



A 78-CARD DECK

The

PHANTOMWISE
TAROT

AND GUIDEBOOK

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Phantomwise Tarot.

This black-and-white world is a little bit circusy, a little bit Wonderland, and a little bit nocturnal phantasia of its own invention. A mix of myth and fairy tale and chaotically splattered paint populated with pirates and puppies and ballerinas and books, all conjured from shadow and light.

This is a dreamland. It exists now and then and out of time completely, somewhere between asleep and awake. Each individual encountered here could be real or illusion, reflection or distortion. The ravens may not be what they seem. The cats know more than they'll ever tell.

Within the Major Arcana, an inquisitive child in a white dress will foolishly chase after a rabbit despite cat-issued warnings and find themselves tumbling through a world of shadowy figures and swirling clouds and dark moonlit woods before they find their feet on the solid ground of the World again.

Throughout the Minor Arcana there are realms of air and fire and earth and water to be explored, filled with sharp swords and magic wands, five-pointed stars and cups filled with tea or wine. There are expeditions to be taken here through inspirations and inceptions to mastery and understanding, moving through conflicts and connections and celebrations.

These seventy-eight cards can be shuffled and drawn to create different interludes that may provide insight and clarity or new perspectives.

The meanings presented here are merely guideposts, lantern lights to dimly illuminate the way. They may be heeded or ignored, for each journey through this space will be unique and each image and symbol and teacup found here is up for interpretation. Travelers will find their way through each card and each reading on their own individual paths.

There is no wrong way to read these cards. These are dreamscapes filled with ideas and possibilities waiting to unfold.

*Still she haunts me, phantomwise
Alice moving under skies
Never seen by waking eyes.*

—Lewis Carroll,
*Through the Looking-Glass,
and What Alice Found There*

Suggestions for How to Read These Cards



Shuffle and divide the deck into three piles and reassemble the deck in the most pleasing order before drawing cards from the top. * Spread all the cards out on a surface facedown and draw one at a time. * Draw a single card per day and keep a notebook with your observations. * Forget where that notebook went or forget to draw cards every day and just draw cards whenever time allows and consider them in the moment. * Use them in classic tarot spreads or spontaneously created spreads or the spreads found in this book. * Draw a single card and leave it on display for an hour or a day or a week. * At the turn of the year pull a card for each of the upcoming months. * Keep the cards in order and flip through them like a storybook. * Shuffle the cards and create new stories.

DREAMCHILD SPREAD

*Walking the line between sleeping and dreaming
to better comprehend both*

A SIMPLE SPREAD TO CONNECT WITH INTUITION

CARD 1: **The Dreamer**

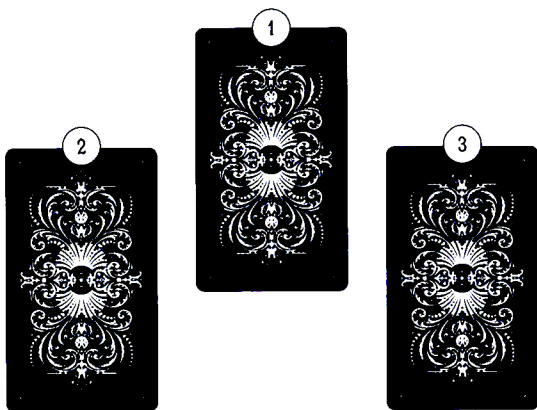
The querent's current position

CARD 2: **Dreaming**

The unconscious—Hidden influences or something unseen

CARD 3: **Waking**

The conscious—Outside influences or actions to be taken



CELESTIAL NAVIGATION SPREAD

*Gazing up at the night sky, sailing through uncertain waters,
looking to the stars*

