, the Shropshire method ***Simple method of discovering your husband***

Folklore from Shropshire suggests a simple method for divining one's future partner, a girl should ...  
“ ... fetch at midnight  
from the nearest churchyard  
a half brick,  
which she should place under her pillows,  
by this means, she was sure to dream about courtship and marriage. ”  
Thus she would see who she was destined to marry.

### How to Dream who your husband will be on St Agnes Eve ***Who will I marry?***

St. Agnes's Eve was, in days gone by, much observed by young maidens who wished to know when and whom they should marry...  
“ ... It was required that on this day they should not eat,  
it was thus known as St. Agnes's Fast,  
and their future husband would appear in a dream. ”  
In Scotland, young men and women would meet together on St. Agnes's Eve at midnight,  
they would go one by one, into a remote field and throw in some grain,  
after which they repeated the following rhyme ...  
“ Agnes sweet, and Agnes fair,  
Hither, hither, now repair;  
Bonny Agnes, let me see  
The lad who is to marry me. ”  
... If they had followed the instructions correctly, then the shadow of the destined bride or bridegroom would be seen in a looking-glass later that same night.  
It's just an old superstition of course, but if you just happen to be curious to know,  
**St Agnes eve is the 21st January**

How to Dream who your husband will be on St Mark's Eve

### ***Who will I marry?***

St. Mark's Eve was, commonly considered an especially auspicious night for any anxious maidens wondering what their fate will be...

“ ... On St. Mark's Eve,  
at twelve o'clock,  
The fair maid will watch her smock,  
To find her husband in the dark,  
By praying unto good St. Mark. ”

Just in case you want to know - **St Mark's eve is 24th February**

Midsummer's Eve Husband

### ***Can I see who I might marry?***

... according to ancient folklore, yes you can  
it is said that for any unmarried woman  
who wants to see a vision of her husband, she should fast on Midsummer's eve and  
then at midnight...

“ lay a clean cloth, with bread, cheese, and ale,  
and then sat down as if about to eat,  
the street door being left open,  
the person whom she was afterwards to marry  
would come into the room and drink to her by bowing;  
and, after filling the glass, would leave it on the table, and, making another bow,  
retire. ”

Just in case you want to know - **Midsummer's eve is 23rd June**, as distinct from  
20th June which would be the eve of the Summer Solstice, this is to do with the way  
the days were changed with the introduction of the Julian Calendar.

Using a Wedding Ring to foresee another Marriage

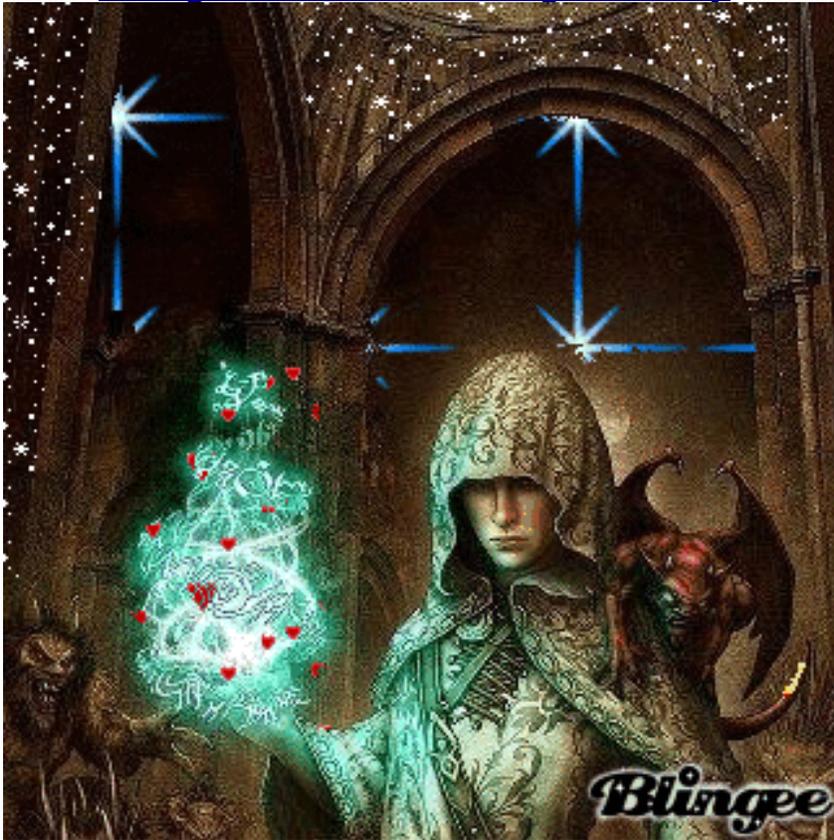
### ***Bride Cake and the Ring***

It is thought that a wedding ring can be used to divine the future spouse of an  
unmarried person.....

“ A slice of the bride-cake,  
thrice drawn through the wedding-ring,  
and laid under the head of an unmarried man or woman,  
will make them dream of their future wife or husband. ”

The same practice is observed in the North of England with a piece of the groaning  
cheese.

- TAG: DREAM OF YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND
- [Celebrating Legends, Folklore & Spirituality 365 Days A Year – St. Agnes’s Eve and St. Agnes’s Day](#)



January 20 & 21

## *St. Agnes’s Eve and St. Agnes’s Day*

St. Agnes was a Roman Catholic child martyr who was beheaded in the year 304 A.D., for refusing to marry. Her eve has traditionally been a time for lovers’ divination—especially divination by fire. One very old custom tells: To be sure to dream of your future husband tonight, fast strictly and keep silent all day. On no account allow anyone—not even a child—to kiss you. At bedtime you must dress in your finest night-dress, then boil an egg. When the egg is hard, take out the yolk, fill the space with salt, and eat the egg, shell and all. Then walk backwards to bed while saying:

*“Fair St. Agnes, play thy part,  
And send to me my own sweetheart.  
Not in his best or worse array,  
But in the clothes he wears every day.”*

You will then surely dream of your intended, but tell no one of your dream or the spell will be broken. Posted on [January 20, 2016](#) by [ladyoftheabyss](#) <https://witchesofthecraft.com/tag/dream-of-your-future-husband/>

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

## § Herbal Divination (Part II)

### Cherry Tree Divination

If you desire to know the number of years you will live, perform the following divination on Midsummer Eve: Run three times clockwise around a cherry tree full of ripe fruit and then shake the tree with all your might as you repeat the following charm:

*Cherry tree, I shaketh thee,  
Cherry tree, pray tell thou me  
How many years am I to live?  
By fallen fruit thy answer give.*

At the precise moment that you utter the last word of the rhyme, remove your hands from the tree. Count the number of cherries that have fallen to the ground while shaking the tree, and they will reveal to you what age you will live to be. Some diviners interpret the number of fallen cherries as an indication of how many more years one has to live.

### Divination to Determine Number of Children

To discover the total number of children you will have in your lifetime, perform this old Scottish method of divination:

Go alone into a field of oats at the witching hour on Halloween. With your eyes tightly closed or your vision obscured by a blindfold, spin yourself three times around in a clockwise fashion and then reach out and randomly pull three stalks of oats. After doing this, open your eyes and count the number of grains there are upon the third stalk. This will tell you the number of children that you will father or give birth to. According to W. Grant Stewart's 19th-century book, *Highlanders of Scotland*, "It may be observed, that it is essential to a female's good name that her stalk should have the top-grain attached to it." Should the top of the stalk be missing, this is taken as a sign that the woman will lose her virginity prior to her wedding day.

### Acorn Divination

If you desire to know what fate has in store for you and your fiancée, perform the following divination on a night of the full moon:

Take two acorns and mark your initials upon one, and your fiancée's initials upon the other. Place the acorns three inches apart from each other in a cauldron filled with water and then carefully observe their movements. If they drift towards each other, this is a sure sign that a wedding is in the offing. However, if they drift away from each other, this indicates that you and your fiancée shall part company before your wedding bells ring. If the acorns remain stationary, repeat the divination again at a later time.

### Ribwort Marriage Divination

On the eve of Johnsmas (June 25th) or when the moon is full, uproot a ribwort and then place it beneath a flat stone. Allow it to remain there all night, and then carefully examine the root in the morning. If you are destined to wed

within the next 12 months, the initials of your future husband or wife will be found upon the plant's root. In England, where many of the love and marriage divinations used by modern Witches and diviners originated, it is traditional for females to divine using the dark variety of the plant, and males with the light.

## Sage Marriage Divination

At the witching hour on Halloween, go alone into a garden and, without uttering a single word, pick 12 sage leaves - one at each stroke of the clock. As you pick the 12th leaf at the 12th stroke, the face of your future husband will materialize before you.

If a man's face does not appear to you, this indicates that you will not marry within the next 12 months. (Do not repeat this divination until the following Halloween; otherwise you will invite bad luck!) If a vision of a coffin should appear to you while you are performing this divination, this is said to be an omen of an early death.

## Bay Leaf Divinations for Lovers

The following method of divination, when performed on Saint John's Eve, is designed to determine whether or not your lover has been faithful to you: Just before bedtime, take a bay leaf and prick your lover's name or initials upon it with a pin.

After doing this, pin the leaf to your brassiere or nightgown so that it will be in place over your heart as you sleep. When you wake up, check the leaf to see if it has turned brown. If it has, this is a sure sign that your beloved has been true to you. But if the leaf is the same color as it was the night before, this is a sign that your lover has (or soon will) deceive you.

To find out if your sweetheart will marry you, prick his or her name or initials upon a bay leaf. Place the leaf inside your left shoe and wear it throughout the day. Allow the leaf to remain in the shoe overnight, and then observe the leaf in the morning. If the name or initials have become darker, this is a sign that your sweetheart will marry you. But if they have grown fainter (or have vanished), this indicates that he or she will not.

To experience a prophetic dream in which the identity of your future husband or wife is revealed to you, pin a bay leaf to your pillow on the eve of Saint Valentine's Day just before going to bed.

The following is a Saint Valentine's Eve love divination from the 18th century work, *Aristotle's Last Legacy*: "Take two Bay-leaves, sprinkle them with Rose-water; the Evening of this day, lay them a cross under your Pillow when you go to bed, putting on a clean Shift and turning it wrong side outwards; and lying down, say: 'Good Valentine be kind to me, In dreams let me my true Love see.' So crossing your Legs, and go to sleep...you will see in a Dream the Party you are to Marry."

## Apple Peel Divination

To determine the first letter of your future spouse's last name, peel an apple in one unbroken strip. By the light of an enchanted pink candle, take the paring in your right hand and recite the following charm three times:

*Spirits all-knowing,  
May thee reveal  
My true love's initials  
By shape of this peel.*

Turn around thrice and then cast the paring over your left shoulder. If it falls in the shape of an alphabetical letter, this will indicate the initial of your future husband or wife's surname.

However, if the apple peel should break upon hitting the floor or ground, this portends that you will never wed.

### Clover Divination

Pick a two-leaved clover and place it inside your right shoe. If you are a woman, the first young man you encounter will possess the same first name or initials as the man destined to be your future husband. If you are a man, the first name or initials of your future bride will be revealed by the name of the first young lady you encounter.

### Divination by Dreams

If an unmarried woman wishes to dream about the man destined to be her future husband, let her sleep with any of the following herbs beneath her pillow: nine ivy leaves; a sprig of mistletoe taken from a church; or a sprig of myrtle that she has worn in her bosom throughout the day.

### Holly Dream Divination

To have a dream about the man or woman destined to be your future husband or wife, perform the following divination on a Friday at the witching hour: Without speaking a single word and taking great care not to be seen, go into a garden and pluck nine leaves from a female (smooth-edged) holly plant.

After doing this, knot each leaf into a three-cornered handkerchief.

Return home and place the handkerchief beneath your pillow before laying yourself down to sleep.

### Myrtle Marriage Divination

If a young woman wishes to find out whether or not her sweetheart will marry her, according to Sidney Oldall Addy's *Household Tales*, the following divination should be performed on the Eve of the Summer Solstice (Midsummer Eve): "Let a girl take a sprig of myrtle and lay it in her Prayer Book upon the words of the marriage service, 'Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?' Then let her close the book, put it under her pillow, and sleep upon it." If the sprig of myrtle is nowhere to be found when she wakes the following morning and opens the book, this is said to be a sure sign that she and her sweetheart will soon be joined together in holy matrimony.

### Yarrow Love Divinations

To experience a dream about the man or woman destined to be your future marriage mate, pluck 10 stalks of yarrow on Beltane Eve (April 30th), or on a night when the moon is new. Before going to bed, place nine of the stalks beneath your pillow and toss the remaining one over your left shoulder while repeating the following charm:

*Good night, good night, fair yarrow,  
Thrice good night to thee.  
I pray before the dawn tomorrow  
My true love to see.*

A similar divinatory method from centuries gone by called for an ounce of yarrow to be sewn up in a piece of flannel or stuffed into a stocking and then placed beneath one's pillow before going to bed. The following spoken charm (or one of its many variations) would then be recited three times:

*"Thou pretty herb of Venus' tree,  
Thy true name it is yarrow.  
Now who my future love must be,  
Pray tell thou me tomorrow."*

A rather unusual yarrow love divination practiced in England in the Middle Ages instructed young ladies and gentlemen alike to insert a serrated leaf of the yarrow plant into each of their nostrils while reciting a spoken charm. If a nosebleed resulted upon blowing the nose, this was taken as a sure sign that the affections of one's sweetheart were true. However, if the nose did not bleed, this indicated that the love was false.

## Rose Dream Divination

Perform the following divination on Midsummer Eve, when the clock chimes 12 to usher in the witching hour: Without uttering a single word, walk backwards into a garden and gather the reddest rose in full bloom. Wrap it in a clean sheet of white paper, and then tuck it away in some secret hiding place where it will be undisturbed.

At sunrise on the day of the old Winter Solstice (December 25th), remove the rose from the paper and place the flower on your bosom. According to legend, the man who is destined to become your husband will then come and snatch it away.

## Saint Agnes' Day Divination

Aristotle's Last Legacy (first published in the year 1711) contains a rather interesting divinatory ritual to enable a man or woman to dream about his or her future marriage mate: On Saint Agnes' Day (a time long associated with love divinations and amatory enchantments), take one sprig each of rosemary and thyme, and "sprinkle them with urine thrice." Put one sprig in your left shoe and the other in your right (it matters not which sprig goes in which shoe), and then place your shoes on each side of your bed's head. As you lay yourself down to sleep, recite thrice the following incantation:

*"Saint Agnes that's to lovers kind,  
Come ease the trouble of my mind."*

## Hemp Seed Divination

To determine whom their future husbands will be, many young women throughout Europe have used the seeds of the hemp plant in a divinatory ritual that is centuries old. Traditionally performed at the witching hour on either Midsummer Eve or Christmas Eve, hemp divinations (if worked correctly) are said to make the image of one's future husband manifest.

One such method calls for an unmarried girl to walk alone through a garden, field, or churchyard while tossing hemp seeds over her right shoulder and nine times reciting the following magickal rhyme:

*“Hemp seed I sow,  
And hemp seed I hoe,  
And he to be my one true love,  
Come follow me, I trow.”*

A similar version of the hemp seed rhyme is as follows:

*“I sow hemp seed,  
Hemp seed I sow,  
He that is to be my husband,  
Come after me and mow,  
Not in his best or Sunday array,  
But in the clothes he wears every day.”*

After repeating the rhyme for the ninth time, the girl is then supposed to see a materialization of her husband-to-be standing behind her with a scythe, looking “as substantial as a brass image of Saturn on an old time-piece,” according to William Hone's *The Year Book* (1831). However, she must look at him over her left shoulder, otherwise his image will not be visible to her.

Should the girl be destined for a life of spinsterhood (or at least for the next 12 months, according to some traditions), she will not see the image of a man behind her. Instead, she is likely to hear the sound of a bell either chiming softly or ringing loudly.

In the rare event that she should gaze over her left shoulder and see a coffin, this is said to be an omen of an early death for the girl.

## Holly Weather Divination

**To determine what sort of winter weather lies ahead, according to an old and popular method of divination from New England, examine the number of berries growing on a holly tree. If there are many, this is a sign that inclement weather is in the offing.**

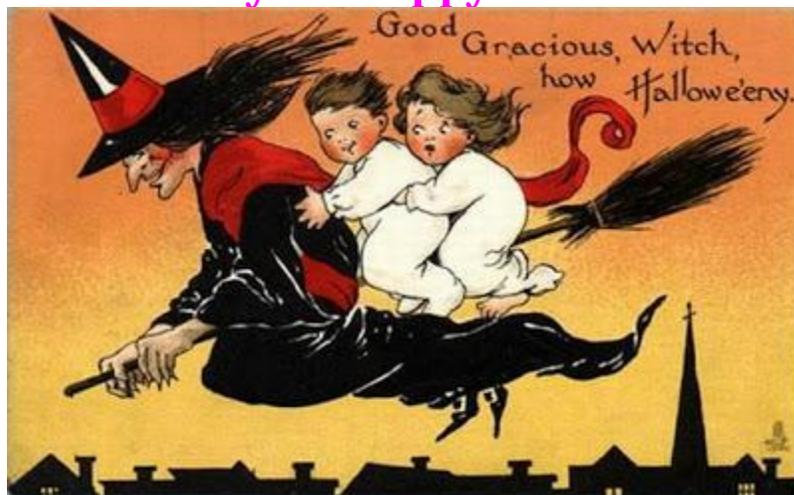
**But if there are few or none, this indicates that the weather will be mild.**

<http://magicherbal.blogspot.nl/2006/12/cherry-tree-divination-if-you-desire-to.html>



Friday, October 26, 2012

## If in the Mirror Your Lover is Seen, You'll Surely be Happy on Hallowe'en



I just love this time of year! For me, Halloween kicks off a whole season of celebrations that goes on until New Year's Day. Here in Virginia, fall is a treat for the senses, a combination of colors and scents and sounds and perfect weather for outdoor activities that gets me in a festive mood. This year I've had even more fun sifting through Victorian and Edwardian Halloween ephemera for our new release, [\*At the Sign of the Jack O' Lantern\*](#). When I think of Halloween today, I think of trick-or-treaters, carving pumpkins, and scary stories, but I'd never thought of Halloween as being a romantic holiday or a time of good fortune. So I was surprised to find so many vintage Halloween

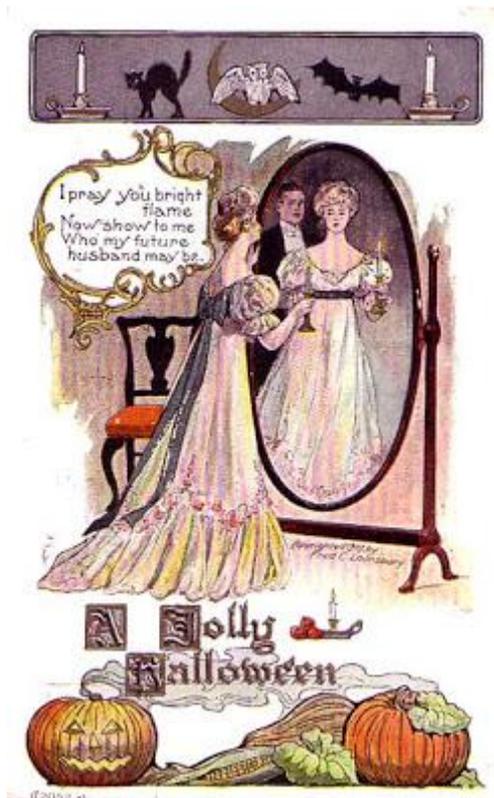
postcards (the sending of which was another popular tradition of old) spouting wishes of good luck and romantic revelations.



Though the commercialism of Halloween has mostly overtaken October 31, the holiday's roots are derived from the ancient Gaelic festival of Samhain. Occurring at the halfway point between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice, the Samhain festival marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. It was a time to take stock in and celebrate the bounty of the harvest and ask for blessings for the coming "dark season." According to a long tradition of Gaelic folklore, the veil between the living world and the spirit world is at its weakest point on Samhain. Many Halloween traditions still in place today originated from Gaelic methods of protecting themselves from evil spirits, but it was believed that some of those spirits could be useful as well, for what better time is there to attempt to divine one's future than when the spirits are nearest to help?

