TAROT of Mystical Moments

By Catrin Welz-Stein With Lynn Araujo Copyright © 2020 U.S. Games Systems, Inc.

All rights reserved. The illustrations, cover design, and contents are protected by copyright. No part of this booklet may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written

for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper or website.

First Edition 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Made in China



Published by U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC. 179 Ludlow Street • Stamford, CT 06902 USA www.usgamesinc.com

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 multifaceted 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

III. THE EMPRESS

The Empress stands outside enveloped in luxurious nature; lush green trees to either side of her and blue skies above. In this scene of abundance everything about her shows her deep connections to nature. She is the archetypal Earth Mother. Her dress is full of blossoming flowers. Within her lily skirt we see the stamen and the pollen, which represent sexuality and fertility. The pregnant Empress tenderly cradles her unborn baby under her dress. She holds a crown in her hands, ready to place upon the baby's head as a gesture of protective love.

Upright meaning:

Maternal instincts, connection with nature, abundance, fertility, Earth Mother

Reversed meaning:

Detachment, materialistic, sterile, smothering tendencies

IV. THE EMPEROR

This card shows the commanding figure of the Emperor looking confidently out over his vast domain. The Emperor's crown is a huge castle that represents his intelligence, which has earned him legitimate power. The official uniform with the golden medal chains portrays the Emperor as a major authority with a strong will. The Emperor is a stern, disciplined leader yet he is not without compassion, as symbolized by the flowers on his chest. The branches above his mouth signify that when he speaks he does so with expertise and broad experience.

Upright meaning:

Authority, leadership, experience, confidence, structure

Reversed meaning:

Disorder, domineering nature, overly strict

IV. FEMALE EMPEROR

This version of the Emperor is represented by an impressive woman who stands in front of a huge palace. The castle structure represents the Emperor's legitimate claim to sovereign power. The gold crown on her head and the official attire she is wearing show her as a major authority with a strong will. Long braids symbolize her considerable experience and intelligence. The Emperor is holding thin ropes, which are tied to the people on the ground. The people are proportionately small and appear like powerless marionettes manipulated and controlled by the Emperor, but the Emperor is also protecting her subjects.

Upright meaning:

Authority, leadership, experience, confidence, structure

Reversed meaning:

Disorder, domineering nature, overly strict

V. THE HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant is represented here by an owl sitting on a branch of an ancient tree with strong roots. He is reading out of a book in front of a little girl, eagerly sharing his knowledge and wisdom with her. The girl is listening very attentively. The old tree represents traditions grown out of centuries. The card suggests that you can honor these traditions and fulfill society's expectations by embracing existing beliefs and conventions.

Upright meaning:

Honoring traditions and rituals, institutionalized knowledge, accepting conventions

Reversed meaning:

Non-conformity, focus on individualism, rejecting traditional ways

VI. THE LOVERS

This card shows a couple who are deeply in love. Mutual attraction has brought them together and choice has kept them united. The male is half bird and the woman wears a dress with blue feathers that match his. Birds and feathers here represent freedom of feelings, and expansive happiness and emotions. Like birds, the Lovers can fly high into the sky with no borders limiting their love. They are very much connected and committed to each other, giving each other mutual support. This card is about being open to forming a union or partnership out of affection and shared views.

Upright meaning:

Divine union, powerful bonds, kinship, shared values

Reversed meaning:

Self-interests, rejection, disharmony

VII. THE CHARIOT

On this card we see a woman riding a snail, which appears to also be an extension of her body. She looks very confident and determined in her progress. The spiral shape of her headdress shows she is relying on the strength of her own mental powers and her will as much as the physical energy of the snail to progress forward. The Chariot is on a journey striking out on her own and is leaving the past behind, which is represented by the castle silhouetted in the background. Riding on a snail is very slow and it will take time to reach the destination, but the Charioteer keeps focused and she will reach her goal in the end.

