

## **True Magick**

### **A Play in One Act**

by Cheryl Ann Costa

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**Hillary** - late 40's - 50's Grand Dame Witch. Settled - confident - established - well mannered - Fancies herself a humble kitchen witch.

**Courtney** - A teenager - A gothic type with an attitude.

**Robin** - A teenager - Gothic wanna be - A little rebellious

**Kathryn Nagursky** - Courtney's Mom – suburban, level-headed.

#### **Premise:**

The teenagers seek out the elder witch to get her advice on love spells and ways to take control of their lives. Hillary offers them each brownies. Early on in the conversation, it becomes evident that Courtney is abusive with her demands for the elder witch's credentials. Courtney begins having an uncontrollable need to run to the bathroom. Hillary and Robin have a short talk about the Craft. Finally, Courtney and Hillary discuss the rules and bigger questions about Robin's desire to study the Craft. Finally, Kathy, Courtney's mother makes an appearance and questions their relationship. Hillary, explains what she is about and about her friendship with Kathy's daughter. Kathy, shares the fact that her daughter has been acting very strange; doing her homework, helping around the house and being very well disciplined. Finally, she shares that Courtney had started baking bread with her. They now have a stronger relationship. Hillary explains that's the real magic, and offers Kathy a brownie.

***Setting:** A Spartan living room table, a single wing back chair with a coffee table in front of it, and end tables off to each side of the wing back chair. Two cabaret chairs will be available.*

#### **Scene One - Six Months Ago**

*[Lights up - Hillary escorts two teenagers into her parlor where there are two wing back chairs, one wing back has a basket of sewing stuff and knitting in it ]*

**Hillary:** Welcome ladies. My name is Hillary, please make yourselves comfortable and have a seat. *[She sits in the wing back chair without the sewing leaving nowhere obvious for the teenagers to sit. They look around for chairs]*

**Courtney:** Just what are we suppose to sit on?

**Hillary:** I recommend your hindquarters.

**Robin:** You mean we're supposed to sit on the floor?

**Hillary:** My walls have too many pictures and I don't want scuff marks on the ceiling, so the floor will just have to do.

**Courtney:** This blows!

**Hillary:** I beg your pardon?

**Robin:** She said, we're both glad we're not wearing hose!

**Courtney:** YES! That's what I meant!

**Hillary:** Yes, it is fortunate isn't it? *[beat]* Now what can I do for you young ladies? I suppose you're here to sell me light bulbs, or magazines for some school fundraising drive.

**Courtney:** Us!!!??? Ha! Not exactly our style! *[Robin cuts off Courtney]*

**Robin:** hrump! We were told that you sometimes help people!

**Courtney:** Ya, somebody told us that you can do spells and witchcraft...

**Robin:** ...and that sometimes you will give spells to those who ask for them.

**Hillary:** Spells is it? I only do spells for those that I know very, very well. I don't even know your names, ladies. My name is Hillary and whom do I have the pleasure of?

**Courtney:** humm ah My name is Courtney.

**Robin:** My name is Robin.

**Hillary:** and ?

**Robin:** and what?

**Hillary:** Do you young ladies have last names?

**Courtney:** hummah SMITH, our last name is Smith.

**Robin:** huh?

**Hillary:** So, you're the Smith sisters? Funny, you don't bear any family resemblance.

**Courtney:** hummah We're half sisters...

**Robin:** Yes! We have different fathers.

**Courtney:** YES! Different fathers!

**Hillary:** I see. Since we're all getting well aquatinted, I suppose we should have some refreshments before we discuss magical spells. Please excuse me for a moment.

*[The teenagers are smiling at Hillary as she leaves the stage]*

**Robin:** Why the hell did you tell her we're half sisters? *[Upset]*

**Courtney:** I didn't want her to know who we really are for God sakes, she might call our parents.

**Robin:** I've got a bad feeling about this, I don't think she believes us.

**Courtney:** Who cares what she thinks? We came here to get a spell from the old bat and that is what we're going to do.

