

# Botanical Inspirations



By Lynn Araujo

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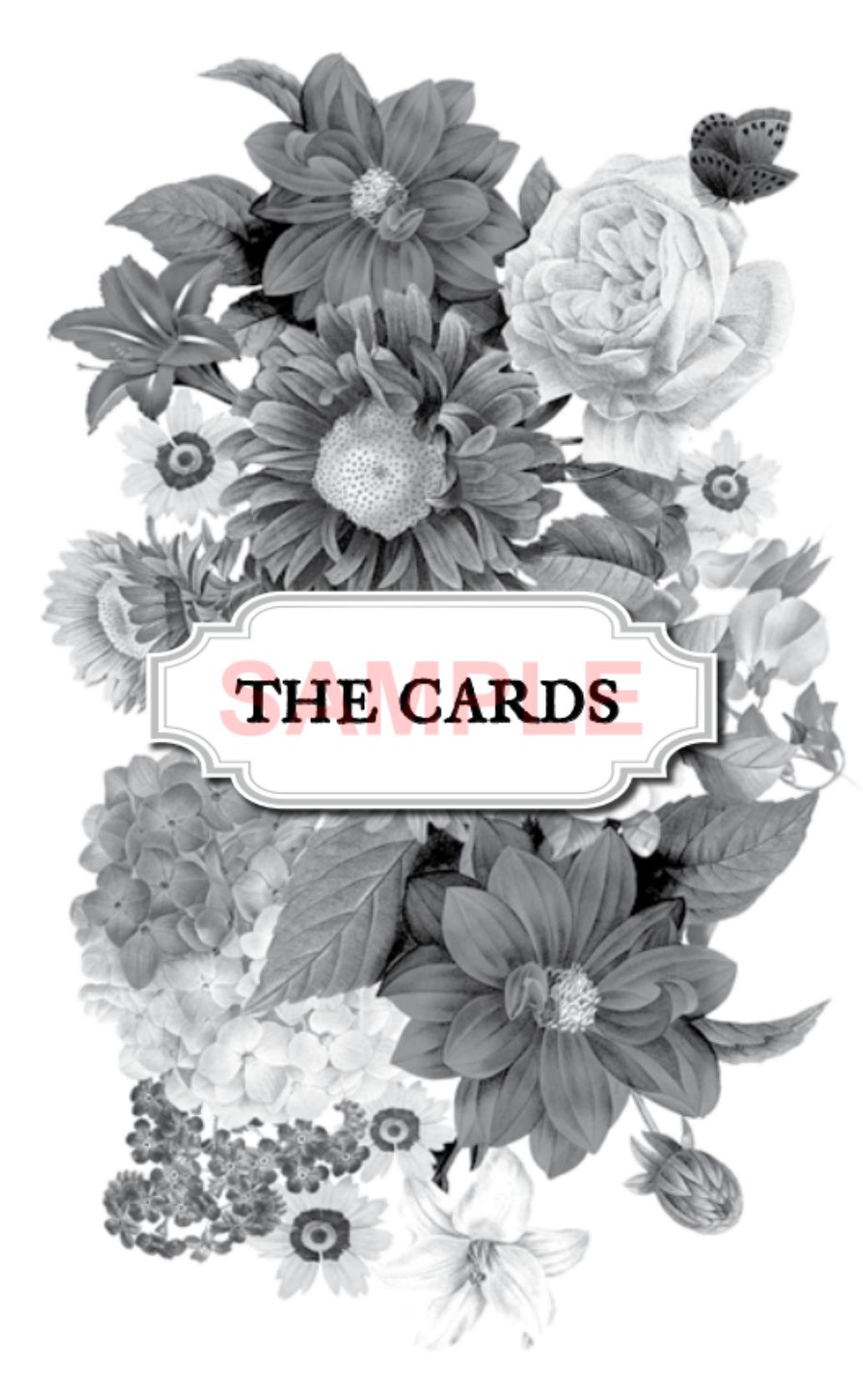
# INTRODUCTION

This Botanical Inspirations deck arose from a personal passion for all things floral, especially antique botanical prints. In addition to being an avid gardener, for years I have collected vintage gardening books, charming botanical ephemera including vintage seed packet art and tobacco insert cards, and of course illustrated volumes, old and new, about flower lore and the Secret Language of Flowers. In researching this project it's been fascinating to discover the varied meanings flowers have in different cultures.

This deck consists of 44 cards, each presenting a flower with its common name and Latin name or alternative name. Underneath the images on the cards are quotations and keywords or phrases describing the symbolism of the flower. In Victorian England, and in other cultures, flowers were used to convey specific meanings and messages,

especially in the coy rituals of courtship. In the Secret Language of Flowers anemones, for example, symbolized anticipation and dahlias represented dignity. The garden heliotrope was given as a pledge of eternal devotion. Included in this set is a fold-out reference guide to the Secret Language of Flowers.

The accompanying guidebook presents charming narrative vignettes about each flower and the special symbolism culled from history, literature, lore and legend, religion and spiritual practices, and of course the Secret Language of Flowers. From the demure violet to the noble magnolia, all flowers have stories to tell and lessons to share. Flowers can be gentle reminders to keep our eyes and our hearts open. Each lovely flower included in this deck also brings a message of wisdom and insight. It is hoped that this deck will be enjoyed by gardeners and all those who appreciate flowers for their beauty and their special ability to inspire and uplift us all.



**THE CARDS**



## AMARYLLIS

*Amaryllis*

**Symbolism:** Determination & Creative Achievement

*“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”*

— Maya Angelou

According to legend, Amaryllis was a love-struck maiden who had to get creative in order to gain the affection of the handsome shepherd who was only interested in his flowers. In desperation, she pierced her own heart, leaving a path of blood droplets to his front door. After thirty days, the droplets turned to stunning scarlet flowers. The shepherd was so taken with the flowers he fell in love with Amaryllis and her heart was healed. The amaryllis has come to be associated with pastoral poetry. To the Victorians, the winter-blooming amaryllis was a symbol of determination that was often given to artists to inspire their creativity.

**Inspirational Message:** When the Amaryllis appears, it means your muses have blessed you with their inspiration. Fulfill your creative destiny and your achievements will be recognized and rewarded.



**ANEMONE**  
*Windflower*

**Symbolism:** Anticipation

*“I felt like an arrow, pulled back  
and ready to be launched into  
something big.”*

— A.B. Shepherd

This intricate and aptly named flower, meaning “daughter of the wind”, has inspired poets and artists throughout time. The anemone flower closes up its petals at night and when rain is on the way. Perhaps that is why the Victorians associated the flower with both fading hope and expectation. Yet like the gentle breeze it is named after, the eagerly awaited bloom returns again. The lovely anemone is one of the first signs of spring, so it aptly relates to anticipation.

**Inspirational Message:** When others begin to lose hope, you sense bright possibilities on the horizon. Like the “daughter of the wind” you eagerly anticipate the changes and challenges of each new dawn.

Throughout Asia, the camellia is revered as a sacred flower. It is the national flower of China, where it symbolizes daughters and sons. To the Japanese, it is an emblem of the divine. In Korea it is used in wedding ceremonies to represent longevity. Camellias were imported from Asia to Victorian England for winter balls and they had a special meaning for lovers. The gift of a white camellia sent the message that the sender and the recipient were destined to be together.

**Inspirational Message:** When you look all around you see signs that your fate is unfolding as it should. When you direct your gaze within, seeing what is in your own heart, you discover your true destiny.