Upright meaning:

Control, willpower, success, action, discipline, determination

Reversed meaning:

Opposition, lack of direction, distractions, delays

VIII. STRENGTH

In this Strength card a young woman with cat ears and a cat tail gently holds the head of a lion. Even though she looks much smaller and weaker then the big lion, she maintains a calm demeanor and seems confident in her ability to keep the lion under control. In this card the lion stands for inner passion and desires that can be tamed and subdued with gentle persuasion, emotional restraint, and compassion.

Upright meaning:

Inner strength, control, restraint, resolve

Upright meaning:

Submissive, lacking self-control, impatient

IX. THE HERMIT

The Hermit is a mermaid who sits on top of a lighthouse during the night. From her high position she can look out over her vast surroundings and she is connected to the darkening sky, which represents knowledge, spirituality and wisdom. Alone with her inner thoughts she holds up a lantern in the dark illuminating the way. With her bright light she is able to share her knowledge and she guides the ships to safety.

Upright meaning:

Introspection, solitude, beacon, knowledge, enlightenment

Reversed meaning:

Unaware, attention-seeking, closed to spiritual pursuits

X. WHEEL of FORTUNE

On this Wheel of Fortune card, a woman's dress reveals her internal apparatus consisting of a number of wheels, all connected together. Each wheel is but a single cog in the larger machinery; their ability to operate depends on all the other parts working. The woman has no power over the process, no control over the ups and downs of life. The wheel at the top holds her heart. Her happiness or sadness depends entirely on how her fate is turning. The watch in the woman's hand represents the eternal cycles of time we are all subject to. The clouds in the sky show that life is forever changing.

Upright meaning:

Cycles of time, destiny, processes, eternal change

Reversed meaning:

Illusion of control, resistance, rage against the machine

XI. JUSTICE

The woman in this card represents justice and law. She sits on top of a tall building wearing a long, flowing golden robe symbolizing her authority. From her position she has a good overlook and can judge without distractions. Her hair consists of clouds and connects her with the sky, a symbol of wisdom and knowledge. In her right hand she holds a sword, which stands for power and authority. In the left hand she holds a golden scale, which represents the balance of fairness and justice she can achieve. She is a reminder that actions all have consequences.

Upright meaning:

Impartiality, consequences, standards, fairness, responsibilities

Reversed meaning:

Bias, disregard for fairness, corrupt

XII. HANGED MAN

The card shows a graceful woman hanging upside down, her arms crossed over her chest. She is surrounded by thick green leaves, which create a natural and intimate atmosphere. Birds appear between the leaves and are looking at the woman with curiosity. The woman is not at all afraid. She seems calm and is at peace with her situation. Her leg is gently bound to a zipper and her weight moves the zipper downwards, opening up a new perspective—a different landscape—from behind the wall of leaves. A hint of blue sky and clouds are visible behind the woman, and also on her dress. She knows new opportunity will come if she waits.

Upright meaning:

Stillness, acceptance, fresh perspective, suspension, holding pattern

Reversed meaning:

Resisting what is, defiance, impatience, struggle

XIII. DEATH

In front of a beautiful green garden we see a woman whose upper chest is an open ribcage. Partly skeleton, she seems to be dead, but she is in fact full of life. Her body is the vessel for blooming flowers. The white lilies emerging out of her skeleton are a symbol of purity, innocence and hope. The woman gazes at a butterfly resting on one of the lilies. A symbol of resurrection and life, the butterfly also stands for transformation, change and hope. The card shows us that death is not the end, but the start of a powerful, new beginning.

Upright meaning:

Transformation, inevitable endings, completion, loss, transition, finality

Reversed meaning:

Clinging to status quo, denial, dragging out an ending

XIV. TEMPERANCE

This card shows a woman resting in a lush green garden under a red umbrella. Her white dress is a symbol of modesty and mindfulness. Sitting in a yoga position and spreading out her arms, the woman seems to melt into the surrounding environment of blended elements. There is a sense of harmony and moderation here. Her gossamer dress floats like water, showing that everything needs a light touch to stay in flow. The umbrella crowning her represents the need to take the higher path and stay true to one's life purpose. Two doves symbolize her balanced mind and her equanimity. She has found her peace within herself.