*[Hillary returns to the room with a tray with brownies and tea]*

**Hillary:** Ladies, since we're going to have such a serious discussion, let us all sit here and enjoy some refreshments.

**Courtney:** All we wanted was a spell, not a big serious discussion.

**Hillary:** A spell is it? Why not have a brownie and some tea.

**Courtney:** A brownie? What the heck does a brownie have to do with anything, especially magic spells?

**Hillary:** In a word, everything! *[beat]* Would you like a brownie?

**Robin:** We would love some brownies, Ma'am

**Courtney:** Yaaaah OK I'll have a brownie. Can we talk about spells now?

**Hillary:** Absolutely! Lets talk about spells. *[thinks for a moment]* First the word spell comes from the root word *spiel*, which originally meant to pray.

*[Robin looking puzzled]*

**Robin:** Spells are prayers? Then does that mean that witchcraft is a religion?

**Hillary:** Yes, the Craft is a religion after a fashion.

**Courtney:** You're not trying to convert us, are you? Cause we just came here for a spell.

**Hillary:** No, I'm not trying to convert you!

**Robin:** We don't have to convert to do a spell do we?

**Hillary:** No, no, let me explain. First and foremost, witches don't recruit. Secondly, anybody can work a spell, *[beat]* it's just that witches make a vocational science of it.

**Robin:** A vocation? *[beat]* I'm not sure if I understand.

**Courtney:** Yaaaah, you're way over me too.

*[Hillary rethinks her tack for a moment]*

**Hillary:** In very simple terms Witchcraft is an art, a science and a lifestyle. *[beat]* It's a repeatable science under the correct disciplines. It's very much an art. Last but not least, those of us who practice the Craft have a rather unique lifestyle.

**Courtney:** How can something be an art and a science at the same time?

**Hillary:** I'm glad you asked that. *[thinks for a moment]* Do either of you do any baking with your mom?

**Courtney:** Mom ? Oh! Not if I can help it.

**Robin :** Like yah, I bake all the time.

**Hillary:** Baking is a science, if you follow a cooking recipe, you can make something. *[beat]* Robin? Does everything you bake come out OK?

**Robin:** Not exactly, I've had some serious disasters. Like it takes practice to bake stuff, I mean bake stuff worth eating.

**Hillary:** Exactly! It takes practice. That is the art of it all.

**Courtney:** I don't wanna be a pooper, but we came here for a spell.

**Hillary:** So you did, what kind are you looking for?

**Robin:** Do you any love spells?

**Hillary:** A love spell is it? Do you currently have a boyfriend?

**Courtney:** Duh! If she had a boyfriend she wouldn't be asking for a love spell now would she?

**Hillary:** Good point Courtney! If she has no boyfriend, she would want an attraction spell, if she had a boyfriend already, she most likely would be looking for a stiffener.

*[Robin all blushy and semi-embarrassed, nodding her head, Courtney begins to warm up to Hillary's style]*

**Robin:** Oh my gawd!

**Hillary:** First thing first, good witches are responsible people. May I ask how old you are?

**Robin:** Does it matter?

**Hillary:** Yes absolutely, when it comes to magic every detail must be taken into account.

**Courtney:** Why?

**Hillary:** It just does. Be honest with me.

**Courtney:** Why?

**Hillary:** Because I'm asking and I'm the witch, that's why!

*[Robin sheepishly]*

**Robin:** I'm fourteen.

**Hillary:** Why do you want a love spell? Again be honest!

*[being a bit cagey]*

**Robin:** I want a serious boyfriend.

**Hillary:** *[To Robin]* You are too young for a love spell. *[To Courtney]* ...and what kind of spell are you looking for?

