



CROW TAROT

Fly Through the Veil

Crows have always held a special place in my heart. I cannot pinpoint when or why it started, but for as long as I can remember, since I was a little girl growing up south of Boston, they have fascinated me. It may be because when I look into their eyes, I get a distinct feeling that they know something so much more significant than I could ever comprehend, something other-worldly.

From the perspective of an artist, I often find myself mesmerized by crows' feathers, as each one holds a myriad of colors. When the sunlight washes over their bodies they appear vibrant and iridescent, as shades of purple, deep indigo and soft caramel play in the light. Then, poof—in an instant the

bird will turn pitch black as if creating a hole in space before my eyes.

Living in Seattle, crows are a noticeable part of the landscape. From the beach to the mountains, they dot the skies, speckle the sand and top the trees. I am fortunate to have a record number of crows fly through our neighborhood, stopping along the way to pick up a treat or spend an afternoon on the telephone wires cawing at strangers. They serve as an excellent alarm system when something nearby is amiss!

Crow energy is intense and mystical. (In some cultures, they are known as tricksters and shapeshifters, with an ability to morph into other animals or humans.) Crows never forget a face; and if we are open, they let us connect with them in an extraordinary, almost soulful, way. Like humans, crows can hold a grudge for a lifetime; they also pass down stories, to warn future generations of the dangers around them.

Crows are truly remarkable creatures. When I set out to create my first tarot deck, it made sense that I use my favorite muse as the focus. Developing the project, I had two goals. First, to make each card

a piece of art that pays homage to crows and ravens. Second, to infuse each image with familiar symbolism from the original Rider-Waite Tarot so that both novice and professional tarot readers would be able to use the deck with confidence, without needing to memorize new interpretations.

I believe we all possess the answers to our life questions, everything we need to know is already within us—we only need to tap into the source. With the use of tarot cards, we have a direct channel to our higher self. When used correctly, tarot cards are less of a fortune-telling novelty than a useful tool for self-discovery.

For daily use, I prefer to pull three cards, rather than just one, asking the deck to tell me a story. I usually find myself contemplating the cards long after the reading. I often discover something new about myself that I had either overlooked or avoided. At other times I find a different way of tackling the problem.

For all those who use this deck, may you connect with the intuitive power of the crow and fly through the veil.



MAJOR ARCANA

THE FOOL

KEYWORDS: Innocence, Beginnings, Free-spirit, Faith, Adventure

ELEMENT: Air

Unafraid, the crow does not waiver a bit and has faith that the log and river will provide a great adventure. In the distance there is a wind blowing, whistling a warning. Yet the crow remains faithful knowing that despite how stormy or choppy the waters may become in the future the log will keep her afloat. The Fool card asks that you have faith in the universe and live fearlessly. You will come through the storm. If you allow hope to replace fear, imagine the adventures you have waiting.

Upright, this card is urging you to have faith. Reversed, this card is asking you to assess whether or not you are pushing belief past its limits. Your higher self is sending you a warning that, although the universe has your back, it is not an open invitation to make foolish or adverse decisions that could have a severe and negative impact on your future.

1. THE MAGICIAN

KEYWORDS: Alchemy, Resourcefulness, Creativeness, Manifesting

ELEMENT: Air

Connecting the physical world with the spiritual realm, the Magician crow pulls the energy of the four suits representing earth, water, air, and fire to create a spark that has the power to manifest into a transformative idea. Rising above the craggy desolate mountains lined by red and white roses at the base, the Magician symbolizes the first steps of generating success. He has the ability to carve out the desired path through difficulty, using life experiences and a pure heart.

Sometimes, however, the crow is an impostor, a trickster. Reversed, the Magician crow uses the connected power of the spiritual realm for greedy purposes. The Magician in this position may denote you have fallen prey and have become another gullible victim. Take the time to look inward and ask if your motives are pure of heart.

2. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

KEYWORDS: Intuition, Spirit guides, Divine guidance, Magick

ELEMENT: Water

The High Priestess takes the spark created by the Magician and transforms the idea into a tangible reality. Like a shadow passing in the night, her energy is present and can be felt in the gut, but not always seen. Her intuitive power lies in the spiritual unconscious, allowing the High Priestess to soar back and forth through the veil bringing with her divine knowledge. Perched on the moon and surrounded by the four suits, your connection with the High Priestess is active at this time and should be utilized. She comes ready to deliver the answers you seek through dreams and symbols. Pay attention; she is with you.

If the High Priestess appears reversed, it is a message that your connection with your inner-self has been lost. As a result, the High Priestess is unable to communicate the information you need to make a wise decision. She strongly urges you

to take time for yourself and to allow for communication to come to you through the quietness of spirit. Her message is to pay attention; there is magic in this world, you only need to allow yourself to experience it.

3. THE EMPRESS

KEYWORDS: Motherhood, Abundance, Business success, Creativity

ELEMENT: Earth

The fertile Empress flies over the abundant lush landscape of Mother Earth. She is uplifted by the warmth that radiates from her connectedness with the planet. The Empress sends a loving message to take time to pamper yourself and to embrace the feminine energy within all of us. Her spirit is pure love and bringing things to life; she asks that you go into nature to feel the soothing and healing power that invigorates the soul. When the Empress pays a visit, she may bring a message of a new birth.