Upright meaning:

Balance, moderation, integration, equanimity, harmony, blended elements

Reversed meaning:

Discord, imbalance, excess, extremes

XV. DEVIL

The card of the Devil shows a spider woman who lures you into her web. She is sitting on a red mushroom, a warning of danger and poison. The spider's look is alluring and she is trying to tempt you by offering sweet cherries. She preys on your weaknesses and delusions. She has patiently weaved her spider web, which appears delicate but is actually unbreakable. If you are not careful, you can get trapped in the spider web of submission and indulgence.

Upright meaning:

Obsessions, traps, temptations, delusions, allure, corruption, enmeshment, indulgence

Reversed meaning:

Release, autonomy, healthy attitudes, informed decisions

XVI. THE TOWER

On this card we see a woman grasping a tower, attempting to prevent it from collapsing. But the tower—which is situated on a volcano—is already beginning to explode and there's nothing that can stop the destruction. A big crack is splitting the building and rocks and dark ash fill the air. The woman's hair has turned into smoke, so she is unable to extricate herself from this traumatic event. Yet the tower may represent falsehoods and deceptions that need to be destroyed.

Upright meaning:

Crisis, chaos, traumatic event, abrupt change, fall from grace

Reversed meaning:

Containment, smooth transition, preventing disaster

XVII. THE STAR

The Star card shows a male figure with the large wings of a dragonfly. He sits on the palace balcony of the Taj Mahal, a symbol of inspiration and eternal love. The figure holds a wand with a bright shining star and looks into the sky. After the life-shaking experience with the Tower, he has experienced spiritual transformation and is now filled with hope and faith. His star will lead the way and his wings will uplift him to a higher level.

Upright meaning:

Inspiration, vision, hope, restoration, release, optimism, harmony

Reversed meaning:

Continued conflict, hopelessness, absence of faith

XVIII. THE MOON

The card shows a full moon in the night sky, a symbol of intuition, dreams, and the unconscious. The bright moonlight creates an eerie atmosphere, in which we see a woman sitting on a wall. Deep in her thoughts, she has turned toward the moon. Underneath the woman lies a sea of dark water, representing the subconscious mind. Entwined with her dark dress, long tentacles are climbing out of the deep water and crawl up to the surface, symbolizing the woman's deepest fears and anxiety. The howling wolf next to her is her protector, but also represents the wild aspects of our minds.

Upright meaning:

Shadow side, depths, illusions, unconscious, visions, deception, mystery

Reversed meaning:

Illumination, reassurances, repression, denial, familiarity

XIX. THE SUN

The card shows a woman who captures all the light and energy from the sun. There are rays of sunlight, flower petals and birds emanating from the woman into the sky. The woman is filled with complete happiness and she is spreading her warmth to other people's lives. But a dark bird is covering her eye and blocks the warmth of the sun, preventing the sunshine from reaching every corner. Even with sunshine you can sometimes feel sad or depressed. But soon the bird will fly away, the negative mood will pass and the sun will shine on you once again.

Upright meaning:

Breakthrough, radiance, happiness, insight, energy, generosity

Reversed meaning:

Confusion, negativity, depression, limitations, fatigue

XX. JUDGMENT

This card shows a female angel—a messenger of god—blowing a large, golden trumpet. She is standing in the middle of a busy city, calling all the people to rise up and take a stand. She is a reminder that in the end we will all be judged for our actions and life choices. But past mistakes will be forgiven when we choose to change and make a new start. This card urges you to make amends by transforming your life.

Upright meaning:

Choices, redemption, make amends, atonement, reconciliation

Reversed meaning:

Regret, blame, self-recrimination, lack of self-awareness

XXI. THE WORLD

On this card we see a woman who has travelled great distances, making her way around the world and out to the universe. Her journey complete, she has reached the end of a major life cycle. The earth dress she is wearing and the planets she is holding represent the points of experiences she has achieved. The woman has accomplished her goals and fulfilled her dreams; she is now wise and strong and complete.

