





WELCOME

Enter the Seventh Zine. Drawings black as midnight, pages black as pitch, paintings blacker than the foulest witch.

Our own misguided interpretations of art, influenced by fantasy, history, folklore, tattooing, witchcraft, the occult and everything in between, naively put together into this book. Accompanied by a small collection of weird Welsh tales, poorly retold, to serve as no more than inspiration for illustration.

Artwork by
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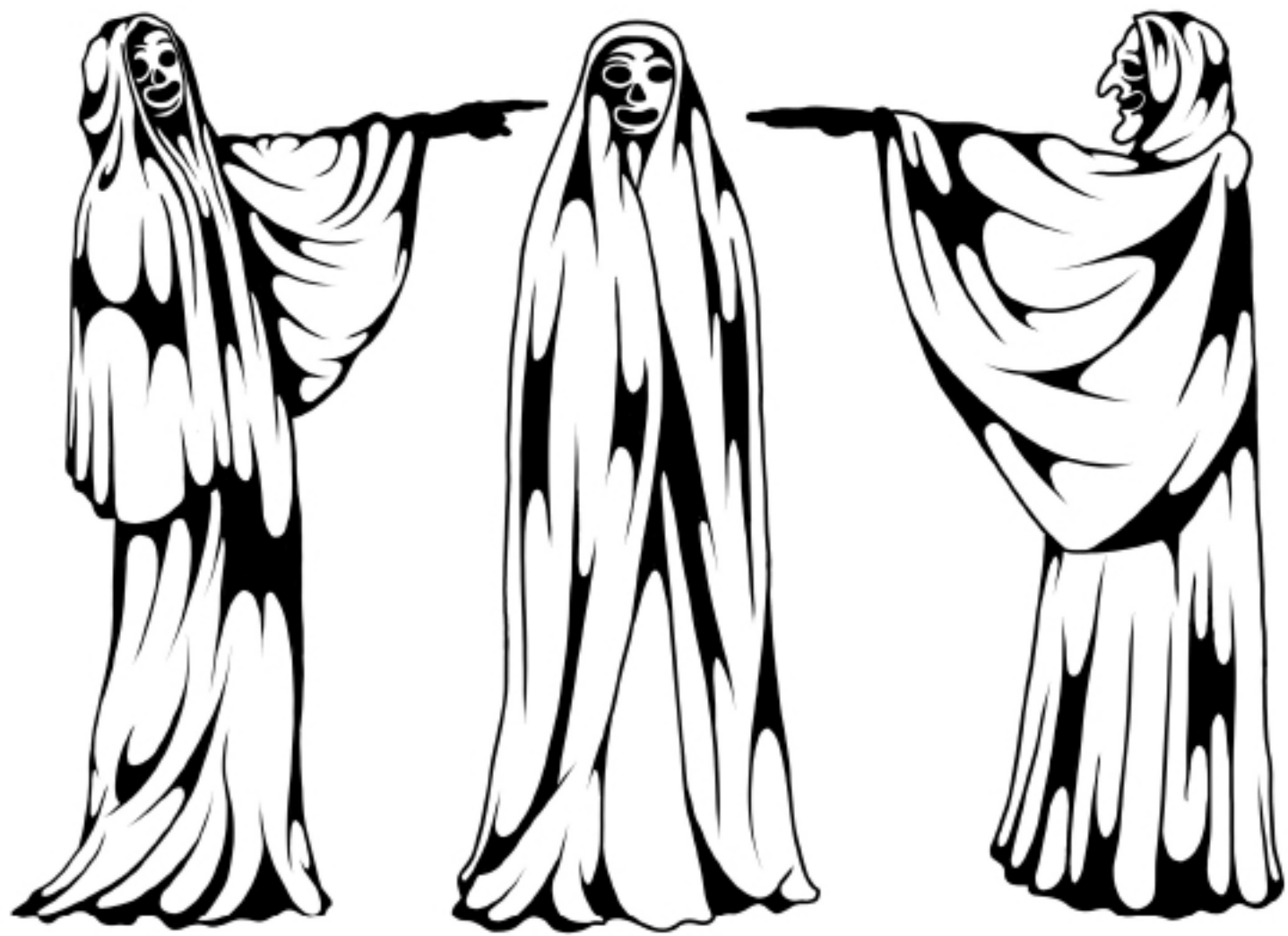
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Phoebe

