

TAROT

M A D E E A S Y





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NANCY GAREN

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With
love
and
devotion
to my
sister
Patti

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PART 1

TAROT BASICS



◆ WHAT ARE TAROT CARDS? ◆

Simply put, Tarot cards are a means of predicting events or receiving guidance in both our inner (spiritual) and outer (manifest) world.

Every Tarot deck consists of seventy-eight cards. Not all decks are alike but all decks have three basic principles in common, even though the cards, symbols, and interpretations may vary.

1. Each deck is illustrated with symbols that depict experiences we've all had or could have at one time or another.
2. Each deck has two main sections: the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana (or Lesser Arcana, as some books refer to it). The Minor Arcana is further divided into numbered cards and what is commonly referred to as the Court Arcana.
3. Each deck contains four suits: Wands (or Batons), Cups, Swords, and Pentacles (or Coins).

Traditionally, the Major Arcana depicts the greater events in our lives while the Minor and Court Arcana depict the more mundane, everyday aspects. I've given a more detailed description of the Major, Minor, and Court Arcana as well as the suits in the section on Tarot Symbolology for those of you who want to know more.

No one is exactly sure how Tarot cards originated, but it's widely believed that the ancient Egyptian Masons developed them as a means of charting their important metaphysical and transformational discoveries.

Think of them as stories conveyed in pictures. I have used the Rider-Waite deck to illustrate this book, but there are many other decks to choose from and they are all equally valid. The cards are not "magical," "occult," or "evil." They have no inherent powers of their own. Since Tarot decks and books are chosen because you identify with them or they strike a chord within you, *you* empower them with your beliefs, attitudes, and personality and by your level of growth or understanding at the time you choose them.

◆ HOW DO TAROT CARDS WORK? ◆

I can't tell you *how* they work nor can I tell you *how* I walk, think, or digest food. I also can't explain why I know who's on the phone before I pick it up or what causes ESP experiences. I know, however, that it happens and that Tarot cards do *work*.

I believe that there is a higher wisdom or universal truth that we can *all* tap in to and that there are many methods of accessing this information. One of the easiest ways (but by no means the only way) is through the Tarot. Since our minds think in symbols, it's only logical that cards that tell stories through symbols could enhance our intuition.

My esoteric opinion comes from the understanding that *everything* in the universe (you, me, and the things we touch or see) is composed of pure energy, and I believe that this vast ocean of energy substance is God and that everything within it is God too. It doesn't matter if you call it God, the Universe, the Source, or even "the Force"—it's all the same. And, since you and I are also energy, we are the Ocean too, even if we're functioning as drops. This means that to the degree we expand our consciousness and encompass this awareness, we have the ability to draw from it. So, we can think of ourselves as limited drops separate from the Source or we can see ourselves as part of the Ocean, open our inner channels, and receive guidance.

◆ HOW TO USE THIS BOOK ◆

You don't have to know *anything* about the Tarot in order to use this book. Nor do you have to memorize the meaning of the cards or understand their "esoteric" significance. All you need is a deck of Tarot cards and a question. The rest is easy.

Other books give a brief and often vague or symbolic description of the meaning of the cards in the "upright" and "reversed" positions. You then have to wade through a lot of symbolism and try to figure out how it applies to your question. In this book I present a different, easy-to-understand approach to interpreting the cards. So that you can get answers that apply more directly to your questions, I've created thirty-two specific categories of everyday life experience, such as Work, Success, Romance, Finances, and Emotional State, and explained what each card indicates for each of these categories.

Each card begins with a Focus (or general atmosphere) and ends with an Outcome. There are no reversed interpretations because they are not necessary.

Even the most advanced Tarot enthusiast knows how frustrating it is when you want to know something and you get a card that has nothing to do with the question you asked—like asking about love and reading: "Strength of will bringing ideas to pass. Firm rulership resulting in peace and justice," and so on. With this book, *every* card has a Romance category, so if you want to know about love, you will get an answer about love. All you have to do is ask a question, draw a card, then look up the card you drew in Part Four, Interpretation of the Cards, and read the category you're interested in. It's that simple, that specific! You can read as many or as few categories as you like—the choice is up to you.

EXPLANATION OF THE THIRTY-TWO CATEGORIES

1. FOCUS:

The focus category is a capsulized or nutshell version of the events or conditions coming up in your future. It's the crux of the matter, or the foundation on which the rest of the reading is based. The other categories emphasize specific areas of interest under the focus influence.

