Episode 12: The Witch, Part 2: What the Label Permits

Source List

Content note: This episode discusses torture, murder, sexual violence, racism, child abuse and contemporary witchcraft accusations.

Cold open and the Yorkshire Ripper case

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- CNN, "Peter Sutcliffe, the 'Yorkshire Ripper,' dies," Nov 13, 2020

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- Pew Research Center, "3 in 10 Americans Consult Astrology, Tarot Cards or Fortune Tellers" (May 21, 2025)
- W.I.T.C.H. manifesto (1968); Starhawk, The Spiral Dance (1979); Mona Chollet, In Defense of Witches (2018; English 2022)

Where the costume came from

- The Examination and Confession of Certain Witches at Chelmsford (1566)
- Helen Parish, "'Paltrie Vermin, Cats, Mise, Toads, and Weasils,'" Religions 10(2) (2019)
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- The National Archives, "An Act against witchcraft" (1604) and 1634 medical examination
- Matthew Hopkins, The Discovery of Witches (1647)
- Newcastle witch trials (1649–50)
- Michael D. Bailey, Origins of the Witches' Sabbath, introduction; Bailey, "The medieval invention of the flying witch," The Conversation
- Michael Ostling, "Babyfat and Belladonna," Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft (2016)
- Guillaume Edelin
- National Geographic, "Witches' gear" (2024), citing Julian Goodare
- Christina Wade on the alewife myth
- Ulrich Molitor, De lamiis (1489), University of Glasgow; Hans Baldung, The Witches (1510), Met 19.28.2
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- Boston Globe on Barbara Bush (1984)
- Michigan Public, Mar 26, 2021 (Ron Weiser)
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"Witch hunt"

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- WTTW/AP, July 9, 2025 (Bolsonaro); Ynet (Netanyahu, 2021); ITV (Boris Johnson, June 9, 2023); Fox News (Woody Allen, 2017)
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- The Star / BBC Africa Eye on Kilifi (July 2024)
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- ActionAid India and Odisha State Commission for Women. Witch-hunting in Odisha, December 2021.
- Department for Education. Children in Need, 2023/24 release.
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- National Human Rights Commission, India. July 16, 2025 release on reported killings and burning of bodies in Purnia, Bihar.
- Under The Same Sun. Reported Attacks of Persons with Albinism, January 23, 2026.
- Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa. ACERWC child-witchcraft accusation decision concerning Nigeria, issued April 23, 2026.
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Who else gets labeled

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- CNN transcript of Gary Ridgway's plea, Nov 5, 2003
- Goff et al., "The Essence of Innocence," JPSP (2014)
- Dukes & Gaither, Journal of Social Issues (2017)

Scotland

- Scottish Government, First Minister's apology, Mar 8, 2022; Witches of Scotland campaign

Support resources

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (United States and territories). Call 988, text 988, or use the online chat.