

HUSH TAROT

By Jeremy Hush

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INTRODUCTION

The creation of this tarot deck has been a lifelong odyssey of personal experiences. Hush Tarot represents a specter of dreams, a destination without end, a compilation of creativity and personal inspiration.

Much of my life has been spent on the move. While my surroundings have changed I have always maintained a special kinship with animals and I have carried an unbroken connection with the pen in my hand. My art is my world and my world depicts nature as being bigger than any individual person, where the smallest creatures look down on us. It's a place that feels like home but still has an element of danger, adventure, and mystery. The element of mystery has drawn me to the tarot, with its unknown origins and its depth of symbolism and hidden meanings. Yet the cards can speak to absolutely anyone in a very personal way.

In Hush Tarot, my characters are always on a journey. They appear lost in the weeds but

there is always a hidden clue guiding them to the way out. There is meaning in the direction they walk, and an expectation for every turned glance. I'm hoping my creativity will inspire readers to follow their own imagination and lead more productive and creative lives. Hush Tarot weaves the lives of animals and humans together on common ground and equal footing. The animal and human spirit are unified. The idea of spirit animals figures significantly in this deck. They act as guides with characteristics that we all relate to. The smallest creature can have the largest impact. The greatest question can be answered by the slightest shift in perspective.

Tarot is a piece of history that has endured through the ages. As the world grew and changed, tarot has survived and has been interpreted by artists of all kinds. It has been a lifelong dream of mine to be a part of this legacy.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

O. THE FOOL

Upright: Mischievous. Bold. Out of step. An adventurous spirit. Carefree and open to new experiences.

The Ferret is known for its curiosity and playful temperament, which can sometimes be considered mischievous. Moths use their turbulent flight to evade predators. Their erratic moves can help to avoid danger. Also as masters of disguise, they are a reminder to be aware that you could be hiding from yourself.

Reversed: Poor decision-making. Carelessness. Being open to risks.

The Ferret has excellent night sight, but he is easily distracted. A glance over the shoulder leaves you blind to obstacles ahead.

Just as the moth may be proficient in its own manner of flight, the object it most desires is often just a flame—its end. Be mindful in your decision-making. Some actions can have lasting effects.

I. THE MAGICIAN

Upright: Ingenuity. Proficiency. Effort.

The Magician is the tie between the spirit and the physical world. This card represents the balance between the wild of the inner animal and the calm of the aligned mind. The wolf has long been linked with humanity. While early hunter-gatherers were equipped with hands to wield tools, the wolf was armed with enhanced senses; eyes that see in the dark, smell, speed and agility. Together, our skills advanced each other. The Magician has the fortitude to bridge that relationship. Rediscover those forgotten powers. Balance the primitive and the sophisticated. Hold it tightly. Manifest the power to help, not hinder.

Reversed: Greed. Misuse of power. Appetite. The will to mislead and destroy.

The wolf has a hunger. It devours. It feeds as if it may never feed again. We must keep a strong hold of our egotism. A pack works together. With solitary efforts, we fall behind.

This card is a reminder to respect and value others who may seem to be on our path. A Magician is very skilled. Reversed, this card may indicate that you are not using your talents and you may be avoiding challenges. One cannot advance without learning, even from failures.

II. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Upright: Instinct. Reasoning. Cunning.

The High Priestess sits between the light and the dark. Her wisdom is balanced. Her eyes and ears are attuned to what is hidden below the surface. She possesses a keen sense of intuition, and the ability to discern right from wrong. Her wisdom extends beyond what is pleasing to others. She is draped and adorned in fineries but not restricted by them. Her feelings are free, uncaged. She is surrounded by the illumination of stars, representing deeds that bring on good favor. Sparrows suggest the joy found in the little things.

Reversed: Impatience. Self-centered.

The Raven with its over-powering shrieks and whistles attempts to drown out your inner voice. His presence threatens imbalance and may cloud your judgment. This card warns about losing touch with your subconscious mind. The sparrow may be injured and small but its song can still be heard. This card is an admonition of self-centering, not over shadowing. Meditate on your inner voice.

III. THE EMPRESS

Upright: Fertility. Femininity. Nature.

The Empress is Mother Earth, the embodiment of the natural world. Her hood of the crow contains the knowledge of life's mysteries and magic. Its eyes scan the sky providing vision to observe the truth in the world. This insight is not gained without the scars to show for it. Self-mending is needed.

This card hints at lessons on the birds and bees. Fertility, nature and abundance are just part of this story. Rust, decay and endings are required to complete this cycle of life. All is needed for life to endure this circle. The

Empress may be a sign for a new start, such as a creative endeavor. Learn a new art form. Shape challenges in your day. Create a new path for your way of thinking.

Reversed: Loss of direction. Dependence on others. Lack of creativity.

Relationships with others may be tying you down. You may be dependent on them or they may be overly dependent on you. The circle entangles, bringing a loss of power. A new way to express feeling for others is needed to break the monotony.

IV. THE EMPEROR

Upright: Confident. Daring. Resolute. Strategic thinker.

The grackle's bold figure is a reminder to be brave in one's decisions. This card deals with control of one's emotions and the fortitude to see through the structures and rules set by others. While some wear masks and fall into line, the grackle is able to make its own mark. His path of determination and resilience is clear.

