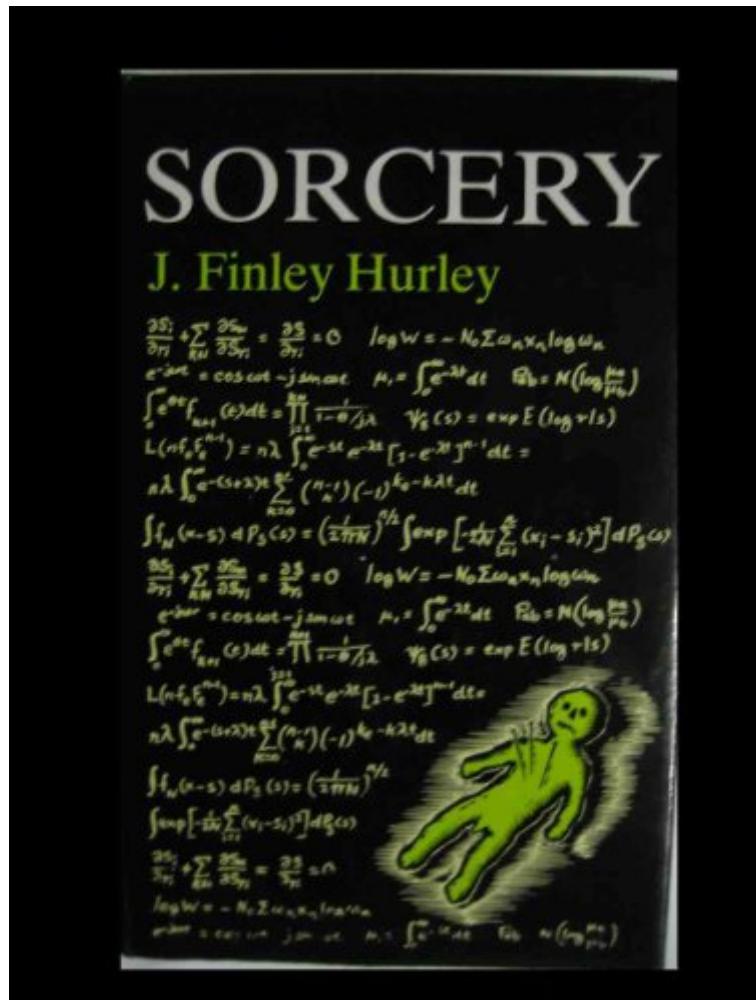


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Sorcery



Synopsis

A sorcerer mumbles a spell over a photograph of a seriously ill girl, and she is cured. Another sorcerer sticks pins in a wax doll, and his distant victim screams. Preposterous? Certainly that's what we were taught, but a mass of evidence has accumulated suggesting that we were wrong, that these things may occur, and occur in accordance with rationally determined principles. In this persuasively argued book, J. Finley Hurley gives serious consideration to the possibility that old-fashioned strike-dead-and-blind sorcery is a reality. The power to influence the thoughts, dreams and actions of others at great distance is one of the oldest "facts of nature" known to man, and this book gives a clear exposition of why we should regard sorcery as a very real phenomenon. It shows that old-fashioned sorcery, the casting of spells that heal or kill, can be a rational and effective procedure in harmony with the modern, scientific world-view. A few scientists have recognized this, but their evidence has never been treated in detail until this book. It draws from scientific studies in many areas - perception, creativity, biofeedback, dreams, telepathy, psychosomatic reactions - to marshal the fascinating case histories and experiments that put sorcery in a surprisingly modern perspective. Without abandoning rationality, the reader can understand how a spell is cast and why it works: the implications are absorbing and perhaps frightening. Comments by researchers and authors in the field of the paranormal include: Jule Eisenbud, late professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado, was cited by Steven Braude as parapsychology's premier theoretician. Eisenbud was the author of many books on the paranormal, including Psi and Psychoanalysis, Paranormal Foreknowledge, Psychology and the Unconscious, The World of Ted Serios. He wrote that Sorcery is a "marvelous book." "It is far and away the best thing that has been written on the extensive powers of the mind for producing evil at a distance, and I trust it will put the futile exercises of the laboratory in their place once and for all." Colin Wilson, prolific author of books on the paranormal, a few of which are The Occult, The Outsider, The Psychic Detectives, Mysteries of the Mind, The Unexplained, Poltergeist! wrote "I think [Sorcery] a really excellent piece of work" "very exciting." Guy Lyon Playfair, author of many books on the paranormal, among them The Flying Cow, Cycles of Heaven, The Indefinite Boundary, The Unknown Power, Twin Telepathy, Medicine, Mind & Magic, applauded Sorcery as "a splendid book. It is a book I certainly intend to read again."

