

**4 Quick Qs: Book Talk With Enfys Transcript**  
**Thorn Mooney: Recorded April 8, 2023**

Enfys J. Book: It's like best scholastic book fair ever.

Thorn Mooney: Yes.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah.

Thorn Mooney: Yeah. Because it's all of the scary stuff that your mom wouldn't let you buy.

Enfys J. Book: Exactly.

Enfys J. Book: Hey friends, this is Enfys J Book.

Before we dive into this interview with Thorn Mooney, I wanted to let you know this episode's going to sound a little different because it was recorded at Sacred Space/ Between the Worlds with a new video and audio setup.

I've done the best I can to make it as clean as possible, but I'm still learning.

So apologies for any imperfections.

With that said, the good news is that you can see this episode in video form on YouTube.

And now back to the show.

Enfys J. Book: Hi there and welcome to 4 Quick Q's: Book Talk with Enfys.

I'm Enfys Book from majorarqueerna.com and this is the fun little show where I interview pagan authors by rolling a dice to choose the questions.

With me today, I'm super excited to introduce you to Thorn Mooney.

Enfys J. Book: Hello.

Thorn Mooney: Hi.

Enfys J. Book: Thorn Mooney is a witch of more than 20 years and the high priestess of Foxfire, a traditional gardenerian coven thriving in the American South.

She holds a graduate degrees in religious studies and English literature and has worked as a writer and a tarot reader.

Thorn maintains a longstanding YouTube channel and has been blogging about witchcraft and the occult for more than a decade.

She's also a regular at pagan festivals throughout the United States.

And this is her latest book, which is *The Witch's Path: Advancing Your Craft at Every Level*.

Thorn Mooney: Yay.

Enfys J. Book: Welcome.

Thorn Mooney: Thank you.

Enfys J. Book: Having taken your class on this yesterday – we're recording at the Sacred Space/Between the Worlds Conference 2023 –I can say based on that class alone, I'm going to love this book.

Thorn Mooney: I hope so.

Enfys J. Book: It's such a helpful and useful class for visioning, you know, where I want to go as a witch and what it's going to take to get there.

So is the book much the same, I'm assuming?

Thorn Mooney: Yeah, my emphasis is definitely a pragmatic one. I feel like there's a lot of folks out there writing about the magical, the spiritual, the esoteric. This is much more, "But have you cleaned your room?"

Enfys J. Book: Right.

Thorn Mooney: "Do you know how to discern a good book?" Like, that's a little bit more my vibe.

Enfys J. Book: Awesome. I'm really looking forward to it. All the Virgo in my chart is saying "yes" to that.

Thorn Mooney: Great.

Enfys J. Book: Have you ever been interviewed by a dice before?

Thorn Mooney: ...What if I said yes?

Enfys J. Book: Then I want to know all about that.

Thorn Mooney: I haven't.

Enfys J. Book: Hey, you know, I've been surprised before.

So what would you like to name our dice for the purposes of this interview?

Thorn Mooney: I am a little bit of a traditional girly and in the honor of Holy Week, let's name it John.

Enfys J. Book: John. All right.

Hey, John, what's our first question going to be?

Looks like it's question number nine.

How would you describe your current spiritual path in a sentence?

Thorn Mooney: ...Somebody please send help.

Enfys J. Book: laughs

Thorn Mooney: ...And that's all. No context.

Enfys J. Book: That's a big vibe for 2020.

Thorn Mooney: Right?

It's a...can I have a semicolon?

Enfys J. Book: Yes, of course.

Thorn Mooney: Everything is really hard, Semicolon; And we're all just trying to figure it out.

Enfys J. Book: Truer words never spoken, my friend. Amazing.

All right, John. Question number two is our writing question.

...That is number five.

If you had a megaphone to broadcast a one sentence message about your favorite subject matter to the whole world, what would it be?

Thorn Mooney: ...So nerdy!

Enfys J. Book: I'm a nerd!

Thorn Mooney: I feel like Emile Durkheim's sociological theories are still really useful in pagan spaces.