**Courtney:** ME!!!? Nothing! I'm with her! *[Pointing at Robin]*

**Hillary:** You both give me the impression you are sneaking around.

**Courtney:** Sneaking Around? We're not sneaking around.

*[Robin owning up]*

**Robin:** Miss Hillary, I want this boy to like me because I love him and I know that he likes me a little.

**Hillary:** Now that I can live with. *[She thinks for a moment]* Robin? You said earlier that you bake.

**Robin:** Yes!?!? Why?

*[Hillary directing her attention towards Robin, not being distracted by Courtney's responses.]*

**Hillary:** Bake the beau something nice, a cake, a pie or cookies!

**Robin:** HUH?

**Courtney:** *[thinking this is dorky]* Ohhhh man.

**Hillary:** While you're mixing the dry goods together, think very seriously about him...

**Robin:** OK

**Hillary:** ...and about him liking you, think of him seeing your best features, and your best talents...

**Courtney:** Don't you have an old witch ritual in one of your big old witch books that might work?

*[Ignoring Courtney]*

**Hillary:** ...then hand deliver the baked thing to him! Be sure he's the first to eat from it! He'll take a shining to you.

*[to Courtney on the side]*

**Hillary:** I just gave you the world's oldest spell, Hon!

**Courtney:** You've got to be kidding.

**Hillary:** True Magick is simple.

**Courtney:** Don't you have something else, I mean like a ritual, not a recipe!

**Hillary:** Recipes are rituals, if they're done like a ritual, in ritual style. When I want a date, I bake bread! Usually, fruit bread, and I send my love embodied in the bread to my perspective beau.

**Courtney:** You've got to be kidding.

**Hillary:** Of course, you are younger, so use something sweet like you !

**Courtney:** Oh please!

**Hillary:** Trust me on this.

**Robin:** I'm 13. I don't bake for others, especially him.

**Courtney:** Baking for her boyfriend is stupid. Come on, how about a real spell?

*[By this time Hillary is getting a bit perturbed with the uppity teenager, and gives Courtney a dry and slightly disgusted look with the next line]*

**Hillary:** I gave you a real spell!

**Robin:** Do you have any others for attraction?

**Hillary:** Absolutely. Why not send him a 1/2 dozen carnations?

**Courtney:** Sending flowers to a boy? Won't that embarrass him?

**Hillary:** Perhaps it will embarrass him, but it will certainly demonstrate your interest in him.

**Courtney:** Miss Hillary, what was in those brownies?

**Hillary:** Why do you ask my dear? *[Hillary with a smile – like the cat who ate the canary]*

**Courtney:** Well, I suddenly need to use your bathroom.

**Hillary:** Oh, I see, well those brownies can be a bit rich!  
*[pointing off stage left]* Second door on the left. You can't miss it!  
*[Courtney rapidly walks out with one hand on her tummy][Hillary says in a dry tone smiling to herself]* Mention my name and get a good seat!

**Robin:** Ms. Hillary?

**Hillary:** Yes, my dear?

**Robin:** OK, what if I do send him flowers, is there any special color?

**Hillary:** Oh, yes most certainly; one red, one green, one blue, one yellow, one white.  
*[counting them out on her five fingers.]*

**Robin:** Is that it?

**Hillary:** No, one last thing. Spritz a little of your perfume on the white one. It will remind him of those flowers the next time he smells your perfume.

**Robin:** I still feel funny sending him flowers.

**Hillary:** Boys like flowers, they just don't let on they do!  
*[Hillary sees the hesitation in Robin]* You don't believe me, do you

**Robin:** I'm not sure this will work, he'll laugh at me.

**Hillary:** I'm sorry you don't, part of being a witch is having the gumption to at least try.

*[Courtney reenters the room holding her tummy]*

**Courtney:** Try what?

**Robin:** Gosh, I see your point, OK I'll do both, I'll bake him something, and I'll do the flowers thing.

**Courtney:** Robin, he'll laugh at you.

**Hillary:** If you're afraid of his laughter, then you don't deserve him. The hardest part about magick is trusting in yourself.

