

Faerie Tarot

By Nathalie Hertz



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Dedication

I would like to thank my husband, Jean-Marie Baveux, for translating this book from French to English. And for being here with me all this time, as today (May 17th, 2007) we celebrate our 10th Anniversary. Our two daughters, Lola and Danaë, were born while creating this Tarot deck, so it has special meaning for me. Thank you for the family we have built together. Our journey together goes on, the four of us now.

Introduction

I devoted much time and pleasure in designing this tarot deck, which portrays the four seasons. These cards pay homage to nature, its fauna and its flora, my sources of inspiration.

The tarot cards teach us and enlighten us. They invite us to meditate and think intuitively. Reading the cards can help us to make decisions, by determining the positive or negative factors. The questioner can master his existence with more clarity, as can he analyzes his essential self. The tarot projects a great image of what is going on in our lives. But it is left to us to use our free will.

Major Arcana

The 22 Major Arcana cards portray, through symbols, significant experiences of our existence.

0 THE FOOL

Usually designated with the numeral 0, The Fool card represents both the beginning and the end. A small impish fairy, full of innocence and joy, walks among the branches on an eternal journey toward the truth. With the heart of a child and great sensitivity, the Fool's companions are small animals like this garden dormouse. This imp is free of all ties with others. To some, the Fool seems insane; to others he is the master of his own destiny. In the tarot, the Fool speaks neither about failure, nor of success.

Divinatory meaning: A sudden departure, unforeseen events, chance. Unconcern, inner personal evolution, new experiments, the unknown, adventure, spontaneity, intuition, genius.

Reversed meaning: Uncertainty, immaturity, escaping respon-

sibilities, imprudence, negligence, madness, shallow promises, fraud.

I THE MAGICIAN

This magician fairy incarnates initial energy, the craft, personification of the will, intuition, and creativity. He is surrounded by the four symbols of the Minor Arcana: the cup, the sword, the wand, and the pentacle. He is a skillful and creative alchemist who fuses the divine and the earthly elements with eternal truth and knowledge. Gifted with power, this magician carries in him the elements of success. He uses his potential for lofty purposes, linking intelligence and spiritual life to positive action. He is the creator of his own destiny.

Divinatory meaning: A new action, new directions, opportunity. Optimism, presence of mind, spontaneity, audacity, imagination, ability, independence, happiness, generosity, attraction. Beginning of a relationship, new chances of success.

Reversed meaning: Shyness, lack of will, hazardous destination, impatience, boastfulness. Poor self-image, obstacles, frustration, distress, fading love.

II THE HIGH PRIESTESS

This ageless fairy priestess, with her frank yet soft gaze, draws out our hidden feelings and forces. She possesses reason, patience, level-headedness, and inspiration. The scroll she holds reveals esoteric knowledge. Its spangled diadem represents her mystical skills. The High Priestess embodies the female principle. She acts with reserve and inspires with prudence. She teaches the art of listening to oneself. The High Priestess is the guardian of the truth.

Divinatory meaning: Wisdom, maturity, concentration, reflection, perseverance, patience, studies, knowledge, objectivity, divination. Wise counsel, maternal love.

Reversed meaning: Indolence and impatience. Misguided intentions, incomplete knowledge, indecision, pride, selfishness. Plotting and conniving.

III THE EMPRESS

This fairy empress, gracious and dignified, incarnates beauty, charm, love, and generosity. She symbolizes emotion and embodies feminine attraction. Surrounded by barn owls, she represents Mother Earth and fertility. The scepter she holds is a sign of her inner power. She controls situations and dissipates doubts. Her authority is effortless.

Divinatory meaning: Changeable ideas, intelligence, creativity, harmony, serenity, stability, arts, poetry, maternal advice. In love, an enriching new relationship.

Reversed meaning: Shallow intelligence, lack of communication, vanity, arrogance, subterfuge, weariness, apathy. Indecisions, canceled plans, coldness. A false friend.

IV THE EMPEROR

This fairy king, with his confident and determined stance, is a self-assured man, with great interior strength. He is a leader and a builder, who works with control and authority. His assured attitude reflects stability. He exudes virile and constructive energy. He inspires rigor, order and honesty, with no tolerance of weakness. He is accompanied by an eagle, the symbol of force and power. His scepter channels his power and practical intelligence to the outside world. He has an independent but ordered existence.

Divinatory meaning: Masculinity, maturity, achievement, stability, determination, reason. The father, the brother. Faithful, strong, positive, solid and secure. Achieves goals through will, and paternal love.

