



MARTHA'S BABY

Blanket

Warm and soft baby blanket

I designed the baby blanket to commemorate Martha van Wetteren and her baby. She gave birth in prison. Martha's baby blanket is completely double knitted in two soft shades of Drops AIR: pink marble and sage green. The colours refer to the old use of pink and blue shades for girls and boys. After all, we do not know whether Martha gave birth to a girl or a boy. The runes for courage, strength and love protect the young child from all evil in the world. Martha could not do that herself - she was burned alive immediately after giving birth on accusations of witchcraft.

TECHNIQUES

On the internet you will find many useful videos about:

- double knitting
- cast on in double knitting
- cast off in double knitting
- jacquard in double knitting

Be sure to check out <https://nimble-needles.com>. It has a great overview of how to cast on (4 methods) and how to knit in colors when double knitting.

YARN

DROPS AIR

65% alpaca, 28% polyamide, 7% wol

50 g = 150 m

34 rose marble 150 g

30 saliegroen 150 g

DROPS AIR is a light and airy yarn that feels wonderfully soft on your skin. The 'blow yarn' yarn is made of soft baby alpaca and warm merino wool and has a beautiful color palette.

NEEDLES

Knitting needles 5

STITCH GUIDE

26 stitches (13 double stitches) x 19 rows
in double knitting with needles 5 = 10 cm

