



CROW TAROT

by MJ Cullinane

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*A very special thank you to my
beautiful daughter River who
inspires me every day to create art
for the sake of happiness first.*



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

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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.

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