Reversed, the Empress is a warning that



MINOR ARCANA

THE SUIT OF WANDS

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KEYWORDS:

Intuition, Creativity, Action

ELEMENT: Fire
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KING OF WANDS

The King of Wands is an entrepreneurial bird who can take a concept and fly with it. Under the supervision of the King, the idea transforms into reality and will reach its highest potential possible. He is relentless in his pursuit of perfection and with laser-like vision, focuses on the goal. He is a charismatic and natural born leader, although at times he can be a bit arrogant. In a reading, the energy of the King of Wands represents either yourself or someone who has a clear vision of what needs to be accomplished for a project to be successful. Take this as a confirmation that focused energy will result in a positive and fruitful outcome.

The King of Wands reversed may serve as a warning that you are being manipulative or ruthless when it comes to business affairs. It also may be an indication that your hasty decision-making will negatively impact your plans.

QUEEN OF WANDS

The Queen of Wands is a dominant creature sitting on her throne of lions. No one would accuse this bird of being demure. With a plan ready for success, the Queen of Wands often appears as bold, fearless and determined. The Queen appreciates the potential each journey offers and takes the opportunity to learn something new about herself with every challenge. The energy of the Queen of Wands is healthy and agile as she moves through the world with a vibrant flare. With a taste for the best, this is one crow you won't find near the garbage cans as she uses her creative, quick-witted mind to discern the finer things in life.

When this card appears reversed, it is a sign that the Queen of Wands is lacking

confidence and feeling scared that she will never live up to the potential she once felt was possible. She urges you to look deep within and ask yourself if fear is holding you back.

KNIGHT OF WANDS

The Knight of Wands channels the charging energy of his horse and moves forward with raw power and determination. With the sun high in the sky offering plenty of daylight ahead, the crow flies without hesitation. He is confident of success, even if he experiences moments of uncertainty about where he is going. The Knight of Wands reflects a person who jumps in without weighing all the consequences. He possesses an energy that is pure enthusiasm, a much-needed ingredient when executing a plan. This card warns that although passion is essential, you must find balance and clear thinking for a project or situation to find success.

Reversed, the Knight of Wands serves as a warning to look out for someone who is impatient to a fault. He too often over-

looks important information, and as a result, many of his plans end in failure.

PAGE OF WANDS

The Page of Wands is a messenger of good news. She brings ideas and a creative outlook on life that illuminates any room. Her vibrant, youthful energy is powerful enough to spark a change in direction or push an original project forward. She loves adventure, and although she is ready to travel anywhere her wings will take her, she is not reckless. The Page brings her free-spirited energy to the situation and is prepared to take in all the world has to offer.

When the Page of Wands appears reversed, it may indicate a project that is stuck or can't get off the ground because of unforeseen complications. You may simply have lost interest. Upright, the Page of Wands represents a kind-hearted person. Reversed, the Page of Wands may enter your life as an aggressive, immature bully.

TEN OF WANDS

From a distance, the Ten of Wands didn't appear so big to the crow. However, once committed to carrying the wands, the crow quickly questioned whether or not it made the right choice and if it is now unable to manage the task. Was the treasure worth the effort? This card is a message of caution; you may have taken on responsibilities that could prove to be a bigger burden than anticipated. The Ten of Wands also may reflect an inner strength that will assist you during a time of struggle.

Reversed, the Ten of Wands is a reminder that putting off smaller tasks can lead to a more significant burden.

NINE OF WANDS

After much effort, a final task is almost complete. The Nine of Wands denotes a struggle in finishing a project, and despite the consistent successes of the past, there is one last obstacle that needs to be accomplished before moving forward. The Nine

material wealth to spiritual knowledge is all within her grasp. The Ace of Pentacles represents a time of clarity and the ability to manifest your desires. Stay focused; the Law of Attraction is working. Keep a fixed sight on what it is you want to achieve.

Although the Ace of Pentacles represents financial security and manifesting, when reversed, you may find a project or opportunity is lost. It may also indicate a setback after initial success with manifesting.



THE CROW TAROT SPREAD



Shuffle the deck and quiet your mind, allowing for a channel to open to your higher self. When you feel ready, pull a card from the center of the deck and place it face down on the table. Let your mind wander peacefully. When ready, pull seven more cards at random, placing them face down in the shape of the crow, in the order shown below.



— Card # 1 —

HEART ENERGY / INNER SELF

This position represents an energy that is serving as a foundation. It may be one that is permanent and represents one's true nature or an energy that has taken hold of the heart due to life events. This card's energy operates in the background and is tied with the present energy.

— Card # 2 —

PRESENT ENERGY

This is the surrounding energy that creates the mood and creates the atmosphere for future events to emerge.

— Card # 3 —

ENERGY HOLDING YOU BACK OR HELPING YOU

This is the energy that may be supporting your goals or adding friction to the situation. Often the card that comes through in this position hints at your hopes and fears.

— Card # 4 —

HOPES / FEARS

This is the energy that lurks in your subconscious and at times can be a saboteur. It is the manifestation of hopes and fears.

— Card # 5 —

GROUNDING ENERGY / ADVICE

This is the energy that keeps you centered and connected to source energy at the present moment. This energy may come through as a positive card or one that carries a negative energy. A negative card in this position may signal that your grounding energy is counterproductive. This card advises you to resolve any negative habits or limiting beliefs.

— Card # 6 —

LESSON FROM THE PAST

This card is a past lesson or experience that serves as a reminder and offers advice for your current situation.