

# Paulina Tarot

by Paulina Cassidy



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# Introduction

I've always had a desire to create a tarot deck, but wanted to create one that came naturally for me. For Paulina Tarot, I completely immersed myself in the world of tarot for a year and a half. Instead of creating the deck in sequence, I allowed the symbolism and meaning of a particular card to bring itself to my attention. I would spend days or sometimes weeks with one card in mind, allowing visualizations to emerge from the subconscious. There are whimsical characters to be found throughout the deck, who I suspect had a desire to be part of Paulina Tarot. While these spirited beings are not visible to the naked eye, I do sense their lively presence.

I soon noticed that my life events at the time seemed to coincide with the card I'd chosen to design, offering ideas and possible outcomes. We often find inner truth and discover hidden facets about ourselves when illuminated pathways present themselves in unexpected ways. When we allow life to surprise us, things often fall into place at the right moment.

The Rider-Waite deck was my earliest tarot influence, and it remains the deck to which I refer. Though I've always been fascinated by tarot, as I moved through the process of

designing my deck, I became even more enamored by the tarot. Part of Paulina Tarot was created while I was living in the New Orleans area. Many of my characters are decked in early Mardi Gras, Victorian-influenced costumes, representing my affection for New Orleans.

I sincerely hope that Paulina Tarot leads you gently through a radiant adventure, encouraging you to have fun with the cards as the deck communicates, in its own way, the answers you seek.

—Paulina Cassidy

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# MAJOR ARCANA

## 0 ♀ The Fool

Wandering unafraid, the free-spirited fool imagines soaring like the birds, whose beauty and freedom inspire him. His concerned canine companion warns him to avoid risky situations. Yet the optimistic fool eagerly ventures in faith that his intuition will guide him wisely. The stony cliff is intricately shaped with memoirs left by those who have ventured before him.

*MEANINGS:* The journey of life, the discovery of one's individual path. Decisions, impulse, child-like optimism, new beginnings, spontaneity, adventure, irresponsibility, inexperience.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Being blind to potential problems, making foolish decisions, a lack of thought or consideration, irresponsibility.

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## I ♀ The Magician

Elemental beings, animals and insects closely assist the magician in conjuring the powers of the natural world. The infinity symbol above the owl perched on her head confirms that everything is connected by perpetual energy. The bird delivers an arcane message and the butterflies announce transformation. The wild-

flowers symbolize the ever-blooming universe with which the magician works. Objects representing the four elements are always available to her: wand, cup, sword, and pentacle.

*MEANINGS:* Infinite possibilities, self-confidence, personal power, determination, concentration, action, focus.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Lack of courage, destructive use of powers, manipulation, confusion.

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## II ♪ The High Priestess

An octopus embracing the high priestess embodies insight and vision. Sprites by her side are guardians of concealed knowledge. The totem trees, patterned with codes, reach into higher planes. Ancient all-seeing eyes peer out from a portal in the priestess's cloak. The wasps harness female warrior energy.

*MEANINGS:* Secret knowledge, natural instinct, intuition, wisdom, learning, purity, mystery.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Lack of understanding, repressed feelings, selfishness, dependence on the opinions of others.

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## III ♪ The Empress

The empress's green dress indicates her connection with nature and desire to share harmony and

peace. From her head grows a bouquet of stars for divinity and constancy. Her sensual dance and nurturing skills stimulate her garden to flourish.

*MEANINGS:* Fertility, sexuality, abundance, material prosperity, pleasure, comfort, sensuality, desire, beauty, mothering.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Neglect, financial difficulties, creative blocks, infertility.

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## IV ♪ The Emperor

The archaic stonework surrounding the emperor reflects his strength and endurance. A marionette attached to his coat conveys his need for domination in order to achieve success. The prominence of the color gold represents excellence and achievement. His facial expression reveals sheer determination.

*MEANINGS:* Courage, ambition, dedication, success in achieving goals, leadership, loyalty, protectiveness.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Abuse of power, weakness.

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## V ♪ The Hierophant

The hierophant is a scholarly willow tree with great inner vision and wisdom. His leaves intermix with glowing stars, signifying his connection with life on a spiritual level. The eye above

his head signifies his quest for higher truth, which he shares with younger generations.

*MEANINGS:* A wise teacher, guidance offered, growing knowledge, thrives on spiritual sustenance.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* Withholding information to retain power, false advice, prejudice, stuck in tradition.

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## VI ♪ The Lovers

Tiny sprites circle the lovers, but where will they lead the pair? Trust and teamwork keep the lovers in balance as they allow someone else to guide the bird. The woman wears a gown of passionate red and warm yellow. Her parasol offers protection from the heat of desire.

*MEANINGS:* Honesty, trust, communication, making important relationship choices. Partnership, trusting your instincts.

*REVERSED MEANINGS:* False relationships, the loss of trust, deception.

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## VII ♪ The Chariot

The charioteer struggles to guide his conflicting horses, yet his determination allows him to steady the chariot. The red details on the dark horse represent action and energy. The blue of

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