



There are lots of special ways to bring the womanspirit wisdom of **Womanrunes** into your Women's Circle or Red Tent! Here are some possibilities:



- ~ Have the *Womanrunes deck and book* available in a divination or intuition corner. This nook should be a reflective space for inner guidance.
- ~ Lay out the cards and book on a table close to the entrance of the red tent space. As women enter, they can draw a card to receive a personal check-in with their deep selves.
- ~ As the circle begins, the cards may be passed around the circle as a basic guidance or intuition check or as a centering process. Women may share their reflections or observations or journal about the message.
- ~ Likewise, Womanrunes may be used to “check-out” once the circle is drawing to a close. Before singing your final song or doing your closing reading, each woman can draw a card and read the interpretation as her message or guidance for her return home.
- ~ If you included meditations, guided visualizations, or discussion prompts in your circle, Womanrunes may be used before or after journaling about these experiences.

# Using Womanrunes on Red Tent Projects:

Make prayer flags—either drawing on the symbols using permanent markers or stitching or embroidering them on.

Make single flags with certain runes (either intentionally chosen or intuitively chosen).

Make personal sets of Womanrunes for use at home using any of the methods described earlier in the class.



Make goddess greeting cards with written greetings, blessings, or wishes.

Create runespells by combining symbols. For example, willpower.

Write your name or a word of power using the pronunciation guide handout included earlier in this class.



Create a pocket totem or a reminder stone with polymer clay or pottery clay. On this totem, you can include the Womanrunes you'd like to attract, manifest, or embody. Or, you can write your name or other word. You may also intuitively select which symbols to include.

Draw Womanrunes on your body—I learned from one of my *Womanrunes Immersion* students to use liquid eyeliner to ink the symbol of the day (drawn in the morning as a centering or guidance practice) on the inside of the wrist or ankle. This symbol then serves as a mindfulness or guidance cue throughout day. The process of inking the symbols on your skin is a beautifully embodied, physical practice that makes a visceral connection to Womanrunes. You are literally drawing them into you!



Paint Womanrunes on yourself or in group with other women using body paint—this can be done for empowerment, affirmation, encouragement, healing, blessing, or fun. Use the attached packet of card layouts with Womanrunes or any of your other favorite card systems to do personal or group readings.

## To keep exploring...

- Sign up for a free *Womanrunes ecourse* (it includes a discount coupon for book purchase).
- Join our *Creative Spirit Circle*
- Buy *Womanrunes book and card sets*
- Work in-depth with Molly in our upcoming *Red Tent* and *Practical Priestessing* courses.



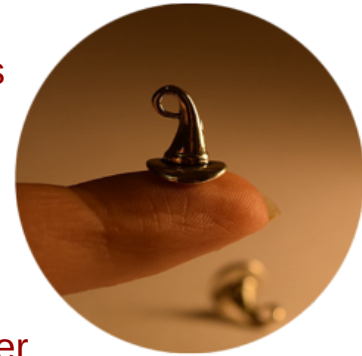
Limited scholarship copies of the Womanrunes book are available for established or beginning Red Tents around the world. Email [brigidsgrove@gmail.com](mailto:brigidsgrove@gmail.com) to request an application.

# Claim Your Magic: The Witch's Hat

*“What do you know of the negative associations with the word Witch? How do you feel about the fact that so many witches were persecuted and burned in medieval times? Would you like to see witches and Goddess-religion made acceptable in today’s society?”*  
–Shekhinah Mountainwater, *Ariadne’s Thread*

While perhaps the answers to these questions seem very obvious to people immersed in women’s spirituality, to many women interested in women's circles and Red Tents they are significant ones.

And, they are very relevant to priestesses like me who work with the general public, rather than specifically pagan-identified groups, for Red Tent Circles and other gatherings. It is important to turn over and acknowledge the ways in which the word "witch" can be used to oppress people or to stifle their curiosity and personal expression as well as even prevent involvement with the work you offer.



