

Vintage Wisdom Oracle

BY VICTORIA MOSELEY

SAMPLE

*And the day came when the risk to remain tight in bud
was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.*

—Anaïs Nin

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Introduction

The Vintage Wisdom Oracle deck is the fruit of an unplanned journey that evolved over the course of several years. Having worked extensively in the world of interior design, I longed to delve beyond the superficial world of appearances, explore my love of art and deepen the intuitive gifts I was born with.

The adventure began after deciding to offer clairvoyant readings in my spare time, and with it the task of designing a suitable business card. I wanted to illustrate the card with something unique and avoid anything stereotypically New Age. As serendipity would have it, I had already collected some very special vintage postcards during a recent trip to France. The first flashes of inspiration came about while browsing in a small market town set on the side of a snowy mountain in rural Provence. The innocence and sweetness of the women featured on the postcards called out to me from behind a gloomy shop window. I wondered what lay beneath those ladylike smiles, and what these women's lives were like away from the glamour of the photographers' lens. If portraits could speak, with the benefit of hindsight what would their messages to the world be now?

We rang the lovely old doorbell and after we inquired about the cards, the elderly shopkeeper disappeared into his attic for quite some time. The silence was broken by the sound of drawers being opened and closed repeatedly, followed by some colorful parochial French. He eventually descended down the

winding staircase, proudly clutching a dusty folder bulging with his entire collection of antique Victorian ephemera. I remember trembling with excitement at the beauty of these delicate paper treasures. Although I had no particular purpose for them at that time, I felt compelled to buy all of them.

Ironically, none of those images were ever used to illustrate my business card. At that time, I had no way of knowing that this collection would not only seed the inspiration for this oracle deck, but would also evolve into a completely new venture in the form of my vintage-inspired greeting card company, aptly called “Miss Havisham’s Attic”.

Old postcards have a life of their own. The intricate handwriting in sepia ink is typical of those bygone eras. Events such as sightseeing, weather and family outings by the seaside capture a brief but special memory or kind thought. Both the giver and receiver had the pleasure of sharing these cardboard souvenirs, treasured long after the sender’s departure from this earth.

On arriving back in the U.K. I began experimenting with the images and creating montages using my own watercolor paintings, pressed wildflowers from our local meadow, bits of old lace and embroidery, as well as contemporary digital elements from fellow crafters. This process became an unstoppable passion. I included elements from historic painters such as Waterhouse and Van Gogh, which have been integrated into the designs you see before you now. Like so many artists of his time, our beloved John Waterhouse was known for his fascination with supernatural knowledge and symbolism. For this reason, it seemed only fitting to incorporate some of his beautiful muses into this deck.

Although there can never be a substitute for any historic works of art used here, my hope is the Vintage Wisdom Oracle provides a unique platform that inspires an even wider audience, and enables the artwork to live on in the psychic and spiritual imagination of the reader.

Vintage showgirls and debutantes are focal points for the cards, including the enigmatic Mata Hari who features in several of the designs. She was infamous for her dramatic life as a courtesan, exotic dancer, and her alleged spying activities between France and Germany during World War I, for which she was consequently executed at age 41. Hers was perhaps not a life driven by convention or moral virtue, but Mata would have certainly experienced many facets of human nature in all its colors, both light and dark. Her compelling story serves as a reminder of the humanness and lessons we can take from life.

People often ask about the root of my fascination with these vintage images and there is no simple answer. I often worked late into the night creating new designs and have grown used to sensing the nearness of spiritual presences, especially when working with these wonderful old photographs and paintings. When creating this deck, my computer would frequently make random changes of its own accord, often for the better, and I grew to trust and work with this type of activity as part of the creative process. Apart from seeing themselves immortalized with exotic butterfly wings, flowers and all manner of symbolic adornments, I hope these vintage lovelies are happy in their role as symbolic message bearers for the Oracle.

As someone fascinated by divination, be it gazing into cloud formations, casting pebbles on the beach, or as a child

consulting random pages of the Bible for answers, when the sudden idea to create an oracle deck arose, I knew it would only be a question of time before work began.

