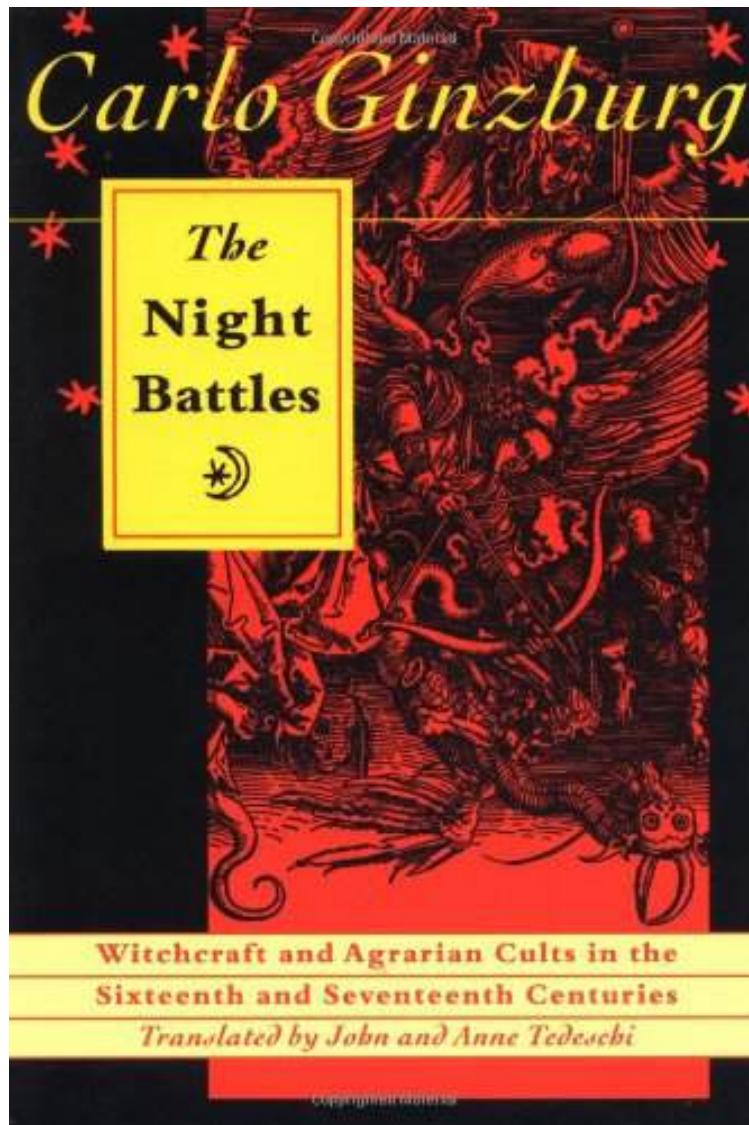


The Night Battles: Witchcraft & Agrarian Cults in the Sixteenth & Seventeenth Centuries

By Carlo Ginzburg

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0 of 0 review helpful Microhistory at its best By Valorie T In The Night Battles Carlo Ginzburg looks at a small group of northeastern Italian people from the area of Friuli who claimed to be benandanti The benandanti according to their legend were people born with the caul and battled witches to protect the harvest and people and to heal people bewitched A second strand of benandanti claimed to be witness to pr Based on research in the Inquisitorial archives the book recounts the story of a peasant fertility cult centred on the benandanti These men and women regarded themselves as professional anti witches who in dream like states apparently fought ritual battles against witches and wizards to protect their villages and harvests If they won the harvest would be good if they lost there would be famine The inquisitors tried to fit them into their pre existing images A tour de force of reconstruction building out of scattered and fragmentary sources a whole world for the reader to inhabit Anthony Pagden London of Books A work of genuine intellectual distinction It is an unusually original

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