**Courtney:** Is that all you have, a recipe and sending him some flowers? Heck a note would have worked that good. *[Courtney doubles over]*

**Hillary:** Courtney, my dear, you are getting the hang of it. *[pause]* Yes, a note with the correct focused intent would have been just as effective.

**Courtney:** Oh, no not again, EXCUSE ME ! *[Hillary just nods as Courtney quickly leaves the room again]*

**Hillary:** Robin, be warned, *[slightly glancing towards the bathroom direction]* Always know that Magick always has a price. *[back to Robin]* The price in this case is the risk of his laughter, if you are strong enough to deal with that then you can deal with anything.

**Robin:** Do you have anymore spells for love attraction.

**Hillary:** My dear, I'm not the Witches Sears Catalog. I gave you two of my best. Don't you believe in them?

**Robin:** Oh, no, that's not it, I'm just interested. I'm finding this so fascinating.

**Hillary:** I have others but they are way beyond your skills.



**Courtney:** Ms. Hillary, what did you put in those brownies?

**Hillary:** Just a very rich milk chocolate, why do you ask?

**Courtney:** I just want to know if they had some witches poison in them.

**Robin:** Courtney, that's a terrible thing to say. Why are you being so mean to her?

**Courtney:** Look, we came here for a real spell. You know, a real witches ritual and all you give us is cooking recipes and dating hints I could have gotten out of Miss Manners.

**Hillary:** Young lady, I offered my help and you bitch at me. I gave you simple effective spells that are within your skills.

**Courtney:** Skills huh? I've been practicing witchcraft for a few months and from what I can tell this isn't any sort of witchcraft that I've read about. How long you been practicing the Craft anyway?

**Hillary:** I've been practicing over twenty years, and what I teach is kitchen witchcraft ! It's the oldest tradition on the planet.

**Courtney:** Wow, aren't you special!

**Hillary:** I was asked for something, and I gauged the answer to the age and skill of the user. Bottom line the responsibility is mine if I give you a spell and you mess up and hurt yourselves.

**Courtney:** Come on, just give us the ritual.

**Hillary:** .....no.....

**Courtney:** Come on, stop playing holier than thou with us. Just give us the spell and we'll do the rest.

**Hillary:** Courtney, my dear, if you are so brilliant, you figure it out.

**Robin:** Courtney, what has gotten into you? I suggest you apologize to Miss Hillary.

**Courtney:** I'm sorry. *[in a wimpy tone]*

**Hillary:** Not to sound ungracious, but I don't think you mean it. If you are ever going to be a witch you have to have clear intent in everything you do and say. Mean it !

**Courtney:** Mean it she's says, all right! Miss Hillary I've been a nasty bitch to you all afternoon. I offer you my apologies.

**Hillary:** That was sincere and with intent, I accept your apology.

**Courtney:** Are you going to give us any more spells?

**Hillary:** I gave you both two of my best spells. To give you anything else, you would have to be my students. You would have to be apprentice witches.

**Robin:** We would?

**Courtney:** Like what do we have to do?

**Hillary:** Being apprentice witches requires a great deal of commitment and discipline. It's something that you would have to put your heart behind and really give it all you've got. It can take years to accomplish the training.

**Courtney:** Do we have to sign anything in blood or anything like that?

**Hillary:** No, my dear, that went out with warts on noses. Actually, what it requires is a student with a commitment and a teacher willing to take on the student and to take the responsibility for the student's actions; be it good or bad.

**Robin:** Is this something I can sleep on? I mean, I really only came here for a simple love spell, if you know what I mean.

**Hillary:** Robin, of course, this is something that you must freely commit to. Something that you choose for yourself as an art, science and lifestyle.