2. DESIRE:

This category reveals that which you now want, or that which you *will* want in time to come or as your future begins to unfold.

3. ROMANCE:

This category reveals actual events as well as movements of mind in the area of love and romance.

4. THE UNEXPECTED:

This category covers *anything* that comes as a surprise (be it good or bad).

5. OTHERS:

This covers the EFFECT of other people on you, or how another person will INFLUENCE your life.

6. THE HOME:

The home category relates to your home environment or place of residence, and the events or conditions within it. However, if you spend more time at work than home, it could represent that area.

7. TRAVEL:

This category is about short trips, long trips, comings and goings, and/or influences surrounding travel or travel plans.

8. PAPERS:

This category covers *anything* that involves papers, be it forms, books, documents, legal matters, artwork, presentations, ledgers. Anything where something is transferred from thought to paper can be included in the papers category.

9. WORK/CAREER:

This category covers your place of business, career, or area in which you find yourself operating most frequently, be it at home or in the field. This could also include housework, hobbies, school, or projects. If you're looking for work or have a question concerning your work status, this category will show the influences, conditions, or atmosphere surrounding your query.

10. UNIONS:

The unions category reveals "what will be so" about your unions with others, be it personal, business, or otherwise. If your question concerns personal unions, then it will answer in kind. If on the other hand it is about business partnerships or mergers, it will apply to that.

11. EMOTIONAL STATE:

This reveals how you *feel* as a result of the events that are transpiring in your life or affairs. It's a very important category in that it shows the emotional climate and, as a result, gives great insight into whether or not you're experiencing the events on the whole as being "good" or "bad."

12. PLEASURE:

The pleasure category defines the areas or avenues in which you will find the most enjoyment, fulfillment, or satisfaction. If, however, a negative disclosure should fall in this category, it's probably a good indication that you are not having very much fun during the period in question.

13. NEWS:

This category covers all forms of news, messages, or communications that will affect you, your future, or your state of mind.

14. FAMILY:

This is an all-inclusive category. It relates to sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, wives, or husbands as well as distant relatives, aunts, uncles, and/or even friends that are so close either in heart or by proximity that they're considered family.

15. THE PHYSICAL BODY:

The physical body category reveals your health, and your mental, emotional, and/or spiritual well-being as well. It's important to note that other people may be experiencing

a situation that is so strong that it affects you, or shows up in your reading as happening to you.

16. FINANCES:

This category covers *anything* that relates to money or finances.

17. TIME:

This category won't tell you when an event will happen (like "in November you will . . ."), but it's significant because it deals with the *passage* of time and *how* it will affect your wish or your affairs. It shows *how* or *in what way* the events of your life or things that concern you are shaping up.

18. FRIENDS:

This concerns the effect of your friends on you, or what will transpire as a result of a friend, and can include a relative or a lover.

19. VISITORS/CALLERS:

This category is about situations regarding people that come to visit or call you on the phone, and/or the status of any query in that area.

20. MAIL:

This covers anything that arrives by or is sent through the mail, from letters, cards, or packages to messages in motion, such as United Parcel Service, Federal Express, etc.

21. ANXIETY:

In everyone's life there are problem areas, things that upset, trouble, or create anxiety. This category will define what those areas are or where your difficulties may lie.

22. DISAPPOINTMENT:

This category describes what could let you down, hurt you, or upset you. It's about the things in life that go wrong, fall through, or discourage you. Most of the time it's a progression of the anxiety category, though not always.

23. ENDINGS:

The endings category covers situations or conditions that are being resolved or coming to an end.

24. NEW BEGINNINGS:

This category covers any new undertaking that will spring up and/or change the course of your experience. It can also include life-altering decisions and/or a new turn of mind.

25. INHERITANCE:

Anything that comes to you as a result of another person, place, or thing (be it material or spiritual) will fall in this category. It's not limited to a legacy or contingent upon the death of another, unless it is specified as such.

26. REWARDS/GIFTS:

This category covers anything that is given or that you yourself give. It's not limited just to material goods, as it also covers spiritual or inner gifts (like those gifts of the heart or spirit).

27. SUCCESS:

The success category is not limited to worldly or material success. It reveals what you consider to be your best achievement or greatest accomplishment at the time in question. It may also indicate *where* or *from what direction* your success will come.

