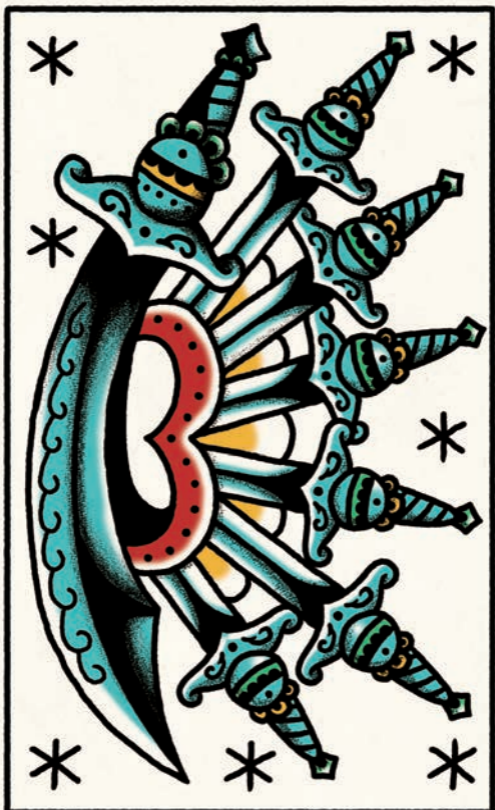




ACE OF SWORDS



7 OF SWORDS



KNAVE OF SWORDS



QUEEN OF SWORDS



ACE OF WANDS



2 OF WANDS



KNIGHT OF WANDS

XXI



THE WORLD

XIII



DEATH



THE MAGICIAN

INTRODUCTION

Tarot has origins in both Europe and Asia, based on a combination of a standard 56-card playing card deck and an added set of 22 'trump cards', now commonly referred to as the Major Arcana (roughly translating from Latin as 'secrets'). According to historians, the complete 78-card format we see today first emerged during the early fifteenth century in Northern Italy. During the sixteenth century France's Marseille card patterns were developed, producing a design style that underpins much of what we see in modern tarot cards. While tarot art styles diversified from the early twentieth century, the Marseille designs have remained the staple among the 22 Major cards. In decks keen to preserve simplicity, alongside beauty, the clean lines of the traditional Marseille patterns feature across all the cards – as with *Tattoo Tarot*.

Tattooing has an even longer, and decidedly chequered, history, from its ceremonial symbolism in early Egyptian and Greek civilisations to Japanese embracement of the art form, and it has been in and out of favour in the west: in nineteenth-century Britain it suffered from sleazy or freak-show connotations, but turn-of-the-century New York City witnessed its rebirth in a craze for tattoo flash art. These days tattooing is celebrated as phenomenal body art that is rich in symbolism, and many tattooists command great respect as fine artists.

The stylistic elements of the art of tattoo inking are well represented in *Tattoo Tarot*, including beautiful and iconic symbols such as the heart, arrow, rose, diamond, snake and key. Beginners and more established readers will be able to work well with this symbolism, which also crosses over to more modern Tarot territory.

Tarot cards have had a variety of uses historically, including for card games, but today people usually use them for seeking answers to questions, maybe as a quest for divine guidance or inspiration. Readers can experience the card's answer being given in an uncanny way, revealing something hidden but recognisable in the situation or thought process. Therein lies the significance of the Major (22) and Minor (56) Arcana cards, with 'secrets' bubbling up from the deeper realms of consciousness and experience.



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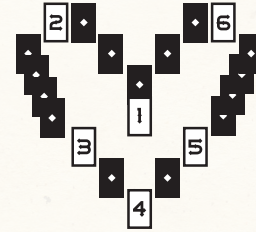


THE HEART

(Great for relationship matters)

1. Heart or root
2. Recent developments
3. Future potential
4. Action or circumstances that can help or hinder
5. Something you may have not considered
6. A clue to a happy ending

THE HEART

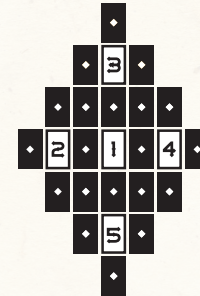


THE BLOOMING FLOWER

(Ideal for success in new ventures)

1. Seed of the venture
2. What helps or has helped early growth
3. What aids fuller development
4. Who or what brings support
5. The best setting or situation for encouraging success

THE BLOOMING FLOWER

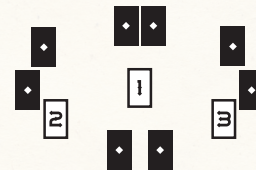


THIRD EYE INSIGHT

(Perfect for general, quick insight on any matter)

