



# **The Secret History of Lucifer: Evil Angel or the Secret of Life Itself?**

*Lynn Picknett*

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## **The Secret History of Lucifer: Evil Angel or the Secret of Life Itself?** Lynn Picknett

Who is Lucifer? For many of us Lucifer and Satan are alternative names for the embodiment of pure evil. The orthodox Christian view tells us that Prince Lucifer challenged God, fell from Heaven, tempted Eve, and created death and suffering. Then he became Satan, horned king of Hell, whose hatred for God's creation motivated his mission to drag the rest of us down with him. In this highly readable and well-researched account, Lynn Picknett explains that the horned Devil is merely a new incarnation of the old woodland deity Pan, while Lucifer was once a personification of the Morning Star, the planet Venus and its goddess. "He" was therefore originally "she," and a divine representation of love, beauty, and human warmth. Indeed, many ancient goddesses were known as Lucifera, or "Light-bringer." While thousands follow Lucifer in order to achieve earthly wealth and power, Picknett explains that such misguided behavior is far from true Lucifera principles. Picknett draws together ancient heretical Christian and Egyptological texts, the implications of abnormal psychology, and the "extreme possibilities" of certain barely understood human attributes to ask if humans actually created God and Lucifer, not merely as icons or metaphors but in a terrifying, literal way.

## **The Secret History of Lucifer: Evil Angel or the Secret of Life Itself? Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Secret History of Lucifer: Evil Angel or the Secret of Life Itself? for online ebook**

### **Sharon says**

Hmm, my version of the book didn't have anything about the "True Da Vinci" code which is just as well as I would have found that fairly non-intriguing. The book is pretty interesting but jumps around from point to barely connected point at an incredible rate. It's more of an introductory read than a thorough read. And yes, Lucifer is not evil. And neither are we.

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### **Marco says**

I picked up this book at a time when I was caught off-guard after reading the transcripts of a series of lectures by Rudolf Steiner, feeling confused about the concepts of Satan, Lucifer and Ahriman. Trusting its title, I thought this book would help clarifying them.

On this count I was wrong, and though I've got to admit it was an interesting and entertaining read, when I put it down I still couldn't tell the difference between any of the three fore-mentioned gentlemen... Lynn Picknett is not very helpful on that front, though she makes it clear Satan is the bad guy here, the sinister puppet-master behind the Catholic Church's Holy Inquisition and the witchhunts, which during nearly five centuries tracked down, tortured and exterminated hundreds of thousands of innocent people, especially women, in the name of God. She doesn't go as far as to openly saying that Lucifer is the good guy, but she implies it (she even sets the tone at the end of the book's introduction, with the line: 'Long live Lucifer, but to hell with Satan'). Fair enough, but the problem is, however, that she never really cares to explain who Lucifer is, therefore making the whole argument of the book quite confusing from the start.

The author, with the usual wit and extensive researching that characterize all her works, gives us a fluid, chronologic account of the dark, medieval times (pun intended) and the barbarities committed by the Church and the guardians of "morality", worldwide, to remain in power and in control of the masses. That's the lion's share of the book, introduced by some lengthy biblical considerations, debating the "official party line" about the fall of man, the story of Jesus and the Apostles, etc... It is then followed by a short mix of confused bits and pieces about freemasons, satanists, secret societies, black magicians and spiritists that don't really hold together...

As I said, it is an interesting book but its claims of telling the 'secret story of Lucifer' are really misleading; indeed, it hardly brushes a description of the 'Lightbearer', so if that's what you're looking for, you'll have to look elsewhere, I'm afraid...

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### **Wasabi says**

Fallen angels are more fun to think about than to seriously study.

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## **Zac says**

good read, a bit wordy about 2/3s in, but the collections of ancient text excerpts and stories of the inquisition really put into context the fanatacism of the time.

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## **Tim Pendry says**

I would read this as entertainment because it sure ain't coherent history. It is part of a peculiar genre that mixes an author's ideological commitment to seeing the world in a different and subversive way with elaborate and largely unsustainable claims about history.

