

4 Quick Qs: Book Talk With Enfys Transcript

Devin Hunter: Recorded April 6, 2023

Devin Hunter: Oh, you have no idea how weird this question is.

Jingle: Take a playful look with Enfys Book as they roll for crit hits with pagan wordsmiths.

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

Before we dive into this interview with Devin Hunter, I wanted to let you know that, once again, this episode is going to sound a little different because it was recorded at Sacred Space/Between the Worlds with a new A/V 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.

Hello and welcome to 4 Quick Q's Book Talk with Enfys.

I'm Enfys Book, and this is the show where I ask pagan authors 4 quick questions based on the roll of a dice.

I'm happy to have with me here today Devin Hunter, who is absolutely fantastic, and his latest book is *Crystal Magic for the Modern Witch*.

Here's a little bit about Devin.

Devin Hunter is the best-selling author of *The Witch's Book of Power*, *The Witch's Book of Spirits*, *The Witch's Book of Mysteries*, and the critically acclaimed, award-winning *Modern Witch*.

Initiated into multiple occult orders, Devin is the founder of the Sacred Fires tradition of witchcraft and co-founder of the Black Rose tradition of witchcraft.

He hosts the *Modern Witch* podcast and is co-owner of Datura Trading Company.

Learn more at modernwitch.com.

Hey, I'm so glad you're here.

And we're sweating our butts off here at Sacred Space Conference slash Between the Worlds because the HVAC is broken.

Devin Hunter: It's so hot.

Enfys J. Book: It is really hot.

So we are extra sweaty and extra sensual today.

So have you ever been interviewed by a dice before?

Devin Hunter: I have not been interviewed by a dice before, but it is definitely something that was on my bucket list.

Enfys J. Book: Oh, good. Perfect.

So today we have, you have chosen the extra spangly, sparkly rainbow dice.

Devin Hunter: Yes.

Enfys J. Book: And what would you like to name our dice today?

Devin Hunter: So the dice is named Rachel, and that is after Rachel Barrett, who was the voice of all things Star Trek up until the new run of things.

And also the voice of the computer.

And of course was the wife of Gene Roddenberry.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah. Awesome. Yeah, the DC Metro has a voice very similar to hers. I think it's very interesting.

Devin Hunter: Yeah, I don't think it's an accent.

Enfys J. Book: It's a great voice.

And happy day-after-First-Contact-Day, as we are filming this.

Devin Hunter: I know.

That's exactly.

Yes.

Enfys J. Book: Absolutely.

Awesome.

All right.

So we've got four quick questions chosen by the dice.

Let's go and see what the first one is.

The first one's category is spirituality.

All right.

Lucky 13 to start off.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Devin Hunter: Very much believe in ghosts.

Yes.

So I was a professional medium for 16 years.

I think 16 years and up until the pandemic actually is when I finally like retired the hat, you know, but I very much believe in ghosts.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah.

Devin Hunter: My entire occult world, I think, starts with some really scary ghost stories, actually, from when I was a kid.

Enfys J. Book: Interesting. I used to live in a haunted dorm room.

Devin Hunter: So haunted spaces, living in haunted spaces is weird.

Enfys J. Book: It is.

It adds some unpredictability to your life.

Devin Hunter: That is for sure.

Enfys J. Book: Right. Rachel, what is our next question?

Six.

This is the writing question.

You're going to love this one.

What's your best organization tip for writers?

Devin Hunter: Organization tip for writers.

Oh, this is hard.

I think we're just talking about being very scattered.

Anybody who knows me knows that I am not an organized anything, let alone an organized writer.

I will actually say that I...OK. So if you write in drafts, like if you're a drafter, I have taken to referring to my drafts as like a beta draft, an alpha draft.

And then I have an omega draft and the omega draft is what gets published.

OK. But so my draft, when I'm ready, which would be like a first or second, like when you're ready to show people.

That's the beta draft.

And then my alpha draft is once it's been edited and people have like mucked with it a little bit.

And then the final is the omega.

The omega is always.

Enfys J. Book: Do you end up with file names like "omega," "omega-omega," "really omega"? This one after you make a million little things.

Devin Hunter: So it's omega A, omega B.

Enfys J. Book: And so, yeah, I was I did some graphic design in my day and I can't tell you how many Photoshop files I have that are called like "Final final no REALLY final."

Devin Hunter: Yeah.

Well, and that's the thing is because I kept saying like draft one or draft two.

But then eventually you have all of these draft things.

And if you just look up drafts like on your...it's a whole thing.

So I just started using that and it works out really well.

And I think my editor finds it cute.

Enfys J. Book: So I put dates on them. That's the thing I have to do. It's like it's the most recent one.

Devin Hunter: ADHD and dates.

Enfys J. Book: No, I hear you. Yeah. Yeah.

All right.

Rachel, question number three is what I'm calling extracurriculars.

So this is not-writing-specific professional pagan stuff.

So 14. 13 and then a 14.

All right.

14.

What is the most surprising thing somebody has said about your book or books?

Devin Hunter: Well, I had a guy start a cult off of one of my books.

Yeah.

So I guess that would be it.

Enfys J. Book: Neat.

Devin Hunter: I don't know what he says because I'm not part of his cult.

But yeah, so he started a....So I have a book called The Witches Book of Spirits. Check it out. And he was moved by some of the spirits that I channeled. And that book, it's very it's very cool. It's very grimoire. And he developed his own relationship with them.

And then I Googled – because, you know, you Google your name and you Google things that you wrote.

And it came up one day and I was like, there's no way this is real.

And then there was a Facebook page and there was a whole thing.

And that was weird because I, because I'm so anti, like, I'm not anti-religion, but I'm anti, like, cults and anti that kind of thing.

Enfys J. Book: Right.