1. Essence, or focus of the situation
2. What brings clarity
3. What brings balance

THIRD EYE INSIGHT



THE COURTS

These cards, covering four groups according to rank, can signify types of people, usually based on appearance, cultural background, character or age. They may not always be gender-specific, although some have obvious connections in traditional card associations, or through visual cues. Individual Court card meanings frequently indicate abstract ideas, states and circumstances. The Courts may also signify human behaviours, qualities or attitudes; their interpretation can be applied to reflect how a person is approaching something or how they need to go about a matter. If the meaning seems negative it may relate to an approach to avoid. Character associations and qualities per rank group are:

Kings

Mature men; fathers, bosses, governors, trusted leaders; authority; taking responsibility; wise decisions; protecting the status quo.



Queens

Women, especially older women; mothers; nurturing, devoted; supportive, focused, truthful; both reflective and active; concerned with foundations, security and dependency.



Knights (Cavaliers)

Young men under 35; dynamic, adventurous; chivalrous, romantic; revolutionary energy, creating movement and change; intensive, expansive, goal-oriented.



Knaves (Pages)

Younger women; teenagers and children of both genders; students, apprentices and trainees; messengers and messages; intelligence, curiosity; new information, ideas and opportunities.



SWORDS



Ace of Swords

Truth. Courage. Vision. Insight. Power. Triumph. Accomplishment. Irresistible force. Cutting through to the heart of the matter. On a roll. Needed change.

2 of Swords

Stalemate. Conformity. Inner conflict. Duplicity. Disloyalty. Desire for respite. Truce. Poise. Balance of opposing parts.

3 of Swords

Disruptive forces. Incompatibility. Heartache. Distance. Absence. Alienation. Unrest. Confusion. Delay. Loss of bearings. Loss of moral compass. Resolving a moral dilemma. Victory through right action. The healing power of pure intentions. No pain, no gain.

4 of Swords

Mental security. Retreat. Rest. Peace. Good organisation of ideas. Practical spirit. Limitations of rational thought. Scientific rigidity.

5 of Swords

Greater self knowledge, often from mistakes and hardship. Brute force, sometimes with destructive consequences. Strength through persistence vs over-ambition. Possible losses through acting purely in your own interests.

6 of Swords

Journey. Going to warmer (or cooler) climes. Messenger. Kind attention. Success after trials. Recovery from illness or bereavement.

7 of Swords

Cunning. Skilfulness and determination that needs to be used for the right purposes. Considering escape from an imprisoning situation. Manipulation that tends to backfire. Watch your back. Change of heart. Treachery.

8 of Swords

Contradiction. Criticism. Reprimand. Crisis. Temporary difficulties. Blame. Censure. Scandal. Trauma that can be healed. Swamped by details. Being 'pinned' or entrapped. A dark night of the soul. Understanding the power of fear. The mental void and paralysis created through fear. Beliefs and thoughts that can be changed.

9 of Swords

Power of the mind. Third eye. Good faith, integrity. Busy mind. Suspicion. Fear. Despair. Shame. Misery. Anxiety regarding loved ones. Hermit. Meditation. Sanctuary. Ceremony; ritual.

10 of Swords

Affliction, sadness, grief, pain, grievances. We can let things drag us down or pick ourselves up and move on. Faith when the chips are down. It's only a matter of time and choice before turning the page.

Knave of Swords

Spy. Observer. Intelligence. Vigilance. Examination. Indiscretion. Surprise. The unknown, unseen, unexpected. Stealth. Cunning. Outspoken, sometimes at cost, but skilful at handling controversy.

Knight of Swords

Dashing, brave, potent defender. Expert soldier, marksman. Skilful, practised. Astute. Attacking. Starts battles. Courageous hero. Prompt action. Nips in the bud. Recklessness. Impulsive errors. Indiscretion.

Queen of Swords

Fault-finding. Belittling. Tough exterior with inner fragility or coldness. Experiencing hardship. Widow. Barren. Sterile. Mourning. Separation. Loneliness. Famine. Losses and their effects. Nasty attitude; slander.

King of Swords

Businessman. Judge. Lawyer. Doctor. Adviser. Authority. Power. Superiority. Experience. Justice and fairness. Military intelligence. Analytical. Fixed opinions. Controlling nature. Dictator. Ruthless. Conflict, harshness. Barbarity, tyranny.