Upright meaning:

Fulfillment, success, goals achieved, maturation, accomplishment

Reversed meaning:

Withdrawal, giving up, apathy, stasis, disharmony



THE MINOR ARCANA

ACE of WANDS

A confident young woman is looking at a big peony plant that emerges out of the book she is reading. The plant is growing up into the heavens as the petals of the flower bloom wide open. The plant stands for the imagination and ideas that are growing and expanding in one's mind. The book symbolizes the foundations on which new creative opportunities can develop. It is inspiring and motivating the woman.

Upright meaning:

Creative potential, initiative, opportunities, eagerness, passion

Reversed meaning:

Lack of ambition, directionless, distractions, delays

TWO of WANDS

On this card we see a courageous young woman sitting on the roof of her house looking up at the moon shining above. In her lap she holds the Earth, which contains all the potential the girl has and the opportunities she can embrace. While looking at the moon, she thinks about her future and imagines what kind of adventures she will have in life. Sitting on top of her house, she is still in a protected and familiar surrounding. She has not left her comfort zone, but she is willing to take risks to embark on her future plans.

Upright meaning:

Potential, taking initiative, plans, aspirations, seize opportunities

Reversed meaning:

Lack of motivation, following the crowd, passive

THREE of WANDS

A woman standing in front of the harbor holds a ship in her hand and she is full of ideas to launch her future. She has bravely left her comfort zone and possesses the self-confidence to face the adventures awaiting her. The woman is very tall and from her lofty view she can see beyond the horizon at what lies ahead. The swallows surrounding her inspire her movement toward exciting new places. Her three long winding braids show her progression.

Upright meaning:

Expanding horizons, progress, long view, self-confidence, envoy

Reversed meaning:

Setbacks, constrained by fears, doubts, stagnation

FOUR of WANDS

There is a joyful celebration today! On top of a large house a young couple dances jubilantly. They have decorated the house with shining lights and are now welcoming the arriving guests. Four trees are framing the house, symbolizing stability, harmony and foundation. The colorful birds delight in the couple's joie de vivre. The whole atmosphere is bright and full of happiness and harmony.

Upright meaning:

Celebration, freedom, joyful events, milestone, triumph

Reversed meaning:

Oppression, apathy, conflict, restrictions

FIVE of WANDS

A woman faces five opponents while playing a chess match. Her skirt is patterned like a chessboard and the other figures of the game are moving towards her. Each has a strong opinion and a different strategy and they are all trying to win. With so much opposition and conflicting efforts, the woman is struggling to find the right move. Competition can spark excitement, but it can also be a distraction, when everyone is at cross purposes.

Upright meaning:

Conflict, struggle, dissension, competition, debate

Reversed meaning:

Negotiation, working out a solution, cooperation

SIX of WANDS

An accomplished woman rides triumphantly on a beautiful hummingbird. She has conquered the bird by attracting him with a colorful flower. Having mastered many skills, she is filled with pride and a deep sense of accomplishment. Others acknowledge and applaud her success as well. Now she can go on with her journey wherever she wants to go. Six doves sitting on top of her riding stalk look down at her in admiration.

Upright meaning:

Triumph, pride, accomplishments, admiration

Reversed meaning:

Humility, defeat, arrogance, undeserved praise

SEVEN of WANDS

On this card we see a strong man behind iron bars. He is in front of a red curtain that symbolizes his strong emotions and moral convictions. The man is defending his position by bending the bars with his bare hands. The seven bars stand for all the challenges he has faced in his life. His many tattoos tell the stories that emerged from those conflicts. They result out of his experiences with aggression, defiance, and the need to protect. He has always stood up for and defended what he believes in.

Upright meaning:

Aggression, defiance, defense, conviction, strength of character

Reversed meaning:

Giving up without a fight, being unprepared, exhaustion, giving up, overwhelmed

EIGHT of WANDS

After the struggle, the way forward is now clear. The woman feels change in the air and knows it is time to act. Rising up into a bright blue sky, the woman's eight vibrant umbrellas work as one to propel her into high gear. Little birds accompany her. Her hair and her skirt billow in the wind. Everything is in flow and moving along as it should be.

