

SECRETS *of the* MYSTIC GROVE

SAMPLE

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Artwork by Mary Alayne Thomas

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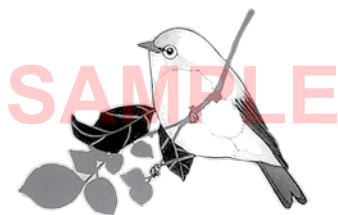
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INTRODUCTION

Join Mary Alayne Thomas on a journey through a place of magic. Learn the secrets of the Mystic Grove through 44 works of art created to enfold you in a world of beauty and imagination. Expect the unexpected: a lady wearing a pheasant, tigers eating strawberries, and foxes sharing secrets. Like a jazz musician who takes a single bit of melody then transforms it into music you can't forget, the artist riffs on fairy tales, folklore and mythology to create a mystical place. When you take time to wander the Mystic Grove, you will learn your own secrets as well as those of the denizens who dwell here. Enjoy the integration of nature and humanity in whimsical depictions of companionship. Let yourself be free of expectations so that you can embrace the delightful vision of Mary Alayne Thomas.

For each card there are keywords, description and an inspirational message. You will also be given journal prompts to help you integrate the meaning of the card for yourself. Let this become your journey into your own mystical soul. You are invited to use the space provided in this guidebook to write your thoughts or to dedicate a special journal to this deck as you explore the enchanting world of the Mystic Grove.





THE CARDS

1. AWAKENING

Attraction, Beginning, Newness, Communing

Spring is a time of awakening and renewal. Birds, butterflies, bees and blossoms all begin their life cycles anew. The sleeping world begins to rouse from its dormant state. Barn Swallows, those amazing aerial acrobats, swoop in as harbingers of the coming regenerative cycles. They revel in flying together. Flowers serve as reminders that the liminal time of waking is beautiful, if fleeting.

Open your eyes up to the world around you. Seek out new places, people and experiences. Let your thoughts blossom to all the possibilities, as infinite options unfold before you. As you awaken to the new days, remember to put any sorrow aside. Instead, focus on listening to the songs of birds, the hum of the bees. Shed your own cocoon for a shiny new you. Consider making art that celebrates birth and beginnings. It may be time for you to find others to commune with, those who are soaring in the same direction as you. Make a point of looking for new connections.

When you see this card, you are being invited to be Persephone to your own world. Emerge from your

sheltered space. Focus on the clear, bright vision of your world as you need it to be. Now is the time to release your inner vernal goddess. Awakening to your own desires will bring you untapped joys.

Journal Prompts:

- *~ 7 What is new in my life at this time?
- *~ 7 Who or what do I want to attract to my world?
- *~ 7 What new energy am I being asked to awaken to?

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2. DREAMING

Gifts, Receiving, Dreams

The dreamer reclines against the leopard while the nightingale brings her a star. Stargazer lilies hang down to lend their quiet song. The nightingale is a small, modest bird that goes unnoticed until it begins to sing. Under a veil of twilight the nightingale's song illuminates your inner desires. The leopard is easy to miss when it is blending into the foliage. Even the lily grows quietly waiting to be seen. What is in your heart that waits to be noticed? Take some time to open up to the secret wanting of your soul. By acknowledging that it exists, you nurture it. Maybe your dreams have been answered in subtle ways. Examine what you are asking for. Then review what you already have. Consider the seemingly insignificant pieces of your life. There may be puzzle pieces that you just need to slide into place.

If you knew the stars would answer, what would you ask them? Take some time to go outside just to gaze at the heavens. Imagine your biggest dream. Then, invite friends to dream with you. When you share your hopes, you find others who will support you as you support them. The quiet, shy nightingale brings a gift, so remember to pay attention to your wall-

flower friends. There is a harmony in your world that should be acknowledged. Be grateful for both the wild leopard friends and the soft-spoken ones. Both bring wisdom to you as you look to the stars. Quiet answers to dreams are waiting for you.

Journal Prompts:

- *~ What does it mean to dream?
- *~ Who supports me in my dreams?
- *~ Who challenges me and how do I meet these challenges?

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and figures before you engage in any activities. This is the time to look before you leap.

Journal Prompts:

- *~ **1** How does it feel to be an observer rather than a participant?
- *~ **2** What am I missing in the current situation?
- *~ **3** What might I gain from a bird's eye view?

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