This is a shame because the subversive intent is not a bad idea. Unfortunately, the technique of piling up notes from entirely separate incidents in history into a narrative with a weak evidential basis merely discredits the intent. The book offers some catharsis for the powerless (especially women) and no doubt is moderately profitable for the author but it is no call for action and little to understanding.

The central early claim of this potboiler appears to be that power struggles within the very early Christian Church were lost, by a sexually open spiritual tradition, to the sexually repressed Pauline Church. The original practice of Christ was a form of sexual spirituality led by St. John the Baptist who was nothing like the picture presented by the Church in subsequent centuries.

The book then meanders into the highways and byways of history until it ends with praise of Lucifer and a condemnation of those who dabble with the Satanic. This, of course, refers to Lucifer the Light-Bringer, who must definitely not be confused with Satan, positioned as the positive force behind science, sexual freedom, tolerance and the Enlightenment.

The meandering takes us from ancient times through the usual tales of ancient spirituality, Cathar-Templar suffering, witch-burning, John Dee and Edward Kelley (why? we ask, as we are reading it), masonic lore, gobbets from the history of spiritualism and, of course, Crowley and LaVey to become yet another chapter in the attempt to create an alternative historical reality. There is certainly no necessary connection between one tale and the next - or even between components within each narrative.

As entertainment this is all is amusing enough but as a factual basis for understanding history, forget it. A cursory reading of the useful Wikipedia entries on the persecution of 'witches' and the Inquisition, studied alongside the relevant chapter in the book, will tell you that it is not wholly reliable. The book is riddled with polemic, selective facts, lots of 'mays' and 'could it be thats', odd etymologies, conflation of events from different times and circumstances and extremely doubtful 'evidence' (though we have no doubt this is due to weak judgement rather than malice aforethought).

The claims about the Johannite tradition in the West and the 'secret' messages in the art of a subversive Leonardo Da Vinci may excite Dan Brown enthusiasts - and may even be 'true' up to a point - but they are not adequately evidenced or contextualised here.

We, who do believe that 'resistance' to elites and prevailing culture has been much more widespread in the

past than we have been allowed to believe, must, nevertheless, accept the fact that the victors write the history of past times. But, just because no evidence exists of our 'resistance proposition', this does not mean that we can make something up out of the gaps or make massive deductive leaps from what does exist.

The best approach is deep scepticism about all authorities' claims about the past rather than to make attempts to prove our own expectations. Better, perhaps we should decide not to make any claims for liberation in or on the past but just concentrate our demands on the present (our current condition) and on the future (how we believe we should be allowed to live our lives).

Yes, the book is footnoted. Yes, the authors have read widely. No, the sources are not considered contextually or critically. This is a shame because the passion in the polemic does hit its target sometimes.

The underlying message of the book is about the intrinsic evil of institutionalised religion in its effects on Western culture over nearly two thousand years (Picknett is not alone in this and a better book in this respect might be Reay Tannahill's 'Sex in History' also reviewed on this website). This proposition bears serious consideration in the year when the Church of Rome in Ireland finally was forced to admit not only that child abuse was rampant in its organisation but that successive prelates had covered it up deliberately in order to protect the reputation of their morally questionable institution.

There is a genuine and righteous anger in the book about how the human race can develop a collective will to malice, often manipulated by sick psychopaths under cover of religion. I like her for this. It makes her somewhat more worthy as passionate myth-spreader than the dry truth-telling academic who refuses to take a moral stand and who seeks to objectify us out of our anger by suggesting that 'that was then'. We must not look on past crimes as if they mean nothing in judging the conduct today of modern successor organisations, whether Crown or Church.

Picknett is also trying to make an important point about the sexual oppression of women (as a sex-positive feminist, no doubt) - not by men in general (as less sex-positive feminists try to do) but by the institutions of men who oppress all equally. Here, she is pushing at an open door with this reader.