Sometimes I feel like we're so interested in new stuff that there's a lot we can learn from old stuff that we just don't read or don't think about or have been told is too hard for us to understand.

And there are so many things out there.

And I found valuable things in places that are surprising.

And I think all of us could potentially do that in whatever we're passionate about.

Enfys J. Book: So tell me more about Emile.

Thorn Mooney: No. laughs So I do...I'm an ethnographer, like by training, and I do ethnographic work of evangelical groups and particularly megachurches.

And Emile Durkheim has a lot of really useful things to say about how people in social groups behave. He's been called the father of sociology.

And he has a lot to say about the differences between magic and religion, which are really terrible, actually, but still kind of fun to play with.

But the way he talks about how we interact in groups, I've obviously found useful in my church work, but it's kind of fun to play with in pagan spaces too, right?

Is collective effervescence, this idea of a shared kind of emoted energy that unites us as a group, like, is that magic? Do we think of it as magic?

I just think it's really fun to play with.

Enfys J. Book: Sounds amazing.

All right.

So question three is the one that's, like, other professional pagan questions.

So...highest roll yet, 19.

That is, what is the most challenging part about teaching?

Thorn Mooney: ...People.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah.

Thorn Mooney: I am deeply introverted, like deeply introverted. And I don't think that that's visible to a lot of people. And so I need to do a lot of, like, mental prep. I don't do well with, like, time changes, and "you get this room now." And it's not because I'm a diva. It's because I've like rehearsed the thing in my head for so much that when there are changes, I have to like renegotiate the plan in my head. And after I've led a workshop or a ritual or whatever, the thing is I need some serious downtime.

And I'm constantly telling people, I love you, but I can't say words. I have to eat.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah.

Thorn Mooney: Right. Or, like, I need to go be in a dark space right now, but you're great.

Enfys J. Book: And you're very good at doing that. I think the first words you said to me were, "I love you. I just need to eat right now." And that's totally fine because I absolutely understand that urge.

Thorn Mooney: So awesome.

Enfys J. Book: All right. Well, random encounter. Why don't you roll this one for us? Roll the two and we'll see. This is our random encounter question.

Jingle: Random encounter question!

Enfys J. Book: One and 10.

What is something odd someone did for you once that cheered you up unexpectedly?

Thorn Mooney: ...I don't know.

...Cheered me up unexpectedly?

I do so much mental planning. I don't know how much is unexpected. It's all very rehearsed.

...Markus Ironwood, who is, he's a publicist at Llewellyn and he's out in the community. He's run magical bookshops. He's a great person.

But he will periodically send me books or tell me stories about other things in the community.

And it's a small thing.

He's a publicist.

So like, sure, it's his job.

But like, I'm not exactly an influencer.

He still includes me.

And it's, it makes my month every time I get a package from Markus.

Enfys J. Book: Big mood. Big same. Yeah.

I basically, the first time I got a box of books from Markus, I kind of laid them out all on the floor and just sort of went, like, covered myself in the books for a minute because it's just so good.

Thorn Mooney: Well, I remember being like, wee and not being able to afford Llewellyn books.

And I don't know, like, you go to the library, and maybe you can get a Time-Life...something, something.

And now like, I just have books delivered to me that I didn't even ask for.

Enfys J. Book: Yes, it's like best Scholastic Book Fair ever.

Thorn Mooney: Yes.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah.

Thorn Mooney: Yeah.

Because it's all of the scary stuff that your mom wouldn't let you buy.

Enfys J. Book: Exactly.

It's free.

Books are amazing.

...Had another thought on that.

I'm trying to remember what it was. ...No, it's flown out of my head.

So that is the 4 Quick Q's.

Thorn, tell us what you are most excited to tell our audience about today.

Thorn Mooney: Um, what am I excited about?

I know that social media life is kind of uniquely terrible in this particular moment in this year.

And I'm really excited to connect in meatspace communities like this particular festival we're at right now has been a long time coming.

It's been put off for several years.

And I forget or have forgotten.

I love the internet.

I'm big on social media, like, it's great.

But I forget sometimes how different it is.