DIMENSIONS

Width 64 cm Height 68 cm

DIFFICULTY LEVEL



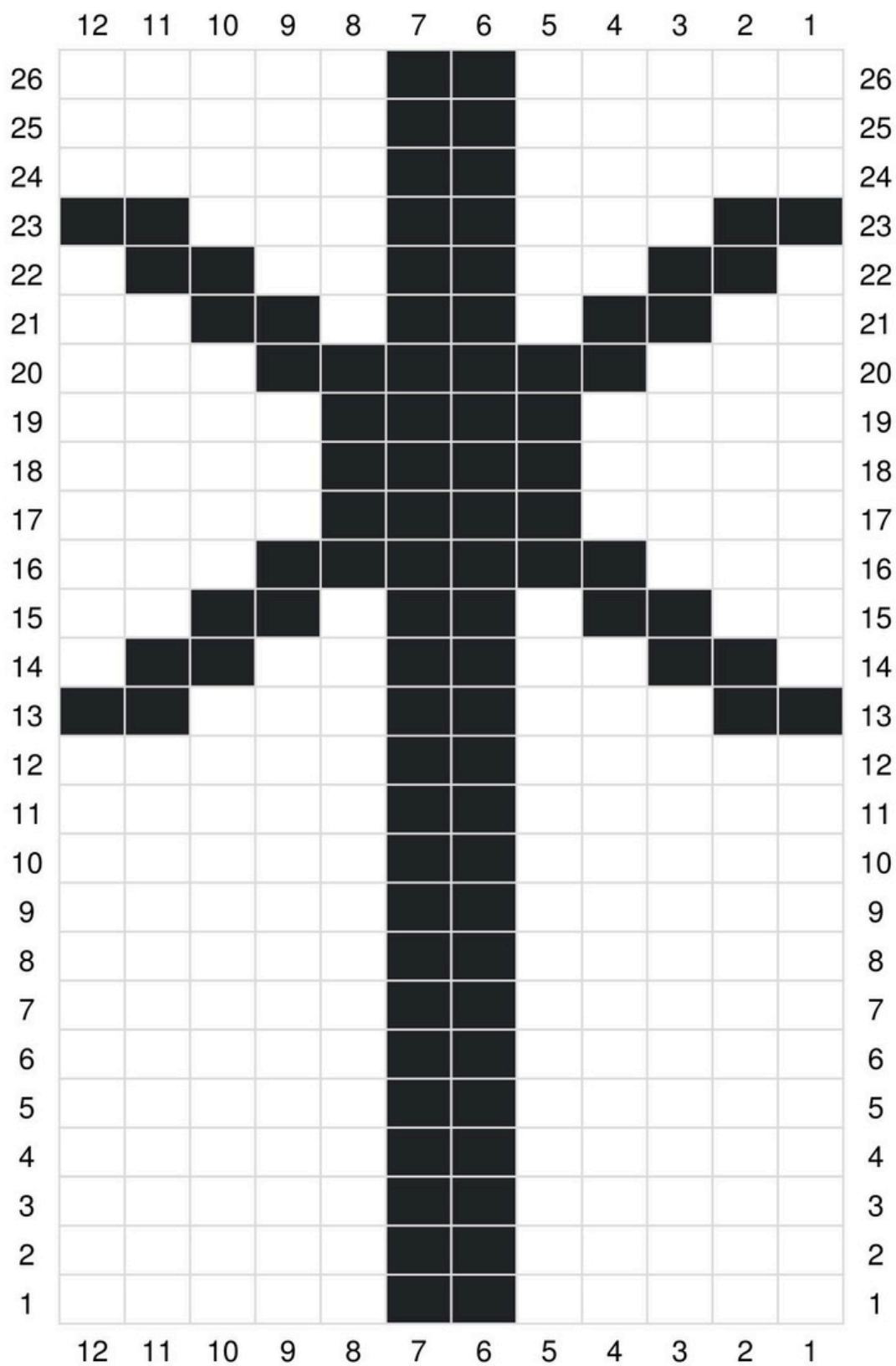
BINDRUNES

The charts show the motif on the right side. You knit the runes in by changing colors while dubbing. So on one side you see the motif