Flip through literature, artwork, and various other ephemera and you can easily see that the Gaelic superstitions were still held in high regard come Hallowe'en celebration time in the Victorian Era. Divination games were immensely popular during this time when Spiritualism was gaining a strong following, and more respect was given to the idea that spirits roamed the earth looking for ways to communicate with the living. During Samhain, divination efforts were mostly centered on predicting the weather or next year's harvest, but for the Victorians the most popular Hallowe'en games involved predicting one's romantic future.

*Witchcraft is due on Hallowe'en,  
May it bring good luck upon the scene.*



Over the years people have played divination games using many different mediums including bowls of water, molten lead, and ashes. In the Victorian Era, mirrors reigned supreme as the best methods to discover one's true love on Hallowe'en. Many a young lady stood in a darkened room with a candle and a mirror hoping her future husband's face would appear in the mirror. Because Samhain is a harvest festival, the fruits of the harvest also played a large role in celebrations and even in divination--nuts, beans, and apples have all been used to forecast the future. Potential couples tossed nuts into the fire to see if they cracked and exploded for a tempestuous relationship, or if they burned together slowly for long-lasting companionship. Couples also tossed a pair of hot beans into a pot of water--if they both sank the couple could hope for a happy future, if they both floated the couple could expect troubled waters, and if one sank and one didn't, they could expect not to marry at all.

But apples made for the most fun at parties and can still be found at Halloween parties today. Bobbing for them could divine the future in different ways: some believed the first to get an apple would be the first to marry, others wrote names on their apples and the apple one caught would be their future mate. Older couples would face off against each other with apples suspended on strings from the ceiling, each attempting to be the first to bite it, and getting very close to each other in the process. But the practice of "reading" apple peels has been around the longest:



*I pare this pippin round and round again,  
My sweetheart's name to flourish on the plain;  
I fling the unbroken paring o'er my head,  
My sweetheart's letter on the ground is read.*

People had fun paring an apple into one continuous trip, tossing it over their shoulder, and trying to determine what letter the peeling formed the shape of to determine what their true love's first name began with.

So if you're planning a Halloween celebration, think about adding a little history and mystery to your party with one or two of these simple divination games. Or if you'd rather sit back and enjoy a good Halloween story, check out our new spooky romantic comedy release, [At the Sign of the Jack O' Lantern](#), which features a quirky cast of superstitious characters and an entire collection of gorgeous full-color vintage Halloween postcards. And I'll leave you with my own wishes for your good fortune:



## HALLOWEEN GHOST FIRE – HUSBAND DIVINATION

[Hetty Paige](#) - August 23, 2016 ([strange-ology.com](#))

There were once a bunch of different Halloween divinations that people would try out for fun once a year. Not all of them are covered in books, such as this strange “ghost fire” recipe mentioned in the 1919 article below.

I do not recommend anyone build this type of salt fire. The article is reprinted here for research purposes only.



*Would You Know Whom You Are Destined To Wed*

*Build A Ghost Fire Halloween  
The is the night o' Ha'owe'en  
When all the witches may be seen;*

*Some o' them black, some o' them green,  
Some o' them like a turkey bean.*

Whatever a “turkey bean” may be like —

Nevertheless the fact remains that for centuries young men and maids on the eve of All Saints' Day have invoked ghostly information as to their futures.

There are many methods of doing this — such as holding a candle lighted mirror over your head and walking backward down a crooked stairway as the clock strikes midnight. If you are a girl the apparition of your future husband will cloud the mirror's surface. If you are a man vice versa.

### Your Future Husband

But the oldest as well as most mirth provoking mode of procedure is the ghost fire.

A ghost fire is made as follows:

A big dish pan is placed in the center of the floor of a dark room. The pan contains some four or five pounds of salt which has been fairly well saturated with wood alcohol. The party gathers around the pan, chanting the incantation quoted above. Each has been given a chestnut, and each chestnut has been marked in some distinguishing way. A lighted match is thrown on the salt, which breaks into a blaze that gives off an uncanny green light. The chestnuts are then thrown in and the girl whose chestnut pops first will be the first bride. Of course, she must immediately eat the chestnut. BUT — That is not all. She is supposed to see the face of her future husband arising from the flames!

### The Ghost Fire

This ghost fire is a direct survival of the earliest Druid rituals. In Scotland, Ireland and Wales Druidism left its impress upon the later Christian faith, and to this day traces of its fire altars are still found.

Now, the Druids believed in transmigration of souls, and on the eve of their festival to the hun they lighted their fire altars to propitiate the spirits of darkness. The custom was kept up in parts of Great Britain until a comparatively recent period. None of the levity caused by the modern “witch fire” however was attached to this observance. Instead of chestnut being roasted white stones, each previously marked with the name of a member of the family, were thrown into the Halloween fire. Prayers were then said and the family went to bed hoping to find all the stones again in the morning. If any stone were missing, it betokened that the owner of it would die within the year.

While some superstitions are pretty, this was one of many which were cruel. Happily only sportiveness remains today of this quaint old time ceremony, and whatever incantations are chanted have to do with healthy nonsense.

*Source: Bisbee Daily Review. Newspaper. October 31, 1919.*

## A Folklore Survey of County Clare by Thomas Johnson Westropp

### Chapter 12: Omens, Dreams & Divination

#### **Omens**

It is an unlucky sign to meet 'a stranger woman with red hair,' or a hare, or a fox, when setting out in the morning. A poem by Andrew MacCurtin, [as already noted](#), condoles with Father MacDonnell, a Franciscan living in Corcomroe, for the loss of his horse, and suggests that the *garran* fell a victim to the evil eye or to the look of a red-haired woman. A sign much feared in north-east Clare is the flying of a bat into one's face, which forebodes sickness. A robin, a stray cat, or a cricket coming into a house is lucky, but some regard the last as a sign of death,—though this belief is rare and perhaps imported, for in Dublin 'the ever-faithful cricket' is also a death omen. If the right ear tingles some one is praising you, and if the left someone is abusing you. If the right hand itches you will lose money, and if the left you will receive it, providing you rub or scratch it on wood. Any one of these omens from itching is good after sunset, and rubbing the right hand on wood saves the situation or the money in either case. To get dirt on one is most lucky,— 'the dirtier the better.' To stumble upstairs, and to be looked at by a cat after it has washed its face, are signs of approaching marriage.

#### **Dreams**

It is most unlucky to dream of church or clergy, and, above all, of the sacraments. To dream of a cat foretells an enemy; of a dog, a friend; of crows or filth, riches and plenty; of silver, disappointment; and of dirty or stormy water, trouble. Cheap dream books have corrupted local belief so much that it is now almost impossible to separate the older dream lore.

#### **Divination**

I have not found many methods of foretelling the future, but the following were of such common knowledge that I need cite no single authorities. On All Hallows Eve, I remember, before 1870, a blindfolded person would touch one of several saucers in which were respectively earth, water, salt, a bean, etc., symbolising death, emigration, luck, marriage, etc., in the ensuing year. In the same way a forecast was given by a ring, coin, bean, or red rag in the cake on the same day, and by a ring in the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. On the former day also lead was melted and poured through a key handle into water for fortune-telling. The key of a bachelor's house or room and a piece of wedding-cake put under a girl's pillow produced a prophetic dream in which she might see her future husband or lover. A slug or snail put under a saucer on a slate or cabbage leaf, sprinkled with turf ashes or flour, traced the future lover's initials, as did a long apple or orange peel waved thrice round the head and then thrown down. 'Cup-tossing' (i.e. cup-turning with tea leaves) was used, unsuccessfully, by a lady in 1879 to find out the future purchaser of her family's demesne. Wandering beggar-women used cup-tossing for the fortunes of both maids and mistresses, and some gained much repute. One of these crones showed a sister of mine a rearing horse in the tea leaves, and foretold that her client was about to have a very narrow escape from death on the hunting field that day, which came true. Biddy Erly, a famous white witch living between Bodyke and Feakle in the middle of last century, used to foretell the death or recovery of her patients by a shamrock leaf in some fluid in a bottle; if it rose they recovered, but if it sank they died, and her prophecies were received with such undoubting faith that it is

likely that they worked sometimes their own fulfilments. I heard that by a Protestant servant a key was shut and tied up in a Bible, its wards on Ruth's reply when Naomi asked her to return from her, the book being then swung and the representative of Boaz surmised from the direction in which it pointed; but this may not have been true Clare folklore. Among the country folk crystal-gazing is unknown, and palmistry little, if at all, in use, but the more primitive methods have not been put down by increase of education, and the warning is still necessary of the quatrain cited in 1280, according to the 'Cathreim Thoirdehalbaigh,' by King Torlough mór O'Brien, as he set out to fight in this county,— 'Attempt ye not the prediction of the lips; neither in curved (new) moon nor in presage of soothsayer put your trust.'

### ***Orkney Halloween customs, including divination; tricks at Ha...***

**Title** - Orkney Halloween customs, including divination; tricks at Ha...

**Contributors** - [Johina J. Leith](#)

**Reporters** - [Alan J. Bruford](#)

**Summary** - Orkney Halloween customs, including divination; tricks at Halloween and other times.

Girls could foretell the wealth of their future husbands by seeing how much gutter [mud] was on a kail stalk they uprooted. At Halloween parties, a person might be tricked into blackening his or her face. Eggs would be dropped into a glass of water and the resulting shape would tell about the future husband. Mrs Leith's aunt saw a farmyard in her glass and ended up marrying a farmer. Fathoming the scroos [hay or corn stacks] meant going round the stacks until you met your future husband in your arms. Before Mrs Leith's time, a girl would dip the sleeve of her chemise in a burn [stream] where three lairds' lands met and hang it before a fire; the man she was to marry would come and turn the sleeve. A girl would also throw a clew (ball of wool) down into the kiln and call, "Wha haads ontae me clew's end?"

Halloween tricks included throwing turnips down the lum [chimney] onto the fire and possibly into a cooking pot. The lum could also be stopped up with a fail [turf]. Anecdote about this being done one Muckle Supper night [Beltane celebration]. Anecdote about a skylight, the only window, being blocked with a fail and the husband eventually saying, "Get up, Betty, and see the sun rising in the wast!" A similar trick played on Hogmanay meant the people missed their New Year. Moving and tampering with things was also great sport, e.g. dismantling a cart and re-assembling it inside a house. Bairns [children] no longer went guising by 1977, but still came begging Pace [Easter] eggs.

**Track Duration (h:m:s)** - 00:07:07

**Date Recorded** - 1977.07.01

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**Permanent Link** - <http://www.tobarandualchais.co.uk/fullrecord/51630/1>

# Halloween Rhymes for Divination (or How to Predict Your Future Love!)

October 24th, 2008

I recently read “Games for Hallow-e’en” by Mary F. Blain (1912). In her book, Blain tells how to throw a Halloween Party. Though you must keep in mind that it’s from the perspective of almost a century ago. I like her description of Halloween:

Hallow-e’en or Hallow-Even is the last night of October, being the eve or vigil of All-Hallow’s or All Saint’s Day, and no holiday in all the year is so informal or so marked by fun both for grown-ups as well as children as this one. On this night there should be nothing but laughter, fun and mystery. It is the night when Fairies dance, Ghosts, Witches, Devils and mischief-making Elves wander around. It is the night when all sorts of charms and spells are invoked for prying into the future by all young folks and sometimes by folks who are not young.

At the end of Blaine’s description, she mentioned “the night when all sorts of charms and spells are invoked for prying into the future”. She was talking about how people felt that Halloween was an especially good time for divination – predicting the future. Kids especially played games where they could predict their future spouses’ names or occupations. This seems like a fun idea for kids, so I pulled out of Blaine’s book the games that specifically relate to predicting future loves and/or those that have rhymes or chants involved. Here they are, quoted directly from the book:

## LOVER’S TEST

A maid and youth each places a chestnut to roast on fire, side by side. If one hisses and steams, it indicates a fretful temper in owner of chestnut; if both chestnuts equally misbehave it augurs strife. If one or both pop away, it means separation; but if both burn to ashes tranquilly side by side, a long life of undisturbed happiness will be lot of owners.

These portentous omens are fitly defined in the following lines:

“These glowing nuts are emblems true  
Of what in human life we view;  
The ill-matched couple fret and fume,  
And thus in strife themselves consume;  
Or from each other wildly start,  
And with a noise forever part.  
But see the happy, happy pair,  
Of genuine love and truth sincere;  
With mutual fondness while they burn,  
Still to each other kindly turn;  
And as the vital sparks decay,  
Together gently sink away;  
Till life’s fierce trials being past,  
Their mingled ashes rest at last.”

## PERPLEXING HUNT

In this game the seeker for a prize is guided from place to place by doggerels (verses) as the following, and is started on his hunt with this rhyme:

“Perhaps you’ll find it in the air;  
If not, look underneath your chair.”  
Beneath his chair he finds the following:

“No, you will not find it here;  
 Search the clock and have no fear.”  
 Under the clock he finds:  
 “You will have to try once more;  
 Look behind the parlor door.”  
 Tied to the door-knob he discovers:  
 “If it’s not out in the stable  
 Seek beneath the kitchen table.”  
 Under the kitchen table he finds another note, which reads:  
 “If your quest remains uncertain,  
 You will find it ‘neath a curtain.”  
 And here his quest is rewarded by finding the prize.

## APPLE SEEDS

Apple seeds act as charms on Hallowe’en. Stick one on each eyelid and name one “Home” and the other “Travel.” If seed named travel stays on longer, you will go on a journey before year expires. If “Home” clings better, you will remain home. Again, take all the apple seeds, place them on back of outspread left hand and with loosely clenched right hand strike palm of left. This will cause some, if not all, of seeds to fall. Those left on hand show number of letters you will receive the coming fortnight. Should all seeds drop, you must wait patiently for your mail. Put twelve apple seeds carefully one side while you cut twelve slips of blank paper exactly alike, and on one side of each write name of friend. Turn them all over with blanks uppermost and mix them so that you will not know which is which; then, holding seeds in your left hand; repeat:

“One I love,  
 Two I love,  
 Three I love I say;  
 Four I love with all my heart  
 Five I cast away.  
 Six he loves,  
 Seven she loves,  
 Eight they both love;  
 Nine he comes,  
 Ten he tarries,  
 Eleven he courts and  
 Twelve he marries.”

Stop at each line to place a seed on a paper, and turn slip over to discover name of one you love or cast away. Continue matching apple seeds with papers as you count, until all twelve seeds and twelve papers are used.

## KISMET

Take half as many apples as guests, tie two long strings, one red and one yellow, to each apple. Place them in one large or several small baskets or receptacles on a table. The girls choose the red and the boys the yellow strings and at a signal they carefully pull the strings and follow them up until each finds his or her mate holding the string of the opposite color, attached to the same apple. The apples are then to be divided between each couple and the seeds in each half, counted as follows:

One—I love thee.  
 Two—he (she) loves me.  
 Three—Wedded we will be.  
 Four—he (she) loves me dearly.  
 Five—he (she) loves me nearly.

Six—a friend forever.  
Seven—we must sever.  
Eight—we met too late.  
Nine—why hesitate.  
Ten—he (she) is my chosen mate.

### AROUND THE WALNUT TREE

Of all Hallow-e'en spells and charms associated with nuts, the following is one of the oldest: If a young man or woman goes at midnight on Hallow-e'en to a walnut tree and walks around three times, crying out each time, "Let him (her) that is to be my true love bring me some walnuts," future wife or husband will be seen in tree gathering nuts.

### GAME OF FATE

Guests take part, seated in a circle. Three Fates are chosen, one of whom whispers to each person in turn name of his (her) future sweetheart. Second Fate follows, whispering to each where he (she) will next meet his (her) sweetheart; as, "You will meet on a load of hay," or, "at a picnic," or, "at church," or, "on the river," etc. The third Fate reveals the future; as, "You will marry him (her) next Christmas," or, "You will be separated many years by a quarrel, but will finally marry," or, "Neither of you will ever marry," etc. Each guest must remember what is said by the Fates; then each in turn repeats aloud what has been told him (her). For example, "My future sweetheart's name is Obednego; I shall meet him next Wednesday on the Moonlight Excursion, and we shall be married in a week."

### WHERE DWELLS MY LOVER?

Steal out unobserved at midnight; plucking a small lock of hair from your head, cast it to breeze. Whatever direction it is blown is believed to be location of future matrimonial partner.

"I pluck this lock of hair off my head  
To tell whence comes the one I shall wed.  
Fly, silken hair, fly all the world around  
Until you reach the spot where my true love is found."

### ROSE TEST

Take two roses with long stems. Name one for yourself and one for your lover. Go to your room without speaking to any one; kneel beside bed; twine stems of roses together, and repeat following lines, gazing intently on lover's rose:

"Twine, twine, and intertwine,  
Let my love be wholly thine.  
If his heart be kind and true,  
Deeper grow his rose's hue."  
If your swain is faithful, color of rose will grow darker.

### THE MIRROR

Walk backward several feet out of doors in moonlight with mirror in your hand, or within doors with candle in one hand and mirror in the other, repeating following rhyme, and face of your future companion will appear in glass:

"Round and round, O stars so fair!  
Ye travel and search out everywhere;  
I pray you, sweet stars, now show to me  
This night who my future husband (wife) shall be."

NOTE FROM MAMA LISA – I'M NOT RECOMMENDING THAT CHILDREN PLAY THIS NEXT GAME! IT'S JUST INTERESTING TO READ ABOUT FROM AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE...

### JUMPING LIGHTED CANDLE

Place a lighted candle in middle of floor, not too securely placed; each one jumps over it. Whoever succeeds in clearing candle is guaranteed a happy year, free of trouble or anxiety. He who knocks candle over will have a twelve-month of woe.

[Another Note from Mama Lisa: This sounds like what's being described in the rhyme [Jack Be Nimble.](#)]

### APPLE-SEED TEST

Cut an apple open and pick out seeds from core. If only two seeds are found, they portend early marriage; three, legacy; four, great wealth; five, a sea voyage; six, great fame as orator or singer; seven, possession of any gift most desired.

If you're interested, you can read the whole book that these rhymes are from. It's online at: [Games for Hallow-e'en.](#)

Enjoy predicting your future on Halloween! It's all in good fun!

Mama Lisa

This article was posted on Friday, October 24th, 2008 at 4:07 pm.

## 2 Responses to "Halloween Rhymes for Divination (or How to Predict Your Future Love!)"

1. ***Mrs. Barrett Says:***  
[October 1st, 2010 at 1:00 pm](#)

These Are All Stupid.

2. ***Lisa Says:***  
[October 1st, 2010 at 2:05 pm](#)

Dear Mrs. Barrett,

To each his own!

Mama Lisa

*From:* <[RICHIELE3@aol.com](mailto:RICHIELE3@aol.com)>

*Subject:* [FOLKLORE] Lovers, Love

*Date:* Tue, 4 Apr 2000 14:13:34 EDT

Lovers, Love

The superstitions and folklore

you need to make life magnificent... or miserable.

A girl may learn what her future husband is doing, if she looks down into a well at sunrise on the first day of May.

A hair found in the heel of your shoe will be the color of your future husband's hair.

About dusk walk backwards to a well while looking over your right shoulder into a mirror, and you will see your future husband.

After counting 100 white horses, the first man seen riding a white horse will be your prospective mate.

After counting thirteen stars on thirteen consecutive nights, on the thirteenth night you will dream of the one you will marry.

After finding a four-leafed clover, stick it in your left shoe; and the first man you speak to will be the husband allotted to you by destiny.

After removing the yolk from a hard-boiled egg fill the white portion with salt and eat it before going to bed and your destined husband will bring you a drink of water in your dream.

After you have counted 100 white horses, lay a wishbone over the door; and the third man who comes through that door will be your destined husband.