A GUIDANCE SPREAD TO AID IN CHARTING COURSES

CARD 1: The Ship

The current position or circumstances

CARD 2: The Sextant

A tool that may be used to aid on this journey

CARD 3: The Evening Star

An idea or influence that may be fading

CARD 4: The North Star

A point to keep constant

CARD 5: The Morning Star

An aspect that has yet to be considered

CARD 6: The Far Shore

The goal or destination



DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE SPREAD

For chasing intriguing bunnies into unknown depths

AN OUTLOOK SPREAD BASED ON THE WONDERLAND-INSPIRED FOOL CARD

CARD 1: The Fool

The querent's current position

CARD 2: The Rabbit

The short-term goal or situation

CARD 3: The Cat

A warning or caution

CARD 4: The Rabbit Hole

That which is upcoming

CARD 5: The Fall

That which is unexpected

CARD 6: The Underground

That which must be traversed and explored or overcome

CARD 7: The World

The ultimate outcome or result, the core of the journey



AUTHOR'S NOTE

The Phantomwise Tarot was painted between 2007 and 2010 in an attempt to relearn the tarot after having picked it up and put it down again several times before. To aid in this endeavor I decided to paint my own versions of the cards, not as an in-depth study but to help capture them in my own memory and imagination. Each card was hand-painted in black and white acrylic paint and all the shades of grey that resulted from messily mixing the two.

During the same time period I was writing a book that would eventually become *The Night Circus*. Each project contains reflections of the other, sometimes subtly and sometimes less so. Both are black-and-white wonderlands peppered with kittens. The Hanged Man appears identically in each and I truthfully cannot recall which one came first.

The card images are loosely based on the classic Rider-Waite-Smith designs by the inimitable Pamela Colman Smith and this deck can be used with any Rider-Waite-Smith tarot guides. I have not included reversed meanings here because I do not personally read with reversals.

These cards have waited patiently for over a decade to find their way out into the world and I am delighted that they can now be held and shuffled and explored.

THE MAJOR ARCANA



A JOURNEY DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE



The Fool

A small child in a white dress chases a rabbit into a nighttime daydream. The ground beneath their feet is about to give way. Here begins a tumble, head over feet, into unknown, unfathomed depths. A place of childlike wonder, bravery, and exploration and new adventures to be found. Any warnings from cautious kittens will likely go unheeded, but some moments are best jumped into with reckless enthusiasm.



The Magician

A curtain parts and a magician appears, wand in hand, presenting a cup and a sword and a pentacle, elements for creating infinite possibilities. There is nothing up their sleeves but there may be a card tucked in the brim of a bowler hat. Now is a time for taking action and experimenting, all of the tools needed for manifestations and magic are here. Focus. Place energy into dreams and goals in order to conjure them into reality.



The High Priestess

Between two columns, one black and one white, a figure sits, existing in the space between. One eye is covered, looking only inward, while the other looks outward. A book sits open, waiting to be read by the light of an impossible moon. Here is the guardian of secrets and solitude and hidden things. A time to pause and contemplate and understand what it is being sought. To plumb hidden depths and ponder mysteries both new and ancient.



The Empress

A seated figure in a long gown watches as things grow. A flower crown sits upon their head, another single bloom held in hand. Vines curl around their feet and roses spring from the ground, moving ever upwards. Everything here is bright and blooming and nurturing, creative and fertile and alive. Grounded and growing. Sensual and sensitive. Now is a time of beauty and art and life, blossoming and abundant.



The Emperor

A figure sits on a throne composed of strict lines and sharp angles. The architectural chair sits solidly upon the earth, supporting its occupant as they conduct their surroundings. Even curls of incense smoke drift with precision in the directions they are meant to. Structure and form. Command and control. Authority and organization. A place to bend and shape things into desired designs. A time of confidence, order, rules, and regulations.



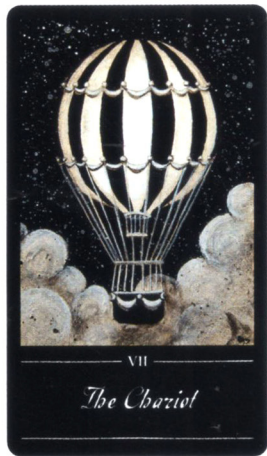
The Hierophant

Two inquisitive cats sit in a library overflowing with books, listening attentively at the feet of their storyteller. When the story is completed they will ask politely for another. This is a place of dusty tomes and ancient tales, of wisdom gathered and shared. A space for storytelling and storylistening. Students who are ready to learn, ears pricked and tails calm and attentive. Seeking and finding deeper knowledge and meaning.