in pink, on the other side in sage green.

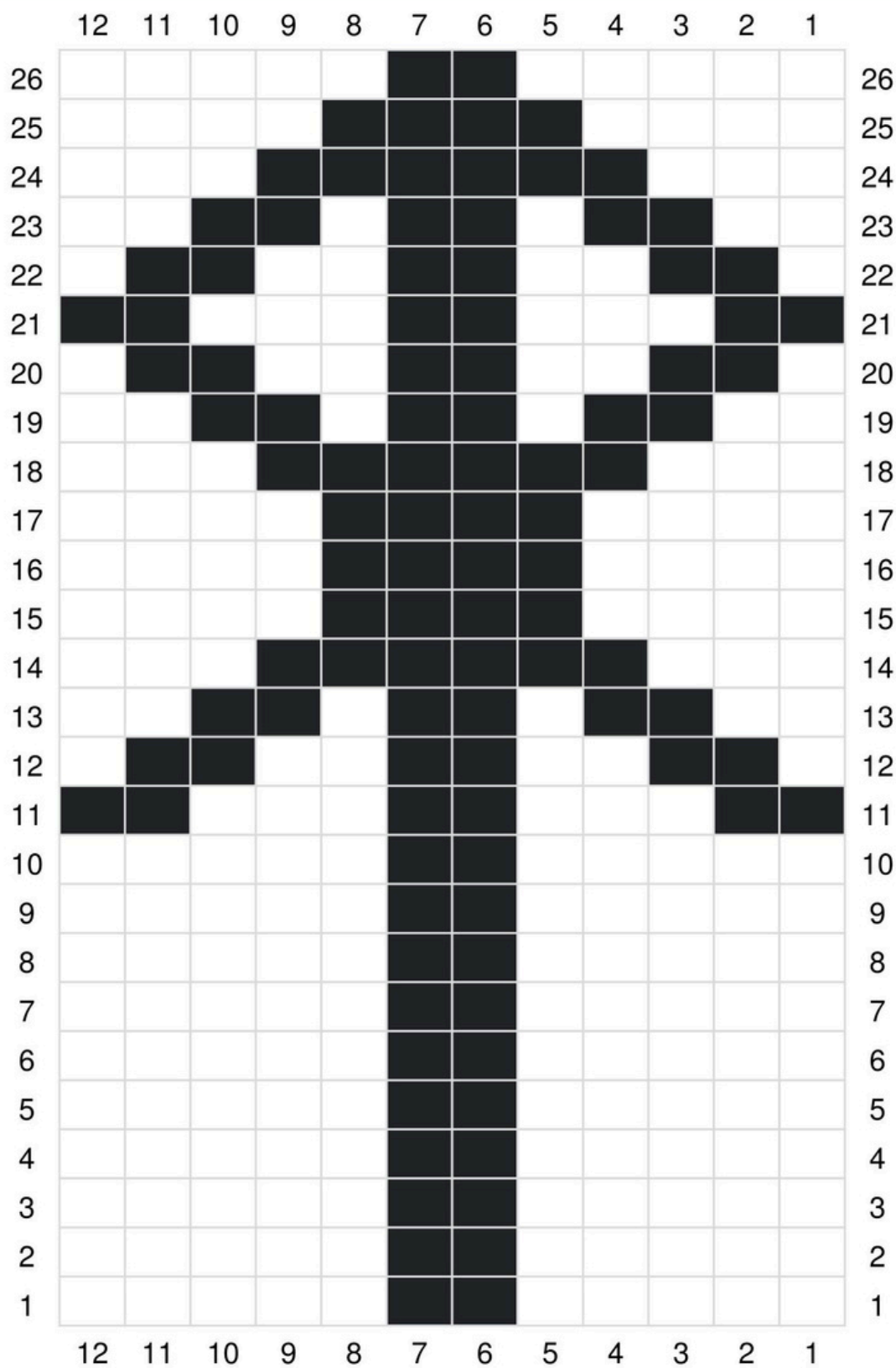
The binding runes symbolize courage, strength and love. They are each shown three times so that the magic can work. The position of the three runes changes.