28. FORTUNE:

This will disclose what you will be fortunate in or what will occur by chance, luck, or fate.

29. BLESSINGS:

This can be a very revealing category because it foretells that which you'll be grateful or thankful for in times to come.

30. SPECIAL GUIDANCE:

In this section you'll find whatever it is you need to know or understand about your question, as it tells you the underlying, unforeseen, or unknown elements that will make the way easier. It's divided into two parts, the Mundane and the Esoteric. The mundane deals with the practical, down-to-earth aspect and the esoteric deals with the spiritual heart of the matter.

31. BEST COURSE OF ACTION:

This is a very important category because it tells you the best way to proceed or action

to take in order to realize your desire, deal with the elements involved, or overcome the difficulties connected with it. It usually works hand-in-hand with the Special Guidance category.

32. OUTCOME:

This is the probable outcome, end result, or summation of the reading.

If you want to know more about Tarot symbology, read on. If you're anxious to start right out doing a reading, turn to Part Three.





PART 2

TAROT SYMBOLOGY



◆ THE MAJOR ARCANA ◆

The most powerful group in the Tarot deck are the 22 Major Arcana cards beginning with the Magician (#1) and ending with the Fool (#22).

(Note: Traditionally, as well as on the card in this book, the Fool has been assigned the number “0”. However, I prefer to put it at the end of the book and call it a “0” or “22” because of what the card represents, which is explained in Part Four.)

The reason Major Arcana cards are so powerful is because they predict major issues in life rather than everyday ups and downs, and as a result, they outweigh *all* the other cards in both impact and effect.

Major Arcana cards also indicate the most important positions in a card spread such as in the Keltic Cross, Category, or Zodiac Month by Month spreads.

The numbers on the Major Arcana represent numerological influences which will be discussed in the section on Tarot Numerology and in the card interpretations in Part Four.

◆ THE MINOR ARCANA ◆

The rest of the cards in the Tarot deck make up the Minor Arcana. These cards are divided into four suits: Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles. Each of the suits contains cards numbered from Ace to 10, followed by four Court cards. The Court cards of all four suits together are known as the Court Arcana.

The cards of the Minor Arcana and Court Arcana refer to the lesser events of everyday life. Each of the forty numbered cards and sixteen court cards is illustrated and interpreted in Part Four.

The significance of the Court cards is discussed in detail in the section on The Court Arcana. The significance of the numbered cards is based on the ancient principles of numerology.

The Aces, which are equal to the number 1, represent the beginning of a new cycle and signify conception and innovation. The presence of an Ace in the beginning of a reading marks the impact of a new beginning and fresh start. At the end of a reading, it can represent another new beginning, or sum up the results of all the cards preceding it.

Aces also represent seasons and in a reading can predict *when* an event is most likely to occur.

Ace of Wands: Autumn
Ace of Cups: Summer
Ace of Swords: Winter
Ace of Pentacles: Spring

The numbers 2 to 10 in each suit represent numerological influences which will be discussed in the section on Tarot Numerology.

THE SUITS

The Suits—Wands, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles—are the esoteric formula or key to manifestation on the earth plane.

THE SUIT OF WANDS:

When you think of Wands, think of *ideas*, because Wands are the conception or “seeds” through which the tree springs forth. They are the original thought, intention, or primary element of growth.

Their key words are: *ideas, growth, ambition, expansion*. When there are many Wands in a reading, it indicates that conditions are primarily in the realm of thought, or at the very first stages of development.



THE SUIT OF CUPS:

When you think of Cups, think of *emotion*, because Cups are the feeling or bridge between the original idea and the next stage, which is action. They are the glue or cohesive factor in the development of manifestation and esoterically signify the marriage of thought and feeling.

Their key words are: *emotion, desire, inner experience, spirit*. When there are many Cups in a reading, it indicates that conditions are felt primarily in the realm of emotion, but not necessarily as an outward manifestation.

**THE SUIT OF SWORDS:**

When you think of Swords, think of *action*, because Swords are the *act*. Esoterically they are like the third part or Holy Ghost in the Christian trinity of The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. On the mundane level, the Swords oftentimes indicate struggle, because of the difficulties man has to move through in order to turn a thought into a reality on the denser or physical earth plane.

Their key words are: *action, movement, struggle, keenness*. When there are many Swords in a reading, it shows tremendous activity, agitation, or acceleration, because Swords are the last stages of effort before the final result.