**Courtney:** What if I wanted to be a witch's apprentice?

**Hillary:** Hmmmm, I'm not sure, Courtney, you don't seem like you're able to hold your brownies.

**Courtney:** Huh? What does that have to do with anything?

**Robin:** Miss Hillary, it's getting late for me. I promised my mother that I would come home before supper and give the dog a bath.

**Hillary:** By all mean you should go home and give the noble hound a loving bath. Robin it's been a pleasure to meet you and I hope we can chat again soon. *[they gently shake hands]* I'll show you out.

**Robin:** Thank you, it's been a real pleasure to meet you. Courtney, are you coming with me?

**Courtney:** Actually, I was wondering if Miss Hillary would mind if I stayed and asked her some questions?

**Robin:** *[to Courtney]* It's OK with me, see ya. *[to Hillary]* Thank you for the brownies and the love spell Miss Hillary.

**Hillary:** You're very welcome Robin. I'll show you out.

*[Hillary shows Robin to a portal off stage. Courtney stands around in front of Hillary's chair. Hillary returns, stops abruptly and studies Courtney for a moment, then removes the sewing stuff from the other wing back chair]*

**Hillary:** Have a seat Courtney, you obviously have weighty things on your mind. So speak your mind, young lady.

**Courtney:** Tell me more about becoming an apprentice witch.

**Hillary:** Why the sudden interest in becoming an apprentice?

**Courtney:** It's like I told you, I've been studying a little on my own.

**Hillary:** What have you learned?

**Courtney:** A little about spells, the first tenet of Craft, "do no harm."

**Hillary:** Do you understand the basics of ritual?

**Courtney:** Yes, a little.

**Hillary:** Circle casting?

**Courtney:** Yah, but only what I read in a few books, I could be doing it all wrong for all I know.

**Hillary:** You surprise me, I thought you knew everything.

**Courtney:** Ms. Hillary, I'm 15. I know there's a lot that I don't know, but I would like to learn.

**Hillary:** I suppose you want to be my student?

**Courtney:** Well, yah, you brought up the idea of being a witch's apprentice.

**Hillary:** I doubt if you're up to the rigors. You know, rules, appearances, the code of conduct.

**Courtney:** Go ahead and tell me the rules of the game. I might surprise you.

**Hillary:** First and foremost true witchcraft is about taking responsibility for your thoughts, words and actions.

**Courtney:** You mean like in casting spells?

**Hillary:** No, it's more than just spells, it's everything. All things in your life must be in balance. You must approach everyday life as part of your practice.

**Courtney:** Whoa, you mean I have to treat everything with the detail that I would in practicing magick? Gee that could be tough.

**Hillary:** If it were easy everybody would be doing it.

**Courtney:** That is something I've never read in the books.

**Hillary:** OK, I want you to forget about whatever you have heard about the Craft. True witchcraft is about loving kindness. It's about learning how to bend and shape reality in order to help others. *[beat]* No doubt you've seen bumper stickers stating that "Witches Heal!"

**Courtney:** Uh huh, so what you're telling me is that as witches we don't go around dropping bad spells on people.

**Hillary:** Exactly! I know that you've read the first rule is Harm None *[beat]* But do you know why it's the first rule?

**Courtney:** Because of the karmic backlash.

**Hillary:** Backlash in what context?

**Courtney:** Well, you know, like in if you send out a bad spell, it comes back on you three times worse.

**Hillary:** Well, that's sort of right. In reality, all things in the universe are connected together. Every living thing in all the millions of universes, in every-where and every-when are bonded together. Everything arises from the same essence -- period.

**Courtney:** In other words, if I do a bad thing, I would sort of be hurting myself in the long run -- kind of sort of?

**Hillary:** Exactly. *[pleased at the child]* I'm impressed that you got the gist of that. That's a tough one to grasp for some people.

**Courtney:** If that is the case, wouldn't a smart witch want to do kind and generous spells to help others?

**Hillary:** Yes, a smart witch would be very kind.

**Courtney:** Wow, I guess I see why you have to be very careful who you teach the Craft to.

**Hillary:** Yes I do, but you have to be just as careful, because anything you do reflects on me and my teachers and all things ultimately.