The Lovers

A couple sits together on a swing, high in the air, hands clasped together. No words are required in this moment. Here is a deep connection made up in the clouds, looking over the world from a shared viewpoint. This is a soft space, filled with new love. A harmonious balance. A time to luxuriate in. Possibly a time for making choices, to determine needs and desires and whether or not a relationship suits those needs and desires.



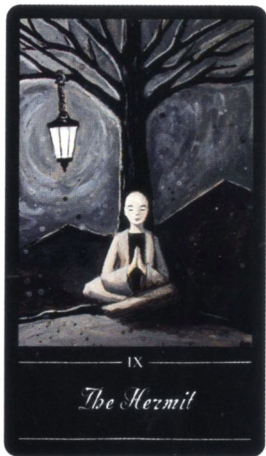
The Chariot

A black-and-white striped hot air balloon lifts up into the night sky, floating above the clouds. Its movement seems effortless but in truth this vessel is carefully controlled by strings and air and heat. This is a buoyant balance between black and white, conscious and subconscious. Victoriously reaching new heights, moving ever closer to the stars. A time to exercise control in order to rise to the occasion. A marvelous triumph.



Strength

A figure sits upon a garden wall, surrounded by carefully sculpted topiaries as they gently pet a large snow leopard who rests, transfixed, upon their lap. This is a place to tame what is wild, a place of calmness in the presence of claws and teeth. Here is the courage to face threats, calm and collected, strong and soft, with inner or outer strength. Compassion with a light and tender hand.



The Hermit

On a quiet mountaintop there is a tree. A glowing lantern hangs from its branches, illuminating the darkness and a solitary seeker, serenely searching. This is a place of introspection. A retreat. A space to draw back and look within. Now is a time to find a quiet spot and a soft light. To sit comfortably and tune out the noise of the world. Discover a stillness and within that stillness gain a greater understanding.



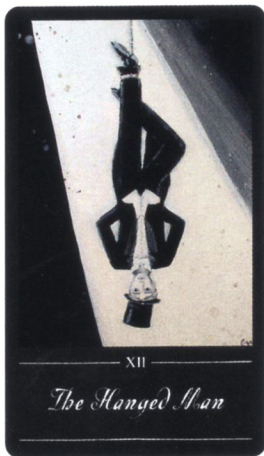
The Wheel of Fortune

Black and white swirl together in a hypnotic spiral surrounded by intricate, delicate knots. It is difficult to discern which direction is up and which is down. This is the ever-turning wheel of fortune and fate and fables. This moment is about luck and timing and turning points. Everything is uncertain, in constant, sometimes dizzying movement. Change is afoot and events are unpredictable. A time of visions and realizations and twists of fate.



Justice

A figure holds a set of scales lightly in one hand, anticipating a weighing of evidence. A sheathed sword rests on their back, ready to cut through that which obfuscates in order to reach what is fair and just. This is a place of restoring balance and harmony. A time to view things with a rational eye. A time for stepping back, observing, assessing, and then doing what must be done. Truth and justice and receiving what is deserved.



The Hanged Man

A bright spotlight cuts through the darkness, illuminating a figure in full formal wear suspended from one foot. They appear calm and collected, arms tucked behind their back and top hat somehow remaining in place upon their head. This is a serene suspension. Letting go and surrendering. Relinquishing control. A change in perspective that might lead to a changed mind. Letting the blood rush to the head to see what new ideas it might awaken.



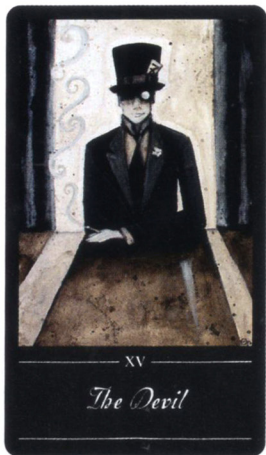
Death

A figure sits upon a high stone wall, their visage obscured by a large striped umbrella. A scythe decorated with ribbons rests in their lap, ready to bring endings and celebrate new beginnings. This is a time of great change and transformation. A storm passes and leaves something new in its wake. A transition, a letting go. A time to cut out that which no longer serves and to release the past. Make room for new things and new growth and rebirth.



