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I don't have goat skulls. Photo: Claire Lower

Evil Week

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Welcome to Evil Week, our annual immersion in all slightly summary hacks would usually refrain from recommending. Do you want to make your way into free drinks, play with your mind, or wash some money? We have all the information you need to be disgustingly successful. If I learned one thing from reading the Satanic Bible by Anton Szandor LaVey, it's that LaVey liked to, but I also learned a lot of other life lessons, and they are surprisingly practical and actually quite positive. Welcome back to midweek meditations. Lifehacker's weekly dive into the pool of stoic wisdom, and... Read more

Though there are a lot of things out there about rituals and bells and witch women wearing sexy costumes-unless you're old because there's energy LaVey was looking for the general-message of the book is one of self-acceptance, self-indulgence, and self-esteem. If anyone would review the ubiquitous Live, Love, Laugh! decal the wall in the spirit of Satanism, would read Eat, Bone, Revenge! The Satan described by LaVey is not the one the Lady of the Church warned you about. Satan is a concept, symbol or force that must be harnessed to live a pleasant and successful life. Satan is not an anthropomorphic entity with horns to which one sacrifices animals and children – in fact, he is a great Satanist who does not. In the chapter On the Choice of Human Sacrifice, LaVey explains that under no circumstances would a Satanist sacrifice any animal or child! It generates the energy needed for effective spells, you ask? By masturbating off (cool), or by sacrificing someone asks to be cursed by their very action (as a Nazi, I think). So now that we have the boring problem of killing the child out of the way, let's take a look at some of the lessons contained in the Satanic Bible, which are surprisingly applicable daily. It's okay to want to feel good! It's a shame LaVey died just two years before The Bloodhound's Bad Touch because he was obsessed. The idea that you and I (baby) is nothing, but a couple of animals is headed home over and over, but LaVey advises that instead of fighting with our base, animal desires, we'll give in to them, and just be happy, man. (There is a warning to follow one's happiness, and that is that you don't have to do so in a way that brings harm to people who have not done harm to you.) The book is very pro the seven deadly sins because it is these things that lead to pleasure, and pleasure is good (that's why it feels good). Envy is simply looking with favor on the possessions of others, and being greedy is just wanting more than what it already has. Both are as the motivating forces of ambition, without which very little of any importance would be achieved. Achieved, explains LeVey, it simply eats more than you need to keep you alive. Similarly, pride is wanting to look good, not wanting to get out of bed warm and comfortable is laziness, and lust is ... Well, lust. If you have children, opening a bag of cookies means opening a flood of questions: What is ... Read more

I want to eat because things taste good, sleep because it feels good, and make paper because you want the same cool your friends have is not something you should be ashamed of, and these sins can motivate you to improve your life. If you want to go to the gym for the sole purpose of making your prey more shelf-like, that's a perfectly good reason, and you might end up expanding your life and improving your sanity in your proud quest for a better ass. All of this may seem selfish, and it is, but that doesn't mean it's bad. Pride, for example, can motivate them to do great, altruistic things. If activism hadn't motivated at least a bit of pride, there would be far fewer Instagram photos of people holding protest marks. Although I'm sure there are people who are able to volunteer at a puppy shelter and don't tweet about it, you can't tell me they don't feel good after a day of helping sad dogs that are always worth the help. Enthusiastic and consensual sex is the best sex. I don't think it was a coincidence that this book was published in 1969; even today, you can almost hear LaVey sariere yes, from the grave. The Satanic Bible is a very pro sex, but it is also very pro consent. Satanism has a reputation for compulsory, but although Satanism advocates sexual freedom, it does not encourage orgiastic activity or extramarital affairs for those who do not naturally come. Group sex is cool where you bring and joy your partner, but fight through tears during an to prove to others (or worse, you) that you are emancipated from sexual guilt is not. We all agree that there's no worse idea to get over an ex than sleeping with them one more... Read more