Reversed: Overbearing views. Blind to others' needs. Controlling. Unreasonable.

The Emperor might suggest that there is an abuse of power going on. Your actions may be destructive to the well-being of others around you, perhaps even crumbling their foundations. The mask you wear hides your true intentions. Your will to be among the others may be shadowed by your rigid thinking. An open mind and open communication is needed with those around you.

V. THE HIEROPHANT

Upright: Concerns of the spirit. Natural order. Rules.

The nighthawk or whip-poor-will is nocturnal and thought to guide the souls of the passing. Nighthawks converge as if in debate. All living things assemble to play their part in the circle of growth and decay. There is an order to the natural world and rules we have to follow.

Reversed: Restrictions. Presumptuous. Manipulation.

Religion is uncompromising—its rules and ideals set in stone. The Hierophant reversed points out the crack in the stone. The roots that slowly pull apart the established order. This card urges you to question what is truly behind their rules. Is it for the betterment of others or for their own gain? Are your personal ideals too rigid? Inflexibility can be causing a divide between what you believe and what can bring you closer to inner fulfillment.

VI. THE LOVERS

Upright: Union and equality. A positive calibration of goals.

The marriage of Shiva and Parvati meant the joining of the heavens and the Earth—one completing the other. Trust in one another lends unity and confidence to deal with difficulties. The strength of the pair is stronger than the individual. Swans and peacocks are the beautiful messengers of dreaming about all that you can be with no limits. Look beyond the horizon. Plan long term for a future built for the two, based on the ideas and dreams of the two.

Reversed: Dissonance. Weakness. Imbalance.

The Lovers reversed can be a warning that you are at odds with your inner decisions. Maybe you are walking the easy path to avoid responsibilities. Pay attention to your attitude toward others, especially significant others who have joined you on your journey. Quick decision-making and short-term gratification will not lead to furthering your relationship with others or with yourself.

VII. THE CHARIOT

Upright: Triumph over life's opposing forces. Willpower and confidence to deal with obstructions. Surviving with scars. Learning from the past.

This card shows the integration of equal light and dark parts of oneself without losing one's childhood imagination and drive for adventure. This carousel horse is pieced together between two broken horses. Together they complete the horse. While there are cracks and chips the horse stands tall. The Chariot asks you to come to terms with your aggressive tendencies, including a survival instinct

that can be volatile and aggressive. Foul mood and bad attitudes toward others may be causing inner turmoil. This power can be redirected into a creative force. Control your emotions and impulsiveness. Devise a creative outlet. Seek solace in nature. Spend a day walking trails and see where this time of introspection leads you. Start a new hobby. Learn something new. Don't sit idle. Occupy your time productively. Steer this power in a useful direction. Pursue the flag of accomplishment.

Reversed: Losing sight of ones goals. Indecision. Lack of control.

This card suggests that you may be wasting your energy. The buildup of external pressures is causing you to direct your anger and aggression toward others. Focus on matters that are under your control. Recognize what is important and has to be done. Face your responsibilities. Don't be distracted by unnecessary details. Instant gratification will lead you further off course.

VIII. STRENGTH

Upright: Taming of the animal spirit.

Through confidence and determination you can overcome the trials before you. Your inner strength helps you to understand and deal with the wants and needs of others.

The swarm of bats and the turbulent flutter of moths, predator and prey, are being held tethered by an inner calm. The woman's face is painted for war. She stands upright ready for whatever comes next. Learning from injuries of the past and stresses of the day is the way to keep moving forward, never back.

Reversed: Unleashed hostility. Hiding from defeat.

Self-doubt is causing you to depend too much on others. Validation from outside opinions are replacing your self-esteem. As you get tangled in raw emotions, your inner strength is being misdirected. Anger and aggressive behavior is nesting and infesting your thoughts, causing you to lash out at others. Reconnect with your core strength. Take a moment to slow down and think

about what you say and what the impact of your actions will be on others.

IX. THE HERMIT

Upright: The search within. Wisdom through experience. Seeking solitude.

This card addresses the need for solitude, not to hide but to work on one's inner workings. The Horned Owl is a silent solitary creature. He is extremely adaptable within a vast range of climates and terrains. On a high branch the Owl looks out with its wide vision upon the land stretched before it. With silent wings it passes through the night unnoticed. Always observing, he only takes action when necessary. Inner workings exposed in an unnatural way reveal the work of many repairs and adaptations. This card urges you to find inner answers through introspection and meditation as well as questioning the ways of the outside world. Seek truth in your actions. Find a way to prioritize what is healthy for your inner self.

Reversed: Loneliness. Lack of responsibility. Disconnected.

The Owl may sit alone but he is still connected to the world around him. The cycle of life is dependent on everyone. You may be feeling disconnected from the world. More time for inner reflection may be needed to wade past the doldrums of everyday life. Beware that too much time away can also cause a breakdown in feeling connected. Seek a way to balance time for yourself and time for others.

X. THE WHEEL

Upright: Changing tides. Goals.

Ants are hard workers and reminders that time and effort leads to good things. One must always keep their eye on their goals. Learn to accept that both good and bad fortune are to be appreciated. To a tiny ant caught in the current it is difficult to see how things will work out. Life needs to be experienced from different perspectives to become fully comprehended. Understand that difficulties now will pass and a time to take a breath will come soon.

