

Ghosts & Spirits Tarot

by Lisa Hunt



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Dedication and Acknowledgments

For Kort, Connor and Kyra; my household peeps who dig what I do and love the ghosts and spirits too.

My heartfelt thanks go to the enthusiastic Team USGS: Stuart Kaplan, Paula Palmer, and Lynn Araujo. Also to Kort Kramer: husband, art scanner, website designer, fan page administrator, photographer and excellent coffee maker. Thank you Michael Giza for the inspirational reference photos, and Evelyn Manhart and Ingrid Kieselack for the engaging books. I'm grateful to all of my friends and fans in social media who have generously followed the progress of this project and provided invaluable input, enthusiasm, inspiration, and words of encouragement along the way. Last but not least, thank you Mom and Pop for letting me be "Wild Horse".

Introduction

I grew up in a small New England town where 18th century houses stood against a backdrop of thick, deciduous trees. I played in those woods and never doubted that they possessed supernatural energy. I believed in all manner of spirits and saw faces in the trees and “little people” hidden in the garden. I believed that ghosts did in fact roam the streets of my historic town.

A sensitive child, I picked up on energies that were part of my surroundings and transcribed my “fantasies” onto paper. It brought to physical life what my intuition already knew about the spirit world.

Why are we fascinated with ghosts and spirits? If they aren't real, then why do they persist in our consciousness? Ghost stories and tales of the supernatural can be found around the world and many cultures still propitiate spirits as part of their belief system. The possibility that somehow our essence continues even when our bodies do not is a compelling idea.

Ghost lore has been the subject of fascination since ancient times. Our attitudes about how we reconcile life and death, honor the dead, and prepare for the afterlife are steeped in tradition. There are cultures that convene

with the spirit world as a means of assuring abundance for the living. Many types of ghosts appear in various guises throughout the world. They may manifest during different phases of transition between the land of the living and the land of the dead.

Ghosts and Spirits Tarot includes ghosts and spirits from legend and lore. Plucked from many sources, they represent an array of ethereal beings found around the world. Some are "friendly" while others are downright terrifying; but all are part of an anthropological landscape and a relevant aspect of our humanity.

The deck has the standard 22 majors and 56 minor cards. Each card is accompanied by a brief synopsis along with divinatory meaning and symbols. The descriptions are brief summations based on research and my own particular input. I have also included a special bonus card for questions that require deeper reflection. Let the ghosts and spirits talk to you and help you dissolve the barriers between conscious constraint and objective inner reflection. Ghosts and spirits are often messengers trying to tell us something and it's my hope that Ghosts and Spirits Tarot provides a conduit for further communication and understanding.

—Lisa Hunt

Major Arcana

0 • The Fool (Leshy)

Leshy are wood spirits inhabiting the dark forests of the Baltics. These shape-shifters can assume many guises and range in temperament from malevolent to mischievous. They are elusive and difficult to detect, but can lead the unwary traveler astray with their ability to mimic sounds. Entering a forest can be analogous to entering the unknown terrain of the unconscious. The tangle of branches indicates the challenges that lay ahead. The faces in the rocks illustrate the gamut of emotion and life lessons that await us. The dog is aware of the supernatural presence and serves as an intuitive guide for the carefree individual.

Divinatory meaning: Maintaining a sense of adventure helps carry you through the challenges ahead. Preserve a child-like optimism as you explore new paths, but bear in mind that anything can happen along the way.

1 • The Magician (Psychopomp)

Psychopomps assist those transitioning between death and afterlife and offer comfort to both the living and the dead. The psychopomp helps to provide a bridge between the

conscious and unconscious. In essence, the merging of all layers of consciousness symbolizes wholeness and self-awareness. The spirals indicate the transference of energy from one form to another. They also reiterate the cyclical nature of life and afterlife.

Divinatory Meaning: The human psyche hosts limitless knowledge about the universe and the omnipresent energies around us. You can access messages beyond the veils of immediate recognition if you open up channels of communication with the mysteries that lie just beyond limited perception.

2 • The High Priestess (Enchantress—Sibyl)

The most famous oracle of Greek/ Roman legend, the Sibyl of Cumae (Italy) guided Aeneas through the land of the dead and enabled him to return to the living. The Sibyl interweaves the energies of past lives and future events. She illuminates the scene where dream-like specters mingle with relics of the past. A pathway provides a passage to clarity and higher understanding. The sparkles indicate a divine presence.

Divinatory Meaning: Listen to your inner voice and allow intuition to be your compass as you continue along your path. This is a card about accessing and utilizing one's inner wisdom.

3 • The Empress (Guardian Spirit)

A guardian spirit is a benevolent presence whose mission is one of protection and guidance. The spirit sometimes provides prescient messages at birth, or later in life. These spirits could appear as animals and are thought to protect sacred objects and places. This guardian spirit is a bird shape-shifter. Birds are often messengers of the soul. The presence of the angelic aura helps to instill a sense of hope and well-being.

Divinatory meaning: The nurturing power of a mother figure can help you feel more empowered and creative. By connecting with our anima/feminine attributes, we can be more open to all the possibilities before us.

4 • The Emperor (Dragon Ghost-Gods)

Ancient Hawaiians referred to Dragon Ghost-Gods as *mo-o*. These mythical water-dwelling creatures were thought to possess great powers and shape-shifting abilities. As Dragon Ghost-Gods spread across the island chain, sorcerers and priests provided offerings to appease them. The dragon rises from a magical pool. Its colors and patterns suggest a connection with its environment and its ability to shape-shift at will. The rich fertile scene is a reminder to respect the environment and the creatures that inhabit it.

Divinatory meaning: A powerful, influen-

tial figure may enter your life. As the animus, he represents conscious reasoning, experience and authority.

5 • The High Priest (Apparition)

Apparitions are usually ghosts of the dead who manifest to convey a message. They typically appear through limited visual perception and are often heard or sensed and not seen. Some are deceased souls who briefly visit friends and relatives while others may haunt particular individuals or places. Some appearances initiate good luck while others augur impending crises. This apparition appears in a brief impulse of energy to deliver an important message. The orbs of light surrounding him represent souls traveling to higher planes of consciousness. The open book symbolizes knowledge, wisdom, and open-mindedness.

Divinatory meaning: A spirit messenger may have important information to impart. Use the opportunity to seek guidance and advice before making any crucial decisions.

6 • The Lovers (Specter Bridegroom)

Specter bridegroom stories present a spectrum of emotions concerning relationships: desire, betrayal, devotion, passion, loss, and grief. When betrothed lovers are separated, circumstances change and the dynamic shifts.

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