

CRYSTAL VISIONS TAROT

By Jennifer Galasso



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INTRODUCTION:

ABOUT THE CRYSTAL VISIONS TAROT

The Crystal Visions Tarot was created with the intention of combining art that is unique from traditional systems, yet straightforward enough to make it easy for new readers to learn the Tarot. Since many readers have come to form strong associations with the Rider-Waite® deck, the Crystal Visions Tarot remains true to this classic 78-card system in much of its symbolism, as well as in card and suit names and numbering. Within the deck, each suit has a vibrant and consistent color scheme, in order to be easily recognizable within a spread. Symbols and imagery are also used to represent the elemental aspects of each suit in order to aid the novice in forming associations with the cards, and the individual suits.

The name, Crystal Visions Tarot, was inspired by singer/songwriter Stevie Nicks' CD, *Crystal Visions*, which was released right around the time Jennifer was planning the deck. Upon hearing the title of the CD, it resonated with Jennifer as a possible title for her Tarot deck. Jennifer attributes much of her initial interest in the spiritual realm to Stevie's haunting voice, ethereal nature, and poetic lyrics. The artwork of Crystal Visions Tarot also incorporates

Jennifer's interest in crystal balls. Although Tarot and scrying are different forms of divination, "Crystal Visions" has a double meaning in that it also suggests clear visions, which she thought was very appropriate to the Tarot.

Jennifer is a fantasy artist and illustrator, so the artwork of the deck is fantastical, with many of the images derived from the elements. Although she wouldn't necessarily label it a Faerie deck, much of the imagery is suggestive of the Faerie realm.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

SAMPLE 0 + THE FOOL

The Fool represents taking a chance, unlimited potential, enthusiasm, naïveté, blind faith, spontaneity, and a zest for life. The Fool is at the beginning of the journey, facing many adventures and choices. She looks around, marveling at the beauty of her surroundings, She watches the flight of the butterflies, delighting in their freedom. She is completely unaware of the danger that faces her as she nears stepping off a cliff into the unknown. This card symbolizes taking a leap of faith and cautions to be more aware of ever-present dangers.

REVERSED: Signifies reckless behavior, blind optimism, and a total disregard for reality. The Fool is living in a dream world, and is in danger of colliding with a rude awakening.

I ✚ THE MAGICIAN

The Magician represents creative power and determination. The Magician, strong willed and ambitious, reminds us of our ability to harness the power of the Universe in order to manifest our dreams and desires. The Magician represents all of the elements of the universe: fire, water, air, earth, and spirit as represented by his tools: cup, wand, pentacle, and sword. This is a card of potential and impact and reminds us to grasp opportunities and take action consciously and deliberately.

REVERSED: Refers to someone who abuses their power, is completely domineering, and lacking regard for the feelings of others. There is an air of entitlement about them.

II ✚ THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The High Priestess represents mystery, the unconscious, intuition, and divine realms. She brings a sense of calm to our lives, and helps us find deeper meaning through understand-

ing, wisdom, and knowledge. The keeper of all things magick, the High Priestess stands upon a crescent moon, symbolizing intuition, psychic force and unseen energy. She holds a pomegranate in one hand, and an ankh staff in the other, and is surrounded by butterflies; all symbols of rebirth and eternal life.

REVERSED: The High Priestess can signify someone who is not as deep as they appear, or uses their keen senses and intuitive abilities to control and manipulate. There is a sense of falseness, superficiality, and entitlement about the High Priestess when she appears reversed.

III ✦ THE EMPRESS

The Empress represents femininity, abundance, nurturing, harmony, luxury, beauty and grace. She is an Earth Mother, representing this world and that of the senses. The Goddess of fertility, the Empress is portrayed with child, surrounded by greenery and ripe wheat. She holds a heart-shaped charm and a triskele scepter, symbolizing both life and rebirth and the power of the Triple Goddess. The Empress wears a necklace adorned with the symbol of Venus, as well as a crown of stars. She stands beneath a pomegranate tree, a symbol of fertility, while one foot

stands firmly on land and the other dips into the river of life.

REVERSED: Reversed in a spread, the Empress indicates danger or laziness, frivolity, promiscuity and superficiality. The Empress reversed is vain, self-centered, and unrefined.

IV ✦ THE EMPEROR

Structured, protective and authoritative, the Emperor is the ultimate guardian and patriarch. Holding an ankh staff in his right hand, the symbol of life everlasting, the Emperor balances an orb with his left, representing the world he rules and protects. The eagle carries another orb, representing the power, dominance, and vision of the Emperor. A crown bearing the horns of a ram, a symbol of assuredness and intelligence, adorns the Emperor's head. He stands sure-footed, protecting his domain.

REVERSED: When the Emperor appears reversed in a spread, it indicates someone who has become an aggressive dictator in dealing with others. The balance of authority and sensitivity of the Emperor is gone and one is left with only vanity and intolerance.

V ✚ THE HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant represents religious tradition, order, rules and orthodox dogma. He is a conformist and a traditionalist who upholds religious standards, ritual and ceremony. Wise and learned, it is his duty to uphold and pass on ancient beliefs. The Hierophant offers a blessing while a candle burns to his right with the symbol of universal beliefs. The triple-cross staff to his left symbolizes the trinity found in so many religions. Crossed keys on the Hierophant's mitre symbolize the unlocking of wisdom and higher truths.

REVERSED: The Hierophant reversed indicates someone looking for spirituality outside the dogma of traditional religions. Possibly they feel confined by the rules and ritual of their old religion, and are looking for a belief system that allows a bit more freedom.

VI ✚ THE LOVERS

The Lovers card represents a strong connection to another person, through a physical attraction, deep love or kinship, empathic connection, or strong friendship. It is the card of soul mates and seeing yourself in another person. The two people depicted in the card are bound by the

ties held by two doves, much like the ties in a handfasting, or marriage ceremony. They symbolize that two are better, stronger and more complete than one alone.

REVERSED: The Lovers reversed can represent a destructive relationship where obsession, jealousy, and control are at play. Instead of a union where each person flourishes, in this partnership each is stifled by mistrust, manipulation, and possibly abuse.

VII ✦ THE CHARIOT

The Chariot is a card of victory, self-confidence, success, focus, control and authority. This card represents the achievement of one's goals through self-discipline, assertiveness, and perseverance. The feminine character portrayed in this card is a self-assured warrior. The Chariot card depicts dichotomies, especially conflicting emotions, represented by the black and white horses veering off into different directions. The charioteer does not seem concerned as she holds the reins with only one hand. She has all the control and willpower she needs to attain victory.

REVERSED: When the Chariot appears reversed, it can indicate a ruthless approach to

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