After you have made ready for bed, set a lighted candle on the floor in the center of the room and step over it; there, reflected on your nightgown, will be the shadow of your future husband.

As soon as you hear a dove coo, turn around three times and take off your left shoe, and in it you will find a hair like that of your future mate's.

Break a wishbone with someone and put your portion over the door and you will marry the first man who enters that door.

Count 100 white horses and you will marry the first unmarried man you meet.

Count 100 white horses and mules, and if you do not marry the first man you see after the 100th white horse has been counted, you will be an old maid. (A white mule is counted as ten white horses.)

Count 99 blue neckties and the 100th man you see with a blue necktie will be your prospective husband.

Count nine stars each night for nine nights and on the last night you will see the man you will marry.

Count nine stars for nine nights in succession and on the ninth night, having placed a mirror under your pillow, you will dream of your future husband.

Count ten white horses and you will marry the first man you kiss.

Count the words in a rhyme that you have made by accident and let each word be a letter of the alphabet, with the letter of the last word of the rhyme being the initial of your sweetheart.

Drop a small stick of wood into a glass of water and place the latter beneath your bed, and in a dream you will meet your prospective mate as he crosses a bridge.

During "Old Year's Night" melt lead and pour it on something and you will see either the picture or initials of your prospective husband in the lead.

Each time you see a gray horse, make a wish; and when you have done this for 20 gray horses, you will meet someone with red hair: The next man will be your future husband.

Eat a thimbleful of salt without drinking and walk backwards down the stairs

and you will see your future mate in a dream.

Eat a thimbleful of salt for three nights in succession and go to bed without drinking or speaking, and you will dream of your future mate two nights out of the three.

Eat the yolk of a hard-boiled egg and fill the cavity left in the white part with salt; then eat the latter and you will dream of your future husband.

Enter a deserted house at midnight, light a candle and stick a pin into it; and when the pin falls out, your appointed mate will appear.

Find a sprig of "old man plant" and hang it over the door with a horseshoe, your man is sure to come under that door that you would marry.

Give a name to each of the four posts of your bed, and the post upon which you have your hand next morning will disclose your destined mate.

Give names to five apple seeds and lay them on your face because the first to drop off will tell you the name of your future married partner.

Give names to the white specks on your finger-nails and the speck that stays on longest will reveal your future husband.

Give names to two large onions and lay them on a warm stove because the onion that sprouts during the night will disclose the name of the man you will marry.

Go to a spring on Halloween and take a mouthful of water but do not swallow it, walk home backwards, get into bed and swallow the water; as your future mate will give you a drink in your dream.

Hang a four-leafed clover over the door and you will be married to the first man who enters.

Hang a wishbone over the door between Christmas and New Year's Day and the first one who passes through the door will be your prospective mate.

Having made a string of beans, throw it up into the air; and the initial assumed by the beans after they fall will be that of the person you are going to marry.

Hold a mirror over a well on the first day of May in such a manner that it reflects the bottom of the well and you will see the face of your future sweetheart in the mirror.

If a girl writes the names of boys on slips of paper and places these slips in a pan of water, the slip that rises first to the surface will show whom she will marry.

If a boy turns the rings on the fingers of thirteen different persons and then turns a ring on the hand of a girl, he will marry her.

If a pin is about to fall from your dress, touch the pin each time you repeat a letter of the alphabet; and the letter spoken as the pin drops, will be the initial of your destined husband.

If a young man rescues a girl from drowning, he will marry her.

If on a moonlight night you walk backwards around the house while looking into a mirror held in your hand, your future husband will look over your shoulder into the mirror.

If the sun shines during rain, lift up a stone and under it you will see a hair the color of your prospective husband's hair.

If two apple seeds are named and one of them stuck on each of your eyes, the seed adhering to the skin will reveal the name of your destined mate, and the seed falling off will indicate the name of the person who does not love you.

If you can count seven stars every night for seven consecutive nights, on the last night you will see your future mate in a dream.

If you carry two orange peelings in your pocket during the day and sleep on them that night, you will dream of your destined mate.

If you count 99 white horses, the one driving the 100th white horse will be your prospective mate.

If you count thirteen neckties of the same color, you will marry the next man you meet who is wearing a necktie of this color.

If you eat a thimbleful of salt and go to bed backwards, your sweetheart will offer you a drink in a dream.

If you lay your shoes under the bed for three successive nights, you will dream of your future husband on the third night.

If you look into a well on the 1st of May, you will see either your future husband or a coffin.

If you really want to get married, stand on your head and chew a piece of wet leather (piece of gristle) out of a beef neck and swallow it, and you will get any man or woman you want.

If you sleep with a mirror under your pillow, you will dream of your prospective mate.

If you want to get married, catch a dove and bite its head off and throw it over your left shoulder; and the first man or girl who comes along after that will be your future mate.

In the hole you make by turning around three times on your right heel you will find a hair like that of your destined mate's.

Keep a mirror beneath your pillow for three nights in succession and on the third night you will see your future husband in a dream.

Lay a four-leafed clover beneath each corner of the sheet and you will dream of your destined mate.

Lay a snail on a piece of paper and cover it with another who will crawl about and write the initials of your future husband's name.

Lay grains of pop corn on a hot stove and name them your friends because the first one to pop will reveal the name of the one you will marry.

Lay your part of a broken wishbone over a door, and you will marry the first person who finds your piece of broken wishbone.

Let a girl run thrice around the house, touching the same rock each time she makes the circuit, and she will then see a hair like that of her future husband's.

Let a girl who finds a horseshoe hang it over the door or front door and the first man to enter will be her true husband.

Let the person who gets the shorter end of a broken wishbone place his or her piece above the door, and the first man or woman coming through the door will be the future husband or wife.

Lie down on your back by a well on Halloween and hold a mirror over your head so you can see a reflection of the bottom of the well: If you are to marry, the picture of your future partner will appear in the mirror.

Look at the veins in your right hand and whatever letter they resemble will be the first initial of your future husband's name.

Look into a mirror while walking backwards to a well on the 1st of May, and you will see your destined mate when you reach the well.

Look over your left shoulder into a mirror while standing at a spring on the first day of May, and you will see the face of your future sweetheart or husband reflected in the glass.

Make a rhyme before going to bed and you will see your destined mate in a dream.

Make a wish while looking over your right shoulder, when you first see the new moon, and you will dream of your appointed husband that night.

Name the bedposts on the first night you sleep in a room, then, having donned your nightgown, leave the room and re-enter it walking backwards and that night you will dream of the one you will marry.

Name the corners of a room on the first night you sleep in it, and the first corner you look at next morning will reveal whom you will marry.

On Friday night when you go to bed, slip under your pillow an apron that has been folded three times and say, "Every night in dreams let me see who my true love is to be."

On Halloween hold a candle in one hand and a mirror in the other hand, and

walk down the cellar stairs backwards until you see in the mirror the one you will marry.

On Halloween name two nuts, one for yourself and the other for your beau, and place them on hot coals; if they burn well you will marry your beau but if the nut with his name hops away he will not marry you.

On Halloween put a basin of water at the side of your bed, turn off the light and get into bed; then raise up quickly and look into the water, and you will see the face of your prospective mate.

On seeing a new moon, look over your left shoulder and recite:

New moon, true moon,  
Dressed in blue,  
If I should marry a man,  
Or he should marry me,  
What in the name of love,  
Will his name be?

Then make a wish and you will get it.

On seeing a team of white horses name ten different colors; and when you meet a man with a necktie of the last color named, you will marry him.

On the evening of the 29th of April spread a handkerchief on the lawn under a tree, and the next morning you will find on the handkerchief the initial of your future mate.

On the first day of spring shout into a rain barrel that stands at the corner of the house and if you hear an echo you will marry the first unmarried man who comes around the corner of the house.

On the first day of May put a snail on a board and set the board out in the sun and as the snail crawls away it will make the initials of the man you will marry.

On the first day of May, just a noon, take a looking-glass and hold it up and look into a well, you will see your future mate, or a ball of fire (meaning the devil will get you) or your coffin.

On the first of May hold a mirror over a spring and in the water you will see a reflection of your future lover.

Pare your finger-nails just before going to bed and drop the parings in the lamp chimney, then hang your bloomers over the stove and while the parings are burning the likeness of your prospective husband will appear on the wall on in the looking-glass.

Pass a piece of cheese through a wedding ring three times, then lay the ring under a girl's pillow; and she will dream of her future husband.

Peel an apple while looking over your right shoulder into a mirror and throw the peeling over your left shoulder and you will then see your future husband or wife reflected in the mirror.

Place a pan of water under your bed at night and in the morning you will see in the water a reflection of the man whom you will marry.

Place in the heel of your shoe the first four-leafed clover found, and you will marry the first person met.

Place over a door, the first pea that you find, and the first man who comes through that door, provided he is not a relative, will be your future married partner.

Put a key in a Bible, letting the head of the key protrude beyond the edge of the pages while you rest your finger on the key while repeating the alphabet; and the letter on which the key turns will be the initial of your future husband.

Put all the snails you can find in a big pan of corn meal to see if the snails make letters in the corn meal of her future husband.

Put a thimbleful of salt under your pillow and you will dream of your future lover that night.

Put above the door a pod containing nine peas, and the first person entering,

if of the opposite sex and unmarried, will be the one whom you are going to marry that year.

Put beneath your pillow before retiring three pieces of paper upon each of which you have written the name of a boy; without looking at the name remove one paper as you enter bed and remove another when you get up, the paper remaining beneath the pillow bears the name of your future husband.

Put in your shoe a hairpin that you pick up from the road and you will be married to the first person met.

Put three apple seeds on a hot stove lid and name them for beaux and the first to jump will tell you whom you will marry.

Repeat the letters of the alphabet while skipping rope, and the letter upon which you miss will be the initial of your next beau or future husband.

Roll up slips of paper on each of which you have written the name of an admirer, and let the slips fall into a bowl of water; because in the morning the slip that remains unrolled will bear the name of the future husband.

Set a glass of water under your bed and across the rim of the former lay a small piece of wood, and you will dream of your husband crossing a bridge.

Set your shoes in the form of a "T" on going to bed and do not speak again that night and you will marry the man whom you see in your dream.

Shake up the tea leaves in your empty cup and they will form the initial of your future husband.

Sit down and remove your stocking as soon as you hear the first robin of spring, and in the stocking you will find a hair like that of your future mate's.

Sit down on the sidewalk and count seven stars, and you will marry the first man who passes by.

Sleep in your new shoes on the first night you have them and your future husband will come and take them off during the night.

Sleep on a mirror for seven nights in succession and you will dream of your destined mate.

Sleep with a Bible under your head for three successive nights and you will see your allotted mate in your dreams.

Slip a wedding ring on a silk thread and lower the ring into a tumbler of water as you recite the letters of the alphabet, the letter mentioned as the ring strikes the side of the tumbler will be the initial of the one you will marry.

Spit each time you see a white horse, and when you have counted 100 white horses, the first person whom you meet will be your future mate.

Stamp a white horse while wishing to see your future husband, and the first unmarried man you meet will be he.

Sweep the parlor backwards on New Year's Eve while looking into a mirror and in the latter you will see your future husband.

Take salt and enough flour to hold it together and bake this "salt cake" before going to bed, make a wish and eat half of the cake and put the other half under your pillow so you can dream that the man who offers you a drink will be your future husband.

Take three steps backwards and whirl around thrice on your heel; in the hole made you will see a hair like the hair of the person you will marry.

The first letter picked up in your spoon when eating alphabet soup will be the initial of your future mate.

The first person met after you see a redbird will be your lover.

The first time you hear a turtledove in the spring, sit down and remove your shoes and stockings for in the heel of one of the stockings you will find a hair resembling the hair of the one to whom you will be married.

The girl who can walk seven railroad rails, without tumbling off or speaking, will marry the first man met after she has finished this task.

The man of whom you dream on the first night that you sleep under a new quilt

will be your future husband.

Think of a color as you put a ring on your finger, and you will marry the next man you see with a necktie of that color.

Think of a man while you swallow a four-leafed clover and you will marry him.

To discover whom you will marry, walk around a wheat field on the 1st of May.

Toss an apple paring, which you have removed from the fruit without a break, over your left shoulder; the paring lying on the floor will assume the form of the initial of the person you are to marry.

Turn the rings on the fingers of thirteen persons, and the first one to whom you speak after doing this will be your future mate.

Upon hearing the first dove of spring, look down into your shoe and you will see a hair the color of your destined mate's.

Walk across nine cellar doors and you will marry the first man to whom you speak.

Walk backwards nine steps on a dusty road; raise your left heel and under it you will find a hair like that of your prospective husband's.

Walk backwards nine steps on the first night of a new moon and reach behind you, pick up anything that you touch, place it beneath your pillow and the next morning you will find a hair like that of your sweetheart's.

Walk backwards down the steps while looking in to a mirror, and reflected in the latter you will see whom you are to marry.

Wear for several hours a wedding ring that you have borrowed, then put it in one of your old shoes and if you are to marry, you will see your destined husband in a dream.

When a hairpin is found, place it in your shoe; and you will marry the first man you meet who wears a red necktie.

When apple bobbing Halloween Eve, write the name of a boy on each of the apples and the apple a girl raises from the water using her teeth will bear the name of her husband.

When you find a four-leafed clover, put it in your shoe and you will see your future husband in a dream.

When you see a rainbow while the sun is shining, look under a rock and you will find a hair the color of your future mate's.

When you see three stars in a row, say: Three stars in a row, Send me tonight my beau.

When you stay all night with another girl, let her name the bedposts for you and you give names to the bedposts for her because the first two bedposts seen in the morning will identify your respective mates.

Whirl around three times on your heel when the first turtledove of the season is heard; and in your stocking there will be a hair that resembles the hair of the person you will marry.

Wrap nine peas in a piece of paper upon which you have written the words, "Come in, come in, my dear," and slip this paper under the doormat so the first unmarried man to enter will be your future husband.

Write each letter of the alphabet on a separate slip of paper and put these slips in a pan of water; in the morning the first letter found on top of the water is the initial of the man you are to marry.

Write on a slip of paper the name of the man you love and lay the slip under your pillow; and if the person named also loves you, you will dream of him that night.

You can discover your future mate by looking in to a mirror on the cellar steps on Halloween.

You can discover your future husband by looking in to a mirror on Halloween.

You can discover your future husband by counting one hundred stars and then looking to your left.

You can see the one you are going to marry by looking into a well at midnight.

# Seeing my future husband

Nationality: Asian American

Primary Language: English

Age: 21

*The informant is Korean American, and she was born and raised in California. She attended schools in Los Angeles.*

## Saint Agnes's Eve

Night of January 20th. It's a day a virgin can dream of her husband-to-be.

Steps:

1. Take a shower
2. Place a sprig of rosemary under the pillow.
3. Say before falling asleep: "St Agnes, that's to lovers kind / Come ease the trouble of my mind,"
4. Go to sleep before 12am.

Things to note:

1. If you can't attain a sprig of rosemary, set a picture of rosemary as a lock screen on your phone, and place the phone under the pillow. A printed rosemary on paper is also fine.
2. If you see someone's face clearly, that man is not your future husband. If you see a blurry face, that man is your future husband.

**Informant:** "I first heard this from my friends when I was in high school. On January 19th, one girl from my class got to know of the Saint Agnes's day and told her friends about it. Eventually, the story spread through words of mouth and by the lunch time almost the whole class got to know about the ritual. It was January 19th, so it was the night of that day. I still remember that day. Girls were talking about it wherever they went. The story went into the teachers' ears, and the topic was even brought up in class."

"Some girls said they would just put a picture of rosemary on their phone, but my friends insisted having a real rosemary. I followed my friends, and at a flower shop we could obtain sprigs of rosemary. We just wanted to make it really work, so we followed the traditional methods as possible. At night, I took a long shower, placed a sprig of rosemary under my bed, and talked with my friends over the phone. We were all excited and we were asking questions like "what type of husbands do you want?" After the phone call, I said the prayer and went to sleep. It was before 12."

"The next day all the girls were once again talking about the Saint Agnes's day. Some girls saw a face, while others didn't. Unfortunately, I didn't see anything. I opened my eyes and it was the next day morning. My friend insisted strongly that she saw a face in her dream, and she explained his appearances too. I still don't know if the ritual really works. I never tried after that day. But it seemed like some girls really saw faces that night."

*This folklore originates from England. The prayers girls are supposed to say before going to sleep, are from 'The Eve of St. Agnes,' a poem (42 stanzas) by John Keats, written in 1819 and published in 1820. I don't know how this folklore reached the informant's high school in Los Angeles. However it is certain that there were modifications to the ritual, since the procedures that were told to the informant differ from the traditional Saint Agnes's Eve ritual. The traditional way is has more things to prepare, as well as more steps and regulations. I bet today's story of Saint Agnes's day is different from the story the informant heard. The ritual spreads mostly among young girls, especially since the ritual claims to have an effect on virgins.*

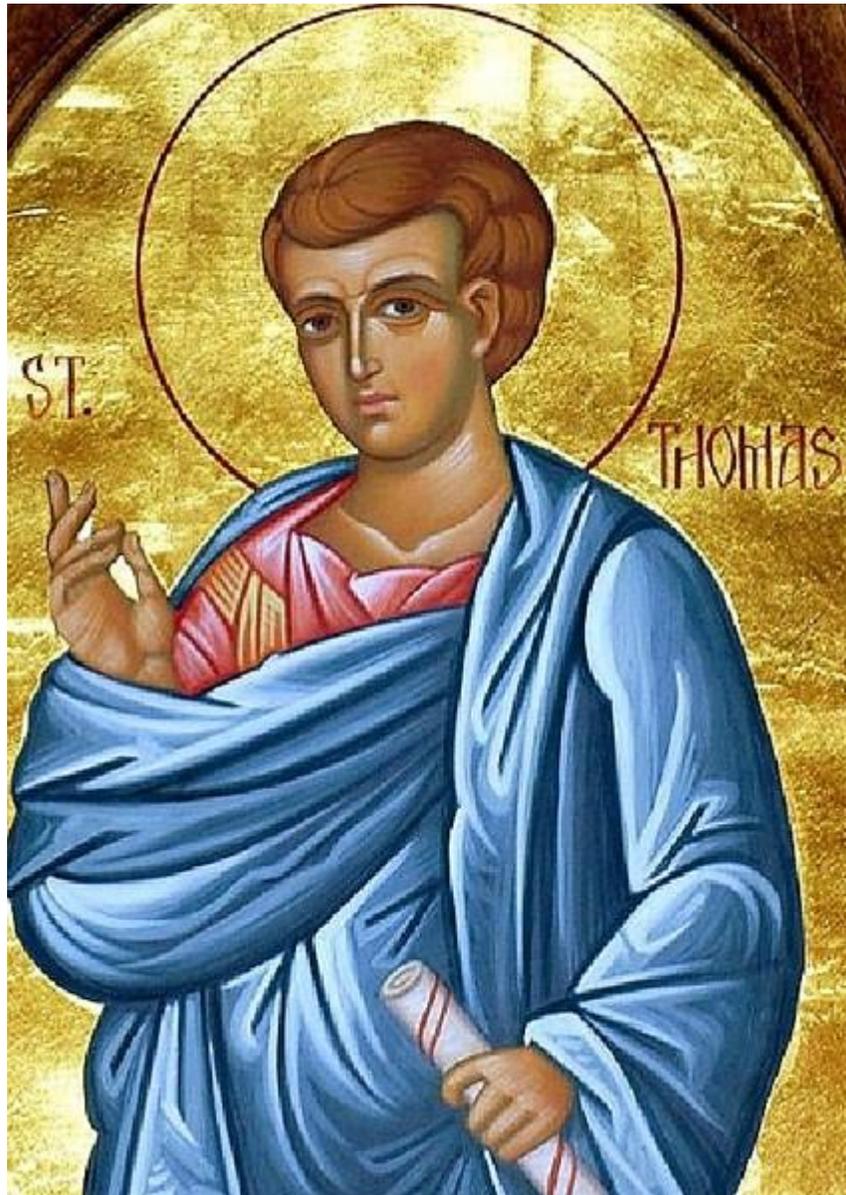
COLLECTED BY  [SU YOUNG KIM](#) 

POSTED SATURDAY, 9TH OF MAY 2015 AT 05:39:06 AM

## ATTENTION SINGLE LADIES! TODAY IS THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS

December 21, 2013 [Michelle](#)  
[28 Comments](#)

[Holiday](#), [Surviving Single](#)



For those of us singletons who may be in need of some divine intervention, today is the day for you. Traditionally, The Feast of St. Thomas is celebrated on December 21st and is the day dedicated to completing your Christmas preparations. I find it extremely fitting that this year the feast falls on the last Saturday before Christmas! However, you might be wondering what this has to do with being single. Well, in Austria it is believed that if a woman follows a few simple

steps before she goes to bed on the night of The Feast of St. Thomas she will dream about her future husband.