This year we began a small study group using the classic women’s spirituality guidebook *Ariadne’s Thread*. One of the topics of our first meeting is the fear many women have of the word “witch.” This comes up in the *Red Tent* and *Practical Priestessing* classes I teach also. Indeed, when I plan Red Tent events, though I do use goddess imagery and I am extremely goddess-oriented in my personal spirituality, I am careful not to include the word “goddess” in the chants or rituals, because I want to make sure to speak to the womanspirit within all of us, rather than being associated with any one framework of belief. Red Tent spaces have the ability to transcend any particular belief system and welcome women of many backgrounds, inclinations, and beliefs. They aren’t specifically “Goddess circles,” though they honor the divine feminine through their very being.

By Molly Remer  
([brigidsgrove.com](http://brigidsgrove.com))

Once at meeting for breastfeeding women, I mentioned wanting to start a group called “mothercraft” or “womancraft.” Another woman there said it sounded interesting, but if that is what it was called she would never come because it sounded too much like “witchcraft.”



I think many women retain a deep-seated, historically rooted fear of being labeled witches. Maybe that sounds silly, but this fear is a real one. It is important for women to gather in sacred circles together without fear of labeling (or of needing to identify as anything other than women’s enjoying a women’s circle!), but it is also important to look at the word “witch” and explore why it might feel so scary to be thought so.

I appreciate this no-nonsense quote from Starhawk about the power of the word “witch” in her essay *Earth, Spirit, and Action: Letting the Wildness In*: ***“The word ‘Witch’ has power. If we don’t examine it and counter its negative associations, if we don’t go through that process with it, then it’s like a stick to beat you with.”***

This connects to a recent article about young women and women’s spirituality in which we find this wonderful gem:

***“the task of reclaiming the witch is a fundamentally poetic one.” –Sady Doyle***

In her article, Doyle also quotes Starhawk:

*“I think that part of the power of the word is that it refers to a kind of power that is not legitimized by the authorities,” Starhawk says. “Even though not all witches are women, and a lot of men are, it seems to connote women’s power in particular. And that’s very scary in a patriarchal world – the kind of power that’s not just coming from the hierarchical structure, but some kind of inner power. And to use it to serve the ends that women have always stood for, like nurturing and caring for the next generation – that, I think, is a wonderfully dangerous prospect.”* via [Season of the witch: why young women are flocking to the ancient craft | World news | The Guardian](#)

One of the classes I took for my M.Div degree at Ocean Seminary College was called Stigmatization of the Witch. It was a very intense, sad, and challenging class. One of the lasting lessons from it for me was this: *...when political and religious tides were turning in the ancient world, those who wanted to dominate and control didn't go for the leaders of countries, for political heads of states, or for those in powerful jobs, they went for the priestesses. They went for women who held the cultural stories and ritual language of the people. They went for the healers and nurturers and those who took care of others. They destroyed temples and sacred images and books. They almost succeeded in total eradication of the role of priestess from the world and worked really hard to take midwives and wisewomen out completely as well...*

In the *Womanrunes* system, the Witch's Hat rune is the Rune of Magic. It is a strong rune, one that asks you to stand up, to name and claim, to be unapologetic and unafraid and...to claim your magic. When we reached it in my most recent *Womanrunes Immersion* course, I was thinking about women and fear and witches and I found myself creating a *Claim Your Magic layout* for use with Womanrunes or any other oracle card system.

**Feel free to give it a try  
alone or with a group  
and  
claim your magic!**





Molly has been “gathering the women” to circle, sing, celebrate, and share since 2008. She plans and facilitates women’s circles, seasonal retreats and rituals, mother-daughter circles, family ceremonies, and red tent circles in rural Missouri and teaches online courses in *Red Tent facilitation* and *Practical Priestessing*.

