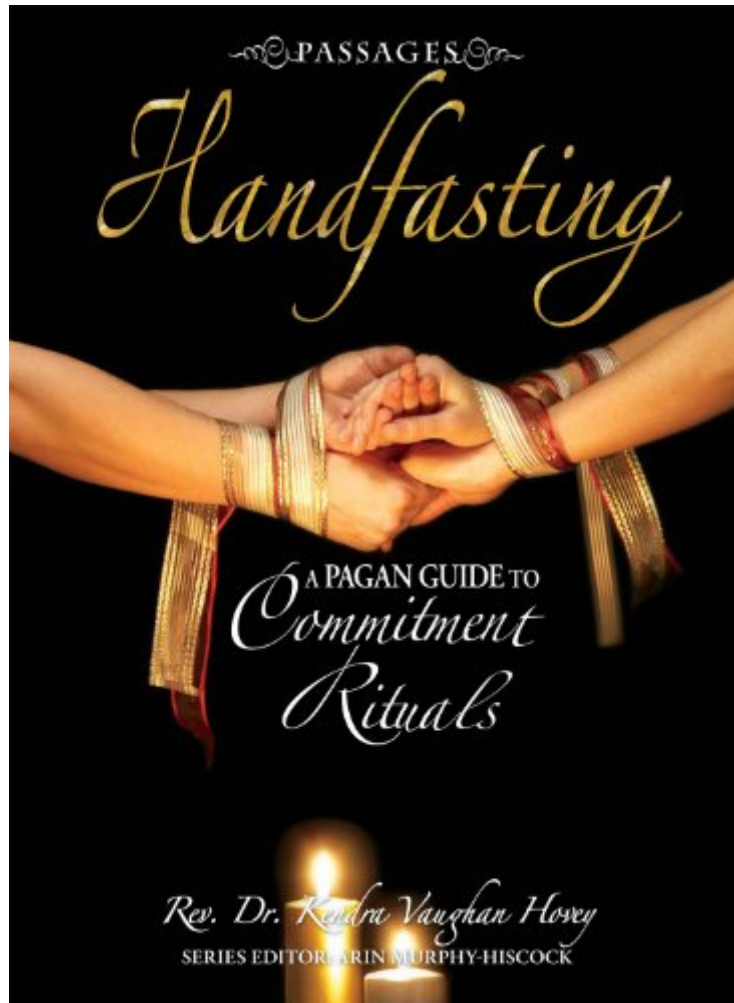


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# Passages Handfasting: A Pagan Guide To Commitment Rituals



## Synopsis

The day you exchange vows with the person you love is one of the most important days of your life. What better way to celebrate your commitment to one another than with handfasting-the blessed marriage rite in which the hands of you and your beloved are wrapped in ribbon as you "tie the knot." This symbolic binding together of your two loving souls is a timeless way to begin life's journey together. In this first book of the groundbreaking Passages series, Rev. Dr. Kendra Vaughan Hovey reveals the history behind the ritual. She clearly describes everything you need to plan your own ceremony, including how to: Find the right practice for you Select flowers and herbs-and discover their meanings Follow recipes and spells for incense and oils Write invocations and vows Integrate Pagan and non-Pagan traditions Choose the right officiant With this magickal guide, you'll create a ceremony that not only reflects your devotion to one another but also ensures a lifetime of happiness!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just finished reading Rev. Dr. Kendra's book on the way to work this morning. Wow!! Now I want to

plan a handfasting!! I should probably start by saying that I am single, and there is very little chance of me being handfasted in the near future. Generally, books on marriage/handfasting do nothing for the single person (and arguably, rightly so), but this book was different. There were bits and pieces I could extract and apply to my own life, even though I am not currently in a relationship, which I believe makes this book a rare treasure. I loved to flow of the book. There was a lot of information in there, but it wasn't overwhelming. I also loved all of the historical tidbits for each of the traditions as well as the metaphysical meanings behind everything. The one that particular struck me was the Samhain themed wedding....I could literally visualized it down to the smallest detail! I consider this book to be a major asset in my metaphysical library. Kudos!!

Admittedly I did not see the cataloging information on the back cover of this book or I would have know it is a Wicca/ New Age book. However. I found much of it to be more so about the religious practices of the author herself rather than a book about planning a commitment ritual. Much of the information is creepily Christian-like such as her description of a typical pre-meal prayer to the "God and Goddess" that occurs nightly at her house. Not really my speed.... Some parts sound like bible passages where she has simply added "Goddess" and some natural words to make it more pagan. I am sure there are plenty of folk who are comfortable with that, I am just not one of them. The book seems to wander away from directly wedding/handfasting/commitment related topics and delve more into general Wiccan practices and some preachy bits about the Rule of Three. All that aside I did find it to be a useful book in terms of references. Quick guide to different gods and goddesses, flowers, oils, etc. I would not buy again but the book isn't a total loss as it contains some things that are not included in some of the other books I have on the subject. Overall I would not recommend this book to someone trying to plan their first handfasting. It is far to narrow and for someone who is not experienced in that type of ritual it is far too "one size fits all" I found "Handfasting and Wedding Rituals: Welcoming Hera's Blessing" by: Raven Kaldera, Tannin Schwartzstein to be FAR more helpful for planning and more inclusive of non-traditional ritual for same sex couples, transgender couples, etc. Not that a Wiccan perspective on Handfasting is wrong, but Handfasting and Wedding Rituals just included a much broader scope of ideas that I think would be more useful for clergy as a reference book due to the wide array of pagans they might be asked to join.

This is a gentle introduction to handfasting for someone who's unfamiliar with common rituals. It contains a lot of ideas to introduce some witchy/pagan aspects to a wedding where non-pagans who aren't quite accepting will attend. If you're freer to design the ritual you want, this will set up the

organization of the ceremony very nicely. I'd call this a good book for beginners rather than something a true pagan/Wiccan would be interested in.

Rev. Dr. Kendra has a great writing style. It was easy to read and was setup up very nicely. Some great examples of different types of handfastings. She also talks about everything from the engagement to the reception the handfasting and everything inbetween. Lots of really good information. If you are the soon-to-be web couple this is a great book. If you are the person performing the handfast, then this is still a good book for reference. Just keep in mind that the good Rev. is writing as if her audience is the newly engaged couple. I enjoyed reading this book and it will remain in my library for any future need.

I was very disappointed in this book. It was written from a wiccan for wiccans. I don't consider wicca to be the only or even the most common of pagans. There was very little in this book that I could incorporate into my ceremony because everything was wiccan, spells, rubs, herbs, symbols, and all the gods ever created. I wanted a how to book for someone who is not a witch but still believes in nature and the cycles of life, and celebrating the seasons and all they represent. Without ritual magic. The title is what sold me on this book, and it could not be less fitting.

There are some great ideas though my biggest issue I suppose is that upon looking up the author I found that she has become born again christian and it almost leaves a bad taste in my mouth after reading this book feeling like she was a "pretend pagan" as I have encountered too much. Though it's alright. There is another Handfasting book by Raven Kaldera and Tannin Schwartzstein that is much much better.

Lots of good ideas in here, including Irish blessings, etc. I was a little disappointed however that there were no instructions on tying the knot shown on the cover; bought the book almost exclusively for that... I had to figure that out for myself. Still a good buy.

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