Before I lay out the steps I do want to mention that while I originally learned of this tradition from a Hallmark movie, I have checked several different resources and the tradition seems to be legit.

***How to Dream About Your Future Husband on the Feast of St. Thomas:***

1. Climb into bed using a step-stool (I guess they traditionally have tall beds in Austria?)
2. Remove your shoes (Maybe the floors are cold there too)
3. In the Hallmark movie she spins around three times after removing her shoes, however many sources I have found that explain The Feast of St. Thomas ritual exclude this step so it's your call!
4. Throw the shoes at your bedroom door, toes first
5. Sleep with your head at the foot of the bed

Follow all of these instructions and you may dream of the man you are destined to marry. Part of me thinks the result could be terrifying, but I may still give it a try. I don't necessarily want to be a half-drunk, single bridesmaid for the rest of my life.

If the above method is not to your liking, you may also try selecting a young rooster while a brood of chicks are sleeping. There is also the English tradition of sleeping with a peeled onion wrapped in a handkerchief under your head. The thought of having an onion under my head all night sounds disgusting and quite uncomfortable, but to each their own.

I hope this gives you some insight into the wonders that The Feast of St. Thomas may hold. Be sure to let me know if it works! Happy Dreaming!

If you are a fan of Lifetime and Hallmark movies (or more likely, a person who watches them because they are so bad they are good) then you might enjoy a podcast my friend Stephanie and I do, Lifemark: A Made For TV Movie. Fair warning, we basically go through the movies and talk

about all the ridiculous things in them, also this is not family friendly - adult language is used, because we are adults talking about crazy movies.

## **Michelle**

Michelle is a born and bred Texan who isn't afraid to share her state pride. She loves all things Nancy Drew and Disney and has a special place in her heart for Broadway musicals. Always down for a few drinks and a good geek-out, Michelle truly believes there is nothing a margarita and large bowl of queso won't fix.

# **28 RESPONSES TO “ATTENTION SINGLE LADIES! TODAY IS THE FEAST OF ST. THOMAS”**

- Kiki (2 years ago)

Thank you for sharing! I saw this on a movie and definitely plan to try it!

- [Michelle](#) (2 years ago)

Yes! You should definitely try it! My best friend and I did it last year and didn't have any luck so please tell me if you do!!!

- Lynnea (2 years ago)

I'm going to try it this year too. Did you leave out the spinning or not last year? It's worth seeing what can be done different or whatever...

- [Michelle](#) (2 years ago)

I totally did the spinning. My thinking was every bit could help right?!?!

- Sarah (2 years ago)

I tried it last night but dreamed about one of my ex boyfriends. So I do not think it worked. Oh well, it was fun to try though.

- [Michelle](#) (2 years ago)

I think last time I tried I dreamed about the main male character from Enchanted Inc. #NerdGirlProblems

- Vita (2 years ago)

I actually saw this movie last year and made a note to myself to do it this year if I was still single. Hehe I tried this on Sunday and not sure if it worked. It was really weird. Two guys were in my dream, if it did work I think it was the 2nd one that showed up because there was something very distinct about him and the feeling I had when I awoke. I just can't remember his face though! It was fun trying it though and I did the twirl also!

- Lynnea (2 years ago)

Okay, so I tried it, and I KNOW I had a dream but I remember nothing about the actually dream no details, I know who I think was in it but couldn't say for certain since I don't actually recall it. I know people that left out the spinning and they had dreams that maybe were more accurate (that they remembered) so maybe next year we should all try again if we're still single, and leave out the spinning? What do you think?

- Vita (2 years ago)

Yes I agree Lynnea!!

- Evva (11 months ago)

OK Ladies, I just watched the Hallmark movie and this is what was said: Swiss tradition has it that on the night of the Feast of Saint Thomas a spinster can meet her future husband in her dreams.

First she must step on a stool and get into bed.

Then, she must stand on her bed and take off she shoes.

Then (while holding her shoes in her hands) she must spin around three times and throw her shoes at the door.

(in the movie she holds her shoes (slippers) in her hands with the toes pointed upward and throws the shoes at the door toes first).

Finally, she must sleep with her feet on the pillow at the head of the bed.

If she follows these instructions perfectly, that night she will dream of the man she is destined to marry.

I hope this helps and good luck

- Cosmina (11 months ago)

I will try it for sure - it seems so cute and maybe it works lol that would be awesome!

- Lynnea (11 months ago)

Going to do it this year without the spinning!

- Evva (11 months ago)

I just thought of something else. On the Feast of Saint Thomas the meal that they had before they went off to bed was made up of Indian food. I wonder if this might also have something to do with anything? Just a thought!

- Annalise (11 months ago)

I'm not sure if I want to try it out but I will anyways.

- Alison (11 months ago)

All the websites that I have gone to on the tradition say that the shoes have the toes pointed down, not up. It is the shortest day of the year and marks the beginning of the Winter Solsta. The house has been cleansed of bad spirits in preparation of Christmas.

- Suelynnk (10 months ago)

Spin clockwise or counter clockwise?

- Vita (10 months ago)

Yup the time has come again and I am still single!! haha Last year I said I would do it without the spinning, so i may try that!! Will keep y'all posted!!!

- Lynnea (10 months ago)

Hope everyone is trying it again this year! When I tried it last year I added the spinning and didn't have the best luck. So I'm going to try it this year and leave out the spinning. Anyone else going to do it?

- Lynnea (10 months ago)

Doing it this year too, without the spinning. Will be good to see how we dream.

- Suelynnk (10 months ago)

Will try it for the first time tonight, including the spinning.

- Carolyn (10 months ago)

I tried it last year and distinctly remember seeing a dark haired man in a chef's coat. But that was it. I did the spinning but couldn't remember if shoes were pointed up or down. This year they were pointed up and then I threw them toward the door toes first. I let you know tomorrow what happens!!! Good luck to everyone!

- Jess (10 months ago)

Just did this!! We shall see! Saw the Hallmark movie and it was so adorable. I've been counting down the days until the 21st!

- Kait (10 months ago)

I completely had a dream. And I semi remember hearing a guy's voice and seeing a guy's face... But I don't remember the dream at all! I did the twirly thing! I can't remember anything about the guy though except for the nagging feeling that he was there.. I can't remember his face or anything!

- Lynnea (10 months ago)

Okay so last year I added the spinning and commented above. This is what I said last year “Okay, so I tried it, and I KNOW I had a dream but I remember nothing about the actual dream, no details, I know who I think was in it but couldn’t say for certain since I don’t actually recall it.”

This year my situation changed a little. I have a boyfriend, but no engagement or anything so I thought, what the heck I’ll try it anyway. I should probably mention that the guy who was in my dream last year, that I was pretty sure I knew who it was... that’s who my boyfriend is now. Anyway, I left out the spinning this time, to see if there was any difference. Here is what happened. I had 4 dreams! In each one of them was my boyfriend. The first one we were just walking together, the second one we were talking, the third one he was telling me he loved me and wanted to marry me and the 4th one was wedding planning. The conversations were just whispers, I couldn’t hear what was actually being said, but I felt the love.

I actually enjoyed doing this, and seeing the differences a year has brought, and more than that, trying both ways.

- [Alexandrea](#) (10 months ago)

I tried this last night. I don’t remember my whole dream. I did see the back of a man, but that is all. I do remember me waking up in the middle of the night and I said a man’s name and fell back to sleep. I do know the man because we are good friends. I’m going to have to try again next year. Hopefully I remember everything.

- [Eillen](#) (10 months ago)

I wish I could’ve read up on this sooner: I will try next year if still single! I think if we believe anything can be possible!

- [LaWanda West](#) (10 months ago)

I wonder if I can do it now...its after Christmas and not the 21st of December. Urrr

- [Eillen](#) (10 months ago)

Ugh lol I wish I could too!

Superstitions from Europe  
translated and/or edited by



D. L. Ashliman

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*Germany*

1. Unmarried women who desire husbands should, on the night before Saint Andrew's day, naked, call on this saint, and their loved ones will appear to them in their sleep. (100)
2. If a girl wishes to know what kind of hair her loved one has, on Christmas Eve she should reach backwards out the door, and she shall hold the hair in her hand. (102)
3. To learn if she shall marry within the next year, a virgin should knock on the chicken coop on Christmas Eve or at midnight. If a rooster cackles she will, if a hen cackles she won't. (105. Compare 230)
4. To discover if her lover will be upright or crooked, a girl must stand against a cord or a stack of wood on Christmas Eve and pull a log out backwards; her lover will be like the log. (109)
5. Christmas Eve between 11 and 12 o'clock all single girls wake up. To learn whether or not they will marry in the next year, they take off all their clothes, stick their heads into the kitchen kettle and watch the bubbling water. (506)
6. If the groom buckles the bride's left shoe on their wedding day, she will take control of the marriage. (715)
7. Girls should pay attention to where the dogs bark on Saint Andrew's Eve. Her groom will come from this area. (964)
8. When the bride takes her clothes off, she must give one of her stockings to a bridesmaid, who will then throw it onto the gathered wedding guests. On whomever the stocking lands, he or she shall be the next to marry. (1106)
9. At the end of the wedding celebration, the bride and groom are to sit down on the marriage bed, fully dressed, except for their shoes and stockings. One of the bridesmaids takes off the groom's stocking, sits down on the floor with her back against the bed and throws it with her left hand over her right shoulder, aiming for the face of the groom. All the bridesmaids then repeat this, and the ones who

succeed will soon be married. The bride's stocking is then removed by the young men and thrown in the same fashion, thereby determining which of them will be next. (1107)

- All German superstitions were taken from Jacob Grimm, *Deutsche Mythologie*, vol. 3 (1835). The numbers in parentheses correspond to Grimm's original paragraph numbers. Translated from the German by D. L. Ashliman.

## *England*

1. If a young woman goes into the barn at midnight on Hallowe'en and turns the corn riddles (sieves) round, three times, she will see her future husband when she comes out. ([M'Gonigle](#))
- K. M'Gonigle, compiler, "Scraps of English Folklore," *Folk-Lore: A Quarterly Review*, v. 35 (1924), p. 254.
2. On the eve of St. Valentine's Day it is an old custom to pin bay leaves to your pillow, one at each corner and one in the middle. You will then dream of your future lover, or the man you are to marry. ([Rudkin](#))
- Ethel H. Rudkin, "Lincolnshire Folklore," *Folk-Lore: A Quarterly Review*, v. 44 (1933), p. 280.
3. The bride cake is composed of many rich and aromatic ingredients, and crowned with an icing made of white sugar and bitter almonds, emblematical of the fluctuations of pleasure and pain which are incidental to the marriage state.

On this day the important ceremony of passing small portions of bride cake through the wedding ring is ritually performed. The just execution of this idolatrous ceremony is attended to with the most scrupulous exactness.

The bride holds the ring between the forefinger and thumb of her right hand, through which the groom passes each portion of the cake nine times, previously cut by other individuals of the party into disposable pieces for the purpose. These he delivers in succession to the bridesmaids, who seal them up carefully, each in an envelope of fair writing-paper.

As amulets of inestimable value, they are distributed amongst the friends of the bride, who seldom neglect to make a trial of their virtues. Various are the methods of augury to which they are applied, one only of which shall be mentioned here.

If the fair idolatress deposit one of these amulets in the foot of her left stocking, when she goes to bed, and place lit under her pillow, she will dream of the person who is destined by fate to be her partner for life. ([Gutch and Peacock](#))

- Eliza Gutch and Mabel Peacock, *County Folk-Lore*, vol. 5: Examples of Printed Folk-Lore Concerning Lincolnshire (London: Folk-Fore Society, 1908), p. 231.
- 4. If on midsummer-eve a young woman takes off the shift which she was been wearing, and, having washed it, turns its wrong side out, and hangs it in silence over the back of a chair, near the fire, she will see, about midnight, her future husband, who deliberately turns the garment.
- 5. If a young lady will, on midsummer-eve, walk backwards into the garden and gather a rose, she has the means of knowing who is to be her husband. The rose must be cautiously sewn up in a paper bag, and put aside in a dark drawer, there to remain until Christmas-day.

On the morning of the Nativity the bag must be carefully opened in silence, and the rose placed by the lady in her bosom. Thus she must wear it to church. Some young man will either ask for the rose, or take it from her without asking. That young man is destined to become eventually the lady's husband.

- 6. At eve last midsummer no sleep I sought,  
But to the field a bag of hemp-seed brought;  
I scatter'd round the seed on every side,  
And three times in a trembling accent cried, --  
"This hemp-seed with my virgin hands I sow,  
Who shall my true love be, the crop shall mow."  
I straight look'd back, and, if my eyes speak truth,  
With his keen scythe behind me came the youth.  
([Gay's Pastorals](#))

The practice of sowing hemp-seed on midsummer-eve is not especially a Cornish superstition, yet it was at one time a favorite practice with young women to try the experiment. Many a strange story have I been told as to the result of the sowing, and many a trick could I tell of, which has been played off by young men who had become acquainted with the secret intention of some maidens. I believe there is but little difference in the rude rhyme used on the occasion, --

Hemp-seed I sow,  
Hemp-seed I hoe,

(the action of sowing the seed and of hoeing it in, must be deliberately gone through); --

And he  
Who will my true love be  
Come after me and mow.

A phantom of the true lover will now appear, and of course the maid or maidens retire in wild affright.

7. If a young unmarried woman stands at midnight on midsummer-eve in the porch of the parish church, she will see, passing by in procession, every one who will die in the parish during the year. This is so serious an affair that it is not, I believe, often tried. I have, however, heard of young women who have made the experiment. But every one of the stories relates that, coming last in the procession, they have seen shadows of themselves; that from that day forward they have pined, and ere midsummer has again come round, that they have been laid to rest in the village graveyard. ([Hunt](#))
- Robert Hunt, *Popular Romances of the West of England; or, The Drolls, Traditions, and Superstitions of Old Cornwall* (London: John Camden Hotten, 1871), pp. 384-385.
- Hunt's source: John Gay (1685-1732), *The Shepherd's Week, in Six Pastorals*, first published in London, 1714.

# *Halloween traditions for finding your true love*

By **Kim Z Dale**, October 20, 2014 at 6:43 am



Many old Halloween traditions included fortune telling, and many of those fortune telling rituals focused on how to learn about your true love. Here are a few Halloween love spells that I found in [The Better Days Books Vintage Halloween Reader](#). Most of these Halloween traditions were popular in the 1800s and later. Each is something that people said you could do on Halloween night to learn of your true love. If Match.com hasn't been working for you perhaps you want to try one of these vintage Halloween traditions, or perhaps you will just find them interesting like I did.

Oh, and the idea of seeing my true love as an apparition, as is the hope of many of these rituals, would really freak me out. These Halloween traditions make me very happy to be married.

### **Reflection in the mirror**

There are a few versions of a Halloween tradition that results in seeing your true love in a mirror at midnight.

One version says you should go secretly into a room at midnight on Halloween and cut an apple into nine slices. You should eat the apple slices in front of a mirror, holding each slice on the point of knife before eating it. As you do this you will supposedly see the image of your true love over your left shoulder asking for the final apple slice.

Another version says you should eat the apple while holding a candle and looking in the mirror. Then you will see your future husband or wife over your shoulder.

Yet another version says you should comb your hair while eating the apple and looking in the mirror in order to see your future spouse over your shoulder.



The most precarious version says that at midnight you should go down the stairs backwards and holding a mirror, in which you will see your future mate.

I suspect that last one only works if your future mate happens to be the paramedic who responds after your horrible fall from walking down the stairs backwards in the middle of the night.

### **Wet sleeve by the fire**

Wet your sleeve in a south-running stream, then go home and hang your wet garment by the fire. Go to bed, but keep an eye on the fire. Do not fall asleep. If you stay awake you will see an apparition come to turn the sleeve to dry the other side, and that vision will look exactly like your future spouse. If you do not see this you must have fallen asleep, even if only briefly.

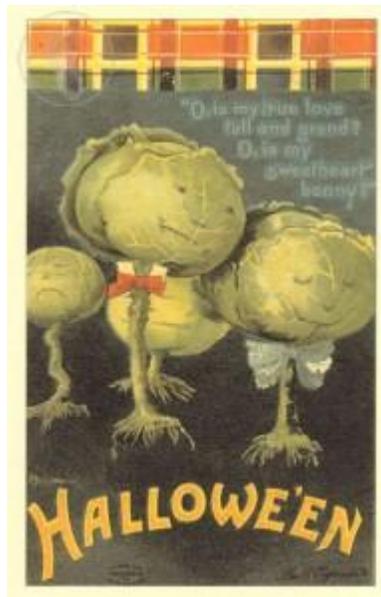
I am not sure if this would work with a radiator or space heater if you don't have a fireplace, particularly not one by your bed.

### **The walnut tree**

At midnight on Halloween a young man or woman walks around a walnut tree three times, each time yelling "Let him (or her) that is my true love bring me some walnuts." The future spouse will then be seen in the tree gathering nuts.

This would terrify me and make me want to live the rest of my life alone and nut-free.

### **Pulling the kale**



If you happen to have some kale or cabbage growing nearby you can try the Scottish tradition of pulling the kale. Single people go into the kale field blindfolded and pull up kale. The shape of the kale stalks indicates the look of your future spouse, and the taste indicates the person's disposition. The amount of dirt hanging on the roots is said to indicate the amount of wealth the future spouse will have.

There is no mention of what it means if you then try to make kale chips but burn them.

## **Making cakes**

Single people make cakes together on Halloween night in complete silence. Each person takes a piece of the dough and marks his or her initials in it. The cakes are placed by the fire before 11 p.m. and the bakers watch from afar. One time before midnight each cake is turned once. At exactly midnight the future wife or husband of whoever is to be married first will come and lay a hand on the marked cake.

Seriously, an entire group of people waste their Halloween night on this project and only one gets to see their true love? Lame.

## **The three bowls**



Place three bowls in a row. Fill one with clean water and one with dirty water. Leave the third bowl empty. Put the bowls in a random order then lead a man blindfolded to them to dip his left hand in one of the bowls. If he puts his hand in the clean water he will have a young wife. If he puts his hand in the dirty water he will end up with an old widow. If he puts his hand in the empty bowl he will forever be a bachelor. This process should be done three times moving the bowls each time.

There were multiple descriptions of this Halloween ritual in the book, but none explained what happened if the outcome was different on each of the three attempts.

## **The other end of the yarn**

Throw a ball of yarn out the window (or into a pot of water on the stove, depending on the version), and hold onto to the other end. As you wind the yarn back up repeat, "I wind, who holds?" again and again. Before you reach the end of the yarn the face of

your love will appear in the window and/or the name of your love will be whispered in your ear.

The book included a story of a guy who hid in the chimney because he knew the girl he loved would be doing the stove version of this Halloween tradition. At the proper time he said his own name. They ended up getting married. Sweet and romantic or creepy and manipulative? You be the judge.

### **Making an initial from an apple skin**



Here's another Halloween tradition involving an apple. Pare an apple in one continuous piece of skin without breaking it. Move the skin around your head three times then throw it over your left shoulder. The letter that it forms on the ground is the initial of your future husband or wife.

This one is great because you know that apple skin shape is going to be very open to interpretation.

