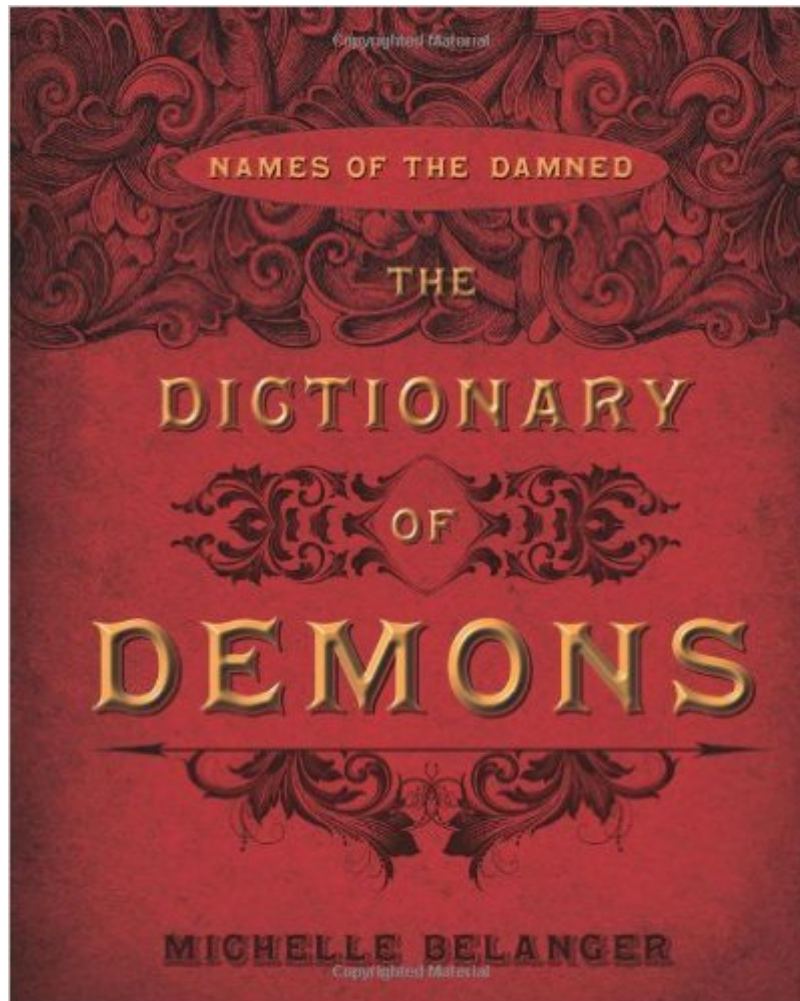


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The Dictionary Of Demons: Names Of The Damned



Synopsis

The Dictionary of Demons starts with a simple premise: names have power. In medieval and Renaissance Europe, it was believed that speaking a demon's true name could summon it, compel it, and bind it. Occult scholar Michelle Belanger has compiled the most complete compendium of demonic names available anywhere, using both notorious and obscure sources from the Western grimoiric tradition. Presented alphabetically from Aariel to Zynextyur, more than 1,500 demons are introduced, explored, and cross-referenced by theme and elemental or planetary correspondence. This meticulously researched reference work features fascinating short articles on demonology and a wealth of woodcuts, etchings, and paintings depicting demons through the ages.

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Dictionary of Demons: Names of the Damned is the latest, much-anticipated book from Michelle Belanger. This sizeable, extraordinarily thorough work records over 1500 demons and their attributes in concisely-worded entries. The book contains numerous cross-references for each demonic name to others with similar attributes. It also easily cross-references the various Medieval and Renaissance books from which Belanger draws these names and descriptions. The compilation's theme is that names hold power. In our modern view the concept seems obvious in that trademarks, tradenames, and logos hold power to direct our economy. However, Belanger points out that power of these demonic names were not for the masses, but were disclosed in

ancient times to only a privileged few who were deemed worthy enough to use the powerful names and symbols for God's glory. That perceived power is underscored by the fact that a mere 300 years ago - a flash in history - the volumes, from which The Dictionary of Demons draws upon, often found themselves, their writers, and their readership put to the flames. The book utilizes original source texts and contemporary translations. Where there is a discrepancy between original and subsequent versions of a text, Belanger explains the discrepancy and how the two sources differ. Variations within particular texts and misprintings of names are occasionally noted. In addition to the names listed, Belanger explains how these original grimoires and books of ceremonial magick were used to summon and control angels, demons, and spirits. This information is both intriguing and useful in understanding the context in which these demonic names were used. The Dictionary of Demons is not simply a morbid curiosity.

"In all chaos there is a cosmos, in all disorder a secret order." - Carl Jung And demons have names. Whether you believe, disbelieve or are indifferent to the concept of demons, the spiritual concept and sociological ideology behind the need to identify or create demons in human society is fascinating. In the well-researched book Dictionary of Demons by Michelle Belanger, the reader is introduced to an alphabetized pantheon of demon names, histories, side notes and indices that delve into this spiritually torrid and intellectually intriguing topic. Most impressively, Belanger largely limits the scope of the catalogue to major Western demons and demon concepts, and she explains the criteria for who "makes the list" and why in the introduction. This immediately becomes important when you realize the amount of research that was needed to facilitate this collection, and the source material is key. Do not let Belanger's easy-going style belie the scholarly research and investigation put into this book. A quick look at the bibliography shows investigations looking at and citing original source material whenever possible, even to the point of cross-checking editions. For example, both the 1564 and 1566 editions of Johannes Wierus' De Praestigiis Daemonum are cited and compared against each other to obtain any variations in the text. Buy the book for the rich content, but enjoy the book for the art work. Containing the original work of artist Jackie Williams, as well as copies of original prints and other contributors, both the essence and history of this demonic chronicle comes alive. Dictionary of Demons can be fun to flip through, but it also can be a satisfying solid read.

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