Collab between:
@mattabraham_
Phoebe (aged 7)





TATTOOING

BY MATT ABRAHAM



Line like Lightning
Shade like Thunder

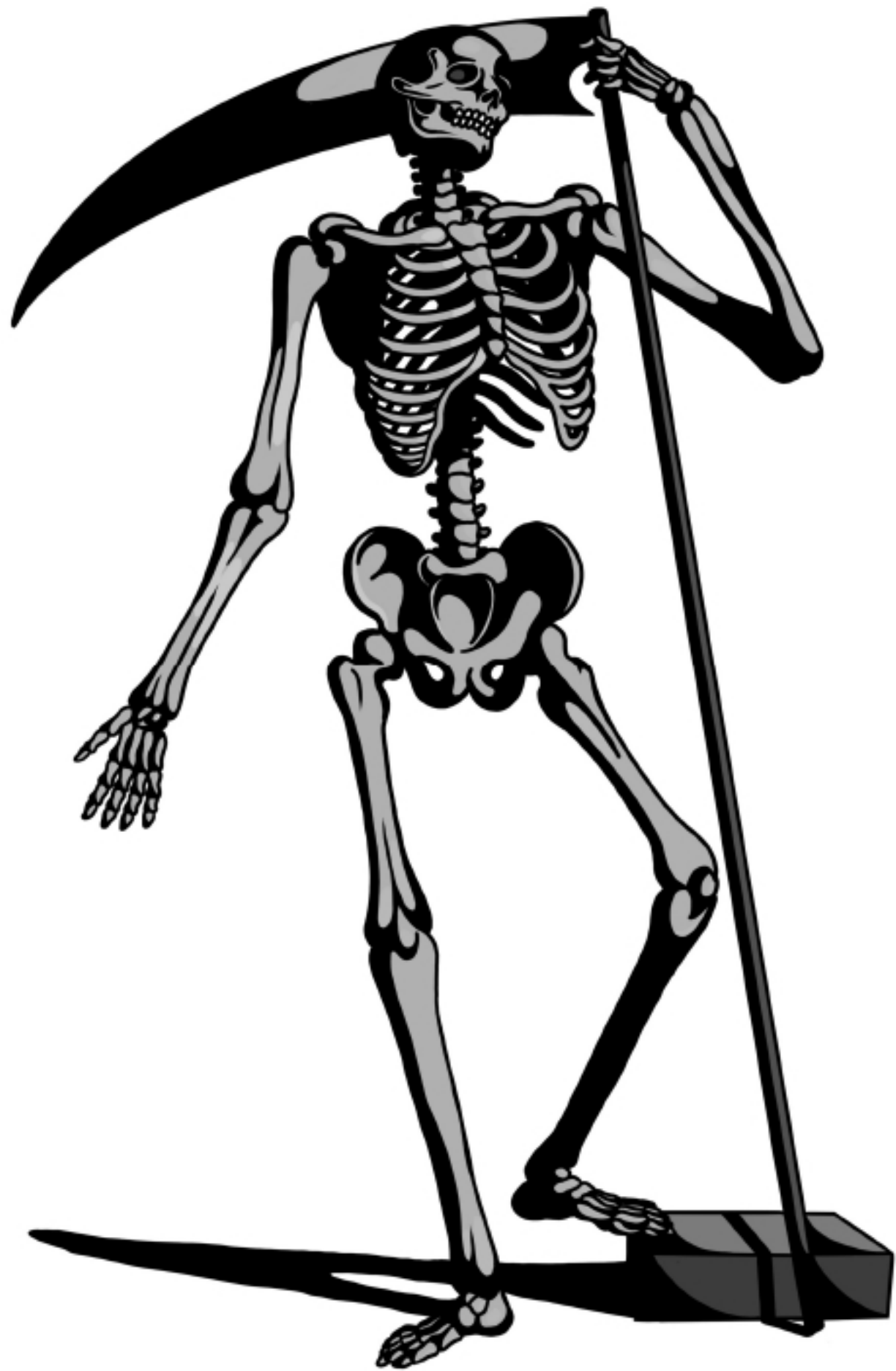


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2017











TATTOOS OF
PEACE AND
MAGIC


Tales from Wales



WITCHCRAFT

Children were frolicking in the woods when they spotted an old woman. The children had a taste for mischief, so hid amongst the bushes and began to taunt her, calling out 'witch' and 'old hag'. The old woman started making her way through the trees towards them, so the children quickly fled to the ruins of an old house. A black bird swooped down and landed on a wall near them, its eyes following their slightest movements. The bird's resemblance to the old woman was uncanny. They started to run again, the bird chasing the children, darting and diving around them. Eventually the bird disappeared and the children found shelter in some nearby ruins. As they sat to catch their breath, they peered back over to the dark woods, where they could see the midnight clad figure staring back at them.

A hare frequents a small Welsh village, but the villagers attempt to catch it always end when it disappears into the garden of an old witch's house. The villagers bring in a greyhound to help the hunt, but still the hare is too quick and crafty. However, the greyhound did manage to nip one of its hind legs. Weeks pass with no sign of the hare, or the old witch. Until finally, the witch emerges from her cottage, limping on a bandaged ankle...



YSBRUD Y NOS

A strange tale of a vampire in South Wales; collected and recorded by Marie Trevelyan, a Welsh Folklorist.

It tells of a minister visiting a small town to preach to the locals of the area, who stayed at an old farmhouse, where he was given the grandest room. It was full of ancient furniture that the tenants had acquired from the distant past.