### **Burning the nuts**

Place two hazelnuts (or some say chestnuts) in a fire after naming each for the people in a couple. If the nuts burn together side by side the relationship will last. But if one of the nuts cracks or jumps out of the fire the couple will split.

There were a few Halloween traditions like this that tested whether a current relationship would last. What's more fun at a party than a pair of roasted nuts accusing your partner of not being serious. Good times.



Halloween comes to us from Samhain, the Celtic Festival celebrating the division between the old year and the new. It is a time "between time" when magic is particularly strong and people would be anxious regarding what would befall them in the year ahead. Therefore, it is a night especially associated with spells and divinations.

Many of these were so common that they were even depicted on greeting cards.

In England, it was often called Snap Apple Night and several forms of divination revolved around this fruit.

In one (taught to me as a teen by a marvelous old Mormon woman), young ladies would try to peel an apple in one long continuous strip. They would then stand and, with the right hand, toss the apple over her left shoulder. The act was sometimes accompanied by this charm:

*I pare this apple round and again  
My sweetheart's name to flourish plain  
I fling the pairing o'er my head  
My sweetheart's letter on the ground be read.*

The initial the peel formed as it landed on the ground would be the initial of her future lover/husband.

The custom of bobbing for apples was originally another form of divination. Called "aipple dooking" in Scotland, a tub is filled with water and apples are floated on the surface. The first person to grab an apple with their teeth (no hands allowed!) would be the first to marry. They might then peel the apple and toss it over their shoulder to see who the person would be.

Another form of this game would be to hang the apple from the ceiling by a string. If a girl had several young men courting her and was undecided as to which she should

choose, on Halloween she could take apple seeds, naming one for each boyfriend and stick them to her face. The last one to fall off was the guy she should pick.

Hazelnuts also were used to help these popular girls make up their minds. (see the illustration at the top of the page) She would take several nuts and name one for each suitor. The nuts would then be placed in the hearth close to the fire and these words spoken:

*If you love me, pop and fly; If you hate me, burn and die.*

Another custom seems to contradict this: A lady who was engaged, and wanted to know how her married life would be, would place two nuts side by side in the fire. If they popped and jumped, her marriage would be filled with quarrels and strife. However, if the nuts burned peacefully side by side, that was the best omen.

It seems that most divinations revolved around young people wanting to know the identity of a future lover. Some things never change!

Another common method instructed a girl to light two candles at midnight, then sit in front of a mirror and eat an apple. (Apples, by the way, are sacred to the goddess of love) She was then instructed to brush her hair. An image of her future lover/husband would appear in the mirror behind her shoulder.

*"...he would gaze into her mirror  
Where his image will be found.  
But for fear that he will vanish,  
She must NEVER LOOK AROUND!"*

Mirrors have always been considered as portals to the shadow world. In a house where someone has recently died, all mirrors must be covered - lest the person's soul becomes trapped inside.

And, of course, everyone knows that to break a mirror creates 7 years of bad luck. But do you know how to avert this disaster? Gather all the pieces and wash them in a river that runs south.

If you sweep around the base of a haystack three times with a broom, on the 3rd time around, your future lover will either appear or you will hear their name spoken.



In Ireland, Scotland, parts of Britain and even recently in Nova Scotia, a dish that in the olden days was considered a great treat would be prepared from oatmeal and thick cream that had been churned till frothy. It was called Fuarag (Gaelic, pronounced Foo-uh-rack). This would be served in a single large bowl and children or young people would sit around it and dive in with their spoons.

Sometimes just a ring, but often various other items also had previously been hidden in the fuarag. The young person's future would be foretold by which ever item they came upon first as they were eating.

Whoever got the ring would be the first in the group to marry.

A coin would mean riches and prosperity.

A thimble meant spinsterhood and a button indicated a life of bachelorhood.

Sometimes, more recently, a tiny doll would be hidden inside. Whoever got the doll would have many children.

October 31st was a scary time to our ancestors. It was the beginning of the dark, cold time of the year. The winds would howl and, depending upon how good the harvest had been and how long until the last frost, food could become scarce. People would often die during the winter. Divinations were performed to learn who would survive the following year and who would not.

Many charms and spells were done to avert bad luck and disaster.

Oatmeal and salt were placed on children's' heads to protect them from evil.

Walking around your home backwards and counter clockwise three times before sunset on Halloween warded off evil spirits and protected those who lived there.



People were warned not to sit under the Hawthorn tree on Halloween lest they be kidnapped and carried off by the little people. And anyone tossing a bucket of water out the window must be sure to yell "Seachain" as a warning to fairies and ghosts to move away lest they get drenched. You didn't want to make them mad! One way to protect yourself from them (and the other frightening creatures that roamed this night) was to turn your pockets inside out - something that was certainly done by anyone brave enough to go to the crossroads this night.

Crossroads are special places to witches.

However, if one did linger there on Halloween long enough to listen to the wind, it was said that he would hear all the important events of the coming year whispered

Looking into a well on Halloween night was another way to see the future for the next 12 months.

If a candle flame suddenly turns blue, there is a ghost nearby. My own mentor taught me that if the candle then begins to smoke, the ghost is trying to communicate with you. Grab a piece of paper and hold it over the smoke (be careful not to set the paper on fire) Randomly move the paper around in the smoke while opening your mind to what the spirit is trying to say. A picture will form in soot on the paper from which you can divine the spirit's message.



A person born on Halloween can see and talk to spirits.  
And if you eat a crust of bread before going to bed and make a wish,  
your wish will come true.



One old spell promises that if you:

*"At the witching hour  
hang a bell of gold,  
round a cat's neck  
and he'll do as he's told."*

Now that *would* be magick!



[http://www.pookapages.com/Gruenwold/halloween\\_magic\\_and\\_superstition.htm](http://www.pookapages.com/Gruenwold/halloween_magic_and_superstition.htm)

# The supernatural and chilling way to see who your future husband is

By [Goody Feed Team](#)

June 10, 2015

Wouldn't it be interesting to be able to foresee the future and get a sneak preview of your future husband? Any clue would be crucial to help you make your life-long decision that might affect your future happiness!

You'd never have thought that an apple can be of great importance to your future, have you? Apples, are actually sacred to the goddess of love – hence the rise of such myth.

This is all you have to do, but the prerequisites of the myth states that you should be single and not in a relationship for this to be accurate!

1. Wait till midnight on the night of Halloween.
2. Prepare a mirror, an apple, a knife and a lit candle.
3. When midnight strikes, peel the apple in front of the mirror with one long continuous strip, making sure that it must not break or something bad would the happen to you.
4. With your right hand, toss the peel over your left shoulder.

There are many versions as to what would happen after you follow this methodology.

One of the most common one being, that when the apple peel hit the ground, it would be in the shape of your future husband's initials.

Another version is that you would be able to see how your future husband would look like through the mirror after you have peeled the apple in front of the mirror. Version #3 states that you should recite this charm when you peel the apple for it to work:

*I pare this apple round and again  
My sweetheart's name to flourish plain  
I fling the pairing o'er my head  
My sweetheart's letter on the ground be read.*

And another common method instructed a girl to light two candles at midnight, then sit in front of a mirror and eat an apple. She was then asked to brush her hair, where an image of her future husband would then appear in the mirror behind her shoulder.

Why the mirrors, you might ask. Mirrors are always considered as portals to the shadow world. In a house where someone has recently passed away, all mirrors must be covered, unless you would want the person's soul to be trapped inside. If you break a mirror, it can create 7 years of bad luck, unless you gather all the pieces and wash them in a river that runs south (but with the few rivers in Singapore, I rather you not break one to save the trouble).

No matter what it is, this custom of bobbing for apples was originally another form of divination called the "aipple dooking" in Scotland, where a tub is filled with water and apples are floated on the surface. The first person to actually grab an apple with their teeth without the help of their hands would be the first person to marry and he/she can then peel the apple and toss it over their shoulder to see who the person would be.

There are still 4 months to Halloween, would you want to try out this method too? Then you can start practising to peel the apple skin in one stroke now – or be prepared to be struck with bad luck when you fail this mission 4 months later.

# *A Halloween Old Wives Tale*

25-10-2013

[A guest blog from Elizabeth Black]

Did you know that there are old wives tales associated with Halloween? One goes that if you are an unmarried woman, there's a ritual you can do to see the face of your future husband.

Get an apple, a brush, a candle, and a mirror. At the stroke of midnight on Halloween, stand in the dark in front of the mirror. Light the candle. Brush your hair and eat the apple whilst staring into the mirror by candlelight. As you stare, you should see the face of your future husband in the mirror, staring back at you.

Creepy, huh?

I learned of this old wives tale when I was an unmarried woman in college, and I had to try it. Of course, by the time midnight struck I was well into a bottle of rum so I was game for anything the slightest bit fun and scary. I told my roommate (also single and unattached) about this legend and she was eager to try it. I had bought some apples and a tall taper candle. A red one, to stand for love! I gave her an apple. We eagerly awaited midnight, just dying to try this out to see if there was any truth to it. Neither of us really believed it but we were feeling the Halloween spirit (plus the rum was flowing), so we were game for anything.

At midnight I went into the bathroom first and stood in front of the mirror. I lit the candle, brushed my hair, and nibbled on the apple. I stared and waited. And waited. And waited some more. I didn't see a thing. Maybe I wasn't getting married? Could I have been doomed to spend my best years completely alone? I sure hoped not. Staring into the mirror did cause my vision to blur so I saw all kinds of bizarre afterimages from the light and shadows flickering about the room. A thrill of fear ran up my spine, and I gave up about three minutes into my Halloween experiment, fleeing the dark bathroom desperately wanting light and human companionship.

Then my roommate went in. She did the same thing and though she saw something in the mirror, but she wasn't sure. It was too blurry. We had a good laugh, finished our drinks, and went to bed by one a. m. We had classes the next morning so we had to get up early.

The next morning, I woke up about 9 am, missing my 8 am class. I wondered why my alarm had not gone off. I looked at my clock.

It had stopped at midnight.

My blood ran cold. That was the creepiest thing I'd ever seen. It did turn out to be a portent of my future since my first husband was a warthog from Hell. I'm on my second marriage, and we're going strong after being together for 20 years.

Are you a single woman and game for a bit of fun? Try out this old wives tale and check out what you see in the mirror!

Elizabeth Black – Blog and Web Site

<http://elizabethablack.blogspot.com/>

2510<sub>2013</sub>

Mary Jolles (22:40:59) :

I enjoyed your story! I have often marveled at the role of mirrors in magic and science. Over the centuries people have been baffled and frightened by mirrors, but undoubtedly believe that mirrors have special powers – to allow one to see the unseen, or to reveal (as with vampires) the fact that certain individuals have no reflection. Alice's looking glass was a doorway into another world. Some things too terrible to look upon directly can be viewed indirectly using a mirror—such as Medusa. And some reflections in a mirror take on a life of their own.

- [VALENTINA'S REFLECTIONS](#)

*The Art, Memoirs, & Ruminations of a Solitary Witch*

## *The Old-Fashioned Mirror Spell*

November 6, 2012 by [Valentina](#)



**UPDATE:** After reading about this love divination spell, be sure to read [The Love the Mirror Predicted, or Sometimes True Love isn't a Lover — it's what We Love Doing](#) for the results of this spell.

Besides performing my seasonal rituals during [Samhain](#), I indulged in a little experiment last week that I waited all year-long to try. It's an old-fashioned spell passed down from [Appalachian folk magic](#) practices and beliefs, much I am not experienced with, yet from what I remember when I was a teen living in southwestern Missouri, one spell stands out in my memory as being most potent. It was a genuinely spooky spell that passed down through generations of women seeking to know who their lovers will be (I use the term "lover" instead of future spouse because most often it foretells only who has an eye on you already). In another time that lover would be a suitor and, all too soon, girls' husbands were not of their choice, and they married at a young age, taken away from their families to start ones of their own with men they barely knew. Knowing who will be your future mate ahead of time helped a girl prepare herself for the rest of her life — a much *more* important prospect than it is today. Today it is a frivolous, parlor game, akin to [low magic](#) than to [high magick](#), to take a peek into a mirror and [scry](#) for a lover one may only have a short affair with.

The basic spell is one I learned at a slumber party, and I did not realize it was "real" magic at all. My friends and I really loved fortune-telling, especially Tarot reading, but trying out a thing where you plunge yourself into total darkness except for the light of one little candle was a spiritual adventure. What sort of visions would we see? Church pastors threatened us with direct trips to Hell for peeking at our Horoscopes, let alone daring to ask the Fates for a look-see into the future to find out who we might marry! This made the activity ever the more delicious to try. Kids love to dare each other, but they also seek experiences that challenge what is forbidden. I was a bold girl, obsessed with cute boys (*um*, still am!), and very curious. When someone told me about this spell, it was right up there with

"Bloody Mary" and other urban legends, a thing that must be tested, something I can prove myth or truth, but mostly *truth or dare*.

### § The Hair and Mirror Divination Spell

The basic spell requires: a dark room (turn off all electrical lights and all other electrical equipment), one white candle (it should be the only source of light in the place, make sure the candle is a long-burning taper or votive that will not burn out during the course of the spell), and two mirrors, one large one big enough to see the top part of your body fully, and one small one to hold in your hand that you can use to see the reflection of the back of your head in the large mirror — both mirrors have to be ones that a woman (or a man, given that he has enough hair) gazes at herself everyday when she does her hair.

The day that is best to do this spell: midnight before Halloween or the midnight of Halloween.



**What to do:** You must comb your hair over your face til your tresses form a kind of veil over your face. You should still be able to see through your hair, yet still mask your vision a little. Use one

hundred strokes to comb your hair. Count each stroke, don't go too fast or too slow, pick a comfortable pace that will put you at ease. The act of combing (or brushing) your hair should be pleasurable. While getting through your hair, thinking fondly, but not specifically, on the kind of person you would like to meet. Sit in front of the large mirror with your back facing the large mirror as you stroke your hair. After you reach your one hundredth stroke, use one hand, your dominant hand (right or left) to hold your small mirror in front of you. Sit quietly and stare through your hair at the small mirror's reflection of what is behind you in the large mirror.

**What will happen:** A vision or apparition of your one true love will appear behind you, staring back at you.

### § Did the Spell Work in the Past?

Did the mirror divination ever work when I was young? Yes *and* no. There are a lot of distractions when you are in a group of silly, giggling girls who, like you, are too excited to see anything other than perhaps what they want to see.

It was only when I was in college that I tried it again, with a few friends, as part of a joke, and what I saw was **not** my fiancé! Yet the vision was also **not** a face I recognized as anyone I knew, or as anything real or specific, so perhaps I was too drunk to see a damn thing. When I reached my early 20's, the Hair and Mirror Divination Spell I thought superstition, however I discovered later that some Witches have used it successfully once they adapted it. In other words, you can make an old spell, even one based on superstition or legend, your own. You do not just follow the 'instructions' verbatim, you study the hidden meaning behind the legend that makes the spell, where it comes from, how you can make it work for you, change it to suit your fancy, and do a few 'test runs' before hand to see if it's a spell that is truly doable.

I am a firm believer in "*Magic is a practice, not a last resort! Use it everyday*" because why learn and become an initiate in Witchcraft if you are not going to practice magic as a lifestyle? If I have a problem, I do not wait til the last-minute to page through a [grimoire](#) to help myself or someone else, I should be able to perform something on the spot when needed. Like every skill and talent, it requires practice and experience, and the more you do it, the better you get at it.

Another thing I've learned: *A Witch needs to know what spells work and what do not.* This especially comes in handy when you're tempted to pick up that nice, glossy paperback book with the pretty Gothic-looking cover that claims it contains a never-before-revealed new batch of magic spells by today's next popular author. After ten to twenty years of practicing Witchcraft, I should page through that book and quickly determine if it is junk. Libraries are full of books that are specifically published to

exploit the young, curious, and gullible cowan (the uninitiated Pagan or Wiccan, or one who is a wanna be).

*In this age of too much information and not enough guidance, it is no wonder we have such an over abundance of pop culture magic that only serves to pat the back of the soul, not truly empower it. I do not blame any one author for this, but consumerism itself for the trend. People like to make money, Witches or not, someone with magical knowledge can effectively market that to make a living, yet the selling of half-truths should lead the young soul to seek further study, however too many people want to be told what to do as opposed to finding out what to do for themselves. This has not changed over time.*

### § Did I Make it Work Now? What are My Results?

I waited til Samhain to seriously do this spell, first out of keeping to tradition, and to honor the legend, as well as to see if performing it on the time advised to do so makes a difference. Previously this year, I tried it several times on different pagan holy days, as well as different lunar times (waning, waxing, dark, and full moon), once during the day, and at various different times during the night. I tried different mirrors. I tried with and without combing my hair over my face. All with varying degrees of visions produced, but none were of any human faces or forms. Like any divination practice, I found that the exercise helped me slip into a nice, comfortable trance state that made it easy to clear my mind and open my imagination to interpretation. All in all, I gave it all up to revisiting dreams of my youth.



But enter the celebration of my favorite holy day, Samhain 2012, right when I am most in the mood and at a time I consider a very spiritual time when I have the most success practicing divination, I did experience a vision, one most surprising to me, and one I'm not quite sure how to interpret at this

time. I first cleansed my home, uncrossed myself, cleared my mind of any possible manipulative intentions (that required meditation), darkened my entire home except for one candle, and even let my cat participate by sitting in the mirror's reflection with me (because he is in my life, too, so if someone loves me, they have to love my cat as well). With all that done, it paved the way. Like previous attempts, I had a hard time adjusting my small mirror to get the right angle to see behind myself without only capturing my own face. You have to hold the mirror somewhat above your head and at the larger mirror behind you directly into the pitch darkness. After moments that seemed to put my hand and neck into a strained position, the pain of holding that pose faded and the candle light flickered, casting shadows over the mirror to make them appear as if something is dancing behind me. Then the candle light became very bright enough to light up the mirror to give it a sort of glow. Looking at the reflection through my hair was like looking through a golden brown mist not unlike trying to see through the steam in a sauna. For what seemed like a full minute (or longer, I was unsure), I saw a face form, but I could not see who it was. The smile was overly exaggerated, reminded me of a [Venetian carnival mask](#), or most like the comedy mask of the muse [Thaleia](#).

*My answer:* Yes, it worked. Worked in the sense that I was given a vision. It may not have been the face of a man, or a person, but the symbol of something that could represent someone wearing a mask, or represent the profession, a costume, or some other sign to look for in the future that could lead me on the path to love. *Or a spirit may have been laughing back at me!* It could be the most simple answer of all: *Someone smiling!*

I recommend the spell to others, but keep in mind that it takes adjustment. If you are a man, you may want to not try to comb your hair over your face if you have short hair, yet do stroke through your hair for the recommended one hundred times. However, if you are bald, you may want to try a different spell, or just try something else to veil your head. Experiment.

Various uses to divine for other types of true loves that I believe can be adapted in this spell: scry for a new best friend, business partner, the next leader of a group, or any true and worthy person you want in your life, but at the base of it all it must be all about love, and you must have a clear mind. A clear mind can be a hard thing to achieve because often our desires and needs take up our full attention. But... when one desire really bugs us, it is not a bad thing to use a little magic to get what we want.

Case in point: I once performed what was formerly a love spell to attract a lover, but I changed the focus of the spell to attract the perfect doctor for my psychiatric needs! You do not have to use the love spell to attract a lover per say, you can adapt it to bring a different kind of person you need in

your life. My doctor is one of the coolest people I know, she even dresses like I imagined she might, wearing leather pants and a half kimono blouse during our first appointment! She even decorated her office with Rococo and Japanese embellishments; two very unique styles that make me feel comfortable and ideas I let leak into my mind when I was thinking about what I wanted while dreaming of the perfect psychiatrist. She was even a horsewoman, too. She was very much like I had special ordered her from the Gods. That is how magic can manifest your desire, but you have to be careful what you ask for, and *you better work for it*.