Devin Hunter: And so and I have a tradition, but we're really set up for people to be solitary.

So it's just this it was really weird.

And so I had a whole moment.

But I also realized like, well, you write something, you put it out there to some extent, especially when you're talking about spirits and things like that.

Like, I can't control what relationship this person has with that stuff.

And...and in some way, it's actually kind of freaking cool.

I'm, really, you know, really moved by it.

Enfys J. Book: Yeah. Just as long as there's no Kool-Aid, is my only thing.

Devin Hunter: I don't know enough about it. I just know that it exists.

And then the guy who did the audiobook version, the voiceover for the audio book, found it on his own.

And then he messaged me: "How do you feel about it?"

I was like, "I can't do anything about it."

I can't send them a cease and desist letter or anything.

So, yeah, I'd say that'd be the weirdest thing.

Enfys J. Book: OK. So our last question on the season of 4 Quick Q's is the random encounter table.

Jingle: Random encounter question!

Enfys J. Book: So anyone who plays D&D knows this involves two dice.

In this case, we're going to roll Rachel, but also I don't have a name yet for our little D4 here.

So we're going to roll them both at the same time.

And this question could be almost anything.

So let's see what they give us.

That's a one and a seven.

So let's see.

One and seven.

Devin Hunter: I'm liking my numbers.

Enfys J. Book: You've got great numbers.

Devin Hunter: Good numbers.

Enfys J. Book: What does it mean to be human?

Devin Hunter: Oh, you have no idea how weird this question is.

And I'm writing science fiction right now.

Enfys J. Book: Oh, nice.

Devin Hunter: Yeah. And I just finished a novel where I have a sentient android, essentially.

And so that whole discussion has been a part of my mind, on my mind for months now.

Because, of course, that's a big thing.

Enfys J. Book: Right.

Devin Hunter: So I think what makes someone human, aside from I think there's, you know, we have a human genome.

I think we can start with that.

But I think beyond that, I think there's some really cool traits that make us unique and special.

I think our curiosity about the universe makes us unique and special.

I think that's part of our sentience and part of our divine nature.

So I think that sets us apart more than a lot of other things, that we can look up and we can ask "why?"

And I think people who are on a spiritual journey tend to be invested in those same questions and those same answers.

Enfys J. Book: Right.

Devin Hunter: Whether we're finding them science or we're finding them through our gods or however you want to work with it.

So I think that makes us, I think that's it.

I think that's the thing.

Enfys J. Book: Awesome. I had to write a paper kind of similar to this in college.

Devin Hunter: I would love to read it.

Enfys J. Book: Oh, I have it somewhere. It's basically, "at what point does an artificially intelligent life form deserve rights?"

Devin Hunter: I love it.

Enfys J. Book: I can tell you the thesis of the paper is just one line. "It's when it asks for them."

Devin Hunter: That's.

Enfys J. Book: So, yeah.

Devin Hunter: Yes.

Yes.

Enfys J. Book: The short version. I can't claim credit. The guy I interviewed told me about that.

Devin Hunter: Yes. That's so simple. That's powerful. Yeah.

Enfys J. Book: I just realized we made it through this entire interview without me turning on the actual light I brought, which would have made better light.

Devin Hunter: It's okay.

Enfys J. Book: I'll clean it up in post.

All right.

Well, thanks so much for being here.

Why don't you tell us about this book or anything else that you are super excited to talk about right now?

Devin Hunter: Yeah. Yeah. Buy my book! This is Crystal Magic for the Modern Witch.

Modern Witch is a project is something I started 13 years ago. You can go to modernwitch.com.

There's a podcast. We're on our 10th season.

I did a magazine. You can find it...you can still find copies of it out there.

And then I was able to start writing specifically for that community of people in that project.

And so last book for this was just Modern Witch, as well as recipes workings.

And this is the follow up, and they're all my artwork.

So it's my photography, my sigils, my doodles, all of the things that when I sit down to be magical, it's there.

I am very artsy guy.

So yeah.

So I would say if you like picture books and you like to show off things and you just want to have a book on your coffee table and have your witchy friends come over and be like, what is that? Totally get my books.

Enfys J. Book: It's the most visually exciting witch book I've seen in some time.

Devin Hunter: Thank you! So that was my goal because I felt like when we were kids, there were these DK books, DK science books.

And you go through and there were all these really beautiful photos.

And I would think to myself, "I want to do that witchcraft one day," when I was a little, little, little witchie.

And so I actually...this was the last book, Modern Witch.

And this being combined...I pitched this to Llewellyn first back before I started my first writing. And they were like, "This is going to be a really big project. And we don't know that you're going to do it," basically. "We don't know who you are." So they, politely, were like, "Let's wait." And so I wrote the Witch Power series instead first. But this was always the dream. And so it's been really cool to have it published and have it out there right now.

Enfys J. Book: Congratulations! So thank you all out there for watching or listening. Tell us where we can find you online.

Devin Hunter: ModernWitch.com. That's so easy.

Enfys J. Book: I love it.

Devin Hunter: I love it too. It took a long time to get that domain.

Enfys J. Book: I bet.

Well, thank you all for listening to my weird, nerdy little dice interview show.

If you enjoyed this episode of 4 Quick Q's: Book Talk with Enfys, be sure to like, subscribe, leave a review on your podcast app of choice.

Devin Hunter: Subscribe.

Enfys J. Book: You can check out more content from me at majorarqueerna.com.

That's M-A-J-O-R-A-R-Q-U-E-E-R-N-A dot com.

And 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 J.R. Mascaro say:

J.R. Mascaro: They actually have to sit through my lecture, because I'm going to deliver the whole thing.

Enfys J. Book: There is no "skip to next chapter."

J.R. Mascaro: Exactly.

Jingle outro