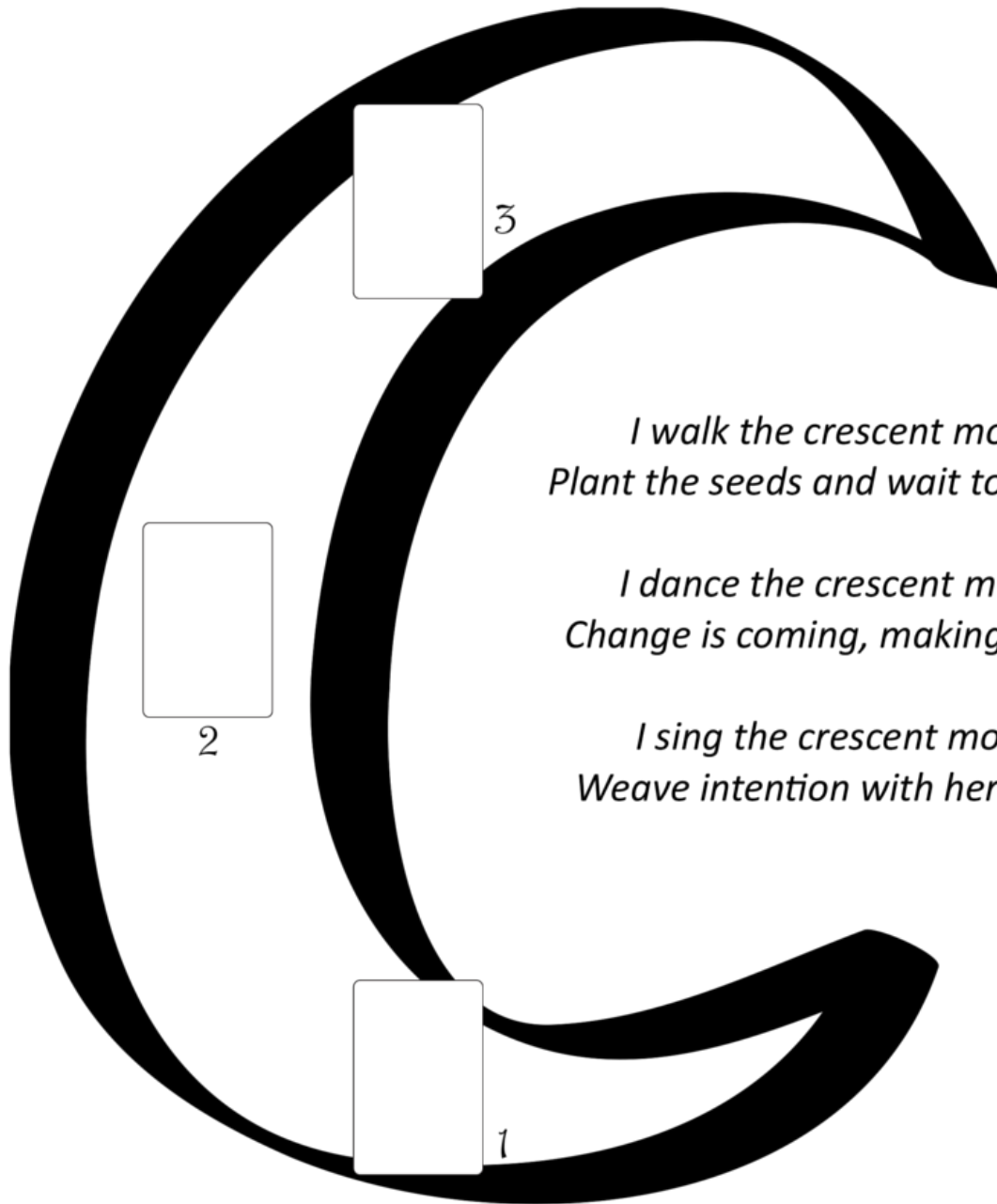
Molly is a priestess who holds MSW and M.Div degrees and recently finished her dissertation about contemporary priestessing in the U.S.

Molly and her husband Mark co-create original goddess sculptures, ceremony kits, and jewelry at *Brigid’s Grove*.

Molly is the author of *Womanrunes*, *Earthprayer*, and *The Red Tent Resource Kit*.

She writes about theology, nature, practical priestessing, and the goddess at her *Woodspriestess* blog.