Reversed: Defeat. Falling behind. Negative attitude.

Stress has you crashed upon the rocks.
Misfortune may be in the guise of change.
Reluctance to recognize the positive aspects
of change can leave you feeling underwater
and left behind. Take this time to seek a
new path. Be careful how you treat others.
Negativity can strand you further in this
mired time.

XI. JUSTICE

Upright: Fairness. Truth.

You are aware that your decisions and
action have led to your present state.
Through lessons of the past to lessons in
the near future your every step is guided by
choice. Both good and bad have weighed
in on your journey. Armed with confidence
and strength, Justice walks tall on her
search for truth. The arrow points the way
forward. The pole arm cuts the trail through
the brush. The stings and bites are the
hardships along the way of seeing the truth
in others. Learning of your own inner truth
makes it easier to see the truth in others and
to judge objectively.

Reversed: One-sided. Dishonesty.

Through biased opinions you unfairly judge others. You may be failing to find out the truth or gain a balanced perspective. Be mindful of how you judge others. You may also be overly critical of yourself over your own decisions. Learn to be flexible in your decisions while remaining fair and just.

XII. THE HANGED MAN

Upright: Inner reflection. Time for a break.

Defer any decision-making in order to allow for more time to reflect on current situations. Tangled in the stress and trappings of our everyday routine it's easy to make rash decisions. Expect some outcomes that may provoke more than help. The mind needs time to stop and find its equilibrium. This card is a reminder to remove our masks and lose the garb that further serves to ensnare. All the worries of how we are perceived by others only weigh us down. When the mind is muddled in indecision step back to consider the greater good in yourself. Take time to really think through decisions for better long-term results.

Reversed: Indecision. Feeling overwhelmed.

You have lost your faith in your own decision-making ability. Life's obstacles are holding you back. You are feeling more and more disconnected. Inner reflection is needed. You need to understand that difficulties of today will pass. Better times will come with work and effort.

XIII. DEATH

Upright: Change. Rebirth. Transition.

For every ending there is a beginning; a transition from one aspect of life to another. Put the past behind you as you enter a new phase. The Bateleur Eagle is a powerful creature who can soar to lofty heights other birds merely dream of. This card is a reminder to look closely into the lessons of life for the most minute of details in order to see life from a broader perspective. As life has its highs, it also has its lows. You need the vision to see what is needed to encourage the positive change you seek. You also need to find the courage to accept this change. When a hatchling first emerges it is fragile

but with time it will grow to become the symbol for strength. Dependency on dogma and worldly possessions can confuse and entangle you along the way. Seek inner truth to find your way through to a more fruitful future.

Reversed: Stagnation from entanglement. Bitterness.

You are resistant to change. Seek to resolve the trials of the past that hinder you from facing change. Transformation can seem impossible if you refuse to open yourself to it. Dragging along issues from the past can affect future outcomes in a negative manner. Leave the nest. Cut loose what is weighing you down.

XIV. TEMPERANCE

Upright: Clarity. Vision.

You have a clear vision of what your goals are. You are able to see through the eyes of others. Patience and understanding have led to a closer understanding of the world and all its different inhabitants. You've no need

to mask your feelings or your intentions. No need to follow the flock. Your path is ahead of you.

Reversed: Feeling adrift. Misplaced. Conflict with others.

Urgency to reach your goals can derail your long-term goals. Changes may need to be made. Explore conflict resolution. A steady step forward is needed.

XV. THE DEVIL

Upright: Destructive nature. Fears. Attachments.

Like cats we have our side that is kind and loving, but we also have a side that draws blood. The Devil is an inner force within each of us representing our fears and harmful impulses. Ants are workers that toil in dispute with each other. Great caution and awareness is necessary to realize that we are not truly attached to these negative feelings. We can choose to be chained to our grievances or we can choose to leave them behind. The lock and chains are old and

rusty. They show the wear of being dragged for a long time. These restraints do not have the strength to hold us.

Reversed: Trapped. Weakness.

You are aware of the ever-closing bonds of financial debt or an unproductive career or lifestyle. Escape will require hard work and determination. You need to dig out the root of these problems. Find what is harmful to you and begin to repair the damage. Seek change.

XVI. THE TOWER

Upright: Disaster. Plans crumble. Sudden change.

The foundations of your beliefs may be built on shaky ideology. This is a time to question your perceptions which may be like the birds that perch and nest in crumbling facades. Negative situations have a purpose. A repurpose. This is a time to try out a new direction and to congregate with other like minds and discuss these problems.

Reversed: Fear of change.

In order to reach the change you desire some rough times will have to be confronted. These hurdles are necessary for growth. Don't be afraid to take risks. Take the leap and be ambitious.

XVII. THE STAR

Upright: Inspiration. Enduring life's challenges and difficulties.

You have worked hard to get to your present position. You have passed beyond where others chose to give up. "A hunting we will go" is a slogan that now is a time for healing and seeking enlightenment. It's a new day and a new adventure. The sparrow perches atop a skeleton in the weeds. Its eyes face the sky, ever looking up and onward. The bones lay withered in their rusting armor like the remains of your past feelings of hatred and bitterness. Their decay feeds the flowers that serve to decorate and welcome you on your path to new ideas and growth.

