

## Dare to know

## **Witch Comics**

Comics that feature witches and/or warlocks and the practice of witchcraft.

A sub-genre in which protagonists, both male and female, exhibit the supernatural powers known as witchcraft. The subject of witches and warlocks is an age-old premise, which has roots in folklore and myths. Stories concerning witchcraft share attributes with **horror comics**, while themes also appear in **fantasy comics**. Throughout literary history, the portrayal of witches and warlocks has ranged from benevolent healers and wise counselors to malevolent agents of the Devil. The most popular image of a witch is that of an evil woman wearing a pointed hat, dressed in black, and riding a broomstick. That of the warlock is a sinister practitioner of magic who has made a pact with dark forces. By the twentieth century, authors began portraying witches as women who had transgressed against rigid social conventions; they were too bold, too old, too vain, or too undesirable for polite society. Often, they were antagonists or key supporting characters. Currently, witches are often the protagonists of stories, and the depiction of their magical arts is appealing.

## **Common Elements**

Horror
Historical accounts
Strange and disturbing mysteries
Female persecution
Hidden powers

Spells and curses	
Supernatural spirits and creatures	
Astrology	
Forbidden knowledge	
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## **Graphic Novel Examples**

Seeds and Stems (2020) by Simon Hanselmann

Spellbinders: Signs and Wonders (2005) by Mike Carey and Mike Perkins

Witchcraft (1994) by Alisa Kwitney and James Robinson