# The Crescent Moon



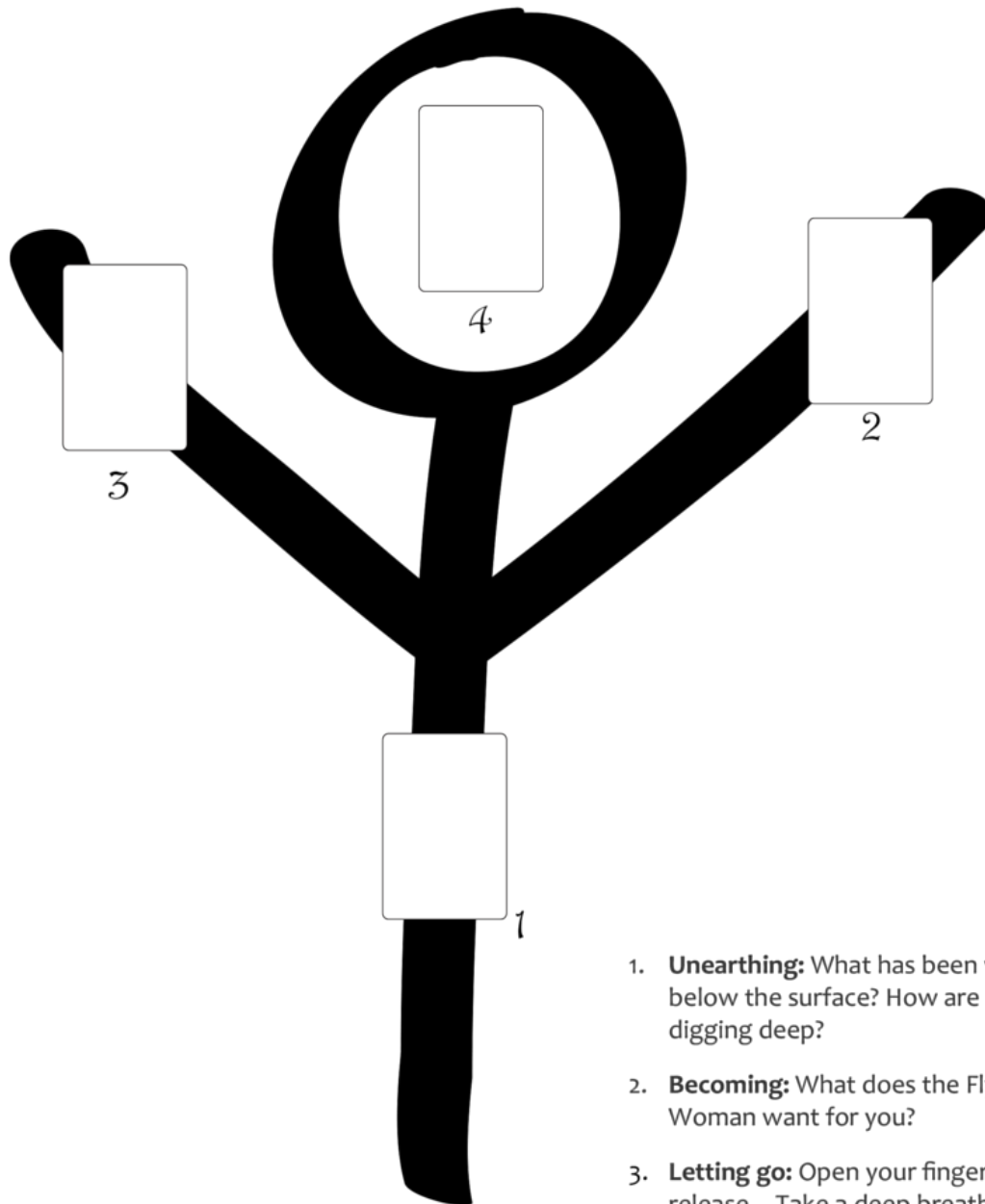
*I walk the crescent moon  
Plant the seeds and wait to bloom.*