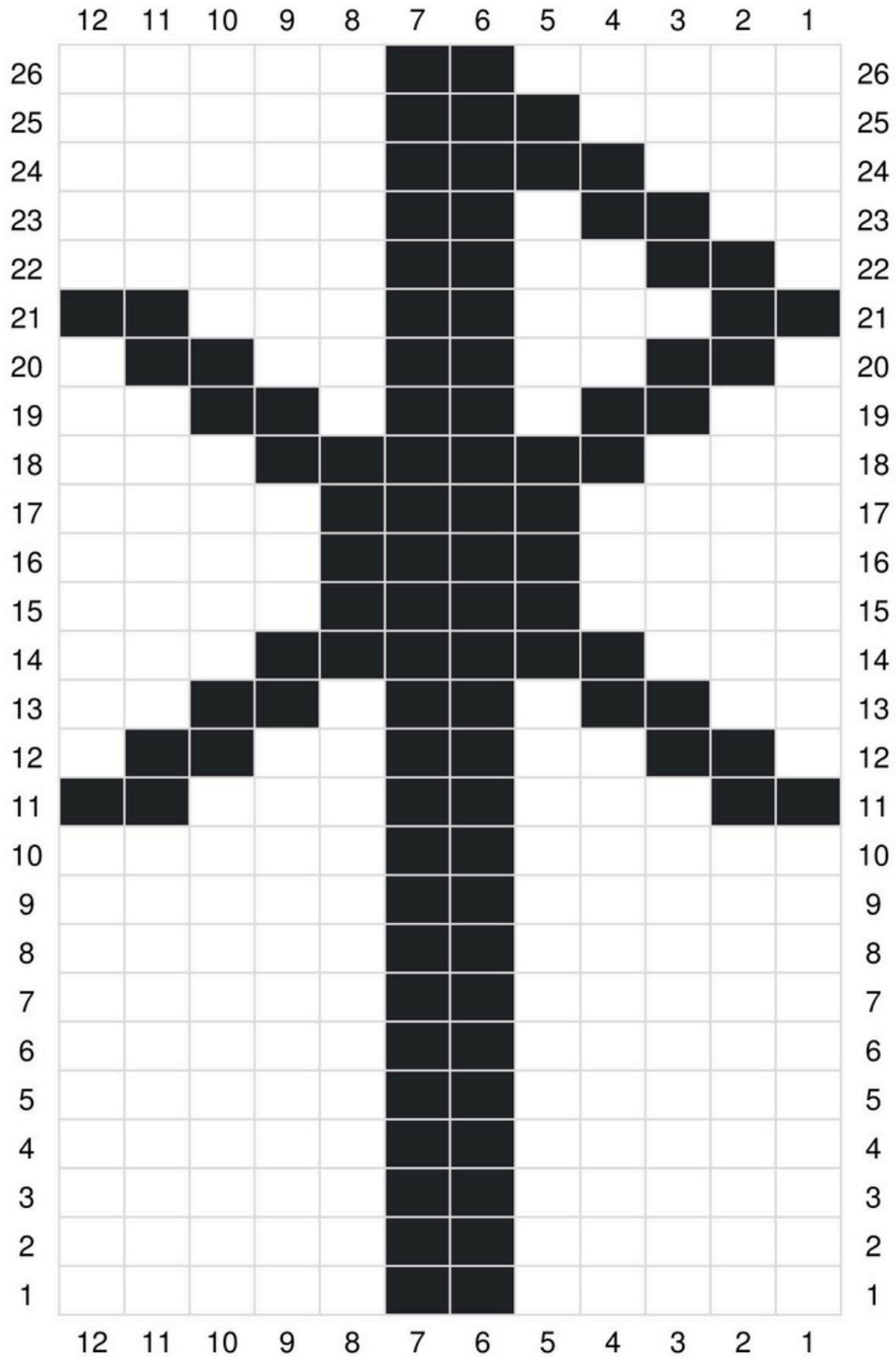
strength



courage



love



METHOD



1

DESIGN

Take your knitting needles size 5. Cast on 168 stitches (84 double stitches, so 84 stitches in each color) according to your favorite method.

I use an alternating two-color cast on for double knitting.

Together with the edge stitch, this will give your blanket a beautiful, sturdy, two-tone finish all around.

I also alternate the colors for the binding off.



2

SCHEMA

Knit back and forth using the double knitting technique. Always knit the first and last stitch with the two colours together.

Follow this pattern lengthwise:

- 14 rows plain
- 26 rows with runic motif
- 12 rows plain
- 26 rows with runic motif
- 12 rows plain
- 26 rows with runic motif
- 14 rows plain

Total: 130 rows

3

RUNE MOTIF

Knit the rune motifs at the same distance from each other each time. But you change runes.

For example:

love - courage - strength

courage - strength - love

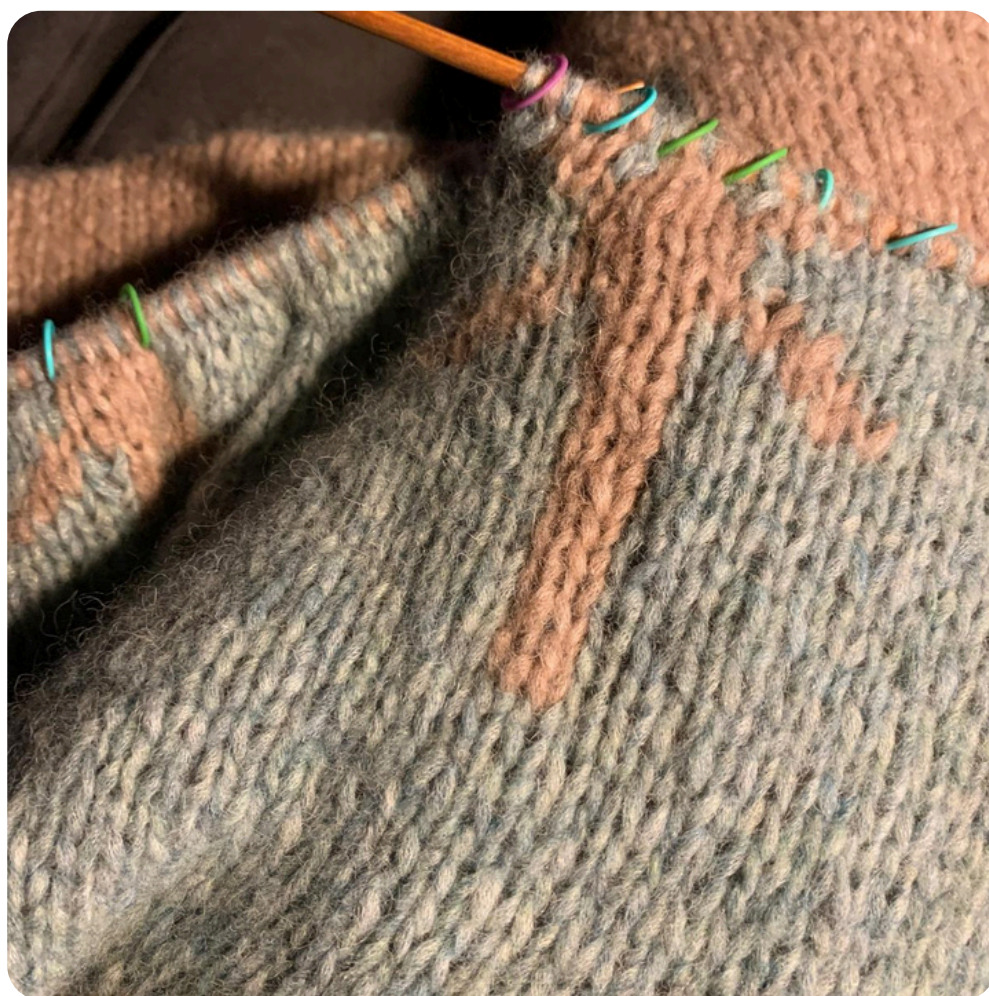
strength - love - courage

Follow this scheme in width:

- 24 stitches plain (including edge stitch)
- 24 stitches of the rune motif
- 24 stitches plain
- 24 stitches of the rune motif
- 24 stitches plain
- 24 stitches of the rune motif
- 24 stitches plain (including edge stitch)
- Total: 168 stitches

TIP

Use stitch markers to mark the beginning and end of each piece of the motif. Otherwise, it is very easy to make mistakes. Move the stitch markers as the motif moves.



TIP

Print out the counting motifs of the three binding runes and place them next to each other. Use a ruler to follow the counting motif. Always place the ruler just above the row you are going to knit. This way you have a good view of what you have already knitted.

In the next series of bindrunes you place the counting motifs in a different order.



4

FINISHING

After 130 rows you bind off all stitches. Just like with the cast-on I change the colours when binding off.



Weave in all the threads. If necessary, let the baby blanket soak in lukewarm water for half an hour to let the stitches settle. Gently squeeze the water out between two towels without wringing. Place the blanket nicely in shape on a fresh towel and let it dry.



RUNES



Magic signs

Rune is an old Germanic language. The word rune means 'letter' as well as 'secret' and 'whisper'. The runes were used as an alphabet, but also formed a magical system with predictive powers. Runes were related to everyday life, but also to the supernatural. They were used by seers and other initiates to perform evil and good magic. Combined in bindrunes the signs get even more magic. In the blanket for Martha's baby I combine the runes for courage, strength and love.

Tribute to thousands of 'witches'

The blanket for Martha's baby is part of MICCA, a collection that pays tribute to the many victims of the witch hunt. In Europe alone, more than 100,000 alleged witches were burned at the stake. Mostly women, but also men and even children.

Burned alive

As a young widow, Martha van Wetteren was suspected of witchcraft. Barely 38 years old, she was sentenced to death by fire. Because she was pregnant, she was given a stay of execution until after the birth. According to the legal practice of the time, unborn fetuses were not allowed to pay for the sins of the mother. On 23 October 1684, she was burned alive as a witch in Belsele, she died a horrible death. She was the last victim of the witch hunts in the Low Countries.

What happened to her baby? Was it a girl or a boy? Did it survive? No one knows...

Threads of love

MICCA weaves the history of all victims into timeless creations of thread. Each stitch is part of the chain that connects us across the generations. You can find my designs on my Ravelry page Micca-witchcraft and also on my website www.micca-witchcraft.be.

Want to know more about the witch hunt? Send me an email. Then you will receive my free e-book in which I present the cruel reality of witch madness in an original way.



Colofon

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Micca witchcraft



Miekemicca



Micca-witchcraft