THE SUIT OF PENTACLES:

When you think of Pentacles, think of *manifestation*, because Pentacles are the fruits of one's labor, the culmination of the first three ingredients, the end *result* or fruition.

Their key words are: *manifestation, realization, proof, prosperity*. When there are many Pentacles in a reading, it indicates that conditions are taking form, or are in the process of being demonstrated.



THE COURT ARCANA

There are sixteen cards that represent the Court Arcana: the King, Queen, Knight, and Page of each of the four suits; i.e., WANDS, CUPS, SWORDS, PENTACLES.

The Knights have a significant purpose in a reading because they are the instigators of change, marking the beginning or end of a sequence of events. When a Knight appears, a long-term condition will suddenly change.

The remaining Court Arcana (King, Queen, and Page) serve several different functions in a reading. Each of the twelve cards is represented by an astrological sign, and in their first and perhaps most important function they represent people, the types of people defined by their sign.

Second, because they are represented by an astrological sign, the King, Queen, and Page each have months of the year that their sign is related to, the same as in astrology, for example,

King of Wands: Aries (March 21–April 19)

Queen of Cups: Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

Page of Swords: Taurus (April 20–May 20)

and so on.

Thirdly, they can also depict events and/or the kind of vocation that's associated with the type of person their astrological sign represents.

So, in essence, each King, Queen, and Page has a personality, time frame, and vocational aptitude. Thus, in a reading, a King, Queen, or Page can tell you *when* you will start a job, *what* kind of work you will do, and even the *type* of person you might be working with.

In the following list I've broken down the signs into the types of people and vocations they represent. The vocations I've listed are by no means the only jobs possible, but are an attempt to give additional insight.

THE KING OF WANDS: Aries (March 21–April 19)

TYPE OF PERSON: Ambitious, optimistic, energetic, direct, daring, headstrong, impulsive, idealistic, confident, capable; but sometimes self-centered, hot-tempered, and impatient.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Planning, constructing, developing, building, real estate, or any area where leadership qualities are desired, because he/she can work alone.



THE QUEEN OF WANDS: Leo (July 23–August 22)

TYPE OF PERSON: Affectionate, generous, loyal, adventurous, fun-loving, dramatic, determined, impulsive, daring, passionate, proud, honest, aloof, haughty, egotistical.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Actor, entertainer, creator, artist, musician, fashion figure, confident, professional sports, and any type of vocation where he/she can be number one.



THE PAGE OF WANDS: Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)

TYPE OF PERSON: Outspoken, direct, charismatic, high-strung, blunt, instinctive, easily bored, sexual, progressive, future-oriented, sportive, subject to wandering, and sometimes edgy or lackadaisical.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Athletics, politics, pilot, teacher, instructor, philosopher, professional student, gadget inventor, band member.



THE KING OF CUPS: Cancer (June 21–July 22)

TYPE OF PERSON: Emotional, moody, changeable, testing, home-loving, kind, considerate, focusing, worrying, cranky, and sometimes crabby.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Doctor, minister, priest, metaphysician, cook, restaurant owner, astronaut, homemaker. There's more emphasis on home life than business life, but can become well connected with big business and will get help or support if needed or requested.



THE QUEEN OF CUPS: Scorpio (October 23–November 21)

TYPE OF PERSON: Spiritual, psychic, clairvoyant, magnetic, intense, secretive, sexual, deep, complex, removed; in control, and at times overpowering or aloof.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Occult work, undercover work, physician, stock broker, acupuncturist, dentist, counselor, dramatic actor.



THE PAGE OF CUPS: Pisces (February 19–March 20)

TYPE OF PERSON: Impressionable, reflective, sensitive, emotional, vulnerable, warm, loving, romantic, talkative, imaginative, intuitive, psychic, youthful, and sometimes flaky.

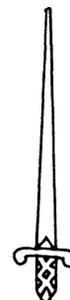
TYPE OF VOCATION: Working in institutions, self-help organizations, occultist, poet, dancer, set decorator, make-up artist, wardrobe head, or anything that deals with illusion. Works best behind the scenes, or finishes what others start.



THE KING OF SWORDS: Libra (September 23–October 22)

TYPE OF PERSON: Fair, just, balanced, perceptive, humanistic, poised, sensitive, compassionate, selfless. Can appear wishy-washy because weighs all sides before making decisions.