Reversed: Arrogance. Overwhelmed.

Challenges have set you back and you are

feeling uninspired. You need a reminder that you are still on the correct path. Don't let these obstacles take on more importance than your goals.

XVIII. THE MOON

Upright: Fear and anxiety.

Your worries are becoming overwhelming. Your fears are casting a shadow over your thoughts and magnifying your anxieties. The raven is a symbol for the mysteries of the universe. There is wisdom in darkness. The answers are inside you. Look through the murky clouds of your unconscious mind and dig out what is holding you back. Confidence is needed to face the choices you have before you. Don't be afraid to look into your dark side. Tap into your intuition.

Reversed: Release of fears. Unhappiness.

Present times may have you down but you are starting to see a way out. Realizing that your fears are unfounded is the first step. Effort is needed to get beyond this stage. Things are looking up. You are finding your way back to your path.

XIX. THE SUN

Upright: Success and growth.

You have worked your way through dark times. The Raven is looked upon as a dark presence. The Sun rises and the light reveals the iridescent colors in its sleek feathers. Look to the light to keep striding forward as your path continues.

Reversed: Loss and uncertainty.

Your search for the positive aspects in your present state has been difficult. Your goals may be overly optimistic or unrealistic. Feelings of being left out or left behind by others is casting a shadow over your path. You are losing touch with yourself. These hard times will pass. Your path will be lit before you again, but not without some work and reaffirmation of your goals.

XX. JUDGMENT

Upright: Awareness and growth.

This card signals an awakening that you need to live your life on your own terms.

The architecture of your life is out of date. It was built by others for others. Its details and beauty is crumbling but new life is growing in its cracks, further destroying the ideas of the past. The rat pulls at the seams of the woman's dress. She reminds you that new beginnings come from the end of some other new beginning. It's time to move forward from the decay of the past and embrace your growth.

Reversed: Isolation and self-doubt.

Overly harsh criticism on your decision-making can have a stalling effect and cause you to miss new opportunities. You may experience a loss in momentum. Take time to really learn from where life has taken you. Be aware of what is happening around you and how it affects you.

XXI. THE WORLD

Upright: Completion of accomplishments. Realization of goals.

Through determination and hard work you have reached your goals. Like a view from a high window she surveys her

accomplishments. The arch appears to be withered and near collapse. See your life and how your decision-making at every twist and turn has brought you to this point. On closer look the arch is not coming down but being built up. Cathedral Ants work tirelessly to build giant intricate structures that last through the onslaught of storms and leave a home for generations. The sparrow on her hand represents that you have a handle on your past problems. Setbacks and disasters are in the past. You have experience and knowledge for the future. This card shows you the power you hold.

Reversed: Lack of closure. Unrealistic expectations.

Losing focus of your goals is preventing you from continuing onto your next journey. You must come to terms with what is distracting you from reaching the finish. Take a moment to think about your end goals and remember how good life will be when you are finally finished. Look for a way to reinvigorate your search for completion.

THE MINOR ARCANA

ACE OF CUPS

Upright: Fresh start. Healing.

The little bird sings its song as the new day begins. He is perched within the remains of the past. The crown is the gift of what is to come next.

Reversed: Numb and vulnerable.

Life's ups and downs are leaving you drained and open to attack.

TWO OF CUPS

Upright: Unity. Clarity of purpose.

The Harpy are spirits of the wind who are passionate in their endeavors. This card presents symbols of world harmony. The songs of joy and sorrow come together as a powerful force that can sink ships.

Reversed: Discord.

Lack of honesty is causing an imbalance. Trust is needed for true harmony.

THREE OF CUPS

Upright: Solidarity and friendship.

As the carousel goes round the three beings bond in a joyful accord. They are unified in their celebration. The woman is free of worldly worries. The goat is a reminder to stay sure-footed, and the hare's leap of faith is both intuitive and sensitive.

Reversed: Restrained.

You might be feeling pressured to conform to a group. Examine your lack of creativity.

FOUR OF CUPS

Upright: Apathy. Doubt.

This card indicates that you are seeing the world as a dried up husk with its dull browns. Unmotivated by the current situation, you need to look deep within yourself to find understanding and meaning.

Reversed: Depression. Inaction.

In a period of stagnation don't be blind to opportunities coming your way.

FIVE OF CUPS

Upright: Loss and grief.

Caught in the feelings of the past can create a sinking feeling. Releasing one's self from disappointments can be a difficult task.

Reversed: Acceptance.

Valuable lessons are learned from mistakes of the past. Find what you truly want and move forward.

SIX OF CUPS

Upright: Nostalgia. Innocence.

Hares are very different from rabbits. The hare is intuitive and sensitive, while the rabbit is known to flee. Reflecting on memories of the past can be beautiful. But not every cup is standing. Not all times were good and it is important to remember the lessons of the past when dealing with current circumstances. The rabbit runs from the past but the hare jumps forward and lives in the present.

Reversed: Bitter. Unrealistic.

In a dulled state it's easy to get caught up in nostalgia for the past. Don't let this hold you back in the present.

SEVEN OF CUPS

Upright: Imagination. Possibility.

The dreamer is swept away in a deluge of illusions and ideas. So many projects, so little time. Prioritize what can be accomplished and what is out of reach.

