



## Magical Universe of William S Burroughs

By Matthew Levi Stevens

Mandrake of Oxford, United Kingdom, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 230 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In the magical universe there are no coincidences and there are no accidents. Nothing happens unless someone wills it to happen. The dogma of science is that the will cannot possibly affect external forces, and I think that s just ridiculous. It s as bad as the church. My viewpoint is the exact contrary of the scientific viewpoint. I believe that if you run into somebody in the street it s for a reason. Among primitive people they say that if someone was bitten by a snake he was murdered. I believe that. - William S. Burroughs In Literary Outlaw: The Life and Times of William S. Burroughs, his biographer Ted Morgan wrote: As the single most important thing about Graham Greene was his viewpoint as a lapsed Catholic, the single most important thing about Burroughs was his belief in the magical universe. The same impulse that lead him to put out curses was, as he saw it, the source of his writing. Burroughs writings often describe magical, mystical or occult ideas - Invocations of Elder Gods, descriptions of Sex-Magick...



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William Burroughs had originally exploded onto the literary scene back in 1959 with his breakthrough novel, *Naked Lunch*, causing hip critics everywhere to claim they had seen the future “ even if nobody was really sure that they understood it. With his three-piece suit, glasses, hat and raincoat, Burroughs seemed like the ultimate undercover hipster, and that voice certainly didn’t hurt: pitched somewhere between T.S. Eliot and W.C. Fields, mixing camp twang and knowing drawl with the educated tones of an old-fashioned Southern gentleman. Even towards the end of his life, William S. Burroughs’s engagement with the Magical Universe (and struggle against the Ugly Spirit) did not wane. In talking about *The Magical Universe of William S. Burroughs* I am really thinking of two things: Firstly, and probably most obvious, is the material that appears in the output of Burroughs the Writer that can be seen as describing or referring to some magical, mystical or occult idea “ Invocations of Elder Gods of Abominations, descriptions of Sex-Magick rituals, references to amulets, charms, ghosts, omens and spells “ all the thematic set-dressing that we all know and love, from. Secondly, there is the personal interest and involvement of Burroughs the Man with belief systems and practices that come from those strange “Other” territories that lay outside the bounds of either conventional mainstream religion or scientific materialism William S. Burroughs had an essentially metaphysical approach to life and writing. This is sometimes overlooked or ignored by scribes and students of his written work when his cut-up method is “! In the magical universe, there are no coincidences and there are no accidents. Nothing happens unless someone wills it to happen. The dogma of science is that the will cannot possibly affect external forces, and I think that’s just ridiculous.