Just weeks after having the idea to create a vintage deck, more confirmation was unexpectedly passed on through a medium called Shaun Grey. During a reading, he meandered far away from our conversation as if lost in thought. He had no previous knowledge of my creative work or recent idea, but went on to say that his spirit guides were talking about an oracle deck and I should, “Hurry up and get on with it!” This type of synchronous happening is not unusual in my life, but even so, I nearly fell off my chair. That message ignited such hope and explicit confirmation that I returned home and began work on the deck that very day.

The journey of creating this deck has been quite an adventure and although I can't profess to be the fount of any great wisdom myself, this handbook is an offering of insights, observations and knowledge acquired from personal experience and study. I have also relied extensively on the quiet voice of intuition to guide my thoughts and pen.

It's also heartfelt thanks to the unwavering encouragement and care of my dearest friend, Jenny Knapton, and the boundless love and support of my beloved partner, Michael, that this deck has come to fruition.

My hope, dear reader, is that the spirit that inspired this project from the start will breathe new light on your pathway, and that the haunting beauty of these iconic muses will speak as profoundly to you as they have to me.

—Victoria Moseley

The Cards

Abundance

HERE WE SEE A DEPICTION OF POMONA, the Roman goddess of abundance and harvest of the ripe fruits and fields. She is adorned with all manner of wildflowers and forest flora, as if to celebrate the yield of nature's bounty. Butterflies dance around her, representing transformation and a lightness of being.

We can all relate to the wonderful feelings of connectedness when Abundance bestows herself upon us. It can be felt physically with the harvesting of material success or good health, mentally in fruition of an idea or a dream, emotionally by finding new love or spiritually through expansion of the soul.

This card calls you to reflect on the abundance already in your possession. Be thankful for all you have and be open to receiving more goodness in your life. It may be your turn to enjoy the fruits of your labors and the harvest of hard-earned efforts. Or perhaps you are currently looking for ways to increase the flow of abundance into your life.

From a practical perspective, decluttering helps you value what you already have, and creates an empty space so more abundance can follow. Forgiveness plays a vital role in decluttering the emotions. By releasing the past, we liberate ourselves. Freed from the gravity of weighty karmic effects,

we reconnect with the light, abundant flow of unconditional love. How wonderful!

Gifting and tithing are known ways to increase the flow of prosperity. Now is a favorable time to establish a healthy balance between giving and receiving.

In this materialistic age, it is common to mistake the measure of success and worth through the possession of money and status alone. There is nothing wrong with aspiring to have lovely things, or to create the security and opportunities that money can buy. However, western values generally encourage focus solely on the outward physical manifestation of abundance. We can be guided to find a healthy balance by focusing inwardly to discover spiritual riches available to us in every moment.

Our divine nature expands far beyond the horizons of the material plane alone, and has the power to banish fear and grant authentic peace, regardless of circumstance or status.

These are just some of the fruits and bounties to be discovered as we journey home along the highway of life. In whatever form, may abundance in all its glory be yours!

Adventure

AGAINST A BACKGROUND taken from an original vintage postcard, the spirit of Adventure prepares for her voyage into the unknown. She readies the reins of her butterfly escort for takeoff. Adventure wings its way toward the receiver bearing tales of discovery, renewed inspiration, and exploration from foreign lands.

This card speaks of a willingness to learn. The spirit of adventure tests both rational and intuitive boundaries, and beckons us to boldly step into the realm of uncertainty and risk. Now is the time to review your direction or contemplate a new way of dealing with an existing situation.

Inner or outer adventures have the power to inspire new perspectives, which may involve some pain and discomfort as we find the courage to discard outmoded ideas and behaviors that no longer serve our journey.

By drawing on your inner resources and connecting with your deepest potential, the soul can be touched and uplifted as profoundly from an armchair as it can out in the world. Adventure in any dimension compels us to overcome obstacles and move efficiently toward our goals and dreams.

The presence of this card could also mark the start of a new phase in your life. Reset your internal compass, shake the dust from your wings and head for new horizons.

Ancestors

A CHILD WEARS A FLORAL GARLAND that symbolizes platonic love and friendship. Jasmine blooms represent divine love and hope. The now-faded images in the background are my own mother and father on their wedding day, and the mischievous face of my grandfather peering between them. This is not only a card of warmth and tenderness, it portrays the symbolic significance of ancestors and the etheric blueprints they leave behind.

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