Sex is good (if you enjoy it), and the amount and type you want to have is the amount and type you should be having (or, if you don't like sex, don't have it). Satanism is down with pretty much all forms of consensual sexuality activity. Masturbation is cool, straight sex is cool, gay sex is cool, group sex is cool, and no sex is cool. Indulging in fetishes and kinks is also cool, as long as it involves anyone who doesn't want to be involved. Indulgence, not coercion, is an important distinction. Indulgence does what you want – again, as long as he doesn't hurt others – and he doesn't feel bad about it. If they have casual sex (safe) with a lot of different partners really makes you feel empowered, or it's just really fun, there's no reason you should feel bad. If it makes you feel icky-and that ickiness doesn't come from guilt you've been told you should feel by someone else-- don't do it. Compulsive behavior, whether it comes from a place of abstinence without imposed morality or something else, is not the sexual droid you are looking for - a Satanist is a master rather than mastered by sex. Punch the Nazis and kill vampires! LaVey never explicitly said he was the antifa, but he was very much in favor of making yourself a terror for your opponent, and treating those who would not follow the Golden Rule with the wrath they deserve. Satanism does not advocate for violence for its own good, but the purpose of doing the blow for the blow and doom for doom-with compound interest added liberal theunto, is to make people who would make you or others bad reconsider their actions of and opinions. (Or, according to LaVey when he goes his way, he will have a lot of extra wisdom to ruminate over.) You can't love everyone and, according to the Satanic Bible, not everyone is worthy of your love. Prayer for people who cause real, tangible damage in the name of love is not only ineffective, it is unnatural. There are bad people out there, and it's okay to hate them and wish them bad. There are two conflicting definitions of the internet phrase troll, so there are two... Read more

In addition to the obvious, outwardly aggressive, LaVey has no time for vicious passive, which he refers to as psychic vampires. There are people you hang out with because you feel guilty if you don't, even when you don't enjoy their company so much. These are the people who never make their needs known, but you always find yourself doing little favors for, none of which has returned us. This is the person who doesn't have a lot of friends because they are just very picky about spending time with, and after a round of social talk-will rush to add you meet every requirement and are truly outstanding exception and are one of the very few worthy of his [or her] friendship. Essentially, if you find yourself offering and giving to a very special man, but never seem to get anything in return (except for shiny gifts meant to inspire a sense of obligation), whose needs always prioritize you, even if they don't show you the same consideration, take them out of your life. (This obviously does not apply to children. You can't get rid of them.) This is not particularly difficult: just say no. Eating a bag (or bowl) of dicks is one of my favorite insults ever, but, until very soon, it's... Read more

It looks like I'm picking and choosing the parts I like from this book here, it's because I'm very much. Satanic Bible is trouble-free. Not only that LeVey LeVey and borrow many of his ideas, but there are defined vibes of ableism along with some Ayn Rand-y nonsense. It's also offensively weird at times-like, did you know that the WORLD is back for LIVE? -and LaVey loses some of her positive sex points, suggesting that older witches leave sexy clothes to younger ladies, and instead embrace the lady cookie aesthetic. (Side note: I don't feel that the sexy cookie lady is not my vibe.) The Satanic Bible is not something you should read with a critical eye and then follow blindly- in fact, doing so would not be very satanic, as one should question all things - but there is a lot of terrible in the world, and embracing an indulgent, sex-positive, anti-jerk worldview can help. Whether you call it finding your joy, living your truth, or saying hello to Satan, doing the things you want to do (blamelessly), building relationships of value to you, and taking your much better life, so go and get your own. (Unless yours involves white supremacy, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, fascism, or any other similar, harmful ideology, in which case you can get hit.) When she asked for my favorite book as a child, and even as a teenager putting her Facebook page together for the first time, I always quoted the Bible as my favorite book. Part of me didn't do that except because I thought that was what I had to say as a good Christian girl. But on the other hand, I spent loving weekends reading about King David and the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. It wasn't until I was in college that I learned the Bible could be understood as a work of literature. While I felt more than a little blasphemy taking a class called the Hebrew Bible, which was not listed in a section of religious studies, what I learned revealed the beauty of the Bible as simply a good story, with a complicated plot, extended metaphor, and enticing characters. When we hold any text too high as a religious book, we risk losing its true beauty. If we are constantly examining the Bible for final truths, we will ski over beautiful poetry in Psalms or Song of Songs; we will miss the artistic simplicity of the parables. It's this kind of moments in the text that replace faith and enter the mythical realm of storytelling archetypes that our older writers have caught on to. It is not difficult to find the influence of the Bible in classical, or even modern, literature. These writers themselves may or may not be believed in the Bible as a religious text, but that is not important here; What is important is that they recognized the beauty of the story and how biblical figures might inspire some of our greatest novels.