**Courtney:** That sounds a bit scary.

**Hillary:** It can be. *[pause]* If you decide to become my student in witchcraft, you are going to live your life by certain strict rules.

**Courtney:** Or else what?

**Hillary:** Or else I'll drop you drop you like a hot potato, and your training will stop and you will no longer receive the auspicious gift of the magickal way. Understood?

**Courtney:** Like, don't I get a chance to screw up even a little because I'm a student?

**Hillary:** Of course you do, hon. You get three chances to screw up.

**Courtney:** That's a relief.

**Hillary:** You used up one chance just coming here looking for a quick and easy spell. True witchcraft is not quick and easy, it's lots of study and lots of hard work.  
*[Courtney surprised and put back a peg]*

**Courtney:** Whew! At least I have two more.

**Hillary:** You used up a second, asking being so mouthy to me earlier.

**Courtney:** I did? Ohhhh mannnnn!

**Hillary:** You used up a third, asking to be an apprentice.

**Courtney:** I what???? Why did asking to be an apprentice use up a chance?

**Hillary:** Because in my opinion, I think you are tempting the universe to ask for such awesome responsibility.

**Courtney:** Does that mean I'm out?

**Hillary:** I suppose it does. I guess that concludes our business.

**Courtney:** Wait a minute. In one of the books by Lady Xanadu -- *[cutting her off]*

**Hillary:** Lady Xanadu, oh my Gawd, you've been reading her stuff? I'm sorry I interrupted you, please continue.

**Courtney:** In one of her books it said that sometimes "witches just have to make exceptions to some of the rules -- sort of make it up as they go."

**Hillary:** Oh gawd, that woman, why does she write such things? *[beat]* Yes, I believe I read that once myself, what's your point?

**Courtney:** If witches can make it up and bend reality and all that stuff, couldn't you sort of -- kind of -- forget that I did all that stuff and start me out with a clean slate?

**Hillary:** Perhaps, but it would require an even stricter code of conduct by the apprentice, and I wouldn't want to put you through such a thing. I doubt that you're up to it, my dear.

**Courtney:** Try me.

**Hillary:** OK, my apprentices, especially those in high school, must maintain an 85 or better grade point average in school. They must blend in to society and not stick out like a bunch of gothic oddballs.

**Courtney:** -- but I read that it's not uncommon for witches to be oddballs and eccentric and all that stuff.

**Hillary:** Oh, we're oddballs all right, it's just that the best witches blend in with everyone else, we just don't show our colors. For example; I'm in serious touch with my inner child, but I never show anyone outside of the Craft that I play with Legos.

**Courtney:** You play with Lego's? *[Giggle]*

**Hillary:** Yes I do, but I swear you to secrecy on that.

**Courtney:** OK, I can keep a secret! *[pause thinks for a moment collects her thoughts]* Ms. Hillary, if I were to live by your new rules, it would be like becoming a totally different person.

**Hillary:** Yes, it would be.

**Courtney:** What if I really wanted to study the Craft?

**Hillary:** Courtney, my dear I could never ask you to give up your Gothic style or ask you to change yourself, that wouldn't be proper of me or anyone else for that matter.

**Courtney:** Who said that you're asking? I'm the one who's asking!  
I'm asking you from the bottom of my heart to let me study the Craft with you. I'm asking you to let me start with a clean slate of chances and take me on as a witch's apprentice!

**Hillary:** *[Thinking it over]* Welllllll, I don't know.

**Courtney:** Think of it as an act of loving kindness to a stupid shit like me. If you are kind to me and help educate me out of my ignorance, you'll help yourself in the long run! Come on, what do you say?

**Hillary:** Loving kindness huh? *[pleased but playing it down - pause]* OK, consider yourself on probation, at least until I see some of these changes occur, *[beat]* and I see your next report card, all right?