Then one morning, whilst running through his sermons, he noticed blood running down his hand and what he thought looked like teeth marks. He informed the landlord that the chair by the window, in which he was sat, must have a nail poking out. The tenant admitted this wasn't the first incident, with many past guests also cutting themselves in the chair.

A few days later, in the early hours before sunrise, the minister awoke suddenly. He was in intense pain. On removing the bed covers he discovered several vicious bite marks on his chest, similar to that of his hand. While attending to his horse later that morning, he found that it too had bloodied teeth marks.

When asked if he was feeling well by the tenants, who noticed his haggard appearance, he told them of how he was adamant a vampire haunts the old farm house. He believed it was the original owner of the antique furniture they had come into possession of. He would suck the blood of those who intruded, and did not take kindly to a man of the cloth. The tenant of the house confessed that he was right and previous holy men had similar experiences in the room before.





GOATS AND GHOULS

The Gwyllion are dark spirits and phantoms that haunt the Welsh mountains. The frightful ghouls are likened to witches and hags, robed in tattered ash. At night or on misty days, they stalk lonely roads and prey upon unsuspecting travellers, leading them astray on even the most familiar of trails. It is said you can hear their unearthly call closely behind you, but when you turn to confront the Gwyll, their call beckons you from further away.

One particularly notorious Gwyll was 'the old woman of the mountain'. It was rumoured that in life she was a witch, but now a ghost that roams the shadows between our world and the fairy realm. Her eerie cries infecting wayfarers with fear.