Reversed: Chaos and indecision.

Overwhelmed with so much, you are finding it difficult to move forward.

EIGHT OF CUPS

Upright: Escape. Transition.

The Owl encourages us to look forward to new situations. Inspiration can be found in leaving the chaos of a current situation for a new, deeper spiritual goal elsewhere. The Owl's solitude comes from its freedom to move on when needed.

Reversed: Hopelessness.

Fear of pursuing new options has you in a stagnant state.

NINE OF CUPS

Upright: Comfort. Accomplishment.

All aspects of your life are in full bloom. Both beautiful and ornate, you share your air of confidence and charisma with others.

Reversed: Dissatisfaction.

With all your success you still feel the damage of past mistakes. The imperfections are keeping you from seeing the full scope of your progression.

TEN OF CUPS

Upright: Harmony.

The Heron is a bird of great wisdom. He is powerful in flight and purposeful in his stride. Content in their environment, herons take their time in their outlook on life. Every moment is to be enjoyed.

Reversed: Animosity.

Things are not going as planned. Emotional connections are being blocked.

PAGE OF CUPS

Upright: Confidence and insight.

The bluebird is known for its intriguing song. It speaks to our curiosity. It stands atop a hornets' nest. Its hexagon shape is a symbol of the heart. This card is an inspirational call to a new creative venture.

Reversed: Creative block. Disappointment.

Following your emotions and intuitions is causing you to ignore common sense. Beware of the hornet.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

Upright: Courage. Chivalry.

Through great deeds you have risen up on wings above the rest. Your sword directs the way in which you feel the world should turn. Your own actions are guided by your heart, not the mind.

Reversed: Moody. Jealous.

Your emotions are impairing your judgment. Your behavior can become controlling and abusive.

QUEEN OF CUPS

Upright: Protection. Compassion.

Through your journey you have learned to manage human nature and its connection to the natural world. The key to opening your heart is helping others, guiding their steps through life's obstacles.

Reversed: Disconnection. Stress.

Feeling out of touch with your emotions is straining your connection with others. Dissolution with your current path may be dragging you down.

KING OF CUPS

Upright: Emotional stability. Strength.

The King rules with his emotions. The full cup represents his balance of emotion and intellect. His temperance is an example to others.

Reversed: Unstable. Uncaring. Emotionally controlling.

He blames his problems on others and acts in a manipulative way. The cup is poured out. He takes only to further himself.

ACE OF SWORDS

Upright: Clarity. Raw power.

The spiral horn of the Unicorn points like an antenna to heaven. The rider is armored with the tools to build something new. This is a sign to pursue new creative interests you may have been suppressing. The hawks gather in their unified wisdom from their ability to see things from a higher perspective. Filled with a renewed energy and inspiration, it is time to move forward.

Reversed: Insecurity.

You have the tools and means laid out but you lack the direction to get started.

TWO OF SWORDS

Upright: Indecision. Choices.

Life's decisions can be difficult. The mask we wear can only hide our true emotions for so long until the cracks start to show. We can choose to see with our own eyes or through the eyes of others. Our decisions are ultimately our own. You can hide amongst the weeds or you can seek your path.

Reversed: Confusion. Lost in the crowd.

The world can be overwhelming with so many voices speaking at once. Sorting it all out is like wrangling kittens. It can be difficult to find a clear path ahead.

THREE OF SWORDS

Upright: Grief and loss.

The urge to look over one's shoulder is a sign of mistrust. Difficult times are ahead. The card may be a warning about the stab in the back, the loss of love. The hornet is a sign of sexuality and fertility. Its honeycomb, a hexagon, is the symbol of the heart. Guard it close. Life may be blooming now but autumn is coming and the birds are circling in a predatory manner.

Reversed: Recovery and healing.

Difficult times are coming to an end. The heart is on the mend.

FOUR OF SWORDS

Upright: Meditation. Rest.

This is a time to relax and recover from challenges of the past. The woman rests on one sword, which symbolizes the single issue that needs to be reevaluated. The others can wait for another time.

Reversed: Stress. Restless.

There are too many projects happening at once. Nothing will get done if you do not prioritize.

FIVE OF SWORDS

Upright: Conflict. Selfishness.

Your winnings are many but they come choked with the weeds of tension and hostility. While there are blooms there is also the invasive nature that spreads and ruins everything around it. Be wary of your

attitude with others in this time of seeming success.

Reversed: Resolution.

This card indicates a laying down of swords, a time to forgive.

SIX OF SWORDS

Upright: Transition. Retreat.

It's time to leave a bad situation. The boat is flimsy and as broken as your will. Shrouded in sadness and without a clear plan of what is to come you watch the shrinking coastline of your past struggles. The waters are strange and filled with the unknown but it is a necessary journey to a new beginning.

Reversed: Unbalanced.

You are having trouble letting go. This heavy weight is threatening to upend and capsize.

SEVEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Deception. Betrayal.

You hold all the keys. Like the Starling you may have the flashy colorful appeal but your

ways are deceptive and bullying. Be aware of how you treat others.

Reversed: Acceptance. Freedom.

It is time to break free of old habits or situations that have held you back. You have the keys to this new path within you.

EIGHT OF SWORDS

Upright: Trapped. Illusion.