Not all modern-day Witches make the best Oracles, we're human and make misinterpretations. Sometimes it is up to the [querent](#) to make sense of the message they are given, and not all signs and omens make much sense, but the best Oracles are guides who can *break it down* in simple terms for the average person to understand without being condescending. Those of us who make divination our area of expertise, continually practice it, if only on ourselves, to make it of practical use for others, or like any study, a subject of fascination we seek to re-discover time and time again. A new revelation may be experienced, or a different experience may produce a new way to come to new revelations. The practice of divination, whether you believe it works or not, is not crazy, it is a way to enhance and broaden our perceptions through the use of archaic, and even modern techniques, to achieve inspiration for both the self and community. It does not always deal with seeing into the future.

The Hair and Mirror Spell I performed as per the traditional Halloween legend inspired by Appalachian folk beliefs, you can say gave me an inspirational vision, not necessarily one that produced a prophecy of new love. But maybe? I have a whole new year to see it unfold! I won't go crazy-obsessive looking over my shoulder for anyone with the face of an exaggerated smile in a literal sense, but my immediate interpretation is that whatever is ahead of me is a very happy ending in an area of my life that has always given me misery.



## 26 Responses

1 [Magic Halloween Legends | Blog](#) on [December 23, 2012 at 1:28 pm](#)

[...] Style Light Show Happy Halloween!!!! A Brief History Toubab Krewe Hits the High Country on Halloween The Old-Fashioned Mirror Spell. recent comments a{display:inline! important; padding: 0! important; margin: 0 [...]



2 **A** on [June 23, 2013 at 3:21 pm](#)

Hi everyone,

I have a question if anyone can help please

Last night I casted a 'return to sender spell' with black candle and mirror. This was my very first spell so I don't know if I did anything wrong.... Almost at the end of the spell when the candle was burning at the very base. Everything popped broke. Even corelle plate I was using under the mirror broke... I mean mirror also broke and everything made a popping loud noise. I knOw that the stuff I was returning to the sender was very strong because they have made my life hell for 7 years now and all I did was prayers:( so my question is that I hadn't had a chance to say that the spell is casted before everything broke. Is my spell casted?? or do i need to repeat the spell? are there any materials i mean metals, paper or anything else i should and should not use to make it potent? Should I bury the remains of spell in earth some where or it needs to go in water? Please advise... Thank you in advance



**Valentina** on [June 25, 2013 at 12:31 am](#)

I had a HUGE answer that was very nicely detailed but I turned away for a second and it was gone.

GAK! So here's my breakdown:

June 23rd was a supermoon (a big, close full moon — there's 4 to 6 of them that happen each year, last night's was the closest and largest, yay) and it was in Capricorn. A full moon in Capricorn is great

for doing magic to claim authority, to improve communication on the job, for overall work improvement, improve family relations, communicate with ancestors, gain power over your fears and depression, for better health, encourage stability, and to strengthen bonds and buildings (and other things that grow step-by-step) meant to develop, build, last.

Lots of other awesome things were going on in the cosmos last night, and the tides were high, all great forces to make friends with while working magick. Even if the corelle plate and mirror you were working with may have been over-heated, I think it can be safe to say it was a pretty sure omen that what you did had a desired effect. Or perhaps the power you sent back was quite the S-bomb!

I don't think you need to re-cast your spell. But next time picking a New Moon, or waning moon would be a better time as those are more traditional times for getting rid of things that are bugging you.

There are other things you can do to reassure yourself, but for now, let things be, turn your back on what you've done, and just let it be over.

ALWAYS cleanse the remains with consecrated sea salt water (or holy water if you're so religiously inclined) whether or not you bury or throw it in the trash. Also remember to make sure the remains will not harm the environment and local wildlife. Shiny silver shards will attract crows and other birds — don't let them cut themselves!

Good luck.

3  **A** on [June 25, 2013 at 11:57 am](#)

Hi Ms Valentina,

Thank you sooooo much for your precious insight and response. I know that the attacks I was trying to send back were very powerful and this is 7 years accumulated stuff which I had been only taking in and praying about. I really hope that it is successful. I will may be rePeat the return to sender spell this Saturday as you advised as it will be waning moon. And this time I will not put the candle directly on the mirror as I did last time. I was able to bury the remains of the spell in a wooded area by a tall

tree so it wouldn't bother anyone. Thanks again

Love and respect to you!!



[Valentina](#) on [June 30, 2013 at 5:34 pm](#)

I wanted to mention, too, that repeating the spell is not necessary. I think you've done your part. Even if you have done a repeat (considering it's Sunday right now), it's up to you to take back your power now. Keep in mind that sometimes when we acknowledge people have power over us, we are giving them the power to keep us down. Changing the way you think about the situation will help empower yourself. Magic is a medium that allows us to create better change, and that starts with ourselves. I believe that quite often the spells we cast we are casting unto ourselves. Think on that.



[A](#) on [June 30, 2013 at 7:36 pm](#)

Hi Ms Valentina,

I couldn't repeat the spell. I have been experiencing more psychic attacks, oppression, insults and slander from same people again and ongoing ;(:( I am that broken that I couldn't find the energy to repeat it. I understand what you are saying but its not just my thinking. Its that the attacks are practically breaking me down the harder I try to get up the harder I am pushed down ;(:(:( don't know what to do ....



[Valentina](#) on [June 30, 2013 at 10:20 pm](#)

First of all, remember you're not alone and I'm glad you are talking about what is going on with you. People who bully us means we are dealing with cowards. They are not as powerful as you think. They are only as powerful as we let them be. The pain is going to be there no matter what. Depression will beat you down and the anxiety is a reality that may follow you the rest of your life, but there is always

hope, you can help yourself, you will find power.

Writing to me, and tapping into magic, is a sign that you are already acknowledging you have power, and inside you know there are powers bigger than yourself and these idiots, power that you are connected to and are a part of that you can turn to at any time because it's always there. Remind yourself of that. I know it's hard. You can change your life. You cannot change what others do or think about you, but you can control what you will do about it, you can become your own hero. You have the power.

It may not be your way of thinking, so perhaps you were fighting your own power when you did your spell. You can read into it anyway you like, it is a message between you and the gods as to what happened, I can only interpret what went down on the night you cast your mirror spell.

You don't have to repeat the spell. My recommendation now is for you to take measures to build your self esteem, take care of yourself, ignore the adversity that is sent your way by completely severing any and all ties you have with these people (if you can't, or if they are bullying you daily, if you to report the abuse to someone in authority to make it stop), and protect yourself.

One quick fix is to find yourself some lovely black tourmaline, a very dark stone you can find at a mineral shop, science museum, or local New Age store. Tourmaline can be very expensive if you find it in a jewelry setting, so see if you can find some that are sold raw and un-tumbled (unpolished). They will look like pieces of pointed coal. Tourmaline also comes in other colors, like a dark green that is very pretty and works just as well (it's called Watermelon Tourmaline and also tends to be quite small). Use the tourmaline as a "worry stone" or wear it as a pendant, ring, what-have-you, to help protect you.

Tourmaline naturally has this negating energy that calms overwhelming emotional energy, used by many psychics and magicians as a fetish (focus) to cancel out malevolent spirits. Other stones that work in a similar fashion are black onyx, jet, and smoky quartz.

Another thing you can do is find a pendant or emblem of something holy that gives you comfort. Carry it with you close to your heart or hold it in your left hand. The left side has long been considered the side where people receive energy, with the right side being the side of your body that projects energy.

You want to protect the left side first so you are not as “hit” as often with the negative energy of others. Carrying a symbol of the Divine will tap into your power of faith — the power you don’t think you have but is alive inside you at all times — so before you can get to the point where you can stand on your own, this is a good, magical way to empower yourself.

The harder people try to push you down, the more energy they are pushing out to keep you down.

Don’t make it easier for them by letting yourself down. You \*do\* know what to do...

Get up! Keep getting up!

You’re not alone. I feel the pain of people’s insults, slander, lies, gossip, you-name-it ALL the time — anyone who is different and weird is cursed with that — and I have gone through breaking-point after breaking-point yet somehow it’s never breaking, it’s all about bending and bouncing and rising up again. Because you know what?

Doesn’t it piss you off? So calm down. Knee the bastards in their throats by letting go of the hurt they’re dealing you. You’re stronger than their shit, right? Find the way to believe in yourself. Consider the years of pain you’ve been going through as your “tempering” — you’re being sharpened, hammered, pushed into steel to become like a sword so no one in the future can mess with you again.

Go and be well!



A on [June 30, 2013 at 10:42 pm](#)

Thank you for your words of encouragement. I have been wearing black tourmaline for a year now on my left wrist. I have been looking for archangel Michael charm for some time now but live in a small city so new age supplies are scarce. I will act on your advise the best I can. Thanks again

Be blessed.



Valentina on [July 3, 2013 at 2:13 pm](#)

You’ve given me an idea... to write some simple spells that don’t require much time or fancy ingredients to help people in situations like yours. I’ve been in your boat many times over, including in my life right now. Mostly it starts with changing your own outlook and that takes training and learning

new coping skills. Not easy.

But I just wanted to give you plenty of encouragement and reassurance. You have to believe in yourself more than you believe in others.

Some witches say "Do no harm, but take no shit" and it really rings true. I've said a prayer for you and hope you'll be well!

Goddess Bless.



**A** on [July 4, 2013 at 4:14 pm](#)

Hello there,

Thank you so much for your response. Barely hanging in there. it will be really good to try some of your spells. Thank you for your encouragement. You are right about the saying you had mentioned.

Lots of respect to you

Be blessed



4

**sumithraa** on [August 9, 2013 at 4:57 pm](#)

pl tell me a spell to return my love to me and that we could married pl help me



**Valentina** on [August 10, 2013 at 8:12 pm](#)

I'm sorry that your love left you. We all suffer from broken hearts. But to cast a spell against someone's will would violate the laws of love.

Think of it this way: what if the situation were reversed? What if you fell out of love with someone and your ex used "black magic" to force you to come back to them against your wishes? Would you want to go back into a relationship you didn't want to be in anymore?

If you truly love someone, you have to let them be. Any kind of action taken to force them back is akin to the sort of creepy thing a stalker or kidnapper or rapist would do. Casting magic is an action the same as going out and casting a net is — would you really hire someone to kidnap your beloved and

force them to marry you with a shotgun to their head? Somehow I don't think that's what you intended.

Think about it.

If they are your true love, they'll come around. If they don't... As the old saying goes, it wasn't meant to be. The best magic to do next then is to ease your stress and pain in order to find love again.



**kim** on [October 11, 2015 at 1:29 pm](#)

My ex at church i want to get married to him



**Valentina** on [October 11, 2015 at 3:05 pm](#)

But do they want to marry you? You can't force anyone to be with you if they do not want to be with you. No love spell will draw someone against their will to be with you. A love spell only makes you more attractive to other people whom you want to like you, people that are like you — because like attracts like — but, if, for example, your ex already wants to get back together, maybe they'll be open to you. You may not need any love spell to do that. All you have to do is approach them again and re-engage them socially as you would normally. If they are already with someone else, forget it. Or if they continue to show you disinterest, please let them go. It's not right to hang on, you'll only put yourself through a whole lot of misery. I'm sorry.



5 **Flyer331** on [September 6, 2013 at 9:51 pm](#)

Very true about most spells. I'm not a wiccan but I am 1/16 Earthly God. you don't believe me it's your loss then. but I do like the article about divination. and that's a new fact I've now learned about witchcraft. tip #1: real spells have poetry of grace into the words.



6 **[The Love the Mirror Predicted, or Sometimes True Love isn't a Lover, it's What We Love Doing | Valentina's Reflections](#)** on [February 14, 2014 at 3:27 am](#)

[...] so because what we want to happen isn't meant to be. Or so I thought. As an experiment, the very last love divination spell I cast was on Samhain 2012, it required the use of a mirror, and behind me a blurry image of my true love was to appear. The [...]



7 **Ruth** on [August 27, 2014 at 10:59 pm](#)

Nice blog. It was nice to come across another with positive intent. Blessed be.



**Valentina** on [August 28, 2014 at 5:26 am](#)

Thank you for noticing! This is one post I wrote that has gotten a lot of attention over the last year. You can read the update here: [The Love the Mirror Predicted, or Sometimes True Love isn't a Lover, It's What We Love Doing](#)



8 **Claudia** on [December 5, 2014 at 5:26 pm](#)

I am curious how many withcraft works (in %) come to fruition.

None of mine did. Probably you'll say just like priests of different religions when people ask why their prayers were not listened : " because you did not trully believed ". I've heard this cliché in magic too. Actually I always believed , just like a child and nothing came true. I tried so many and so different . Not only love spells but for health and other things too...They were realistic and I worked hard for them in the mundane world too. 0 results.

Well, I already waited for decades , I cannot wait anymore. Any idea?



**Valentina** on [December 6, 2014 at 3:33 am](#)

I would say that perhaps the Witchcraft path isn't for you. If something isn't working, or doesn't feel right, then move on, try something new. The great thing about it is we're not going to condemn you for leaving this path! I'm a Witch and there's no "preaching" here. I especially do not adhere to the belief that things didn't work because you just "didn't believe hard enough" as if your prayers were left

unanswered by God.

Magic doesn't work by belief alone, nor by the waving of wands, or tricks, herbs, etc., but by the actual following up, and if things aren't working as expected, perhaps it was not meant to be, OR your were not performing the RIGHT spells the correct way! What were you trying to do? Were you working against someone else's fate or wishes? Were you attempting to do something against the laws of nature? Magic works with science, psychology, spirituality — for instance, if you were casting a love spell, you'd be casting it upon yourself not on someone else, to make yourself a magnet for a lover, not necessarily manipulating a person to come to you, but attracting a "type" of people towards you with the use of sweet perfumes and wearing bright colors, etc., all the while this increasing your chances for true love.

In my experience, when I perform magic, it's far easier for me to gain great success when I do it for other people because they truly believe in me. When I do it for myself, I have doubts, and I suffer from depression. Depression is a serious magic and mind killer. But it's not impossible to work magic when you're down. Nothing's impossible. Yet when you get into it with an attitude for instant gratification, or that mood where you think the universe owes you favors because you've had hard luck, you won't get results like, well, "magic"!

I will share with you something: I've worked love spells for myself and NOTHING comes true for me. I found out why. Over the years I realized that I really did not want to date anyone. Not because I was sad, or could not get over the loss of a love, but because I really like being on my own. I do not like the hassle of dating, I don't need a partner, and in my country/culture women are very independent these days, we are empowered, and I am enjoying a life of freedom my mother didn't have. I don't have the responsibility of children! Sure, I get lonely from time to time, but I have lots of entertainment and work I love. When I was young, I was desperate for true love, thinking it was something I needed to complete my life, but what I needed was to be a whole human being, and I could not get that by clinging to another person.

My Mirror Spell was fortune-telling magic, it meant for me to take a peek and see if I could find a clue that would lead me to a true love. What you get from these kind of spells is some vague imagery, like

seeing into a dream, and it was up to me to determine the outcome of my own magic. You make the reality! Results are always a tad unexpected, even weird, and in this case I learned something about myself, and my future.

Do not think of things in terms of whether or not Witchcraft will “work” or that it has failed you, or that you failed to believe enough to make it work, think of it all in terms of this is your life and it is in YOUR hands — you decide what next step to take, don’t put your power into anything and ask for it to work for you, you know you can control your reality. So stop giving your power over to forces you THINK are following you and chasing away your opportunities. Of course you can’t wait anymore.

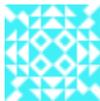
I think you answered your own question. Any idea why your magic didn’t work?

You *waited* for decades. You were not supposed to wait. You have power. You can get up, get out, get moving, improve your lot. I believe in you because you told me you can’t wait anymore. That statement says you’re about to change for the better. That’s change happening. That’s you really putting change to work. That is the heart of magic.



**Valentina** on [December 6, 2014 at 3:41 am](#)

To read about how this spell worked, go to [The Love the Mirror Predicted, or Sometimes True Love isn't a Lover, it's What We Love Doing](#)



9

**Claudia** on [December 5, 2014 at 5:27 pm](#)

My parents when they got married were hated by someone and since then we lived 40 years of extreme bad luck, unhappiness and terrible strange events happened to us all the time. Events that usually cannot happen just to one family. So black magic is not likely to fail, in fact it can be extremely powerful if done well. My father died a horrible death. People run away from me, although they first like me and want to be with me, then they tell me how strangely bad they feel around me. In my country, they say that there is a horrible ritual called “the dead water ritual ” when you want someone to be hated by people; no matter how nice , polite and good that person is, the people will see the opposite. That’s how they see me. It’s not paranoia, I went to psychologists and they found nothing

wrong, so from psychological point of view I am fine.

I've worked hard to learn magick alone, because in my city and country this is taboo, I cannot find a coven or a witch to teach me. I corresponded online with a English Wiccan writer, not Mrs. Easson, another one, successful too and she told me what to do for some months, then she said that it's not possible to teach online how to raise and use energy ,that she must be close to me...I think she is right, so how am I suppose to do it alone? To relocate abroad ? There must be some witches here too, but they do it secretly . I am talking about real witches, not fraud people who do nothing, just take money.

So, what to do ?



[Valentina](#) on [December 6, 2014 at 2:51 am](#)

First of all, I am so sorry your parents were hated so much, and that your family suffered from tragedy, but from what you tell me, there was something that could not be touched by the evil that hurt you: you survived and are learning to become a strong, good, empowered person.

Secondly, there is no "black" or "white" magic, just like there is, technically, no "white" or "black" electricity, there is simply "magic" — like every thing, it is a "thing" you do, both a noun and a verb, a force of nature and a craft. Not everyone is well versed at it because not everyone has a true sense of will power and how to push it on others, and knows how to manipulate natural elements and persuade spirits, or thought-forms, to work with them to produce changes in nature that cause things to happen to people for good, or ill.

Also, if you continue to believe and cling to the ideas that your family is cursed, and that there is a negative force around you that pushes other people away from you, this will build throughout your life and you will feed that energy. In other words, a curse will work as long as you believe in it. You can free yourself from this negativity, all you have to do is let it go. It follows you because you are holding on to it and can't forget it.

When you went to counselors, and you were told you weren't mentally ill, and still people leave you isolated, perhaps it's because you are different? You were born into a family, after all, that has

survived horrible tragedy, and this will make people feel badly for you, making them uncomfortable with how to react. I would conclude that this is the real reason why you're experiencing difficult social situations. Any mentioning of the "dead water ritual" will further scare everyone away. I know that, in any culture, when you start talking about such things, people get spooked, or they will think you are crazy.

As for learning Wicca from a distance, it's possible, but I think you may have missed something your teacher told you, something that got lost in translation... There is only so much you can learn from books, or on the internet, and I believe your teacher may have felt that you needed more personal instruction in order to bridge the communication gaps between you.

10 *Humble\_muse* on [October 31, 2015 at 7:52 pm](#)

Blessed be. What your hair is thicker in nature and excessive combing can harm it?

## MIRROR PHOBIA



**...IS IT THE DEVIL FACING YOU??**

**By Samar Abd Rabou**

Are you mirror obsessed?! Do you see or feel someone else is watching you when you look at the mirror?! Before you answer guys, better to know more about this mysterious reflective device. But be cautious; don't try to figure out if your mirror is one of the following, this is just my advice friends!

"Mirrors are just surfaces reflecting us and our surroundings", not exactly?!!

When we were young, we believed mirrors were more than just glassy surfaces. All of us heard the famous quote "Stop staring at the mirror or you'll become insane". Our mothers were part of the traditional mirror superstitions. Mirrors have a certain air of mystery about them, which gives rise to myths, legends and superstitions. Throughout history mirrors have always been perceived as power beyond the nature, a reflection of the truth, and a source of many mystical and supernatural ideas. They even believed them to be portals to other worlds. Such myths evolved from the times when water was used as a mirror. People would look into the water to see their fates. That's why mirrors are both soul reflectors and devil tool.

"Look into a mirror often enough and you will see the devil"

Some of such superstitions are sort of funny, but others are mysterious and all are very different!!