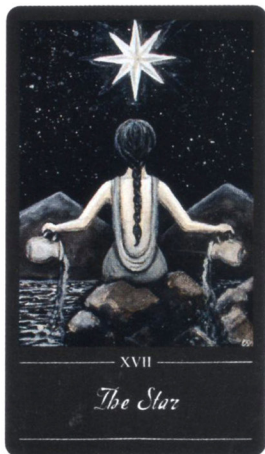
Temperance

A winged figure gracefully fills a cup without looking at the vessel. A measured, well-practiced action. Their long gown is striped in black and white, the lightness of one complementing the darkness of the other. This is a place of balance and tranquility, moderation and virtue, alchemy and tea. Here there is a mixing of opposing forces into harmony. A time for compromises, equilibrium, self-control. The finding of happy mediums.



The Devil

A figure sits with shadowed eyes and an easy smile, a little bit menacing and a little bit intriguing. A sweet-voiced temptation. The shadows here are dark but the brilliance of the light also makes it difficult to see clearly. A time of sitting in the shadow of something or someone. Bound by fears or blinded by illusions. The need to stand up and move away from the darkness at this table and explore the light beyond.



The Tower

A sudden bolt of lightning strikes a tall clocktower, unexpected and violent, destroying its gears and interrupting its steady keeping of time. This is a catalyst, a sudden tumultuous interruption. A time of unforeseen events and sudden revelations. Seeing through to the truth and the gears behind the face of the clock. A forcible change and perhaps an unwanted one, but broken pieces of clockwork can be rebuilt anew.

The Star

Sitting on a starlit shore is a figure gazing up at the night sky. They pour two jars of liquid, emptying the contents of one onto land and the other into water, letting them flow back into the earth. Far above shines a bright, bold star to wish bright, bold wishes upon. A time to seek guidance and celestial navigation. Hope and illumination. Inspiration and optimism for the future. The opening of hearts, the releasing of fears.



The Moon

It is easy to find oneself lost in these woods. The ravens will provide no guidance, they only observe beneath the soft glow of the moon. This is a place of nighttime secrets and hidden things and cats who keep their secrets to themselves. A time of bewilderment. A space that may be enchanting or disorienting. In these shadows things are not what they seem and so they must be navigated with care and intuition.



The Sun

Here is a garden filled with giddy sunflowers. They stretch upward, gazing adoringly at the radiant sun in a cloudless sky. This is a place to bask in joy, brightness, and blossoming happiness. A place for communication and creativity and excitement. Self-confidence is blooming, freed from fears and darkness. Enlightened. Everything is energetic and brilliant and sparkling. A time of attracting positivity and splendor.



Judgement

A jackal-headed god of the dead observes a set of scales balanced upon the key of life, gauging the heaviness of hearts against the lightness of feathers. A heart that weighs less than a feather represents a life complete and ready for rebirth. Now is a time of honest appraisal. Liberate the heart and allow it to be feather-light. A time for ascension and epiphanies. Transformation and revival and renewal.



The World

A familiar figure who is now more than a child stands holding the tree of the world in their hands. A rabbit has been found, mysteries have been unraveled and stories have reached their conclusions. They stand accomplished and triumphant, ready and waiting for new adventures to begin. This is the completion of a cycle. A time of having the world at your fingertips. The universe whole and harmonious, with ever-expanding horizons.

THE MINOR ARCANA

THE SUIT OF WANDS



THE REALM OF FIRE



Things that may be encountered in this realm:
Inspirations. Ignited passions. Volatile energy.
Tools for manifestation. Creativity. Curious cats.



The Ace of Wands

A starting point. A magic wand to grasp on to. A tool for channeling energy. A torch to light the path for new ideas and new adventures. A moment of excitement and inspiration, sparkling with new ideas and wonders. Time to put a creative vision into action.

The Two of Wands

A black cat sits in the branches of a tree, gazing out upon the world. A small creature in a high place with big dreams. Balanced. Waiting. A time for seeking, yearning, daydreaming, envisioning the future, preparation. Laying plans and envisioning goals. Looking out for new adventures.