And it's so easy to think that they're just expressions of the same thing or whatever, like, there really are some stark differences that I think it's not like a better than necessarily, but it's really wonderful to have the reminder that just because TikTok gets banned or Instagram is now evil, whatever, like, you know, Twitter is dead to us.

We can still find other ways to connect.

And we're just going to find more ways.

So that's really, I love that.

Enfys J. Book: And I'm just going to say during your class yesterday, which was very interactive, which I appreciate it.

There was a lot of, "Hey, a lot of you are probably here trying to meet your new which besties, we're going to facilitate that, so everyone get up, move to, you know, find someone you don't know. And just real quick, tell them like, name where you're from. And like one thing about what your path is like." And that was super fun. And I'm like, Yeah, why don't I do more of that?

If these events you just sort of get in here, get your blinders up, focused on these are the things I must do with this event.

Thorn Mooney: Yeah, can you tell I was a classroom teacher?

Enfys J. Book: Yes, yes, I absolutely.

And especially when you do the claps to get our attention with the rhythm, which I'm not going to do to blow out my mic right now.

Thorn Mooney: It works on the little ones.

It works on grownups with magic powers.

Enfys J. Book: Absolutely.

Well, and also let's tell folks about your book, which we talked about at the beginning, but reminder to check it out.

The Witch's Path: Advancing Your Craft at Every Level from Llewellyn came out 2021.

Thorn Mooney: Yep, working on working on a new one now, but I'm really proud of this one just because it is so ruthlessly pragmatic.

If you've been feeling bored or burnt out or overwhelmed, it's got real stuff that you can do right now.

It's not I mean, like rituals and spells...and that kind of stuff is great.

But I think there's a pragmatic element that we often don't talk about.

Yeah, this is for that.

And I think it's applicable for all types of practitioners at all levels.

Enfys J. Book: And you are also a co-author on the Taurus Witch coming out as well. Is that coming out in the next couple of months?

Thorn Mooney: Yes, that's coming out this summer.

Enfys J. Book: Awesome.

Thorn Mooney: One of the J months. I don't remember. It's going to be really fun. It's the Taurus volume.

And again, it was funny when I was asked to participate in the series.

Ivo Dominguez Jr. and I were talking and he was telling me about this idea he had and what he wanted to work on.

And I was like, "well, I'm not really not really an astrology girly. Like, I use it, But I'm not I'm not one of those folks who would necessarily associate with astrology. And like, you know, my like, my advice would be like really pragmatic and really practical." And he was like, "Thorn, that is the most Taurus thing I've ever heard. Shut up and please write this." I was like, "Oh, yeah."

Enfys J. Book: So I'm super excited to read it as well. That whole Sun Sign series that Llewellyn is doing is, I think, kind of genius.

And the fact that they have so many different contributors.

It's like, for those who haven't learned about this, Ivo Dominguez Jr. is the main writer on the whole series.

But then there is a secondary author who will write, who is a witch of that particular Sun Sign who will write about their experience being that Sun Sign.

And then there's additional contributors who added like spells and recipes and things like that, who are also of that Sun Sign.

So I think it's going to be one of those series that really endures over time.

Thorn Mooney: I think so.

Enfys J. Book: And it's going to be a lot of fun.

Thorn Mooney: I'm really excited about it.



Enfys J. Book: Well, thank you so much for joining us here on 4 Quick Q's: Book Chat with... Book Talk with Enfys.

Boy. I renamed the show there for a second.

If you really enjoyed this episode, please do the thing and like and subscribe and leave a review on your podcast app of choice.

You can check out more content from me at [majorarqueerna.com](http://majorarqueerna.com) which is spelled m a j o r a r q u e e r n a dot com.

Whatever time it is where you are, have a fantastic day and may the dice of fate roll well for you.

Jingle: Thanks for listening to 4 Quick Q's.

Enfys J. Book: This is Enfys J. Book again.

Tune in next time when you'll hear author Diana Rajchel say:

Diana Rajchel: ...And my timer went off. And I stood up thinking, "be nice, be nice." And what came out of my mouth was "Gentlemen, kindly get the fuck out of my room."

Enfys J. Book: laughs

Jingle reprise