

The Great Book of Spells

Spells. Ripol Classic. Moscow 2013.

Publishers: Studio Astropsychologii/ Poland

Overall sold copies in the double-digit million range

Not to be confused with shaman Nadezhda Ananevna Stepanova, who performs in public but does not write books

The original Russian magic of incantation differs from Western witchcraft first and foremost in that it was and is almost exclusively handed down orally. Western magic practices usually consist of simplified excerpts from texts and rituals from medieval magic books. In Russian magic there are no general rules or canons, it exists only in the living practical experience of each individual magician family, in which from generation to generation individual „people with powers“ are found as successors. In Stepanova’s family, all the knowledge, customs, sayings, incantations of hundreds of years have been passed on and preserved through the female line.

Each of Natalia Stepanova’s books is a collection of practical recipes, advice, customs and spells aimed at those who want to experience and convince themselves that this kind of folk magic actually exists. Stepanova’s books breathe the original spirit of ancient Russian magic - simple, village-like, with romantic symbols and rituals that take place in the wilderness, in secluded forests, moors and swamp meadows where the spirits live. A Western readership gains insight into the secret world of Siberian magic and healing art, which is closed to outsiders.

THE AUTHOR

awards

2004 Best Healer of Russia
2009 Master Star 2nd Order
2nd Class Katerina the Great
2011 Avizenna Order

other works

Spells with Wind
Spells with Water
Spells with Fire
Spells with Salt
The Technique of Protective Magic
Protective Spells for the Family
The Great Book of Rites and Signs
Siberian Book of the Dead
Siberian Spells
Great Herbal Book of the Siberian Healer
Theory and Practice of Siberian Popular Magic

Stepanova was born in Siberia and spent much of her childhood with her grandmother Evdokia, who was a famous sorceress. During her stays in her grandmother’s house, Natalia was able to observe how she received her clients. And one day Evdokia also recognized in her granddaughter those qualities that you have to bring with you to become a real village witch. And she began to teach Natalia.

Stepanova’s mission is first and foremost an enlightening one. Her books are for all who are interested in the original tradition of Russian folk magic. She has never made herself known to journalists and every star cult is far from her. The life of a village sorceress is withdrawn and closed. Magic means above all - a certain rhythm of life, a certain daily routine, the observance of certain rules, pilgrimages, work in the forest and other places of power. A „show witch“ would not have such possibilities. Stepanova meets with her followers and students, answers their calls or letters personally. But in the press she does not want to distinguish herself or spread details of her biography unnecessarily. There is no public photo, she does no public performances.

Stepanova is corresponding member of RANM http://www.ranm.org/roll-corr/?n=stjepanova_ni

Natalia Stepanova