1. Paradise Lost by John is probably the most obvious book inspired by the Bible. The Garden of Eden is a small part of the story of biblical creation in Milton's epic poem; most of the action takes place in the most distant heavenly (and infernal) realms, where we meet the angel Lucifer, who would rebel into becoming Satan. Oddly enough, Paradise Lost can let you have more sympathy for the devil than anyone else in the narrative. Click here to buy. 2. Lord of the Flies by William GoldingA classic of our day in high school, there's more to Lord of the Flies than a group of school boys run amuck on the jungle island. While more closely about nature versus nurture and the way individuals behave outside the bounds of civilization, so I understand it, Golding includes some amazing biblical allusions, from the reference title Beelzebub, one of Satan's names, to St. Simon, a stand-in for Christ. Click here to buy. 3. Anita Diamant's Red TentOne of the most frustrating things about the Bible is the lack of women's voices. While women can figure out in the narrative, playing important roles, it's rare to hear a woman tell her own story. Diamant's novel aims to change this by looking for Dinah, daughter of Patriarch Jacob and sister of Joseph, and having her perspective on some of the events in the book of Genesis. Click here to buy. 4. The fishermen of Chigozie ObiomaThe biblical story of the first family - and the first murder - is transported to Nigeria in 1990 in the novel of Obioma. When four brothers travel in the mythical river Emi-Ala, they meet a seemingly crazy bum who predicts that one of the brothers will kill another. Cain and Abel's alluded weight hangs heavily over the family as they make their way forward. Click here to buy. 5. Housekeeping by Marilynne RobinsonWhile any of Robinson's books could easily fit on this list, her first novel focuses entirely on women's experiences, biblical and non-biblical alike, trying to promote spiritual spaces for themselves. While Ruthie and Aunt Sylvie might be stand-ins for any biblical figure who was transient and without a permanent home, Robinson hinted at Noah's wife's lost narrative near the end of the book is strong enough on his own. Click here to buy. 6. Under the trees Udala by Chinelo OkparaantaBetween history, and even now, the Bible has been used to justify and moralize the ilbeing and subjugation of others. Okparanta details how the Bible is refrigerated to oppress LGBTQ people in her debut novel, which covers the years of the Nigerian civil war from the 1960s to the present. Compassion and love ultimately win, but Okparanta presents us with demanding questions about we can use Bible narratives for evil or good. Click here to buy. 7. Absalom, Absalom! by William FaulknerThe story of King David and his rebellious son Absalom is more complex than a light reading of the Bible can betray, betray, in Faulkner's hands, the narrative possibilities of the story are strengthened to encompass the history and turbulence of the American South, using Thomas Sutpen and his son Henry as king and biblical prince. Click here to buy. 8. The Secret Chord by Geraldine BrooksThere is a reason King David has several mentions on this list: his story is an endlessly compelling narrative of good and evil. Brooks gives him the treatment of historical fiction, adding nuance to the man written as complete after God's heart. Click here to buy. 9. The story of the maid of Margaret AtwoodSex in the Bible is often a full subject, brushed over and set aside in Sunday schools everywhere. Atwood borrows the dystopian and nightmare scenes of the ceremony from the dysfunctional martial relationships of Patriarch Jacob, his wives Leah and Rachel, and their maids, Zilpah and Bilhah. It also provides a glimpse of the refrigeration of biblical ideas applied to great writing to a theocratic government. Click here to buy. 10. Cry, The Country Loved by Alan PatonWhat happens when the Wasteful Son does not return home? Paton's novel seeks to explore themes of faith against the broader backdrop of pre-Apartheid South Africa. Finally a story of forgiveness against difficult odds, Pastor Stephen Kumalo comes to embody the spirit of Jesus' teachings while challenged with finding his son. Click here to buy. 11. Complete stories of Flannery O'ConnorPicking just one of Flannery O'Connor's stories or novels is difficult, so let's just go with her short collected stories. One of the most important Catholic writers of American literature, she digs deep into the ugliness of humanity to reflect on the themes of the ransom of gospels. Click Biblical here to buy. Photo: laurelpd/Instagram laurelpd/Instagram