

# Vanessa Tarot

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## Introduction

Vanessa Tarot has taken its inspiration from several areas of contemporary pop culture including female role models from the small and large screens of television and cinema, life-like fashion dolls, and heroines from comic books. In the same way that dolls encourage imaginative role-playing, Vanessa Tarot provides scenarios for examining our fantasies, fears, decisions, desires, and choices. The sassy but sage characters of Vanessa Tarot playfully reinterpret female roles, occupations, and social stereotypes from the housewife to the witch, and the princess to the scientist. With humor, glamour, and an attitude of adventure, this charming deck invites readers to explore life through the fanciful imagery of tarot.

# Major Arcana

**0 ~ THE FOOL:** this enlightened lady is ready to take risks. She packs her things, leaves certainty by the side of the road, and hitchhikes for a new adventure.

*Meaning:* beginnings, potential, the start of a journey, taking risks, release of pretensions, following instincts. *Reversed:* recklessness, lack of caution, inactivity.

**I ~ THE MAGICIAN:** an enchanting chick makes creative use of her practical magic.

*Meaning:* expressing creative energy, commencement of an endeavor, actions with confidence, willpower, ability to affect actual changes. *Reversed:* inaction, indolence, blocked energies, movement towards less positive views.

**II ~ THE HIGH PRIESTESS:** an exotic woman reflects on the mysteries of the desert night.

*Meaning:* the subconscious, hidden truths, secrets, inner reflection, solitude, intuition. *Reversed:* movement from withdrawal to interaction, sharing of secrets, ideals turned into

praxis, refusal to heed to intuition.

**III ~ THE EMPRESS:** a sensual woman luxuriates in the abundance about her.

*Meaning:* fertility, abundance, passion, nurturing, a mother figure. *Reversed:* low productivity, dispassionate action.

**IV ~ THE EMPEROR:** a powerful leader delivers a potent speech to her subjects.

*Meaning:* rules, laws, stern action, forcefulness, structures, authority, strong will. *Reversed:* compassion, but also indecision, lack of willpower, vacillation.

**V ~ THE HIEROPHANT:** a Sunday school teacher points the way to piety.

*Meaning:* culture, tradition, spiritual knowledge, teachings, orthodoxy, traditionalism, conforming to norms. *Reversed:* unorthodoxy, refusal to let society set rules, also gullibility.

**VI ~ THE LOVERS:** a happy couple emerges from their wedding ceremony.

*Meaning:* relationships (not necessarily romantic), fulfillment, commitment, trust. *Reversed:* something amiss in relationships,

jealousy, distrust, resentment, or inability to connect with a partner.

**VII ~ THE CHARIOT:** a determined woman drives toward victory.

*Meaning:* success, self-confidence, triumph, strong-willed, decisive, pursuit of ambitions, goal-oriented. *Reversed:* weak, indecision, easily persuaded, delayed successes.

**VIII ~ STRENGTH:** an adventuress explores the nature of strength.

*Meaning:* inner-strength, means other than physical force to achieve goal, courage, resilience. *Reversed:* emotional weakness, self-doubt.

**IX ~ THE HERMIT:** a contemplative lady seeks answers in the solitude of the night.

*Meaning:* knowledge acquired from isolation and self-reflection, temporary withdrawal from social circles, self-pursuit of endeavors, also insights gained from maturity. *Reversed:* ending isolation, resuming contacts with the world, also childishness.

**X ~ THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE:** a glamorous showgirl presents the ups and downs of fate.

**Meaning:** circumstances and factors beyond one's control, events happening despite logical expectations, the turn of a wheel, changes from one state to another. **Reversed:** stagnating situations, inflexibility regarding changes, things getting out of hand.

**XI ~ JUSTICE:** a clear-sighted judge renders her verdict.

**Meaning:** a just decision (not necessarily in one's favor), a call for fairness and honesty, impartiality. **Reversed:** bias, injustice with the querent as either a perpetrator or a recipient, inequality.

**XII ~ THE HANGED MAN:** an apple picker takes a break and tries to see the world from a new perspective.

**Meaning:** reversal of outlook, changes in attitudes, paradigm shifts, also insights gained from new activities. **Reversed:** conformity, easily swayed by external influences.

**XIII ~ DEATH:** an intrepid young woman reminds us of life's ultimate possibility.

**Meaning:** changes, the (symbolic) death of

something lead to birth of other experiences, transitions. *Reversed:* something blocking or resisting the imminent change, inactivity, lassitude.

**XIV ~ TEMPERANCE:** a bar babe concocts the ideal mix.

*Meaning:* self-control, mind and emotions balancing each other, moderation, calmness in dealing with issues, choosing the middle way between two extremes. *Reversed:* extreme action, overreacting, lack of self-control.

**XV ~ THE DEVIL:** an enthralling temptress holds her lover in bondage.

*Meaning:* bondage and oppression, sexual tension or repression, a situation where one cannot move about freely. *Reversed:* emancipation, recognizing and turning back from one's self-made bound, or leaving an oppressive situation.

**XVI ~ THE TOWER:** kitty tumbles off the tower of her pride.

*Meaning:* upheaval, fall from pride or certainty, devastation, breaking of foundations,



chaos, but may also reveal something unexpected from the breakage. *Reversed*: delaying the inevitable, hopeless preservation at the face of destruction, prolonged turmoil.

**XVII ~ THE STAR:** a young starlet dips into the waters of hope during the dark night.

*Meaning*: hope, the promise of renewal, brightness, suggests a more positive outlook on things, serenity. *Reversed*: doubts, leaning to feelings of fruitlessness, clouded and troubled thoughts.

**XVIII ~ THE MOON:** a modern lady is ready to consume ancient mysteries.

*Meaning*: intuition, dreams, illusions seemingly real, the unknown, the mysterious, a strong influx of emotions, events and factors beyond one's sights. *Reversed*: opposing intuition, emotional breakdown, possible alcoholism.

**XIX ~ THE SUN:** a free-spirited young girl joyfully greets the dawn.

*Meaning*: success, joy, discovery, clarity, a deepening or grounding of relationships, op-



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