She is surrounded on all sides. The feel of the bindings are illusions. You only need to open your eyes to see that situations are not as they seem. This self-imprisonment is your refusal to listen to another's perspective.

Reversed: Release.

You have survived difficult times and are now open to change. With open eyes you see a new path unfolding.

NINE OF SWORDS

Upright: Depression. Illness.

Fear and anxiety hang over our heads as a heavy burden. Realize these troubles are

within us and not of the external world. We need not cling to the fears of the future to continue on a positive path.

Reversed: Spirituality.

Through deep contemplation you have found that your current situation is not as threatening as it had seemed.

TEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Defeat. Burdens.

Taking on too much. Responsibilities and burdens are the weeds that have you feeling trapped. These roots can dig deep and hold you down. The blooms may seem like positive goals but the work involved is too much to handle on your own. Prioritize your needs versus wants.

Reversed: Renewal.

It's time to rethink your present situation. Allow what is to fall to fall and hold close what is important. Apply your skills to what is important to get you through these difficult times.

PAGE OF SWORDS

Upright: Energy. Curiosity.

The Harpy is a fierce spirit. She represents your strength of will with her great wings and terrible claws. The decorated skull symbolizes the remains of your past ventures as you ready yourself for the new path ahead.

Reversed: Rigid. Stubborn.

You are unwilling to take chances and remain rooted to the past.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

Upright: Determination. Overbearing.

You embark on a new venture as if charging into battle. There is no stopping you. Allow time to think things through. Shortcuts can blind you to complications that surround you, leading to defeat.

Reversed: Unreliability. Impulsive.

Scattered and disorganized you cannot make it to your impossible goals without facing a lot of failure. But failing can be a

major part of the learning process leading to a brighter future.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

Upright: Confidence.

The crow represents the boisterous discord and everyday distractions. With a very focused vision the queen has controlled the chaos of emotional turmoil. She willingly bares the scars of a life of learning. Her mask is merely decorative; she has no need to hide. She is always willing to see other points of views and to remain impartial.

Reversed: Cold. Domination.

You have the ambition and intellect to get what you want. Your actions and honesty can be unnecessarily brutal towards others.

KING OF SWORDS

Upright: Strength. Leadership.

Like the pheasant you have the ability to reach ever-increasing heights in your understanding of the world around you. Wings spread wide show your authority and presence. Your

colors are of royalty, drawing others to you. With a firm foot anchored to the earth you are reminded to stay objective in your decision-making. The brittle, dry environment represents the difficult decisions you have had to make to gain this position. You lead the way through areas where others have failed.

Reversed: Tyrannical. Unkind.

Your superiority to others can become corrupt and lead to manipulation and greed.

ACE OF PENTACLES

Upright: New beginnings. Prosperity.

The hand reaches from below the earth. The maple seeds sprout fresh energy and inspiration. The dove bridges the veil between the physical and spiritual world. The key is the gift of new opportunities. This card offers clarity and direction.

Reversed: Loss of opportunities.

Overgrown and choked with the weeds of distrust and fears of failure have caused setbacks in your plans.

TWO OF PENTACLES

Upright: Balance.

Life will always be uncertain but harmony can be found. The sparrows represent simplicity but they perch atop the bones of others who have failed. Pull the pin and see what the future holds.

Reversed: Stress.

The unpredictability of life is making time management of commitments difficult.

THREE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Collaboration. Learning.

Like the cardinal you have a strong voice. Your direction is clear and you are secure enough in your beliefs to take advice and criticism from others. An outside view can lead to new ideas.

Reversed: Mistrust.

Your reluctance to listen to new ideas may be having a negative impact on your progress.

FOUR OF PENTACLES

Upright: Stability. Control.

Through your hard work you have gained great wealth. Now, you stand guard over all that you have created, watching as it grows fruitfully.

Reversed: Possessive. Greed.

While advancing with your success you may be losing sight of what truly makes you happy. The raven is the holder of secrets. It sits perched upon your ribs burying your exposed heart with all the material things collected.

FIVE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Strife. Loss.

Financial failure has you underwater. A misdirection in plans can have a miring effect. This card indicates a refusal to open your eyes to the real problems.

Reversed: Renewal. Calm.

Recent burdens are coming to an end.

While the water may seem dark the green of its depths represent an overwhelming calm. Her expression is peaceful. The current pulls gently. Know the surface is near.

SIX OF PENTACLES

Upright: Generosity. Sharing.

You are in a harmonious place with your finances, in both the giving and receiving. The scale is balanced. The meadowlark perches in blooming wealth surrounding you. She is a reminder of joy and easier times ahead.

Reversed: Imbalance. Selfishness.

Finances have a way of outweighing the importance of other aspects of our lives. Doubtful investments or the fear of not being paid can have a souring effect.

SEVEN OF PENTACLES

Upright: Vision. Reward.

You are enjoying a restful time surrounded by blooming prosperity. The vestments of the sparrow keep you in balance with the natural

world. Your goals have benefited both you and the environment you share with others. The large key is a weighty trophy of your accomplishments.

Reversed: Doubt.

You may be clinging to goals that are not leading to true happiness. Short-term bliss can have long-term problems.

EIGHT OF PENTACLES

Upright: Focus. Creativity.