*I dance the crescent moon  
Change is coming, making room.*

*I sing the crescent moon  
Weave intention with her loom.*

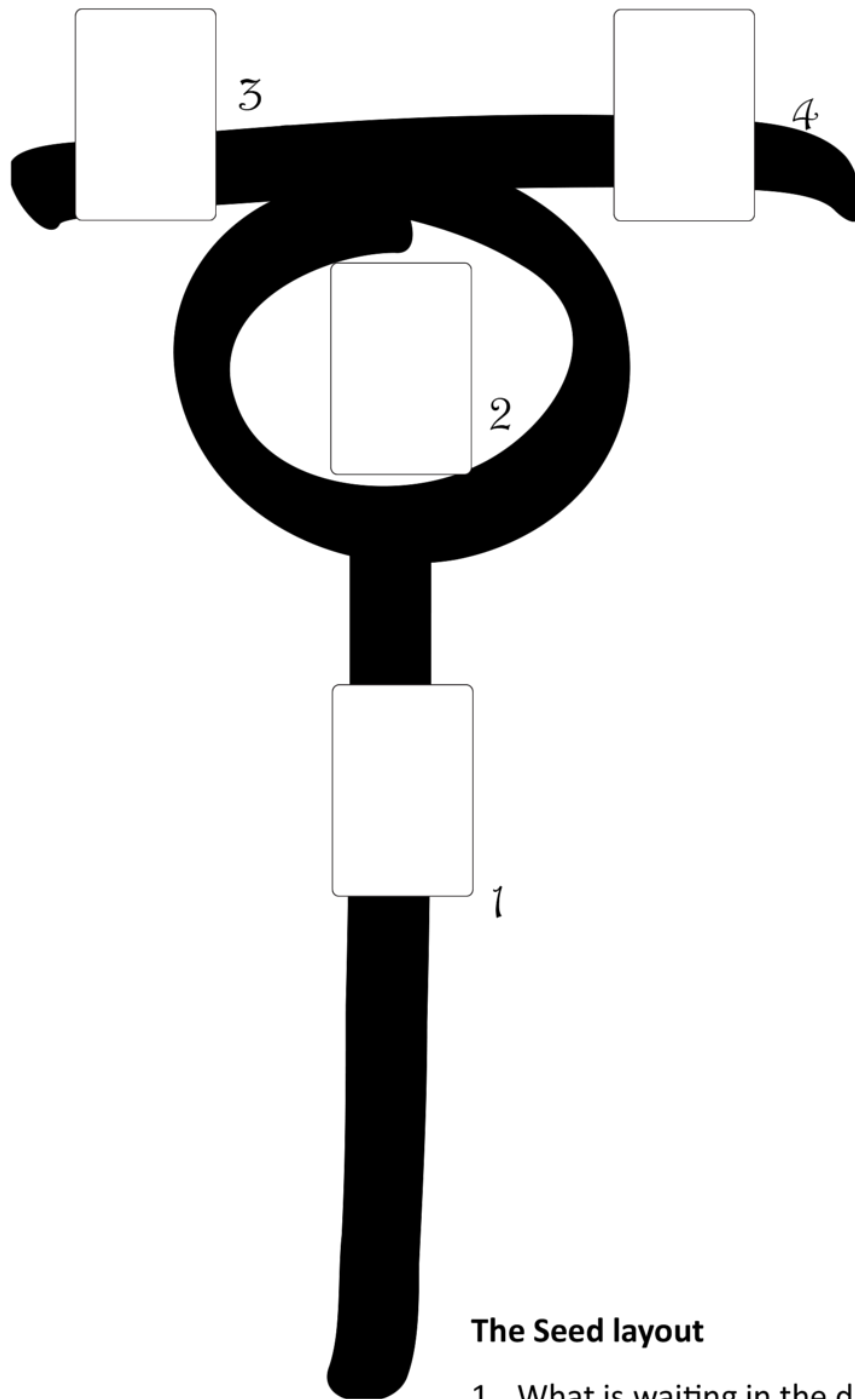
1. **Planting:** What seeds are you planting? What are you incubating or preparing to grow?
2. **Making room:** What is changing? How are you making room?
3. **Weaving:** What is working through you? What is your intention or focus point?

# The Flying Woman



1. **Unearthing:** What has been waiting below the surface? How are you digging deep?
2. **Becoming:** What does the Flying Woman want for you?
3. **Letting go:** Open your fingers and release... Take a deep breath. How do you feel in your center as you let go?
4. **Spinning:** Where is freedom found for you? What is dancing before you?