It is quite possible that she will drive many women to righteous anger not only at 'authority' but at a culture that denies full female sexual expression - but what a shame that this matter cannot be argued on its merits based on a considered assessment of the facts rather than through a mythic narrative that is no more reliable than the nonsense perpetrated by her opponents. A war of myths is not what we need at this time in our history.

But, unless you just want an entertainment from within this now widely published genre (and, why not, if it whiles away a train journey or two without lasting harm), don't bother ... just say to yourself that you don't need to be told how to run your life by anyone and, if you are one of those people who like to spiritualise your sexuality, don't get angry about how people were treated in the past, just go do it today.

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## Jeff says

Lynn Picknet is still a little steamed at the sexest practices of the Vatican, but the book is still an excellent history of the oppression of ruling religions.

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## **Jeff says**

Teaches the history of the concept of Lucifer as enlightenment and spiritual evolution and how it was later perverted to be synonymous with Satan/devil by and for the benefit of established organized religions for control purposes. What/who we now think of as Lucifer was never defined that way historically until it was used to crush independent, exploratory thought and non-mainstream spiritual progression by way of instilling fear and confusion among laypeople.

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## **Antonio Meridda says**

Un libro molto intrigante.

La figura del diavolo analizzato non come "mostro e nemico" ma con il significato che dovrebbe avere. Lucifero, "portatore di luce" diventa poi "Satana". Il libro spiega come è accaduta questa metamorfosi.

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## **David says**

Perfectly tedious...and badly researched...and, oh yes, indifferently executed. I come to these oddities to be taken away from reality not for pseudo-academics. Grrrr. -\_-

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## **Paul says**

I'm not sure if I didn't like this book very much because it told me lots of information that I already knew or whether it was because it seemed like it was just an advert for all the other books she had written. It started off okay but there seemed to be no real thread linking all the chapters together or if there was a real link it was very vague. I expected much more from this book as I have read many of her other books. Very disappointed.

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## **Nina says**

I put this down after the author mentioned Dan Brown's The DaVinci Code numerous times through out the book. I thought I was going to read a book about Satan and the connection with the sacred feminine. I ended up reading a bunch of boring blather and fangirling over a book that wasn't all that compelling for me anyway.

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## **urbanaudiowarfare says**

let there be light

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## **Mary says**

As coherent history, look elsewhere, but as a reminder of the evil that lurks within man (without any help from the devil) and the need we have for a Promethean hero/deity, read on. Asking questions never hurts; unquestioning acceptance is the path to Hell.

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## **Sasha says**

I didn't realize that both books I selected from a second-hand bookshop in London were written by the same author (Lynn Picknett) until I finished "Mary Magdalene" and turn my attention to "Lucifer" - nothing against Picknett, but her books basically cover very much the same territory and she can't help but often going back to books she wrote previously, for example going into details of Da Vinci/Shroud of Turin mystery no matter does it have anything to do with the subject or not.

Its a pity publishers felt it was necessary to add bombastic "Meaning of the true Da Vinci code" below her title because it has nothing to do with the whole Dan Brown issue. Pickett is fun and she does cover lot of "mysteries" but here also lies a biggest fault in her writing - too often she simply meanders, jumping from one subject to another without explaining how and why these chapters are connected at all. At the very beginning she connects Lucifer with ancient pagan Gods like Pan, Satyrs and such (and occasionally she got me thinking there lies a grain of truth in all this) but before going any deeper, off she would go into another century and speeding like pinball ball here, there and anywhere. Yes it is entertaining read but not very deep or should I say, serious. She crammed brazilian spiritualists, witch hunt, John the Baptist, Leonardo Da Vinci and Aleister Crowley in one big mix that somehow feels unfinished, unsorted and unedited. Picknett sounds very likable as a person and no doubt she might be very nice dinner guest, but her writing is unfocused.

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## **Aisa says**

The meaning of the true Da Vinci Code ...

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