

THE

# ROBERT MULLER

INTERVIEW

## The private life of a witch

**I**T is the Sunday after Hallowe'en. Dayonis, as she calls herself, is a dark, slim, attractive, well-spoken girl secretary of 27. She does not ride a broomstick, neither does she cackle. Nevertheless, Dayonis is a witch and a high priestess of her coven, to boot. This, then, is what it means to be a witch in 1958:

"I am a witch," says Dayonis, "an initiate into witchcraft. I worship a god and goddess who are the male and female principals of Life.

"I became a witch when I was 17. Before, I had been a crazy mixed-up kid. If I hadn't become a witch, who knows what would have become of me?"

"It all began when I got out a book on witchcraft from the public library. I ferreted about for information.

"I got into witchcraft by sheer perseverance. It was a happy moment when I became initiated. The worship of Life brings one a sense of balance, a sense of continuity with the past.

"Witchcraft is a religion. I believe in reincarnation, and I hope when I die I will be reborn as a witch. It will be like a home-coming.

"I have to keep our activities secret because we witches are persecuted. If my acquaintances knew I were a witch they wouldn't come near me. I would lose my job. My employer would think that he'd been made a fool of. I have one of the best jobs in the locality and I don't want to lose it.

"I don't cast spells in the old-fashioned sense. I don't say 'Eenie-Minnie-Mo.' But I do generate a power, a Life Force, and can channel it to a specific purpose. I can heal sick persons, I can influence people. To some extent I can make wishes come true. If I want something desperately enough I know I can make it happen. We can't produce peace on earth, we can't work on a national scale, because there aren't enough of us. If there were we could.

### 'A faith'

"**O**F course, witchcraft isn't scientific. Is Christianity scientific? It's a faith, handed down from the Stone Age."

The witch blushes slightly. "When I get married it will not be in a church, of course, but a register office. Of a union between two people all I ask is that it is creative.

"All this stuff about our sexual orgies is nonsense. It is wishful thinking on the part of people who are not witches. If we want to make love, we do it regardless of whether we are witches or not. It is true that

we work in the nude. We meet once a month, and as high priestess I draw a circle and consecrate it.

"Then I bring the other witches into this circle. We worship our god and goddess. We work. We don't call it magic. The word is obsolete.

"Broomsticks are no longer pertinent. There's no skull and bones, no hats, and we don't like graveyards. It's wholesome, decidedly wholesome, to be a witch. Towards the end of the ceremony we have a symbolic feast. Cake and wine. But there is no trans-substantiation. Just jolly good food.

"The atmosphere is one of friendliness. We use incense. There is a sort of agenda. We ask if anybody has anything they want done. We talk it over and decide the best way to do it. Then we do it.

### 'Unfortunate'

"**W**E witches want to do harm to nobody. The fairytale witch, as in Hansel and Gretel, is unfortunate publicity for us. We like to get that idea out of people's minds. We witches are not odd-bods. People only believe this because the Church has taught them to think it.

"Ours is a fertility religion, and the Church has always been against sex. We believe that sex is nothing to be ashamed of. Nor should it be overdone.

"We can't help people to find lost watches. Nor can we win the football pools. We tried it once, for fun, but it didn't work. But we have often helped where medicine has failed.

"I am a perfectly normal, healthy person. I have no insanity in the family. The only proof I have that I am a witch is that other witches recognise me.

"When I have children I shall bring them up as witches. But only when they are old enough to know what is happening. Children are prattlers, and the thing about witchcraft is that its secrets have never, never been given away, not even under torture.

"Anybody can become a witch, but we know soon enough whether they are serious or not. Someone who thinks he can come into it for a bit of nonsense we don't want. We can't do with worthless people.

"We have absolutely nothing to do with the Devil. He is a Christian symbol for evil. True, I worship a horned god, but he is not the Satan the Christians know. And we don't practise the Black Mass.

"Mine is a beautiful religion. I have a nabit of talking to the god and goddess in bed. No other religion could satisfy me. It means Belonging. Being a witch has helped me tremendously, it has made me grow up, and I wouldn't change my life for the world.

"I am content to be a witch until the end of my days."

Business like, confident, Dayonis shakes hands. The