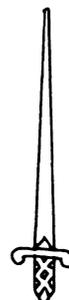
TYPE OF VOCATION: Lawyer, law enforcer, armed forces, internal affairs, public relations, psychologist, relationship counselor, interior decorator.



THE QUEEN OF SWORDS: Virgo (August 23–September 22)

TYPE OF PERSON: Mental, analytical, scientifically minded, objective, factual, “Vulcan” in nature, ingenious, perfectionist, discriminating, independent, cold.

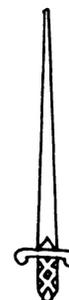
TYPE OF VOCATION: Scientist, secretary, analyst, researcher, editor, computer operator, astrologer, numerologist.



THE PAGE OF SWORDS: Taurus (April 20–May 20)

TYPE OF PERSON: Practical, thoughtful, persevering, possessive, realistic, down to earth, security-minded, patient, sensual, and sometimes reserved. Needs concrete results and knows how to get them.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Serving, singing, sales, finances, negotiations, consulting, leasing, working with buildings or homes.



THE KING OF PENTACLES: Gemini (May 21–June 20)

TYPE OF PERSON: Mental, versatile, adaptable, diversified, capable, alert, confident, studious, curious, enterprising, skillful, energetic, communicative, changeable.

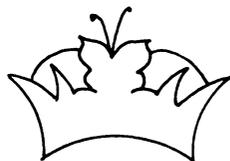
TYPE OF VOCATION: Writing, directing, lecturing, fashion, arts, motion pictures, radio, dealing with the public at large. Capable of doing two or more jobs at one time.



THE QUEEN OF PENTACLES: Aquarius (January 20–February 19)

TYPE OF PERSON: Idealistic, public-minded, charitable, magnanimous, determined, opinionated, pragmatic, hopeful, influential, dedicated, aspiring, compassionate, friendly but sometimes impersonal. Is strongly affected by outside events which are usually unexpected or out of his/her hands.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Serving the planet, New Age teacher, minister, healer, psychologist, painter, writer, inventor.



THE PAGE OF PENTACLES: Capricorn (December 22–January 19)

TYPE OF PERSON: Studious, persevering, productive, professionally inclined, ambitious, patient, responsible, practical, conservative, and sometimes moody, morbid, or subject to depression but never gives up.

TYPE OF VOCATION: Producer, regional manager, chief executive, boss, head waiter, photographer, student, laborer.



◆ TAROT NUMEROLOGY ◆

Every card in the Tarot deck except for the Court Arcana is associated with a number. These numbers are based on the principles of numerology and represent a material and spiritual evolutionary process that begins with the number 1 and ends with the number 9.

The Major Arcana numbers 1 to 22 follow the same numerological cycle as the numbers 1 through 9 in numerology, but continue in The Wheel of Fortune (#10) on a higher turn of the spiral as a compound number 1 ($1 + 0 = 1$).

Justice (#11) and The Fool (#22) are master numbers in numerology, but for the purpose of this book and the readings you will be doing, *all* numbers over the number 9 will be reduced and read as single digit numbers.

In the Minor Arcana, the Aces are read the same as a number 1 because they indicate a fresh start or new beginning. There are no 10s in numerology (except as a compound number), so the number 10 in the Tarot is read as a number 1 ($1 + 0 = 1$) and represents a cyclical rebeginning that signals a major change from one thing or place to another. The number 10 in the Minor Arcana also points to a time when one must come to terms with something that may have been avoided in the past.

In order to help you become more acquainted with how the numbers work, I've divided each one into three facets, which will provide insight into their meaning and special message in a reading. The first facet is the *esoteric*, the hidden or underlying message; the second is the *mundane* (which includes both the positive and negative characteristics of each number), and the third is what it means in a reading when there are multiples (three or more) of the same number present (it suggests that a specific element indicated by that number will be running concurrently with the rest of the events, indicated by your card's categories and some or all of the facets of that number will be involved). For example, many 2s indicate a waiting period where there will be partial success but more to be revealed later.

THE NUMBER 1

ESOTERIC: The message of this number is inspiration or aspiration. It deals with that which is about to form, take shape, or manifest. It is the “I” of God.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Creation, ideas, beginnings, will, invention, originality, drive, incentive, determination, independence.

Negative aspects: Willfulness, selfishness, undue force.