The Three of Wands

The Three of Wands

A figure sits in a tree looking out toward the coast where ships have been sent to sea. A time of expanding horizons and exploring possibilities. Watching plans become reality. Having foresight. Observing which way the wind blows. Steps have been taken to sail toward far shores.



The Four of Wands

The Four of Wands

Ribbon-covered wands garnish the top of a large tiered cake. A feast in frosting to mark an accomplishment or an occasion—great or small. A time of celebrations and gratitude. For gatherings and shared sweetness. Freedom from expectations. A time to move joyously into what brings happiness.



The Five of Wands

A youthful group bats at a piñata with wooden wands, attempting to break it open to access its contents. A time of childish disputes and competition. Playful aggression. Rivalries. Frustration. Waging battles over paper animals. Conflict over what may not be needed, might not even be known.



The Six of Wands

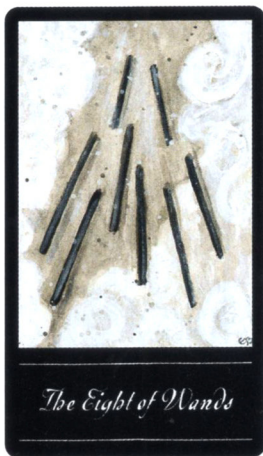
A cat struts along the top of a fence, displaying its captured prey, the center of attention and the envy of other kittens. A triumphant, victorious return. A time of earning acclaim and respect of peers. Being in a position of power. A recognition of achievements.



The Seven of Wands

The Seven of Wands

A figure stands backed against a wall, holding up a wand against an influx of assailants. A time to take a stand, maintain boundaries. Asserting a position, persevering, standing up for oneself and one's beliefs. Holding ground, standing firm, unyielding. Remaining strong and steadfast when tested.



The Eight of Wands

The Eight of Wands

A flock of wands soars through the clouds, moving quickly, accelerating. A rush of swift movement and progress. Events unfolding quickly with great momentum. Everything is in motion, destinations are uncertain. Busy bees, buzzing with bright ideas and actions. Now is not the time for hesitation.



The Nine of Wands

The Nine of Wands

A figure stands in a field filled with wands, exhausted but not quite able to rest yet. Ready to move on. Wounded but still standing. Resilient and prepared for what comes next. A time to stand fast through long trials, to continue pressing forward. Almost there.



The Ten of Wands

The Ten of Wands

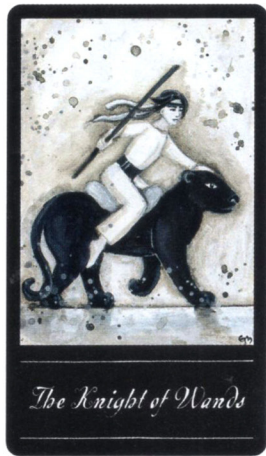
A figure stumbles from carrying too many wands upon their back, overwhelmed and overburdened, needing to put things down. A time of struggle and taking on too much. Pushing too hard. The responsibilities that come with achievements. The weight of the world. Knowing when to stop.



The Page of Wands

A ballerina holds aloft a wand upon which two kittens practice their balancing techniques. A time of new kittens learning new tricks. Moving confidently in new directions.

Enthusiasm and exuberance.
A message to start projects or take chances. A person who is confident and eager and excitable.



The Knight of Wands

The figure astride a panther has places to go and people to see, traveling swiftly on soft paws. Eager to set off with a whole world to explore. Daring. Bold. Potentially impatient. Free-spirited and ready for adventure. A person with an easy smile and a contagious laugh.



The Queen of Wands

A regal figure stands in the sun, the mistress of fire, assured of their place on these warm sands. They see far and see wide. A person with confidence and charisma and warmth. Passion and creativity. Hard-working and dedicated to tasks they deem worthy of their attention.