§ There's an ancient superstition claims that all mirrors in a house where someone has died must be covered. This prevents the dead person's soul from getting trapped in the mirror.

§ Another belief is that anyone who admired his or her reflection in the mirror risks losing his or her soul, because the ghost of the dead person will take it!! Impressive guys, right!!

§ If a mirror falls from a wall, it means someone is going to die.

§ A mirror framed on three sides means a witch has used it to see over long distances.

§ Some cultures believe that a baby who looks into a mirror during his first year will die. While others believe that if a baby looked at a mirror in the first months, then he would be a liar.

§ Ancient Chinese believed that mirrors frighten away evil spirits who get scared when they see themselves! And if the mirror was broken, the protection was gone.

§ Also, it is considered a bad luck to see your face in a mirror when sitting by candlelight, what a scary sight!

§ If a couple's first sight of each other is their reflections in a mirror, they will have a happy marriage.

§ Want to see what your future husband looks like? Sit down in front of a mirror and eat an apple before brushing your hair. An image of a man will appear behind your shoulder! What an advice girls.

§ Another belief that if a person looked at the reflected image of the dead person in a mirror, then they would see the face of the devil.

§

In Indian culture, people shouldn't look into the mirrors of a house they were visiting. That's because after leaving, they would leave part of their soul behind, trapped in the mirror, which could then be manipulated by the host to his advantage.

Do not look at your image in a shattered mirror, I warned you!!

Now, how do you feel about that, I bet you are about to explode from laughing. But wait guys, if anyone suffers bad luck as you have damaged your soul, then you either broke a mirror or saw your image in a shattered mirror. Romans believed that the soul is renewed every seven years, so a damaged soul means seven years of tormented soul or ill health until renewal, Poor you!! Don't worry as they also find the remedy to remove such bad luck. It is either to bury the pieces in the ground beneath a tree under the light of a full moon or tapping the broken mirror on a gravestone seven times which would allow the soul to heal, There is also the option of placing the pieces in the bed of a river or stream that flowed south.

### ***Tried & tested***

#### ***Scary mirror experiences***

The American heritage of mirrors myths is very rich, and plus they are guaranteed by experiment. So, guys if you tried any of the following methods, it's all on your own responsibility. The common things you need for such creepy experiences are a mirror, candle, darkness and of course being courageous enough.

#### ***The Bloody Mary***

The evil spirit or witch who could be summoned by chanting "Bloody Mary". The legend tells about a young girl named Mary who became very ill and fell into a coma. Her very old and feeble doctor believed she was dead and they buried her alive. Her mother had heard screams coming from the coffin. When they dug her up, she was dead with scratches on the coffin, Mary's fingernails were bloody.

Stories say that all you need to summon this spirit is to stand before a mirror in the dark bathroom and repeat her name three -or thirteen- times with a lit candle. If Bloody Mary is summoned, she would proceed to kill the summoner in an extremely violent way; ripping the face off, scratching eyes out, cutting head off, driving the person insane or bringing him/her into the mirror with her. It is said that if she doesn't kill you, then she haunts you for the rest of your life. Some versions say that if you chant her name thirteen times at midnight into a mirror she will appear and you can talk to a [deceased](#) person until 12:01.

Hollywood is greatly inspired by this legend so you can figure out the results without being damaged, God Forbids, as in the 1992 movie "**Candyman**" that used the idea for its plot. When the characters chanted "**Candyman**" in the mirror 5 times, he would appear and murder them with his hook hand.

Another movie was "**Urban Legend**" released in 1998 and as if that wasn't enough, 2005 brought us "**Urban Legends: Bloody Mary**".

#### ***"Lady in White"***

The legend is that when you go to the bathroom turn around 5 times and say "Lady in White" then turn around the other way and say someone you miss who is dead. You'll see him/her in the mirror but all the lights have to be off and you have to be alone. The name comes from a bride who died in a crash on her way to her wedding; many people believe that they have seen her spirit in many locations in the states.

Will you give it a try!!

#### ***"Blue Baby"***

Go into a bathroom with the lights off and the door closed. Pretend to rock a baby. Chant the phrase "Blue Baby" thirteen times. A baby will appear and scratch you. DROP IT AND RUN! If you don't, a woman will appear and scream as loud as glass breaking, "GIVE ME BACK MY BABY!!!" If you have her baby, she will kill you.

While you may think you're safe from mean, old Bloody Mary, or any of those evil spirits think again!

Remember, legends are not fully fake; there must be even a teeny weency truth about them. And the only truth is the mystery of Mirrors, Spirit reflectors and devil tools, just watch out people "Stop Staring at Mirrors or You may Become part of this Mystery".

## Halloween Superstitions

A Halloween custom is to fill a tub with water and drop into it as many apples as there are young folks to try the trick. Then each one must kneel before the tub and try to bite the apples without touching them with the hands. The one who bites one first will marry first.

Hang an apple by the door at chin height, rub the chin with saliva, stand about six inches from the apple, and hit the chin against the apple. If it sticks to the chin, you will be married, and your true love will stick with you.

A girl goes to a field on Halloween at midnight to steal cabbages. The first man she meets on her return will be her new husband.

At midnight a young lady walks backward into the garden and picks a cabbage. She will see her future husband over her shoulder.

Shortly before midnight a pure white bowl is produced, that has never been touched except by any lips of a new-born infant. If it is a woman whose fortune is to be tried (and it generally is) the child must be a boy. The bowl is filled with water from a spring-well, after which twenty-six pieces of white paper about an inch square, on each of which must be written one letter of the alphabet, are placed in the bowl with the letters turned downward. These must be dropped in as the clock strikes midnight, or it will not work. All being ready, the young lady repeats the lines:

Fortune, tell me where is he  
Who my future lord shall be;  
From this bowl all that I claim  
Is to know my lover's name.

The bowl is then securely locked away, and must not be disturbed until sunrise the following morning, when she is placed before it blindfolded. She then picks out the same number of letters as there are in her own name. After these are all out the blindfold is removed, and the paper letters spread out before her. She attempts to spell a man's name as best she can with the letters at her disposal. The name thus found will be that of her future husband.

On Halloween a girl is to go through a graveyard, steal a cabbage and place it above the her door. The one on whom the cabbage falls as the door is opened is to be her husband.

Put an egg to roast before the fire and leave the doors and windows open. When it begins to sweat a cat will come in and turn the egg. After the cat will come the man you are to marry, and he will turn it. If you are to die unmarried, the shadow of a coffin will appear.

On Halloween go upstairs backwards, eating a hard boiled egg without salt, and looking in the mirror. You will see your future husband in the glass, looking over your shoulder.

Go down the cellar stairs backward on Halloween, carrying a mirror into which you look. A face will be seen over your shoulder which will be that of your future husband.

On Halloween put a ring in a dish of mashed potatoes, and the one who gets the ring will be married first.

Mash potatoes and conceal a ring, a coin, and a button. Divide the potatoes into as many portions as there are persons present. The ring denotes marriage, the coin riches, and the button misfortune.

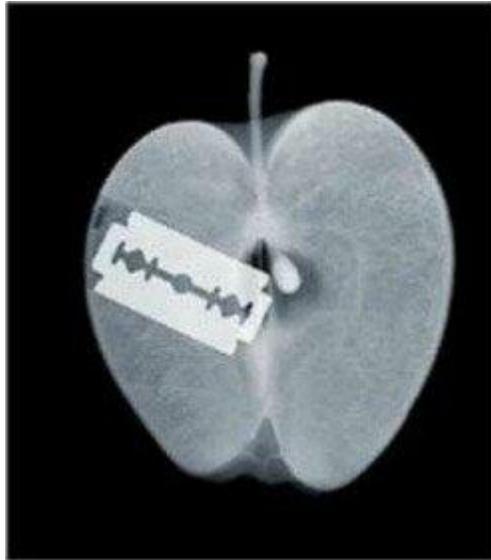
On Halloween, girls place three saucers beside each other, one filled with earth, the next water and in the third a ring. They are respectively death, cloister or an unmarried life, and marriage.

Write the names of three men on three pieces of paper, roll them into balls, put these into balls made of Indian meal (wet so as to roll up), put the balls of meal into a basin of water: whichever one rises to the top bears the name of the one you'll marry.

<http://www.ancientsuperstitions.com/origins-of-superstition/halloween-superstitions/>

# HALLOWEEN MYTHS

Some Halloween Myths have been around for many years ago, mostly they are a warning for the children that go trick and treat at night, and that are part of this holiday and makes it even more interesting.



The origins of these myths and superstitions are unknown most of the time, some of the myths usually start as warnings while others tell superstitions that people should do to know the future or just have good luck. Some of these myths are:

## HALLOWEEN MYTHS ABOUT GOOD LUCK

You will have good luck if on the night before Halloween you sleep facing south.

You find on your way a piece of coal and you pick it up.

If you hear a cat sneeze, you will be lucky.

A robin flies inside your house.

You put a dress on inside out.

If the top of your head itches, you will have good luck.

Another good luck sign is if you sneeze three times before breakfast.

If you dream of a white cat, you will be a lucky person.

## **HALLOWEEN MYTHS ABOUT BAD LUCK**

If you see a white cat on Halloween, you will have bad luck.

If you see over your left shoulder, and you see the new moon, is another sign of bad luck.

On Halloween, you will have bad luck if you get off bed using the left foot. If you listen three hoots of an owl.

Don't open inside of your house or building an umbrella or you will have a bad luck day.

Don't put your shirt inside out, because is bad luck.

A bad luck sign is to heard the crow of a rooster at night.

If you want to avoid bad luck on Halloween, don't sing before breakfast or cry before dinner.

## **HALLOWEEN MYTHS ABOUT OMENS OF DEATH**

If you hear steps behind you on Halloween night, don't turn around, because is death following you, and will take you if you do.

When a bird flies into a sick person's window, it means that person will die soon.

On Halloween, if you see a spider, it is the spirit of a loved one that is watching over you.

An omen of death is when you dream of death.

You will know that a family member has died when you heard the chime of a clock that is not working.

You know someone has died when a bird flies into your house.

## **HALLOWEEN MYTHS ABOUT PREDICTIONS AND SUPERSTITIONS**

If no one speaks at the table during dinner on Halloween, spirits will come to the table.

If you are a single woman and you put Rosemary under your pillow on Halloween night, you will dream of your future husband.

If you want to know if you will have a long life, on Halloween night you have to make an unbroken apple peel, which will estimate how long you will live, the longer the peel is, the longer you'll live.

To know the first letter of your future spouse, carve an apple in a long strip, then toss it over your shoulder and turn around the peel will land on the shape of the first letter of your future spouse.

Single women get in front of a mirror in a darkened room and stare at it.

This way they could see the face of their future husband, but if their destiny is die before get married , a skull will appear in the mirror.

## HALLOWEEN MYTHS DEBUNKED

Some people hang themselves during Halloween, but no one reports this because its believed they were decorations, this was very common during the 90's, but recently has not been reports of this.

During Halloween night, strangers give fruits with razors blades inside, or candy with poison. There is not one documented case that this is true. Its believed that child molesters attack on this night, but for all the rules the convicted sex offenders have to follow, like a curfew and post a "no candy" outside their house, is almost impossible they can do anything.



**Shashank SK Tyagi** ·

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LOL some Halloween Trivia for you'll! . quite interesting!

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**Milind Shirpute** ·

[Partner at Self-Employed](#)

Thanks for the such useful information about Halloween

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[Harrisburg, Pennsylvania](#)

"Look over left shoulder to 'see' a New Moon..." left, right or straight; How can one SEE a NEW MOON?

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# How do I tell who I will marry?

This is one of the great questions in life, something that people have asked as long as marriage has existed. "Will I know true love? Will I live happily ever after? Who will my sweetheart be?" Historically this has been more greatly the concern of women (see below for an explanation why), and to answer the question a large number of superstitions have sprung up.

What follows is a list of methods derived from northern European folklore that help to tell you something about who you will marry.

Superstitions regarding love divination can be divided into three categories:

1. Clues about the future loved one: what colour is his or her hair, what is their occupation, what letter does their name begin with?
2. The identity of the future loved one: they might appear in a vision or in a dream, or a spell might pick one from a number of possible suitors or list of names.
3. Whether an existing relationship will last: signs that will tell you if you are soon to break up or be separated from the one you love, or to tell if the love will endure and happiness will accompany it, or to show if you will not marry at all.

Most of these were traditionally used by women. However, there is little reason why they may not be used by men, and a few male-specific rituals are given.

## Where are they from?

Most of these rituals are British in origin, although others come from other parts of Europe, and some relate to practices of European settlers in the new world. Many of these beliefs are now dismissed as old wives' tales or nonsense, but some have been revived with the modern resurgence in Wicca and related forms of pagan Magick. A number of the beliefs exist in related but differing forms, indicating that ideas have been passed around and changed with time and distance.

Some appear to relate to very ancient rites, while others are much more recent. The older ones may have a basis in old pagan religious practices. (Throughout this article, the word "pagan" is used to refer to the various religious beliefs and observances of pre-Christian northern Europe, particularly those local to Britain. Aspects of these religions have been revived in recent years in various forms of spirituality including Wicca and New Age beliefs.)

This list is not intended as a scholarly discussion of the geographical origins of different beliefs, but simply to show the range and large number of superstitions regarding love and marriage among the people of northern Europe, especially those of British origin. And to help you find your true love.

## Why are there so many?

In the past in some places, especially in poor agricultural communities, life offered few opportunities to women. If they stayed unmarried, they would remain at home helping with the household chores. The alternative was to marry a man, and live with him raising children and looking after the house. However, in many communities the population was sparse and there was a shortage of menfolk. Also, a dowry might be required, and if the woman's father could not pay it, her prospects would be further reduced.

In situations in which people have little control over their lives, superstitions commonly arise to give people the illusion of power and knowledge. And even in communities which give women more rights and life choices, the topic of love remains a central concern of most people.

## What do I need?

Many of these rituals use simple everyday objects. Mirrors have long been considered to have magical powers (hence the belief that breaking one will give you seven years bad luck). Water also offers reflections and has a strong place in many magical rituals, as well as being an essential for human life. Hair and finger nail clippings are used in a variety of magical practices, representing the body of the person from which they came.

Common fruits and vegetables feature strongly, some of which have inherent magical significances. Apples were a pagan symbol of spring, fertility and love, as well as being one of the most widely-available fruits in northern Europe, and therefore occur commonly in folk religion too. Hazel trees are sacred in Wicca and pagan witchcraft, and hazelnuts feature in some rituals. Herbs have been used in magic and medicine (the difference not always being clear) for thousands of years. Salt was formerly a luxury good of considerable value, and is associated with a number of superstitions (for instance, that it is unlucky to spill.)

Birds are associated with romance, partly because of their links with St Valentine's Day, which is supposed to be the day that all birds find a mate. Birds have also been widely used in divination, for example by the ancient Romans. White horses are distinguished by their colour, with its associations of purity and virginity.

Some beliefs rely on apparently trivial or chance events, into which meaning may be invested: hiccups, spots on your fingernails, itches, stubbing your toes, or random occurrences. For these it is sufficient to keep your eyes open.

The only real problem in obtaining equipment, apart from the herbs required for a few spells, is in those things that were once found in every home but are now a rarity: proper fires, hearths and grates. Many assume a traditional stove, which might have been fuelled by wood, peat or coal, and these may not work with your electric oven or microwave. And a couple use dangerous substances like molten lead. But there is an idea for almost every means and circumstance.

## When should I perform the rituals?

A number of the following superstitions are linked with specific days. More generally there are a few days of the year in which it is considered auspicious to perform love divination rituals. Put the following dates in your calendar:

- *January 20, St Agnes' Eve, a date recommended for love divination, as described by John Keats in the poem "The Eve of St. Agnes".*
- *February 2, Candlemas, a Christian feast day believed significant in some places.*
- *February 14, Valentine's Day, dedicated to the patron saint of love. This day might be expected to be very important for love divination, but in fact features in few rituals, perhaps because it is Christian not pagan in origin.*
- *May 1, May Day, an ancient pagan festival still celebrated (in modified form) in Britain and elsewhere. In Celtic parts, Beltane was celebrated from nightfall on April 30 until nightfall on May 1.*
- *June 21, Johnsmas in the Christian calendar, and Midsummer in the northern hemisphere.*
- *October 18, St. Luke's Day for Christians. St. Luke is the patron saint of physicians but also prayed to in matters of the heart.*
- *October 31, known as Halloween to Christians and Samhain to pagans, perhaps the most propitious day of the year for magic.*

- *December 1*, a good day for a woman to see her future husband in a dream.
- *December 31, New Year's Eve*, the subject of many superstitions.

Disclaimer: These superstitions are presented for their folkloric and historical value only, and should not be relied upon for making life choices. The author accepts no responsibility for any consequences that arise from following the rituals and practices detailed below, and neither (I am sure) does Everything 2, its staff or their familiars.

## § 1. Clues to the loved one

### (a) Appearance

Go into a cabbage patch with your eyes blindfolded or closed and pull up a cabbage. Look at its roots. Straight roots mean a handsome husband, crooked roots mean an ugly husband, and if there is a lot of soil clinging to the roots you will marry a rich man.

The person who takes the last piece of pie from a plate will gain a handsome husband.

If a dog is following a girl home, a handsome husband will follow the dog.

If you find a hair on the heel of your shoe, it will be the colour of your future true love's hair.

If you hear a dove cooing, turn round three times, take off your shoe and look in it. You will see a hair that will match that of your future lover.

Alternatively, if the sun shines while it is raining, pick up a stone and look for a hair.

A hair may also be found in the hole made by turning your right heel three times.

Or a girl may run round the house three times, touching the same rock each time. After the third time, she will find a hair which will match her future husband's.

In the Orkney islands, off the north coast of Scotland, there are a number of rituals designed to tell a girl who she would marry. After the regular festivities involving bonfires, a girl would carry home a partly-burned piece of peat from the fire. This would be extinguished in a tub of "strang bing" (urine) and then placed on the lintel above the door. The next day, the peat is taken down, and broken in two. The peat within is the same colour as the girl's future husband.

Another Orcadian tradition, which appears somewhat related, was for a girl to remove a burning coal from the fire and place it in a bucket of water to extinguish it. The piece of coal was then placed under a piece of turf and left overnight. Next morning, the turf was broken in two and examined. If a hair was found, it would match that of her future spouse.

### (b) Income and occupation

Seeing different birds on Valentine's Day will reveal the occupation of your lover. Birds were traditionally supposed to mate on Valentine's Day (a belief described by Geoffrey Chaucer in The Parliament of Fowls). A woman who sees a robin flying overhead will marry a sailor. Asparrow means she will marry a poor man but still be happy. A goldfinch means a very rich man.

A girl who has hairy legs will marry a rich man.

A girl who has dirty elbows will end up marrying a poor man.

If the lines in your hand form an M, you will marry a rich person.

Also, if you have heavy, close-together eyebrows, you will marry a rich person.

On the first of May, look out for a snail. The first snail you see, if it has a shell, means you will marry a wealthy man with a house. If it has no shell, you will marry a poor man.

On Halloween take a small vessel of molten lead. Pour it through the hole in a key into water. The molten lead will solidify and form the shape of the tool your future spouse uses in their occupation.

The skipping chant "Stone Brick Wood" will tell you what sort of house you will live in, depending on which word is being said when you trip.

The rhymes

Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief,  
Doctor, merchant, lawyer, chief.

and

Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor,

Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief.

can both be used to find the occupation of your future husband. This may be done by counting buttons, or by counting cherry pits or other fruit stones (e.g. from a pie), or as skipping rhymes.

### (c) Where he lives

A custom in Orkney, Scotland, was for a girl at Candlemas to startle the first crow that she saw. She would watch what direction it flew. Her future husband would come from that direction, unless it flew over a churchyard, in which case she was doomed to spinsterhood.

### (d) When you will meet

On the day you find a four-leaved clover (for extra luck, put the clover in your left shoe).

If you drop a pan and it lands upside down, you will see your loved one soon.

If you drop your brush or comb while brushing or combing your hair, you will see your loved one before your hair gets messed up.

