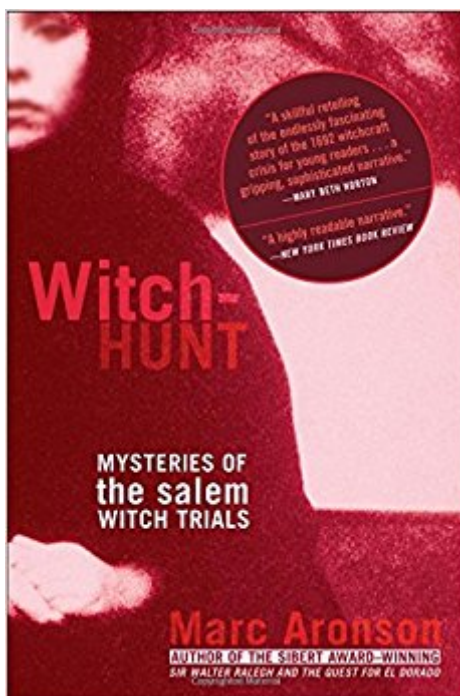


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# Witch-Hunt: Mysteries Of The Salem Witch Trials



## Synopsis

Salem, Massachusetts, 1692. In a plain meetinghouse a woman stands before her judges. The accusers, girls and young women, are fervent and overexcited. The accused is a poor, unpopular woman who had her first child before she was married. As the trial proceeds the girls begin to wail, tear their clothing, and scream that the woman is hurting them. Some of them expose wounds to the horrified onlookers, holding out the pins that have stabbed them -- pins that appeared as if by magic. Are they acting or are they really tormented by an unseen evil? Whatever the cause, the nightmare has begun: The witch trials will eventually claim twenty-five lives, shatter the community, and forever shape the American social conscience.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

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Revolutionary #1677 in Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-Aronson has produced a legitimate piece of original scholarship that is at the same time an interesting narrative. Examining the events in the Massachusetts of 1692, and immediately discounting much of what readers may already know about the trials, he answers some of the questions they will bring, but raises even more. In the brilliant introduction, the author actively encourages the rethinking of past notions of the events leading up to the accusations and hearings. He sets straight the issue of Tituba's ethnicity, the motives and means of Cotton Mather and his

colleagues, and the societal contexts and compulsions of the accusers. These participants are introduced and preliminary events are related, all culminating in the hearings. At this point, some readers may get bogged down in respectable yet monotonous he-said-she-said, while others may feel the copious direct quotes from primary sources are just right. Writing with an unabashed political bent, Aronson draws intrepid parallels between Salem and post-September 11th society (as well as the 1960s), and alternately charming and shocking connections between the 400-year-old participants and classic folk- and fairy-tale characters. In the charge to form one's own deduction about what happened and why, this bold book cautions that while readers' interpretations will vary and are valid, conclusions may not even be possible. Andrew Medlar, Chicago Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 9-up. Was it pagan faith or a trick gone bad? A devious teenager's power play or a rebellion against the strictures of a rigid religious community? Aronson shows off both his talent for historical interpretation and his facility as a nonfiction writer as he reconstructs events surrounding the witch trials of 1692. He isn't shy about injecting his own voice in the mix; he often speaks directly to readers, putting the history into a context that sharp teens can grasp and encouraging them to think about how the events connect to their lives and to contemporary culture and politics. To enrich and clarify the history, he quotes from an extraordinary, well-documented array of sources and recorded testimonies (of accused and accuser alike), producing a dense, wide-angle view of the tragedy that evaluates causative theories ranging from deceit and outright fraud to spoiled food that caused hallucinations. The subject will undoubtedly attract readers, but this is not for those in search of spoon-fed fact; rather, it's for teens who love to debate and to dig into what's between the pages of their history books. Stephanie Zvirin Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book and easy read!

This book presents a good overview of what went on in Salem in 1692. Although we may never know exactly the details of why and how this ugly part of our history occurred, we can be sure that it would not have occurred had not a large part of the population been convinced that supernatural beings actually exist and are capable of influencing what goes in the natural world.

I ordered this book to use as the central text in a unit on the Salem Witch Trials and Nonfiction. It's a wonderful, compelling read that is sure to capture my students' attention. This book is also packed with information; I learned more than I could ever want to know about the Salem Witch Trials. A truly fabulous read!

Witches in Salem? This impelling book by Marc Aronson is about the 1692 Salmen, MA, witch trials. This is an interesting and good read. Wish I had read in when I was in school and studying early America.

If the title or subject appeal to you at all, you'll probably like this book. I know it's geared toward a younger crowd, but I read it in my early thirties and loved it. Very interesting and engaging description of what may really have brought about the Salem Witch Trials.

I loved this book. I ordered it for an informational book evaluation I was writing for my Youth Literature class, and I read it in, like, two days. It's easy to understand, thought provoking, and of course, just the right amount of creepy to be entertaining as well as informative.

One of the better sources that I have found although sometimes lacking in sufficient supporting detail.

This is a great book, kept me interested all the way through. Easy to read because I was so engaged!

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