The King of Wands

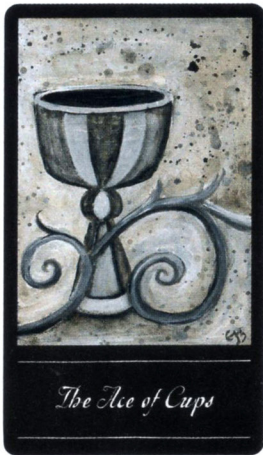
A crowned figure, seated but ready to take action, holds a catalyst. Practiced and charismatic. Bold and inspiring. Master of their art. A person who is direct, fearless, and enthusiastic. The center of attention. Prepared to take risks and enjoy rewards. Vibrant and creative, innovative and determined.

THE SUIT OF CUPS

THE REALM OF WATER



Things that may be encountered in this realm:
Love and relationships. Matters of the Heart.
Steaming cups of tea. Whimsy. Fluffy rabbits.



The Ace of Cups

A striped goblet rests, ready to be filled, to overflow. A space for new emotions and fresh feelings. A time to trust in intuition. Love. Compassion. Intimacy. New beginnings and new toasts to be made, new infatuations with persons or ideas or possibilities.



The Two of Cups

Two bunnies together in matching teacups, making connections. Warm fuzzies and soft noses. Balance and happiness. Sharing. Developing partnerships with similar souls. A potential for bonding. A new relationship, platonic or romantic. Kindred spirits. Discovering a new friend, someone who brings joy and lightness and harmony.



The Three of Cups

A trio of figures raise their glasses high in a celebratory toast. Like minds and like souls. Camaraderie. Joy and support and merriment and sparkling beverages. Celebrating new friendships and rekindling old bonds, sharing happiness. Emotions expanded to include others. Share joy, spread joy, and pop another bottle.



The Four of Cups

A figure beneath a tree has grown disinterested in what they have but if they looked in a different direction, they would find something new. Ignoring opportunities. Being unhappy but unwilling to act. Feeling bored. Conflicted. Disillusioned and despondent. Allowing introspection to turn into obliviousness.



The Five of Cups

A figure sits collapsed on the floor, mourning what's been broken. Dwelling on the past. Not seeing the whole picture. Wallowing in regret. Reliving past trauma. Reluctant to move on. Being focused on what is lost while what remains is left neglected. A need to move forward.

The Six of Cups

A tea party set out for a gathering of appreciative bunnies. A place of warmth and kindness and gratitude. Sharing with others. A time for whimsy and wonderment. Fond memories and nostalgia. Embracing your inner child. Remembering how to be playful and being generous with that playfulness.



The Seven of Cups

A figure gazes up into the air, thoughts tangled with multiple possibilities and desires. A choice to be made. An opportunity to see one option to fruition. A time to distinguish between wishes and wants, dreams and desires, needs and reality. Pluck a vessel from the clouds and draw it down to earth.



The Eight of Cups

A cloaked figure ascends a long staircase, moving on and leaving things behind. Taking a path forward and upward. A time for seeking and finding. Embracing change. Taking steps toward something new and away from something else. Wandering. Following your heart into change. Transition. A new journey.



The Nine of Cups

The Nine of Cups

A comfortably seated figure lifts a glass while surrounded by an accumulated collection of fine wines. Feeling contented and secure in emotions, satisfied and satiated. A time for taking pleasure in accomplishments and enjoying success. A dream fulfilled. Raise a glass and make a wish.



The Ten of Cups

The Ten of Cups

A cozy colony of bunnies. Home is where the heart is, and the books and the tea and the warmth they bring. Being surrounded by love and contentment. Domestic harmony. A safe haven filled with softness and joy. All is within reach, in teacups and turned pages.



The Page of Cups

A bunny-eared ballerina gracefully and carefully balances a teacup on their fingertips. A time to marvel. A message to embrace emotions and capture magic. A person who is sensitive and romantic, creative and imaginative. A daydream believer with a big, bright heart and big, bright feelings.



The Knight of Cups

A figure astride a giant rabbit lifts a glass, reveling in the whimsy and wonder and softness of this journey. They'll probably write a poem about it later. Time for grand gestures and strong feelings. A romantic person who loves love. Loyal and sensitive, intense and mysterious.



The Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups

A figure stands steadily in the surf. Mistress of the ocean and its depths, its calms and its storms. A person who is supportive and nurturing, protective and kind. Listening to the sea and the songs it sings about dreams and secrets. Intuition and deep emotional understanding.