Reversed meaning: Immaturity, denial of power, weakness, forthcoming failures, obstacles, lack of motivation and action. Impatient, selfish, arrogant, and violent.

V THE HIEROPHANT

This elderly fairy pope has the role of bringing the sky and the earth closer together. He holds great spiritual power and authority. The Hierophant is a card of protection in the tarot. He blesses the fairies, who recognize his wisdom and authority. Tolerant but strict, he is the master of the wise. He is synonymous with enlightenment and respect for traditional values. The keys of illumination symbolize his esoteric knowledge. The staff decorated with a scintillating crystal ball confers supreme powers on the mind and soul.

Divinatory meaning: Knowledge, benevolence, understanding, indulgence, compassion, kindness, determination, and harmony. Forgiveness, leniency, reconciliation, guidance.

Reversed meaning: Incomprehension, disagreements, gossip, revenge, narrow-mindedness, vulnerability, inflexibility. Lack of self-confidence; inability to combat difficulties.

VI THE LOVERS

These two fairy lovers symbolize the divine energy of beauty, attraction of the senses, seduction, youth, vice and virtue. In each other's arms, they embody passion, union and harmony. The hearts surrounding them speak to us about their affection and innocence. In their search for true love, they must undergo a test, a sacrifice, and a difficult choice.

Divinatory meaning: Harmony, affinity, beauty, youth, soul mate. An important decision which will determine the future. Prudence, trust in one's intuition, free will.

Reversed meaning: Temptation, treason, jealousy, duality, disorder, slander. Emotional dependence and instability, unsatisfied desires, conflicting choices.

VII THE CHARIOT

This radiant young water fairy, full of energy, passion, and courage, is determined and impetuous. Her hair floating behind her, she advances toward a direction, as her choices are free and independent. The reins she holds symbolize action and movement. She guides her hippocampus with self-confidence and goes straight to her target. She has managed her instincts and emotions, to reconcile her body, heart and spirit. Her brave temperament ensures her glory and victory. The Chariot is the card of vitality and achievement. From her chariot, this water fairy controls her own destiny.

Divinatory meaning: Self-confidence, triumph, dynamism, chance, sheer will, great vitality. Multitude of projects, diplomas, contracts, valuable professional work, success, victory, adventures, journeys. Balance in a relationship.

Reversed meaning: Defeats, obstacles, conflicts. Lack of self-confidence, lack of courage, professional troubles, debts. Tiredness, arrogance, and dissatisfaction in relationships.

VIII STRENGTH

This young fairy lying next to a lion cub is the image of grace and purity. With her hand, she effortlessly tames the lion cub, an emblem of ardor and devouring force. Once tamed, this force becomes an instrument of transformation for the young fairy. She is mistress of her own fate because of her inner quiet force and her power of attraction. The lion cub, calmed and placated, seems to subject itself without aggression. Together they face any danger, allowing intelligence to override brute force. This magnetic and radiant fairy incarnates the triumph of man over primary

instincts. She teaches us how to find this force and use it to control the animal within us.

Divinatory meaning: Courage, self-control, faith in oneself, ambitions, energy, achievements. Strong passion, fidelity, sincerity, intense love. A solid situation, profits, easy victories.

Reversed meaning: Weakness, failures, regression, but also excess, violence, egocentric attitudes, pride, impulsiveness, abuse of power. In love, possessiveness and selfishness.

IX THE HERMIT

This elderly fairy, with his mystical expression, symbolizes meditation, humility, and knowledge. In the quiet forest, he lives in solitude and perfect harmony with nature. In search of himself and for the path of wisdom, time has become his ally. The light he holds reflects his spiritual clarity, illuminates the truth, and allows him to penetrate the secrets of the *arcana*. The stars surrounding his head symbolize the strength of the higher spirits and the knowledge lighting his way. The hermit avoids contact with others to live in perfect communion with his ideals. His mental power and intuition will allow him to reach his goal—the divine light.

Divinatory meaning: Wisdom, patience, isolation, reserve, prudence, discretion, moderation. A great sensitivity, spirituality, secrecy, telepathy, and occult protection.

Reversed meaning: Timidity, obstacles, regression, inertia. Mental confusion, avarice, pessimism, delay, and bad luck.

X THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

This card of transformation depicts the cyclical nature of life. The wheel is the symbol of becoming, of existence and destiny: life and death, the positive and the negative. The plants, flowers, and fabric draped on the wheel are offerings one would find on a “wish tree” to find out one’s future. The wheel turns these offer-

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