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Customer Reviews

This review is based on the print edition of *Sorcery*, but I think the Kindle version is essentially the same. The print edition, however, has been difficult to find and often quite expensive if found. It was the present Kindle version that prompted me to review a book that regrettably until now has been out of print for a number of years. *Sorcery* is a remarkable book and I've seen nothing like it.

Although its presentation is popular, it has also been of use to scholars as well. Step by step it establishes sorcery--real cursing and spell casting--as an enterprise sanctioned by over a century of scientific research, albeit not well known, conducted by eminent scientists, including Nobel laureates. The writing is lively and reminded me of Lyall Watson's work as it weaves its thesis from case histories and experiments that range over many fields, from medicine to psychology, from anthropology to history. In establishing that love spells and death curses are genuine phenomena, *Sorcery* can also be seen as a manual of spell casting, a modern grimoire. Although it's certainly entertaining, it's also frightening--and I think that was the author's intent. The book acknowledges sorcery's use as a healing art, ho-hum, but likewise notes that, like a knife, it can cut throats as well as bread. And it's the throat cutting that grabs our attention and provides the chills. Knowing that there actually are people out there who can--without your knowledge--strike you blind, sterile, or dead, is at the least disquieting and the world cannot look the same after you turn the last page. In Anglo-American practice it was not against the law to be a witch, but only committing felonies by

means of witchcraft. Sorcery presents a case for malignant magic sufficiently sound and disturbing that perhaps we should again look to legal remedies for its criminal use.

Sorcery is an excellent book. It brings together hypnosis, psychic research, and sorcery into one cohesive picture of reality that is hard to refute, or even doubt. The author presents study after study to develop his final argument and conclusion: that sorcery is real and works. And, in my opinion he succeeds. The basic argument states that hypnosis and telepathy can account for sorcerous effects. That sounds simple and even obvious enough. The problem is in just how telepathy and hypnosis work. Scientific studies have shown that people can be hypnotized telepathically from afar. This fact alone prompts me to agree with the other reviewer - this is a scary book. The implications of telepathic hypnosis are frightening. Once the author begins to gather all the other data on the subjects in question, you get a picture of reality that is genuinely scary. And this data is presented in such a way that you aren't asking yourself "what if this is real?" You can't help but be convinced. As I said, this is an excellent book. I would recommend it to anyone interested in hypnosis, parapsychology, magic(k), the occult, conspiracy theories (hey, they're people too), and anyone who wants to see the world in a very different way.

This was a very interesting and informative book. However, it was poorly formatted and poorly edited, which was distracting and detracted greatly from my experience. I read it on the Kindle, so it's possible the print book didn't have this problem. Also, I had to do some digging on my own to find sources for a lot of his claims, I feel like they should have been more clearly cited. Again, this may have been an issue with the Kindle formatting, I don't know.

The author claims that part of this book is scientific grimoire but it clearly is not, the whole book is just accounts of sorcery and the like. If you want practical techniques this book is almost pointless. If you already know of sorcery then this book is still pointless, the book is to show evidence of sorcery and that is all.

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