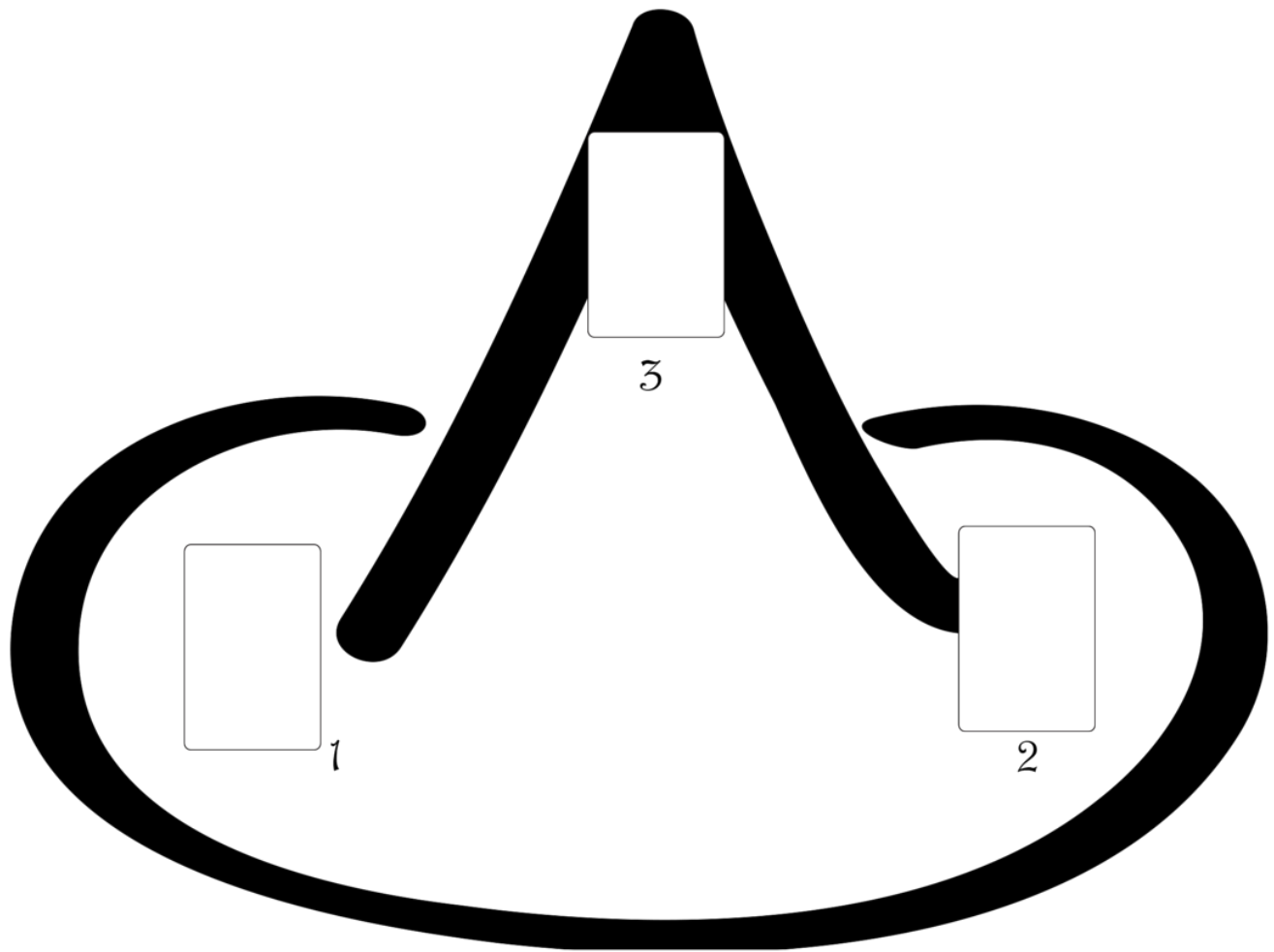
# The Seed



## The Seed layout

1. What is waiting in the darkness?
2. What is ready to emerge?
3. & 4. What do I need to know as I grow?

# Claim Your Magic Witch's Hat Layout



Reserve the Witch's Hat out of the Womanrunes deck, then choose:

1. Left card = what are you afraid of?
2. Right card = what is your magic?
3. Top card = action. How to get there.

Womanrunes book and cards available from  
[brigidsgrove.com](http://brigidsgrove.com)