**Courtney:** Deal! You'll see, I'll be the best darn witch's apprentice you've ever had.

**Hillary:** Of that I have no doubt!

*[Fade to black - music bridge]*

## **Scene Two – Present**

*[Lights up - Hillary escorts a woman in her mid to late thirties into her parlor to the two wing back chairs, one wing back has a basket of sewing stuff and knitting in it, she quickly removes the basket and offers the woman a seat.]*

**Hillary:** Please sit and make yourself comfortable. Would you like some tea?

**Kathryn:** No thanks, thank you for seeing me, *[struggles for a thought for a moment]*  
Ms. Hillary --

**Hillary:** Hillary please -- -

**Kathryn:** My name is Kathryn Nagursky and I'm Courtney's mom.

**Hillary:** Oh, what a surprise, I'm so pleased to finally meet you.

**Kathryn:** It's nice to meet you.

**Hillary:** Courtney has told me much about you --

**Kathryn:** -- Oh really?

**Hillary:** Oh my yes, it seems she'd very proud of you.

**Kathryn:** She is??? *[notably surprised, caught off-guard]*

**Hillary:** Oh my yes! She has told me that you are a very dedicated nurse at the local medical center. She says that you've even won a few award recognition's.

**Kathryn:** That's surprising, I thought she was like typical teenagers and was ashamed of her parents -- that surprises me.

**Hillary:** A pleasant surprise, I hope. No doubt you had some other reason for coming to visit me.

**Kathryn:** Yes -- I don't know how to say this -- *[struggling for words]*

**Hillary:** I've always found that straight up is best.

**Kathryn:** All right, I'd like to know what you've been doing with my daughter.

**Hillary:** Pardon me?

**Kathryn:** Let me put it another way, I'm a single working mom, and I usually don't get home until well after six in the evening, when I'm not working shift work. I just recently found out that my daughter has been spending several afternoons a week after school over here. I'd like to know what has been going on.

**Hillary:** We have become friends and we have a sort of mentoring or tutor relationship. Why do you ask? Is there something wrong?

**Kathryn:** No, nothing's wrong exactly. It's just that she's been acting strangely and I want to know what's causing it.

*[Hillary offers tea a 2nd time with a gesture of the tea pot - Kathryn nods]*

**Hillary:** Do you find the changes bad?

**Kathryn:** No, No, I don't, just unexpected.

**Hillary:** Did you ask Courtney for an explanation?

**Kathryn:** Yes, I did and it upset me, and I didn't believe her. She told me this wild story about you being a witch and that she was your apprentice.

**Hillary:** I see, what else?

**Kathryn:** When I asked about all these little changes in her, she said it was all part of the witchcraft she was studying. Isn't that the craziest thing you every heard?



**Hillary:** I met Courtney and her chum Robin about six months ago. When I first met her she was -- how would we say -- *[searching for a polite word]*

**Kathryn:** -- A trashy looking Goth?

**Hillary:** Yes **Gothic** that was the word I was looking for. If memory serves correctly, she was a bit feisty and a little bit on the rebellious side.

**Kathryn:** Hillary, you are trying too hard to be nice. She was obnoxious and totally out of control.

**Hillary:** OK, your description is more accurate, Your point?

**Kathryn:** Over the past six months, I have watched that little monster gradually clean up her act. I mean, over a month she completely re-groomed herself. Then she started keeping the house and looking after her brother.

**Hillary:** Is this a bad thing?

**Kathryn:** NO it's not a bad thing, it's a good thing really. I mean she's getting good report cards, her teachers are sending home glowing notes, shes well-mannered. *[perplexed]*

**Hillary:** So Kathryn, what is the problem?

**Kathryn:** Why? What happened to her? Did somebody cast a magic spell on my daughter?

**Hillary:** *[thinks for a moment]* Yes, somebody did cast a spell on your daughter.

**Kathryn:** Huh, really? Who?

**Hillary:** Courtney cast a spell on herself, so she could clean up her act. Judging from the results, I'd say she did a pretty splendid job of it.