You continue to push towards refinement of your goals. All the details are coming into focus. The steps along the way have your ups and downs scribed into them.

Reversed: Misdirection.

A new task has caused you to deviate from your preferred skill group, causing confusion and loss of focus.

NINE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Independent. Self-discipline.

You now have the time to enjoy your success.

The woman looks forward to what comes next. The seabird is a sign of travel and freedom. The feathered cape symbolizes your willingness to follow your heart onto the next adventure.

Reversed: Fatigue. Stress.

Overworking yourself has led to inner tension. You have a need to be free and outside the confinements of a strict schedule.

TEN OF PENTACLES

Upright: Wisdom. Satisfaction.

Through all the ups and downs you sit contentedly, looking out upon the blooms of all your successes.

Reversed: Loss.

Because of a weak foundation your future success is cracking and crumbling.

PAGE OF PENTACLES

Upright: Manifestation. Confidence.

Through hard work and determination your dreams and desires have become a reality.

The goats are a symbol of surefootedness and stability. With their heads together they share a common vision. The headdress has many faces, each facing a different direction. All of them have been witness to the ups and down of your journey. The flock and blooms are alive with activity and excitement for the adventure that comes next.

Reversed: Lack of progress.

Getting tangled in the details you may be missing the underlying meaning of your current journey.

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

Upright: Thoughtful. Prepared.

With both hands you have built a sturdy foundation. The blackbird shares your nesting nature. All that you have planted and invested in has come to fruition. Clarity of vision holds everything in order.

Reversed: Apathy. Indifference.

Restlessness in the everyday routine that holds you tied tight is diminishing your

creativity. There's a loss of interest in your current direction.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

Upright: Practicality. Sensitivity.

Beauty surrounds you. The light you generate illuminates the weeds of past lessons. The same light also brings forth the joys of the present, represented by the playful sparrows and the cunning falcon.

Reversed: Overburdened.

The weeds are a reminder of past failures. They block the view of a clearer path. The stress of having both hands full is diminishing your inner light.

KING OF PENTACLES

Upright: Ambition. Wisdom. Power.

The owl is a symbol of wisdom. It clutches the cuckoo as a way to stay focused on the path ahead. All the mischievous mice and fireflies are distractions that are put aside. The skull rests within the clock as a reminder of what needs to be done as time ticks on until the end.

Reversed: Stubborn.

If you're too rigid in your thinking you will miss out on the energy buzzing around you. An outsider idea may be what is needed to gain inspiration.

ACE OF WANDS

Upright: Inspiration. Hard work. Joy.

Though small, the house sparrow is known for its productivity. It is always busy collecting food and nesting, survival is a constant job. This card is a reminder that it takes a lot of work to get what you want. The threaded needle is a starting point. It's tiny and it takes a few tries to get it started. Cultivate your goals and see them flower.

Reversed: Apathy.

Minor setbacks can make it easy to lose focus on your current mission. Don't fall back into the weeds. Looking up at others' accomplishments can make motivation hard to grasp.

TWO OF WANDS

Upright: Decision-making. Progress.

The two Wands are a crossroads. Your steady planning and progress forward point you in the right direction. This card is about discovering what is next. The lightning rod is rusty and tangled with the vines of the rugged path you have taken thus far. Despite the trials and errors it is still a tool for channeling power and focusing it in a specific direction. From its perch atop the cracked glass globe the bluebird has a higher view of what is on the horizon.

Reversed: Fear of the unknown.
Disorganized.

You have the energy but you are not sure where to direct it. You need to focus and narrow down long-term goals. The cracks are showing in your plans.

THREE OF WANDS

Upright: Preparation. Enterprise.

Your aspirations are being put into work.

Your careful planning has woven your ideas into progress. The crow is dark and mysterious. Some see them as good, some bad. They are said to have great insight. Together they work to survive. They represent the culmination of work, and all the good and the bad experiences that have provided lessons along the way.

Reversed: Obstacles and delays.

Some of your ideas need to be more fully thought out. Disorganization and failure to acknowledge problems of the past is causing chaos.

FOUR OF WANDS

Upright: Celebration of accomplishments.

This is a time for celebration and remembering all those who have helped along the way. The way has not always been smooth, but you have handled all the thorns and now reap the beauty.

Reversed: Loss of perspective.

Your gains are ill-gotten because others may have been hurt.

FIVE OF WANDS

Upright: Conflict. Strife.

The ways ahead are troubled. Differences in opinions are becoming stumbling blocks. This is a time for change. Through discussion and open-mindedness problems can be worked out. The snake is a symbol for transformation and life changes. Be open to new views.

Reversed: Relief.

Conflicts and struggles have been worked out. Goals are back on track.

SIX OF WANDS

Upright: Victory.

“Je n’ai pas peur” “I am not afraid.” You have fought your way up and now it’s time to be recognized for all your work. The red flag is a symbol of your personal pride in your accomplishments. The honeybees are tokens of productivity and hard work. Thistles represent the struggles along your path. The bluebird has mastered navigation, and so have you.

Reversed: Doubt.

Your reliance on others' support has caused you to give up. Attempting to accomplish too many projects at once may be dragging you off course.

SEVEN OF WANDS

Upright: Challenge. Competition.

Stand your ground in the face of opposition. Challenges and obstacles are inevitable. You have made it this far. Hold tight to your course. The sky is wide open. Strong self-confidence is needed.