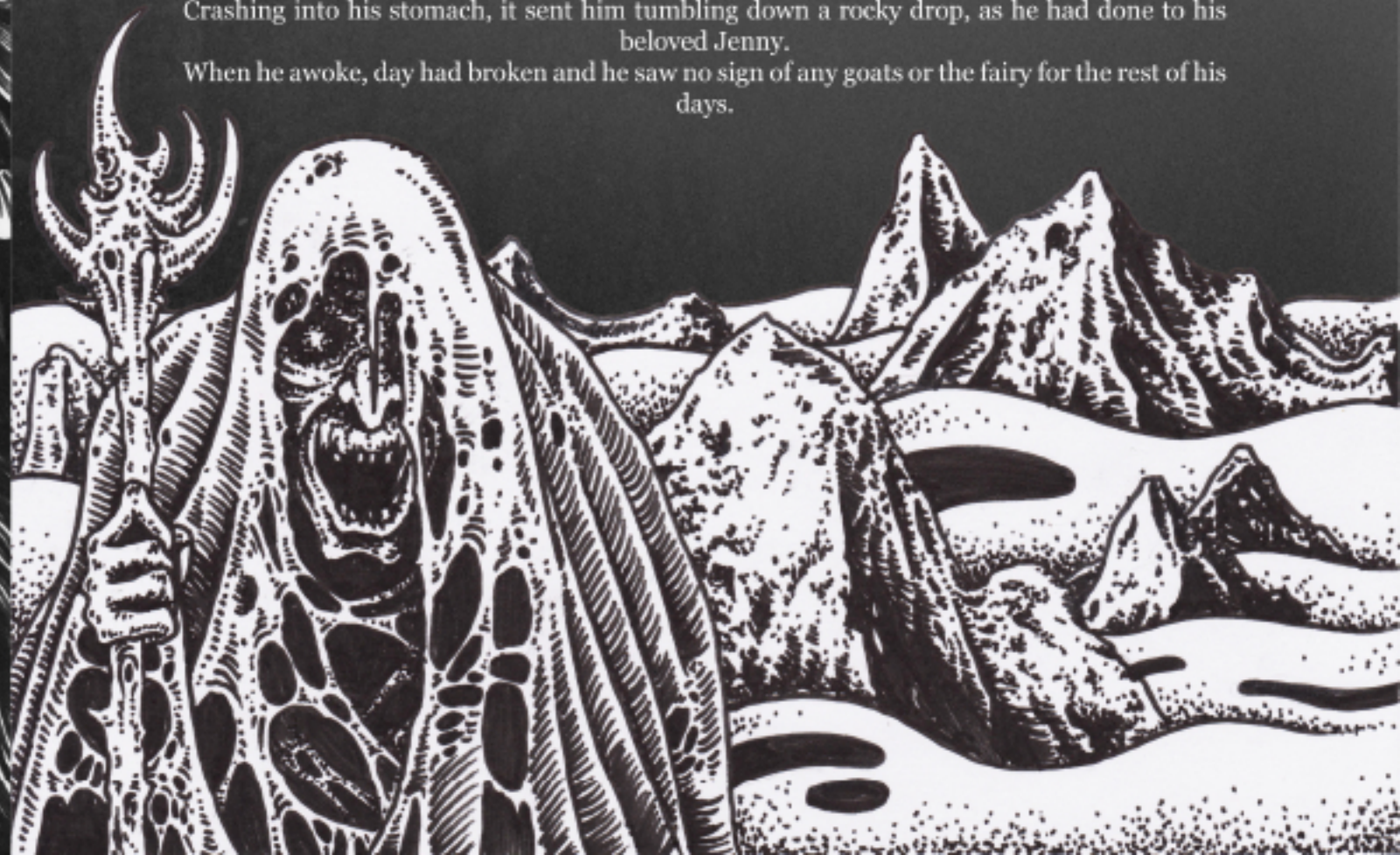
On stormy nights they are known to enter homes to seek shelter. If a Gwyll ever enters your home you must warmly welcome them, give water and take care to make sure no blades or cutting tools are left on display. If treated fairly, the Gwyll will leave without causing any harm.

Another creature in Welsh folklore, along with spirits and fairies, is the goat. They are believed to possess much more knowledge and wisdom than the human world can fathom. In the book 'British goblins' by Wirt Sykes, it tells of a Welsh legend that relates goats and fairies. The story is of Cadwaladr, who had a handsome goat named Jenny. He had much affection for her, as she did for him. One day, there was a sudden change in the goat, as if possessed by a devil and she ran off in a frenzy to the hills. Cadwaladr gave chase. Growing frustrated by his failed attempts to catch her, he picked up a stone and threw it at her. It struck the berserk beast and knocked her down a crag. Cadwaladr made his way down. His poor goat was not yet dead, but soon would be. He cradled her head and she licked his hand.

Full of regret and sadness, he lay beside her crying, too upset to leave.

When the moon rose, to his astonishment his goat had transformed into a beautiful woman. As her eyes met his gaze, she asked if she had at last found him, Cadwaladr. She offered him her hand, which he accepted as he followed her. Her hands although human, felt like a hoof to touch. She led him to the top of the tallest Welsh mountain, where he found himself in the presence of a coven of goats. Surrounding him, they all started bleating loudly. The deepest and most menacing sound came from the king goat, which suddenly charged at Cadwaladr. Crashing into his stomach, it sent him tumbling down a rocky drop, as he had done to his beloved Jenny.

When he awoke, day had broken and he saw no sign of any goats or the fairy for the rest of his days.











Collab between:
@mattabraham_
Xander (aged 3)



