

TAROT *of*
Mystical Moments

SAMPLE

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With Lynn Araujo

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INTRODUCTION

I was very excited to begin this project in 2016, as designing a tarot deck has been a long-time dream of mine. Since childhood I have been fascinated with the cards, especially about the mystique they are surrounded by. My grandmother used to lay the cards for clients in exchange for food shortly after World War II, but sadly she never did readings for me when she got older. Though I never seriously studied the tarot, I have always kept my curiosity about the cards.

After U.S. Games Systems asked me to design a whole deck on my own, I soon realized what a huge project I had committed to. To illustrate each card and to picture its whole essence you have to understand the meaning in all its complexity. So first I had to study the tarot intensely and get more familiar with the meanings. Normally, I work very intuitively and allow my collages to develop as I am creating them. For the tarot cards I had to work the opposite way. Each card already has its assigned meaning and I had to find the story to creatively explore it. The *Smith-Waite Tarot Deck* was a big influence and

a fundamental guide for me while creating *Tarot of Mystical Moments*. I used this classic deck as an inspiration, but I tried to develop my own personal stories and interpretations for the cards. In the Minor Arcana, the Wands, Cups, Swords and Pentacles don't show up literally in the cards; they are symbolized by pertinent objects within the scene. Depending on the number of the Minor Arcana card, the symbols appear in multiples equal to this number.

Most of the cards I originally designed for this deck depicted the tarot scene from a female point of view. But since the tarot should reflect a more inclusive perspective, I added traditionally male figures to the deck as well, mainly for the Kings and some Minor Arcana cards. For the Emperor and the four King cards, I created two versions, feminine and masculine, and have included both as bonus cards in this 83-card deck. Readers may choose which rendition they want to include in their tarot readings. Descriptions of both versions are given in this booklet.

In many cases I created several images for each card before deciding on the final ones to include in this deck. I often had to return to my artwork

to see if the meaning and imagery still resonated for me or if I had to make changes. During this period of emotional ups and downs I sometimes doubted that I would ever be able to finish all the cards. I often felt like the Fool whose journey is to complete the deck, while having all the emotional experiences and challenges the cards are speaking about.

I want to express thanks for the patience and support of my family and the help of U.S. Games Systems. Special thanks to Jennifer Kaplan, Lynn Araujo, Jody Boginski Barbessi and Nora Paskaleva. Because of them the tarot finally began to become real for me. In the end I may not be much wiser, but I am very grateful and proud to have completed my very own *Tarot of Mystical Moments*.



THE MAJOR ARCANA

0. THE FOOL

The Fool, an adventuresome young girl, begins her journey by walking through a blooming garden. The Fool is pure and innocent and ventures out unencumbered. She enjoys herself and is curious about her surroundings. Her companion is a small bird, which represents the liberty to go anywhere. The path she is walking on is actually the tail of a huge crocodile hiding in the shadows of the garden. But the Fool is not aware of the danger in front of her. She knows that life is full of surprises and one has to be willing to take risks in order to experience life fully.

Upright meaning:

Spontaneity, bold beginnings, adventure, naiveté, new horizons, potential

Reversed meaning:

Fearful of the unknown, extremely cautious, foolish

I. THE MAGICIAN

The card of the Magician is about creative power, talent and potent energy. On this card there is a hand holding a magic hat, which is the home of the Magician. With her intention and multi-faceted skills, the Magician was able to create her own mystical surroundings, an abode full of plants and animals. Her skills are manifested through the four elements, which are represented by the magic wand (fire), swan (water), plants (earth) and butterfly (air). She taps into these elements, channels the creative energy, and produces magical results.

Upright meaning:

Manifestation, channeled power, inspired creativity, confidence

Reversed meaning:

Lacking necessary skills, manipulation, careless planning, misguided use of power

II. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

The High Priestess is standing between a pair of red curtains, protecting the entrance to a mysterious blue sky. She is the guardian of the unconscious mind and knows the secret to accessing those areas of sacred wisdom. She urges you to listen to and trust your inner voice, which is represented by the blue shell near her throat chakra. Explore the unknown hidden places. The ship in the dark waves shows you the depths of your intuition that guides you on your journey of self-knowledge and understanding.

Upright meaning:

Sacred wisdom, potential, intuition, unconscious knowing, awareness

Reversed meaning:

Concealed secrets, denying potential, overly rational

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and other inspirational products please
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