Reversed: Overpowered.

The path forward can be overwhelming and the burdens can be heavy with the judging eyes of the people around you. If you do not stand up for yourself you will fail.

EIGHT OF WANDS

Upright: Direction. Confusion has subsided and your vision is back on track.

The ideas and opinions of the flock are no longer in the way. The male cardinals stand out with their boisterous voices and their

eye-catching red plumage. Each bird sits atop a flowering growth springing from everything you have hoped for and dreamed of. The female cardinal is not as brightly colored but she is very determined in her direction. Your will has set you apart from the crowd.

Reversed: Distracted.

Seeking to follow too many paths at once can lead to entanglement and delays. The bees build their hives, the ants scavenge for their colonies. The weeds grow and choke the mind. There are too many activities going on at once. Seek a clear goal. Take one step at a time.

NINE OF WANDS

Upright: Courage. Nearing the finish.

Exhausted from the struggle your success is close by. Your tools may be broken and abused but they are still working in your favor. The horse moves with power and grace. This is the final test of your courage and resilience. Obstacles will always be on the path forward.

Reversed: Hesitation, defensive.

Beware of snap judgments as you approach the end of your journey. Your work habits may be too structured. You need versatility and innovation to help you through the last of your challenges.

TEN OF WANDS

Upright: Responsibility.

The road has been a long one. You have taken on so much and accomplished great things. All of this comes with the heavy burden of having to maintain it. Do not be afraid to delegate and entrust work to others. The insect kingdom is a microcosm of a machine with each participant doing its job. The cat is a reminder to use courage and refined senses to tackle problems.

Reversed: Overwhelmed.

The strain of your workload is an unnecessary burden. Your stubborn will to do everything yourself is making life difficult. Take the time to make a plan on which tasks to tackle first. Narrow your chores down to what is most important and remove what is not.

PAGE OF WANDS

Upright: Imagination. Exploration.
Spontaneity. Path of change.

Freedom and creativity flourishes. Make the most out of what you find around you. Create a world of your own from the pieces you find. The young girl populates her world with creatures built of random parts, taking what she values and bringing them to life.

Reversed: Lack of motivation.

Complications have caused setbacks. Starting a new project that is not well thought out is set to fall apart.

KNIGHT OF WANDS

Upright: Passion.

You are ready to venture out on your new path. You have the courage to follow your ideals forward. The cardinal is a reminder to be clear and directed in your purpose. Steel up for your journey ahead and follow through with confidence.

Reversed: Impulsive. Impatient.

Without a well-thought-out plan hasty choices can hinder your path forward.

QUEEN OF WANDS.

Upright: Positivity. Determination.

You are a natural leader and firmly focused on your goals. You are radiant in the dark of the world. The arrow on your shoulder points out your direction. The crow is a symbol of mystery. You listen closely but it is you that draws out their secrets.

Reversed: Apprehensive. Cautious.

Recent slights against you have caused you to doubt your self-worth. This lack of faith is overshadowing you.

KING OF WANDS

Upright: Vision. Honor.

A natural leader, you stand tall with confidence. With higher perception you have the natural ability to thread together the voices of others into a positive direction that benefits all.

Reversed: Doubt.

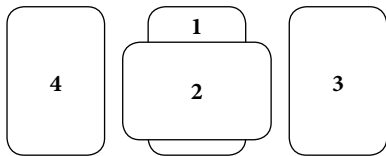
Challenges have left you lost in the weeds.
Keep focused on long-term goals.



READING WITH HUSH TAROT

“Self Binding Influence”

This simple four-card spread will help you narrow down the important factors affecting your situation. Shuffle the cards in your hands then set the deck face down on the table. Tap on the table three times. Spread out the cards in a wide, messy jumble. Draw one card at a time and lay each card face down as shown in the diagram. Flip over each card one at a time to read.



Card 1—The energy that wants to flow freely

Card 2—(Neutral position) The energy that binds or restricts the flow of card 1

Card 3—Internal influence (from within) on cards 1 and 2

Card 4—External influence (from others) on cards 1 and 2



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jeremy Hush began his creative career in the underground world of punk and metal bands, designing album covers and flyers, as well as booking bands and traveling around the world. He is now a designer, painter and woodworker specializing in Gilded Age techniques. Jeremy currently lives in Philadelphia, hiding and working in the Convent Gallery where he is the curator and renovator. He spends his evenings painting in his studio, preparing for gallery exhibits. His art has been shown around the world.

“Hush creates immensely detailed work using a ballpoint pen and found materials for pigment, often using his fingerprints to create shading, giving his work an aged, textured and timeless quality. Hush’s work reminds me of being small again, but even smaller than I ever once was, being surrounded by nature, with the flurry of activity one finds under rocks and decaying logs seeming larger and noisier because of the shift in proportion. Hush’s

work, illustrated with lush detail inspired by natural forms in various states of life and decay, could be as at home amongst Victorian botanical etchings as it is amongst contemporary illustrations. Hush's work takes the 19th century aesthetic much deeper by adding to it his own cast of fascinating feminine, masculine and animal characters, journeying through his haunted landscapes, beckoning the viewer to attempt to chase down the phantom narrative." – Joy Shannon



NOTES

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