

The Amber Witch

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Explore the captivating world of *The Amber Witch*, a classic historical fiction novel deeply rooted in German folklore. This compelling tale, often considered gothic literature, follows the harrowing accusation of a beautiful young woman for witchcraft, delving into themes of innocence, persecution, and dramatic justice. It's a timeless story that resonates with readers interested in historical legal dramas and romantic suspense.

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The Amber Witch

The Amber Witch is a German novel published by Wilhelm Meinhold (1797–1851) in 1838. Its German title is Maria Schweidler, die Bernsteinhexe. The novel was originally published as a literary hoax which purported to be an actual 17th-century chronicle. Meinhold later admitted to the hoax but had some difficulty in proving that he was its author. In 1844, it was published in Britain as The Amber Witch in two English translations: one by E. A. Friedlander and another, more enduring, translation by Lucie, Lady Duff-Gordon. Lady Duff Gordon's translation was very popular with the Victorians and went through numerous editions, including a luxurious one in 1895 illustrated by Philip Burne-Jones. The novel was a favourite of Oscar Wilde's when he was a boy, and in 1861 it was made into an opera, The Amber Witch, composed by William Vincent Wallace. Wallace's opera has faded into obscurity, but the novel on which it was based has continued to be republished, both on its own and in anthologies. The story is set during the Thirty Years' War. The purported author, Reverend Abraham Schweidler, almost loses his only child, Maria, to a plot by a rejected suitor, Sheriff Appelmann, who has accused Maria of practicing witchcraft. In this he was aided by an evil and jealous woman of the neighborhood. After a trial and under threat of the most dire torture, Maria, wholly innocent of the crime, confesses. While on her way to the stake, she is rescued by a courageous young nobleman who loves her and who exposes the evil plot against her.

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The Amber Witch: the Most Interesting Trial for Witchcraft Ever Known. Edited from a Defective Manuscript of Her Father, Abraham Schweidler. Translated from the German

In laying before the public this deeply affecting and romantic trial, which I have not without reason called on the title-page the most interesting of all trials for witchcraft ever known, I will first give some account of the history of the manuscript. At Coserow, in the Island of Usedom, my former cure, the same which was held by our worthy author some two hundred years ago, there existed under a seat in the choir of the church a sort of niche, nearly on a level with the floor. I had, indeed, often seen a heap of various writings in this recess; but owing to my short sight, and the darkness of the place, I had taken them for antiquated hymn-books, which were lying about in great numbers. But one day, while I was teaching in the church, I looked for a paper mark in the Catechism of one of the boys, which I could not immediately find; and my old sexton, who was past eighty (and who, although called Appelmänn, was thoroughly unlike his namesake in our story, being a very worthy, although a most ignorant man), stooped down to the said niche, and took from it a folio volume which I had never before observed, out of which he, without the slightest hesitation, tore a strip of paper suited to my purpose, and reached it to me. I immediately seized upon the book, and, after a few minutes' perusal, I know not which was greater, my astonishment or my vexation at this costly prize. The manuscript, which was bound in vellum, was not only defective both at the beginning and at the end, but several leaves had even been torn out here and there in the middle. I scolded the old man as I had never done during the whole course of my life; but he excused himself, saying that one of my predecessors had given him the manuscript for waste paper, as it had lain about there ever since the memory of man, and he had often been in want of paper to twist round the altar candles, etc. The aged and half-blind pastor had mistaken the folio for old parochial accounts which could be of no more use to any one.

Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch

Mary Schweidler, the amber witch: the most interesting trial for witchcraft ever known, printed from an imperfect manuscript by her father, Abraham Schweidler, the pastor of Coserow in the island of Usedom / edited by W. Meinhold; translated from the German by Lady Duff Gordon. Lucie Duff Gordon In laying before the public this deeply affecting and romantic trial, which I have not without reason called on the title-page the most interesting of all trials for witchcraft ever known, I will first give some account of the history of the manuscript. At Coserow, in the Island of Usedom, my former cure, the same which was held by our worthy author some two hundred years ago, there existed under a seat in the choir of the church a sort of niche, nearly on a level with the floor. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.

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The Amber Witch might be called the "Amber Witch Project," not because it's a classic German Gothic novel, but that it was a complete hoax. Set during the Thirty Years' War, the Amber Witch manuscript was supposedly written by the Rev. Abraham Schweidler, a pure and honest man, whose only child

Maria might (or might not) be burned at the stake in a heinous plot devised by a dastardly Sheriff. He accuses her of witchcraft and a trial is held (and I shall not ruin the ending despite it being faked). Meinhold had written the Amber Witch as a ploy against certain claimants who suggested that the Old and New Testaments were written based on actual historical documents. When it was first published, nearly all German critics believed it to be true. This was further flamed by its English translations, which sparked a whole new set of fans and theorists of the work's authenticity. When Meinhold finally admitted to the hoax, it caused a big stir, and he lashed into the biblical historians with great lavish.

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The Amber Witch

The amber witch the most interesting trial for witchcraft ever known. 286 Pages.

The Amber Witch ...

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Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch. The most interesting trial for witchcraft ever known. Printed from an imperfect manuscript by her father, Abraham Schweidler ... Edited [or rather, written] by W. Meinhold. Translated from the German by Lady Duff Gordon

A novel based on Schweidler's account of an actual trial.

Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch

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The Amber Witch

"[...]my interest was powerfully excited by the contents. I soon felt the necessity of making myself better acquainted with the nature and conduct of these witch trials, with the proceedings, nay, even with the history of the whole period in which these events occur. But the more I read of these extraordinary stories, the more was I confounded; and neither the trivial Beeker (die bezauberte Welt, the enchanted world), nor the more careful Horst (Zauberbibliothek, the library of magic), to which, as well as to several other works on the same subject, I had flown for information, could resolve my doubts, but rather served to increase them. Not alone is the demoniacal character, which pervades nearly all these [...]"

The Amber Witch ["Maria Schweidler Die Bernsteinhexe."] Edited from a Defective Manuscript of Her Father Abraham Schweidler ... [or Rather Written] by W. Meinhold ... Translated from the German by E. A. Friedländer

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The Amber Witch; A Romance

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Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch. the Most Interesting Trial for Witchcraft Ever Known

The Amber Witch is a German novel published by Wilhelm Meinhold. The novel was originally published as a literary hoax which purported to be an actual 17th-century chronicle. The story is set during the Thirty Years' War. The purported author, Reverend Abraham Schweidler, almost loses his only child, Maria, to a plot by a rejected suitor, Sheriff Appellmann, who has accused Maria of practicing witchcraft. In this he was aided by an evil and jealous woman of the neighborhood. After a trial and under threat of the most dire torture, Maria, wholly innocent of the crime, confesses. While on her way to the stake, she is rescued by a courageous young nobleman who loves her and who exposes the evil plot against her.

Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch

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AMBER WITCH THE MOST INTERESTING TRIAL FOR WITCHCRAFT EVER KNOWN.

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Excerpt from Mary Schweidler, the Amber Witch: The Most Interesting Trial for Witchcraft Ever Known; Printed From an Imperfect Manuscript by Her Father Abraham Schweidler, the Pastor of Coserow, in the Island of Usedom Since he sprang from an ancient noble family, as he says on several occasions, it is possible that some particulars relating to the Schweidlers might be discovered in the family records of the seventeenth century which would give a clue to his native country; but I have sought for that name in all the sources of information accessible 'to me, in vain, and am led to suspect that our author, like many of his contemporaries, laid aside his nobility and changed his name when he took holy orders. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

The Amber Witch the Most Interesting Trial for Witchcraft Ever Known

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