IN A READING: Many 1s would indicate that a situation is about to begin, or is in the beginning stages, and some or all of the positive or negative elements mentioned above will be involved.

THE NUMBER 2

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 2 is to assimilate and envision. It is the intellect directed, and its function is to imagine. It is the cooperater whose success is not gained by force, but by patience.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Waiting, sharing, balance, receptivity, diplomacy, gentle persuasion, application, agreement, insight.

Negative aspects: Duality, intolerance, impatience, imbalance.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 2s indicate a waiting period where there will be partial success but more to be revealed later. They can also indicate a reconciliation, a reunion, and/or an element of surprise.

THE NUMBER 3

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 3 is expression. It is the cementing factor of the numbers 1 and 2, and its power is through its word, which goes forth in order to bring into being that which is desired and envisioned.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Communicating, feeling, enjoying, sharing, self-expressing, having fun, playing, love, friendship, popularity.

Negative aspects: Withholding communication, scattered energies, overreacting, over-indulging, criticism.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 3s indicate group activities or situations involving more than one person. They can also indicate delay, but with the promise of future success.

THE NUMBER 4

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 4 is manifestation. It is the result of a well-built foundation and proper application. It is that which comes forth as a result of desire, imagination, and emoting.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Practical application, formation, foundation, concentration, organization, working, building, planning.

Negative aspects: Plodding, exacting or dull work, too much attention on the material, limitation, blocks, and opposition.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 4s indicate fruition or the manifestation of an idea, along with the foundation or “space” where things can grow.

THE NUMBER 5

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 5 is change, expansion, and re-creation. It also represents the desire to know, which demands that one must look to both the material and the spiritual realm in order to extract the truth.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Curiosity, spirituality, new thinking, new opportunities, magnetism, attraction, good fortune, travel or adventure.

Negative aspects: Defeatism, dogmatism, fear of change, misfortune, failure.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 5s indicate change, challenge, and fluctuations (lucky or unlucky). They also indicate material prosperity but spiritual poverty, if not properly balanced or understood.

THE NUMBER 6

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 6 is adjustment. It is the balancing factor that unlocks the mystery of the number 5, as it provides the ability to discern both the higher and the lower, and brings them into harmony.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Harmony, balance, compassion, service, responsibility, social consciousness, domesticity, love, care, comfort, concern.

Negative aspects: Disharmony, discord, lack of concern or responsibility toward others, too fixed in opinion or beliefs, anxiety, interference.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 6s indicate adjustments in thoughts, attitudes, or conditions. They also represent the ability to transcend difficulties.

THE NUMBER 7

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 7 is faith—faith in the things that can't be seen, but nevertheless exist. The number 7 must know the ultimate truths, and it is only through experience that its intellectual and spiritual understanding develops, and faith in the unseen is attained.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Faith, observation, investigation, discrimination, meditation, discovery, knowledge, wisdom, perfection.

Negative aspects: Fear, faithlessness, pessimism, skepticism, doubt, ignorance, escapism.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 7s indicate a period of introspection or solitude. They also indicate unlooked-for advantages or gains through things that come unexpectedly.

THE NUMBER 8

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 8 is power—power that springs from within and enables one to accomplish that which one sets out to do.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Capability, (spiritual) fortitude, success, recognition, accomplishment, attainment, enlargement.

Negative aspects: Abuse of power, overemotionalism, strain, oppression, and lack.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 8s indicate a positive change of mind or status because the beneficial qualities of the number 8 are rarely diluted, even when some or all of the negative aspects mentioned above are involved.

THE NUMBER 9

ESOTERIC: The message of the number 9 is completion. It must complete whatever it has begun because it is the final stage or culmination of all of the preceding cycles and numbers. But contained within its depth also lie the seeds of a new beginning about to take root.

MUNDANE: *Positive qualities:* Fulfillment, selflessness, impersonal love, magnetism, idealism (in its highest form), light bearer or giver of wisdom or inspiration.

Negative aspects: Personal loss, emotional extremes, having to let go of that which is cherished.

MULTIPLES IN A READING: Many 9s in a reading mean that situations or events are nearing completion, or have just been completed, and another plateau awaits.



PART 3

HOW TO DO A READING



◆ TIPS ON DOING READINGS ◆

There are as many different ways to lay out the cards for a reading as there are reasons for doing readings. In the traditional Tarot, the Keltic (or Celtic) Cross method, in which ten cards are laid out in the form of a Keltic cross, was the most favored. I've found that the one that's quickest and easiest for you is usually the best.