The King of Cups

The King of Cups

A dapper crowned figure sits in a comfortable chair, sipping at a well-mixed martini. A time of stability, sensitivity, and wisdom. A person who is emotionally mature. An excellent listener. Exhibiting an understanding of human nature. Being dreamy and idealistic. Perceptive and insightful. Calm, cool and collected.

THE SUIT OF SWORDS

THE REALM OF AIR



Things that may be encountered in this realm:
*Intellect and ideas. Sharp truths and sharp-edged
blades. Conflicts and challenges. Ravens in flight.*



The Ace of Swords

A single sword waiting to be wielded, ready to cut through the fog and into clarity. A time for new ideas and insights. Thinking clearly and logically. Making decisions and speaking decisively. Being in control. Persuasion. Mental breakthroughs. A sharp blade to point the way forward.



The Two of Swords

Two ravens fly in opposite directions, each one transporting a large sword as they cross paths. A time of soft conflict, temporary and fleeting, not the impasse it may seem to be. A crossroads. A suspended moment in which to choose carefully.



The Three of Swords

Multiple swords run through a large heart. A heart pierced and broken, where soft meets sharp with pain-filled consequences. A time for understanding pain. A need to cut to the heart of the matter. Sorrow and trauma, mental turmoil that time and care will mend.



The Four of Swords

A fighter takes a moment to rest their head, blade close at hand. A place to recuperate after long battles, to ready oneself for what's to come. Avoiding unnecessary struggle. A time for a reprieve. A retreat. Stillness. Contemplation, meditation. Preparing for the long game.



The Five of Swords

A pirate plunders the aftermath of a battle-ravaged shore as the defeated parties slink away. Opportunities taken and plunder recovered. Savvy. Success. A time of selfishness. Questionable behavior and hollow victories. Conflict that could have been avoided. Awareness of the place of others in what transpires.



The Six of Swords

An unkindness of ravens has been set free and now sails to new shores. Moving on, escaping past traumas. A time of preparing for what's to come. Going on a journey. Wanderlust and letting go. Traveling from troubled waters to open seas filled with possibilities.



The Seven of Swords

A figure cloaked in black tiptoes away with an armful of swords, about to vanish into the night with their spoils. A place of stealth and deception. Taking ideas that are of use and leaving the rest. A lone wolf. Avoiding responsibilities. Something hidden in the shadows.



The Eight of Swords

A figure stands in a circle of swords, pinned down but not trapped, blindfolded but not bound, captured but not caged. Able to free themselves if they put in the effort. A time of being confined by thoughts. A need to remove blinders in order to see clearly.



The Nine of Swords

A figure wakes from sleeping, apparitions of swords hanging over their bed. Nightmares and hauntings and insomnia. Uneasiness and circular thinking. A time of being wound up in worries and doubts. Cycles of anxiety. A need to move on from dark thoughts and escape restless nights.



The Ten of Swords

A figure lies on the ground, faced with a wall of swords. Obliterated and overwhelmed, overcome and overthinking. The end of a cycle. Being abandoned or betrayed or exhausted. Feeling like a victim. A turning point. Nowhere left to go, a different direction must be sought.



The Page of Swords

A winged ballerina presents a sword, ready to use their quick wit and sharp toes. A time for foresight and logic. A message about being vigilant and being prepared. A person who is charismatic and inquisitive, filled with ideas, ready to follow where the wind takes them.



The Knight of Swords

A figure astride a gryphon has their sword drawn, ready to fly or to fight with sharp blades and sharp claws. A time for being logical and analytical and blunt. Cutting straight to the point, rushing into battle. A person who is self-assured, confident, impetuous, and incisive.



The Queen of Swords

The Queen of Swords

In the crisp shadows of the mountains stands the mistress of air, their sword held lightly at their side. A time for ingenuity and original thinking. A person who is astute and direct. Honest and witty. A visionary able to see future possibilities and how to attain them.



The King of Swords

The King of Swords

A serious crowned figure sits on their throne, a raven perched above. A sharp mind with a sharp sword. A time for high intellect and high standards and high energy. A person who is reasonable and level-headed. A seeker of harmony and diplomacy. A thoughtful, balanced problem-solver.

