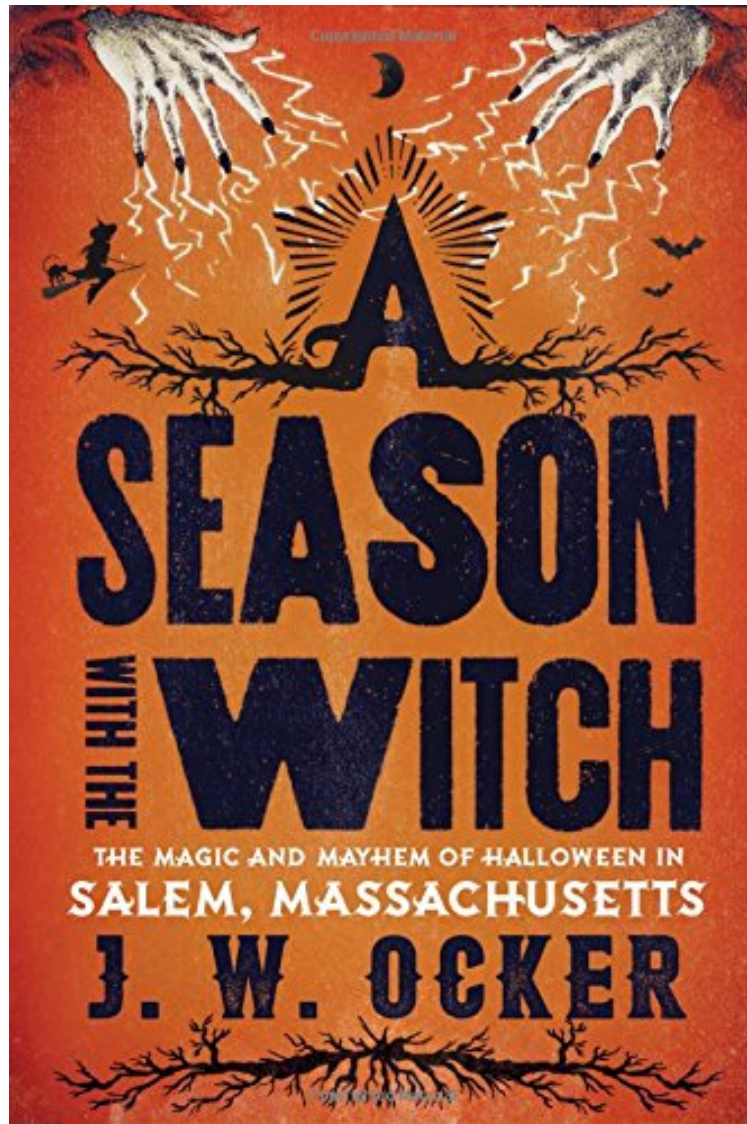


[Read free] A Season with the Witch: The Magic and Mayhem of Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts

## A Season with the Witch: The Magic and Mayhem of Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts

J. W. Ocker

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**J. W. Ocker : A Season with the Witch: The Magic and Mayhem of Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Season with the Witch: The Magic and Mayhem of Halloween in Salem, Massachusetts:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a fun book I think for anyone who has ever been ...By Debbie This is a fun book I think for anyone who has ever been to Salem. I was there 30 years ago with my son, who at

the time was 6 yrs old. We stayed at the Hawthorne Hotel, which has since been beautifully renovated. Our room was a narrow tight affair with two ancient twin beds, a nightstand, dresser with t.v. on top and a window (thank god for the window). The room we had was most definitely haunted and unnerving to stay in. We went to Salem in September after the summer crowds by design and the place was mellow and quiet. 30 years later, and after reading Ocker's book, I assume it would be much different now. I have great memories of Salem. Thank you Mr. Ocker for writing a fun book to bring me back to Salem. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An amazing book!!!! A must read!! By Melissa Dodd I absolutely love this book, as with all of Ocker's books, he makes the reader feel like they are seeing Salem through his eyes. This book is a must read. Ocker is my most favorite author! If I could give this book and Ocker more stars I would. J.W. U ROCK!!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful read - part history By Diane Stanley A wonderful read - part history, tour guide, thoughtful commentary on Salem today, all mixed in with Ocker's great sense of humor. I'm looking forward to reading his other work. Just loved it!!

Edgar Award-winning travel writer spends an autumn living in one of America's spookiest tourist destinations: Salem, Massachusetts. Salem, Massachusetts, may be the strangest city on the planet. A single event in its 400 years of history the Salem Witch Trials of 1692 transformed it into the Capital of Creepy in America. But Salem is a seasonal town and its season happens to be Halloween. Every October, this small city of 40,000 swells to more than a quarter million as witches, goblins, ghouls, and ghosts (and their admirers) descend on Essex Street. For the fall of 2015, occult enthusiast and Edgar Award-winning writer J.W. Ocker moved his family of four to downtown Salem to experience firsthand a season with the witch, visiting all of its historical sites and macabre attractions. In between, he interviews its leaders and citizens, its entrepreneurs and visitors, its street performers and Wiccans, its psychics and critics, creating a picture of this unique place and the people who revel in, or merely weather, its witchiness. 25 b/w photographs

[A] lively chronicle part travel guide, part history lesson Ocker moves easily among the archivists, historians, and performers he interviews, and he describes the carnival atmosphere that descends upon Witch City with enthusiasm and vividness. - Publisher's Weekly (starred review) What better place to celebrate Halloween than Salem, Massachusetts? Festivities begin with a parade on October 1 and end with Halloween parties and costumed celebrations on October 31. In between, Ocker, a travel writer with an Edgar Award, and family stay the entire month, exploring Salem's many attractions. Although the witch trials in 1692 only lasted for nine months, Salem has been branded Witch City, overshadowing its maritime history. Ocker samples everything: cemeteries, museums, gift shops, performances, wax museums, and more. He talks to street performers and street preachers as he tries to understand the appeals of the city. He interviews curators, haunters, costumed tour guides, a policeman, the mayor, and cemetery caretakers. Ocker devotes whole chapters to real witches, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and TV shows and movies set in Salem. His comic asides lighten the details of haunted houses, hangings, and hysteria without disrespecting the history. The result is a fresh, fun glimpse of a town that has come to grips with its sordid history and prospered. Armchair travelers will enjoy the trip. - Booklist An entertaining and historical guide to the varied sites of Salem, with Ocker interviewing everyone from the mayor to local archivists to men in scary costumes, covering burial sites of witch trial judges, and perhaps the most awesome Halloween street party ever described in print, with Ocker's good humor and touch of sarcasm marking his readable style. - Library Journal About the Author J. W. Ocker is the Edgar Award-winning author of *Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe*. He runs the website *OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen* ([Oddthingsiveseen.com](http://Oddthingsiveseen.com)), where he chronicles his visits to various oddities of culture, art, nature, and history. His first two books, *The New England Grimpendium* and *The New York Grimpendium* are personal travelogues of his visits to deathly sites in those regions. Both won Lowell Thomas Awards from the Society of American Travel Writers. His work has appeared in *Rue Morgue Magazine*, *The Boston Globe*, *CNN*, *The Atlantic*, and other places people stick writing. He's from Maryland, but has lived in New Hampshire since 2008.