The layout of the cards is called a spread. To help you get started, I suggest you look over the section on spreads to get an idea of the types of layouts you can do and how they work. There are other spreads used, but I prefer the ones in this book, and have given an example of how to create your own if you so choose. For a quick answer to a question, the easiest method is the One Card Only. Another simple layout is the Three Card Spread. For questions such as "What type of work am I best suited for" or "What type of person is best suited for me," use the Court Arcana method.

For those of you who've never worked with the Tarot before, it would be best to start out with the One Card Only method. It's really quite simple. All you have to do is shuffle the cards while thinking of your question, pull a card from the deck, and look up your answer in Part Four of this book. A lot of books will lead you to believe that reading the Tarot is very complicated and "mystical," but it's not. You can pull cards off the top of the deck, cut them in the middle, or pick them at random. Any way you feel comfortable is the right way to do it. I've been at it for so long I don't even shuffle anymore. I just let my finger go to one card in the box and when I take it out, it's the right answer.

PHRASING A QUESTION

Because the Tarot is a sensitive tool, it sometimes goes deeper than surface appearance and answers your unconscious question. So, try to compose your thoughts as clearly as you can, because if there's a deeper underlying question, you might not understand the message you receive. More often than not, a misunderstood answer is a direct result of an ambiguous question.

One of the best ways I've found to ask a question is to say, "What's so about . . ." or "What will be so about . . ." The reason this is helpful is that it doesn't limit the response or close off areas that you might not have considered at the time of your question.

In asking a question, I've also found it best to put a time limit on it such as: "What's going to come up between now and January?" or "Will I succeed in getting my project launched between now and this time next year?" because it puts a frame around the situation and gives the cards a structure to work within rather than leaving it open-ended as happens with a preface such as "Will I ever."

Another reason it isn't a good idea to form a question around the word *ever* (e.g., "Will I ever be happy" or "Will I ever find Mr. Right") is that the cards simply won't respond. They seem to *know* you'll ask again and so will focus on your current situation, tell you something you won't understand, or give you an answer you don't like. Remember, you *can* always ask again later!

YOUR ANSWER

Once you have a question in mind, think of the category that can best answer it *before* you begin (if you're not sure, refer to the explanation of the Thirty-two Categories of Interpretation). Remember, you're not limited to only one category; you can read as many as you think apply.

Example

- A. If your question concerns love, you might read: Romance, Unions, Others, Emotional State, and Outcome.
- B. If it's about business, you might read: Work/Career, Finances, Success, Best Course of Action, etc.

In this book, all category entries are written in the present and future tense, so if you ask questions or read card positions that relate to the past as in the Keltic Cross

and Three Card Spread, interpret them as if they were in the past tense; i.e., instead of saying “You will,” you would say “You were,” or “You felt,” etc.

Sometimes the answers you receive don’t apply to you but to someone close to you, but because you care about that person and he or she affects your life, it will come up in your reading as if it’s happening to you.

If you read something you don’t like, remember that *you* are the captain of your ship and *you* can change your destiny. Nothing is ever carved in granite.

TELLING TIME

It’s difficult for even the most advanced student of the Tarot to judge when an event is going to happen, but I’ve found that certain guidelines seem to work.

1. The Major Arcana cards usually indicate that the event will happen quite soon.
2. The Aces signify the season.
3. The Court cards predict the months.
4. The Minor Arcana cards denote days or weeks.

So, in doing a reading if you ask when something will happen and you get an Ace, it will probably happen within the season that that card represents (e.g., Ace of Wands: September–October–November). If you draw a Court card, it will most likely be within the months that that card is associated with (e.g., the Page of Pentacles would indicate the months between December and January). If you get a Minor Arcana like the Two of Cups, the event could happen within two days or weeks.

READING FOR OTHERS

If you want to do a reading for someone else or about someone who is not present, simply visualize that person clearly in your mind as you shuffle the cards and then ask the question as if it’s from their point of view.

If you want to know what someone else wants or is going to do, you might want to read these categories:

1. Desire: because it will show what they want or hope for.
2. Others: because it gives insight into how you affect them.
3. Best Course of Action: because it indicates what they are most likely to do.
4. New Beginnings: because it shows what they most probably will do.

If you think someone’s having problems and want to find out what, read the Anxiety and/or Disappointment categories.