**Kathryn:** Are you trying to tell me that my daughter is studying witchcraft? Oh God, my baby is in league with the devil?

**Hillary:** Kathryn, listen very carefully. Witchcraft is not about devil worship, it's about healing, and personal responsibility. From the looks of it, I'd say that Courtney has done a lot of healing both within herself and within your household, not to mention take on a great deal of personal responsibility in helping you keep your family and household together.

**Kathryn:** She has done that, but the witchcraft --

**Hillary:** Your daughter is one of my best students. She is disciplined and a quick study. In my humble opinion, she's maturing into a very well mannered and polite young lady. You should be very proud of her, considering all the trouble kids can get into these days.

**Kathryn:** I am proud of her. *[pause - collects her thoughts]* Are you telling me witchcraft is something wholesome?

**Hillary:** Something very wholesome. Witchcraft is an art, science and a lifestyle. In it's truest form, if properly practiced, it's a practice of loving kindness toward all living things.

**Kathryn:** I guess I should be thanking you and that author Lady Xanadu for giving my daughter back to me.

**Hillary:** Thank me for nothing, I am simply your daughter's mentor and friend. If you should thank anybody for giving you back your daughter, you should thank Courtney. She did all the really hard work, it was her love of herself and you that she worked so hard.

**Kathryn:** *[trying to hold back a sob]* She is such a sweet girl -- I will thank her.

**Hillary:** You do that, she deserves to hear that from you. As for Lady Xanadu, that's my pen name. I wrote a few basic Craft books a couple of years back, but Courtney doesn't know that. Keep that between us.

**Kathryn:** *[Giggle]* all right, mums the word. Hillary, can you tell me a little more about witchcraft and what she's been studying?

*[Music - lightly fades up]*

**Hillary:** Absolutely, it would be an honor. *[Hillary picks up her plate of brownies and offers to Kathryn]* Kathryn, please have a brownie. *[which Kathryn accepts]*

*[Music- Fades up over dialog]*

Lets start with the art of loving kindness –

*[Lights fade to black - curtain]*

**True Magick** was first performed at Burtonsville Players in Laurel, MD in May of 1999.

## **True Magick**

If you wander into an online chat room labeled ASK A WITCH or something like that on various online services, you'll find two things. A large collection of neo-pagans chatting about the things that interest them and you'll find every manner of goofball pestering the witches. The pestering takes the form of asking, a gazillion argumentative questions about "The Craft."

The other group of questions comes from the "wannabe" witches or those persons looking for the quick and dirty spell for one thing or another. Usually the spell seeking people are in search of –especially teenagers– some form of "Love Spell."

One night I agreed to help two young ladies with their problem. We went to a private chat room and we carried on a half hour chat. They told me what they wanted, "A Love Spell." I proceeded to tell them some facts about the art of magick, the realities of karma and managed to talk them out of their course of action. I saved the dialog and later adapted some of it to the script of "True Magick."

There are some who think the play is a propaganda piece for the Wiccan and Witch community, for the record it wasn't intended that way. If I ever want to write a real propaganda piece, I assure you it will be very political in it's nature, and very much a hard hitting drama!

The questions from the teenage characters were typical everyday questions asked by non-witch person's everyday of people who practice the old folk faith traditions. True Magick, was intended simply as a dialog to explore how cultural misconceptions are sometimes addressed between modern witches and non-witch folk. It also was intended as a vehicle to explore how a relationship between a talented teacher and a seemingly inappropriate student can start and blossom into a very positive rapport. Enough Said!

True Magick, has been popular with teenagers across the country as a rebellion piece, because the all characters have alternative lifestyles and the teens are so "contrary." Such is life!