After stubbing your toe, kiss your thumb and face in the opposite direction. You will see your loved one. Alternatively:

If you stub your toe  
You'll see your beau  
Kiss your thumb  
He'll be sure to come.

To find if you will see your loved one soon, take an apple and peel it in one continuous strip. Throw the strip over your shoulder, and if it does not break, you will see him soon.

### (e) First letter of name

If you notice a pin is about to fall from your dress, touch it, and each time you touch it say a letter of the alphabet. The letter spoken when the pin falls out will be the first initial of your future spouse.

Place a snail on a piece of paper, and place another sheet of paper on top. The snail will spell out the initials of the person you will marry.

Twist an apple's stem while chanting letters of the alphabet. The letter at which the stem breaks is the first letter of his or her name.

## § 2. Identifying the loved one

### (a) Dreams

The simplest way to find the identity of a loved one would be to see their face in a dream. There are a number of rituals designed to make this happen, but also a number of ways to see their face in a mirror, in water, or elsewhere.

One easy way to see your future lover in a dream is to sleep with a mirror under your pillow.

Or lay a four-leafed clover under each corner of your sheet.

There are various rituals in which salt is eaten before bedtime so that you will dream of your lover. If you hard-boil an egg and remove the yolk, then fill the hole with salt and eat the salty egg, your future husband will bring you a drink of water in your dream.

Or you can eat a thimbleful of salt without drinking and walk backwards up the stairs to bed, to dream of your future lover.

If you eat a thimbleful three nights in succession and go to bed without drinking, you will dream of your future husband two nights out of three.

Another salt superstition requires you to eat a salted herring before going to bed, and a man will bring you a drink of water in your dream.

A more complex spell to reveal a girl's prospective lover in a dream involves making a potion with marigold, and should be carried out on Saint Luke's Day (October 18). First you should make a love salve with marigold, thyme, marjoram, honey and white vinegar. This is used to anoint the breasts, hips and stomach. Then go to bed and while lying down say the rhyme:

St Luke, St Luke,  
Be kind to me,  
In dreams let my true love see.

Drop a stick in a glass of water and place under your bed. You will meet your lover in a dream, crossing a bridge.

If you count thirteen stars each night for thirteen nights, on the thirteenth night you will dream of the man you will marry. This ritual is practiced in other places with seven stars. And with nine stars: place a mirror under your pillow after the ninth night to dream of your future love.

A single woman who goes to sleep with a piece of wedding cake beneath her pillow will dream of her future husband.

Pass a piece of cheese through a wedding ring and place it under a girl's pillow: she will dream of her future lover.

## (b) Apparitions, visions, voices

A variety of rituals involve a mirror and water and result in you seeing the image of your husband reflected in the mirror. One such ritual is to hold a mirror over a spring on May 1; the mirror will show you your future husband at his work.

A good night to see a vision of the person you will marry is Saint Agnes' Eve. At midnight in parts of England, young men and women would run through a field while throwing grain upon the ground and saying

Agnes sweet and Agnes fair,  
Hither, hither, now repair;  
Bonny Agnes, let me see The lad or lass who is to marry me.  
They would go home and stare in a mirror. The shadow would appear behind them of the person they would marry.

Another ritual was described by John Keats in "The Eve of St. Agnes":

They told her how, upon St. Agnes' Eve,  
Young virgins might have visions of delight,  
And soft adorings from their loves receive  
Upon the honey'd middle of the night,  
If ceremonies due they did aright;  
As, supperless to bed they must retire,  
And couch supine their beauties, lily white;  
Nor look behind, nor sideways, but require  
Of Heaven with upward eyes for all that they desire.  
(*John Keats, "The Eve of St. Agnes", stanza 6*)

Hold a mirror over your shoulder and walk backwards round your house on a moonlit night. You will see your future lover over your shoulder.

Alternatively, at dusk walk backwards towards a well, while looking at a mirror over your right shoulder. You will see your future husband in the mirror.

On Halloween, take a candle in one hand and a mirror in the other. Walk down your cellar steps backwards, and you will see your future husband in the mirror. Others recommend simply looking in a mirror on Halloween.

Another thing to try on Halloween is to place a bowl of water by your bed, turn off the lights and go to bed. Quickly look in the water, and you will see his face.

Look in a well at midnight.

There are a number of Orkney traditions that are supposed to summon an apparition of a girl's future husband. Many of these were traditionally carried out on Halloween night. One requires a sieve, a pair of scissors and a knife. The girl goes into a barn or other building and stands in the dark with the door open. She places the knife and scissors in the sieve and winnows "three wechts o naitheen" (three weights of nothing). An apparition of her future husband will pass by the door.

In another one, the girl would throw a ball of wool into the kiln that was used for drying grain on the farm. She would ask, "Wha taks had o me clew's end?" (Who takes hold of the end of my ball of yarn?) and the voice of her husband-to-be would answer.

A third Orcadian superstition said that a girl should run round the farm's stackyard at night with her arms outstretched. When she completed a full circle, she would embrace the spectre of her future husband.

Something not confined to Orkney is that if you see a new moon, recite

New moon, true moon,  
Dressed in blue,  
If I should marry a man,  
Or he should marry me,  
What in the name of love,  
Will his name be?  
Make a wish, and your wish will come true.

Cut your fingernails at bedtime, and drop the clippings into the chimney of your oil lamp. Hang your bloomers or underwear over the stove, and while the fingernails are burning, the image of your future spouse will appear in a mirror on the wall.

Look down a well at sunrise on the first of May, and you will see your future husband.

On New Year's Eve, pour molten lead on a flat surface, and you will see your lover's image or their initials.

Another New Year's Eve custom is to sweep the room backwards while looking into a mirror. In the mirror you will see your future lover.

Find a deserted house, and enter it at midnight. Light a candle, and stick a pin into the candle. When the pin falls out your future spouse will appear.

Just before you go to bed, place a lighted candle on the floor and step over it. Reflected on your nightgown will be the shadow of your future husband.

Count one hundred stars, and look to your left.

### (c) Chance meetings

If you count 100 white horses, the next man you see riding a white horse, you will marry.

In a more modern variation, count men with blue neckties. The 100th you see will be your husband.

There are many other beliefs involving white horses: one suggests you count one hundred, then put a wishbone over your door, and the third man who enters, you will marry.

More generally, you may put a wishbone, horseshoe or four-leaved clover over your door, and you will marry the first (single) man who enters.

Write "Come in, come in, my dear" on a piece of paper, and wrap nine peas up in it. Place the paper on the doormat, and the first person to cross it you will marry.

On the first day of spring, shout into a rain barrel. If you get an echo, you will marry the first man who comes round the corner.

Walk across nine cellar doors and you will marry the first person you meet.

Catch a dove, bite its head off, and throw the head over your left shoulder. The next person you meet, you will marry.

#### (d) Selecting from options

Take four onions and assign each the name of a prospective partner. Place them under your bed. The one which sprouts first will tell you which will be your spouse.

Alternatively, name two onions and place them on the hearth or stove. As before, the one which sprouts will be your true love.

Instead of onions, apple-seeds can also be used in divination. Name a number of apple-seeds and place them on the grate of the fire. The first to jump off will be your true love. (This can also be done with popcorn or chestnuts, or by throwing holly leaves into a fire and seeing which pops out first.)

If you want to choose between one of four suitors, name each corner of your room after one of them and go to bed. When you wake up in the morning, the first corner you look at will be the man you will marry. If you have a bed with a post at each corner, you can name the posts instead.

At Halloween, it is common to bob for apples in a tub of water or to suspend apples from strings and try to bite them. Halloween being a time for witchcraft, this can be used for divination. Each apple can be assigned the name of a person, and the person who succeeds in biting that apple will marry that person. Alternatively, you can assign a single apple a name, and if you bite it you will marry that person.

To choose between two lovers, tie a string to each of your big toes, tie the other end to each thumb, and the one which does not come off is the one you will marry.

Write names on pieces of paper, and place them in a pot coming to the boil. The first to rise will be the one you will marry.

### § 3. Signs of love or lasting love

If your lover gives you a knife as a gift, the relationship will soon be over (even if the knife is not used in anger).

In the Ozarks, the plant Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*) is used to tell if your beloved really loves you. Traditionally, the man would bend the stalk in the direction of the house where his loved one dwelt. If the stalk grew back upright, that showed that she loved him; if it remained lying flat, she did not.

If a man and a woman reach for the same thing on the dining table at the same time, there is romance brewing between them.

If the soup is salty the cook is in love.

Finding a spider on your neck shows you have a secret admirer.

Take three cups. Fill one with milk, one with vinegar and one with water, and place them on a table. With a blindfold on, dip a finger into a cup at random. Choosing milk means the marriage will be successful. Vinegar means a spouse with a sour disposition. Water means you will not marry at all.

Most people know how to play "he loves me, he loves me not" while plucking petals. A similar ritual can be done with an apple. First choose and eat an apple, while thinking of the loved one. Then count the seeds according to the following rhyme (which can be changed she for he for the opposite sex):

One I love  
Two I love  
Three I love I say  
Four I love with all my heart  
Five I cast away  
Six she loves  
Seven he loves  
Eight they both love  
Nine he comes  
Ten he tarries  
Eleven he courts  
Twelve he marries.

Hazelnuts were used for divination in Scotland. They were placed on a grate or the embers of a fire. If they split or rolled apart, the relationship was doomed. If they stayed in place, then the union would last. Or throw one nut in the fire, recite this rhyme, and follow its instructions:

A hazelnut I throw in the flame,  
to this nut I give my sweetheart's name,  
If blazes the nut, so may thy passion grow,  
For 'twas my nut that did so brightly glow.  
A similar thing was also done with pieces of straw on a fire or grate.

Acorns placed in a crystal bowl of well water under a full moon will perform similarly to hazelnuts on a grate: name them after you and your lover and if they stay side by side the relationship will last.

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And my family

Good luck, and tell me if you know any interesting superstitions I've missed. Or if any of them actually works.

by pottedstu Tue Nov 12 2002 at 17:56:26

<http://everything2.com/title/love+divination>



Most people know that Halloween was originally a pagan holiday. On the ancient Celtic calendar, the year ended on the last day of October. (This was also the end of the harvest period.) They believed that on this night, the veil between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest and the dead and living could thus communicate most easily then.

In the Middle Ages, people believed that departed souls would be abroad on this night. They might try to enter your house to steal your body. Originally, people would leave food for these spirits to placate them, but others would try to scare them off with jack o'lanterns. These practices may be the origin of our trick or treat custom. (If you didn't leave a treat for the spirit, he might play a nasty trick.)



Christians cleverly appropriated many pagan holidays by overriding the pagan date and celebrations with Christian holidays and rituals. In the ninth century, the Pope moved All Saints Day from May to Nov. 1, thereby co-opting Halloween (All Hallows Eve – Hallow meaning Holy Man).

The Irish brought many Halloween customs to America when they fled the famine in the mid-nineteenth century, but many cultures around the world have also had annual holidays at the end of

October. Today, most people practice a version of Halloween based on the American customs, which are mainly child centered, though based on the pagan notion of trick or treat.

It turns out, though, that Halloween is a great time to cast spells, due to the fact that the living and dead can interact best with each other on that night.

So if you are looking to find true love, or cement the true love you already have, consider these spells.

Light a candle at midnight, and look into a mirror. If you have a dressing table, it's handy to use that. It adds a personal/intimate touch to your spell. Then you eat an apple with your left hand while combing your hair with your right hand. If you work the spell properly, you will see your future husband in the mirror. Why the apple and the hair combing? I don't know. But I think proving your multitasking ability is not a bad thing if some man is peering out of the mirror in search of a wife. Right?

This next spell I call 'Halloween lite'. Very simple. Peel an apple in one long peel. Throw the skin over your shoulder. (Watch out for the dog or small children.) The shape it forms will be the initial of your own true love. Handy, because I bet you could imagine that peel to be most any letter.

The final spell is more complicated, but perhaps the greater amount of work required will result in greater success.



Find a white candle big enough to inscribe, but small enough that it can burn down (in the amount of time you want to spend staring at it). Decorate an altar with things precious to you and the one you want to enchant.

Use a thorn from a white rose bush (if you say you can't find one, you're not dedicated enough) to inscribe the words, "All my love come to me". Write this 3 times on the candle. Place the candle on the altar and light it. While the candle burns, gaze at it and visualize your love coming to you "in nakedness and beauty". (Why not?)

When the candle burns down, collect the wax puddle, wrap it, and save it with your altar mementos. You will then receive all the love that person has for you. (Wait, there's the escape clause. What if he doesn't have much love for you? Well, it won't be the spell's fault, will it?)

Final note: If you don't want that person's love any more, you must dispose of the wax in a ceremonial way. You know, bury it at a crossroads, burn it on a fire, or my favorite, grind it into shavings and bake in a cake. (Huh? Tasty, much?)

So, who's going to try one of these spells?

# Halloween Superstitions and Origins

BY [SUPERSTITIONS](#) · OCTOBER 28, 2015  
<http://superstitionsonline.com/holidays-halloween/>

**Halloween** derives its name from the fact that in the Christian calendar it occurs the day before 'All Saints' or All Hallows' Day. It was the last night of the old year according to the ancient calendar of the Celts. On that night it was said that the witches, hobgoblins, warlocks, and other evil spirits walked abroad and devoted themselves to wicked revels. But the good fairies, too, according to some folklore, made their appearance at this time, but only from the hour of dusk until midnight.



*Happy Halloween!*

It began as a Celtic end-of-summer festival during which people felt especially close to deceased relatives and friends. For these friendly spirits, they set places at the dinner table, left treats on doorsteps and along the side of the road and lit candles to help loved ones find their way back to the spirit world.

If you hear foot steps behind you on this night, don't look back. It may be the dead following you. Turning back could mean that you will soon join the dead.

Girls who carry a lamp to a spring of water on this night can see their future husband in the reflection.

Girls who carry a broken egg in a glass to a spring of water (during the day) can not only see their future husband by mixing some of the spring water into the glass, but she can also see a glimpse of her future children.

Girls should go into a field and there scatter the seed of hemp. While they did so they chanted "Hempseed I sow thee Come after me and show me". Upon suddenly turning round, it was declared that each girl would see a vision of the man who would be her husband.

To find out if your lover is true. select one of the letters which you have received from your sweetheart, especially one which contains a particularly passionate and important declaration; lay it wide open upon a table and then fold it nine times. Pin the folds together, place the letter in your left-hand glove, and slip it under your pillow. If on that night you dream of silver, gems, glass, castles or clear water, your lover is true and his declarations are genuine; if you dream of linen, storms, fire, wood, flowers, or he is saluting you, he is false and has been deceiving you.



Mashed potatoes offer a method of divining who will be the first to wed. Into the heap of mashed potatoes a ring, a three penny-bit, a button, a heart-shaped charm, a shell and a key are inserted. Then all the lights in the room are turned out, and each guest, armed with a spoon or fork, endeavors to find the hidden charms. The one who finds the ring win marry first; the three penny-bit signifies wealth; the button, bachelorhood or spinsterhood; the heart, passionate love; the shell, long journeys; the key, great success and power.

The old Celtic custom was to light great bonfires on Halloween, and after these had burned out to make a circle of the ashes of each fire. Within this circle, and near the circumference, each member of the various families that had helped to make a fire would place a pebble. If, on the next day, any stone was out of its place, or had been damaged, it was held to be an indication that the one to whom the stone belonged would die within twelve months.

Peel an apple from top to bottom. The person with the longest unbroken peel would be assured the longest life. If you threw the apple peel over your shoulder, the initial it forms upon landing is the initial of your future mate.

When bobbing for apples, it is believed that the first person to bite an apple would be the first to marry.

If you go to a crossroads at Halloween and listen to the wind, you will learn all the most important things that will befall you during the next twelve months.

A person born on Halloween can see and talk to spirits.

To prevent ghosts coming into the house at Halloween, bury animal bones or a picture of an animal near the doorway.

If a girl puts a sprig of rosemary herb and a silver sixpence under her pillow on Halloween night, she will see her future husband in a dream.

In Britain, people believed that the Devil was a nut-gatherer. At Halloween, nuts were used as magic charms.

Some believe if you catch a snail on Halloween night and lock it into a flat dish, in the morning you will see the first letter of your sweetheart written in the snail's slime.

You should walk around your home three times backwards and counterclockwise before sunset on Halloween to ward off evil spirits.

If you ring a bell on Halloween, it will scare evil spirits away.

If a candle flame suddenly turns blue, there's a ghost nearby.

A burning candle inside a "Jack-o'-lantern" keeps away evil spirits, ghosts and goblins.

Put you clothes on inside-out and walk backwards on Halloween if you want to meet a witch.



If you see a spider on Halloween, it could be the spirit of a dead loved one who is watching you. If a candle suddenly goes out by itself – as if from a wind or breath, it usually means that a ghost has come to call.

You should always burn new candles on Halloween – for good luck. Never burn Halloween candles any other time of the year, since this may bring bad luck.

Looking deeply into the flame of a candle on Halloween will give you the gift of looking into the future.

If you light an orange-colored candle on Halloween night and let it burn until the sun comes up you will have good luck.

### **Halloween History:**

*370 AD* – “Eve of All Hallows (Saints)” feast associated with the “Night of Mischief.

*5th to 19th centuries* – Religious celebrations continue in western Europe on eve of Feast of All Saints, which was introduced to replace pagan festivals of dead. During this time Irish and Scottish immigrants celebrate customs imported from homelands.

*20th century* – *Increased urbanization brings Halloween from farms to cities. Pranks increase in cities – term “Trick or Treat” finally appears in print in the 1930s. Urban violence on Halloween increases – forcing churches, social clubs and neighborhoods to organize “safe” celebrations to combat street violence.*

### **Why did the pumpkin become part of Halloween?**

Carved pumpkins were actually a very old Irish custom because it was so easy to put a candle in a hollowed-out pumpkin or turnip and use it to light your way.

However, the custom of carving out a face on a pumpkin was much more popular in North America where this member of the squash family was available in large numbers. People began to cut out a comical or frightening face and put it on their porches or doorsteps on Halloween night.

The name “Jack-o’-lantern” comes from an old Irish folktale told by parents to their children. If you carve a scary face on a pumpkin you can frighten people on Halloween.

### **Where did “Trick or Treating” come from?**

Trick or treating is also called “guising.” It has several beginnings. It began with the Irish custom of going from door to door to collect money, bread, cake, cheese, eggs, butter, nuts and apples in preparation for the coming Feast of St. Columkill. Another custom, from Europe, was the

begging of “soul cakes” for oneself in exchange for promises of good luck or protection against bad luck.

### **Couples and Matchmaking:**

But what about the Halloween traditions and beliefs that today’s trick-or-treaters have forgotten all about? Many of these obsolete rituals focused on the future instead of the past and the living instead of the dead. In particular, many had to do with helping young women identify their future husbands and reassuring them that they would someday—with luck, by next Halloween!—be married.

In 18th-century Ireland, a matchmaking cook might bury a ring in her mashed potatoes on Halloween night, hoping to bring true love to the diner who found it. In Scotland, fortune-tellers recommended that an eligible young woman name a hazelnut for each of her suitors and then toss the nuts into the fireplace. The nut that burned to ashes rather than popping or exploding, the story went, represented the girl’s future husband. (In some versions of this legend, confusingly, the opposite was true: The nut that burned away symbolized a love that would not last.) Another tale had it that if a young woman ate a sugary concoction made out of walnuts, hazelnuts and nutmeg before bed on Halloween night, she would dream about her future husband. Young women tossed apple-peels over their shoulders, hoping that the peels would fall on the floor in the shape of their future husbands’ initials; tried to learn about their futures by peering at egg yolks floating in a bowl of water; and stood in front of mirrors in darkened rooms, holding candles and looking over their shoulders for their husbands’ faces.

Other rituals were more competitive. At some Halloween parties, the first guest to find a burr on a chestnut-hunt would be the first to marry; at others, the first successful apple-bobber would be the first down the aisle.

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