THE SUIT OF PENTACLES

THE REALM OF EARTH



Things that may be encountered in this realm:
*The clatter of coins. Hard work. Seeds planted and
growing. Solid foundations. Loyal dogs.*



The Ace of Pentacles

A five-pointed star surrounded by curling vines. A time of new opportunities and chances for growth and financial gain. Investments for the future. Taking advantage of opportunities. Resources are at hand. New pieces of puzzles and small elements that will become greater. Seeds planted, ready to grow.

The Two of Pentacles

A skilled poodle stands steadily on a ball while balancing another upon its nose. Precarious and practiced, they keep themselves aloft. A situation requiring dexterity and flexibility. Agility and adaptation. A time for balancing both work and play. Multitasking. Remembering to have fun. A growing confidence in talents.



The Three of Pentacles

Three intricate stars are surrounded by carefully crafted carved knots. Ornate angles and intersections that have been studied and planned. Manipulating physical forms and designs. Being competent and able to accomplish tasks. Craftsmanship and skilled labor. A time for cooperation, sharing, and teamwork. Focusing on the details.



The Four of Pentacles

A seated figure keeps their possessions close, in hand and under foot. Holding on to what's theirs, sometimes too tightly. Resisting change. Being overly attached to the material things. Accumulating wealth for the future. Being stubborn. Remaining in control. A time of abundance with concerns regarding stability.



The Five of Pentacles

A small, cloaked figure and their loyal companion trudge through the snow, tattered and torn and left out in the cold, seeking warmth and sanctuary. A time of hardship and rejection, feeling excluded. A sense of something missing. Patience and forward motion. Keep moving despite the cold.

The Six of Pentacles

A shopkeeper offers a large bone to expectant puppies outside on the cobblestones. A time of generosity and selflessness. To have and have not. Taking care or being taken care of. Acts of kindness no matter how small. Giving and receiving. Accepting that which is offered.



The Seven of Pentacles

The Seven of Pentacles

A figure sits high in the branches, waiting patiently for a well-tended tree to bloom and bring their work to fruition. Blossoming. Fruit. A time for evaluating progress and planning for the next stage. Preparing for the harvest and what might follow. Trusting in future rewards.



The Eight of Pentacles

The Eight of Pentacles

An artisan works with fine tools, perfecting one of a series of delicate ornamental stars. A time for developing craftsmanship. Mastery of skills. Being hands-on and doing what needs to be done. Honing a craft. Dedication. Hard work and determination. Proficiency and attention to detail.



The Nine of Pentacles

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A figure rests comfortably on an assemblage of stars with a falcon in hand, trained and hooded, able to fly and return. Accomplished and comfortable, independent and self-reliant, enjoying a sense of security and abundance. A place of refinement and grace. A time for enjoyment and indulgence.



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A stately castle festooned with stars and flanked by loyal hounds awaits at the end of a long path. A home and a fortress. A time of prosperity and security. Solid walls to protect that which is valued. A legacy or inheritance. Following traditions. Permanence and stability.



The Page of Pentacles

A ballerina teaches a tiny poodle to balance on a ball. Time for teaching or learning new tricks and setting plans into action. Making dreams reality. A message about opportunities for achievement and prosperity. A person who is practical and down to earth, reliable and responsible.



The Knight of Pentacles

A figure sits astride a large white wolf, armed with a star-emblazoned shield, in control and prepared for what is to come. A person who is hardworking and introspective, guarded and stubborn. Analytical of themselves and others and the world around them. A realist with pessimistic tendencies.



The Queen of Pentacles

In a moonlit clearing surrounded by deep forests stands the mistress of earth, feet steady on the ground. They are warm and welcoming. Earthy and sensuous. Dependable, loyal, and unpretentious. A sense of security, a cozy home. A person who is generous and open-hearted. Affectionate and nurturing.



The King of Pentacles

A crowned figure sits perfectly balanced on a star, steady and adept. Ambitious yet pragmatic. Stoic and methodical. Charismatic and savvy in business and matters of coin. A person who is responsible and no-nonsense. Enterprising. Understands how the world works and how to sit comfortably within it.