Upright meaning:

Change in the air, ready for action, in the flow, momentum

Reversed meaning:

Obstructions, overthinking things before taking action

NINE of WANDS

A woman is struggling to find her way through a thicket of thorns, which has left her with nine cuts on her upper body. Though she is wounded and wary, she does not give up on her plan to break free. One hand is pushing down the plant to break through, the other hand is holding a rose as a symbol of commitment and determination.

Upright meaning:

Perseverance, endurance, determination, commitment

Reversed meaning:

Surrender, giving up, losing faith

TEN of WANDS

On a beautiful green meadow a woman is carrying a mountain of flowers on her back. She is bent over under the heavy load she has to carry. She is so weighed down by her tasks that she is not able to enjoy the beauty all around her. There are ten more flowers she has to pick, which will add to her overwhelming burden. This card may be telling you that you have taken on too much responsibility.

Upright meaning:

Responsibilities, burdens, overload, oppression

Reversed meaning:

Setting boundaries, leisure, delegating jobs, freedom

PAGE of WANDS

An adventuresome explorer finds her way through the dense jungle. She holds a large magnifying glass to be able to discover the beauty surrounding her. Her magnified eye reveals how strong and focused she is. It shows that she is always open to inspiration and new ideas along the way. She is blazing her own trail.

Upright meaning:

Creativity, sense of adventure, confidence, passion, discovery, exploration

Reversed meaning:

Close-mindedness, self-doubt, inhibitions, lack of focus

KNIGHT of WANDS

The Knight of Wands is a daring horsewoman who is jumping through a ring of fire. The background is dark and ominous, only the stars illuminate the scene and reflect the knight's courage. Dangerous flames surround her but her confidence makes her unafraid of taking risks. She can be impulsive without thinking of all the dangers that lie ahead. She is full of energy and the longing for adventures.

Upright meaning:

Confidence, daredevil, charisma, impetuousness, recklessness, passion project

Reversed meaning:

Fearfulness, caution, playing it safe, haste, delays, scattered energy, frustration.

QUEEN of WANDS

A big brilliant sunflower shines bright like the sun and illuminates the night and surroundings. The Queen of Wands is holding on to the flower, which symbolizes her strength and charisma. The queen is cheerful and caring to all. Her beauty and warmth attract all kinds of insects to fly towards her in admiration. The queen's enthusiasm ignites positive energy in others.

Upright meaning:

Charm, energetic nature, cheerfulness, charisma, enthusiasm

Reversed meaning:

Self-centeredness, withdrawn, negative attitude

KING of WANDS

The King of Wands is represented by a gentleman with a drum. Flames of fire blazing out from the drum reflect the king's confident energy and strong willpower. He is a natural-born leader and a creative visionary. Throughout the city behind him lights are beginning to emerge as people hear his call to rise up and follow him. His charisma inspires others to be bold.

Upright meaning:

Magnetism, leadership, visionary, mastermind, authority, decisiveness

Reversed meaning:

Dominance, reluctance, uninspired direction

FEMALE KING of WANDS

A woman all dressed in red is standing in the midst of a garden. The deep color of her cape and the red rose stand for passion, strength and energy. Tall plants are growing next to her and surround her, leaving very little space. In this dense atmosphere the female King brings light and clarity with her wand. A bright beam of shining stars emerges out of the wand and illuminates the sky. Against all obstacles and complexities, the King of Wands will always find a solution and a way to move forward, leading the people out of the darkness.

Upright meaning:

Magnetism, leadership, visionary, mastermind, authority, decisiveness

Reversed meaning:

Dominance, reluctance, uninspired direction

ACE of CUPS

A woman is holding an oversized teacup overflowing with hundreds of butterflies flying up to the sky. She holds the cup close to her heart as the butterflies are a symbol of the woman's deep feelings of affection and compassion. She is filled with love and is sharing her love with the rest of the world. The woman is looking down towards her own reflection in the water, which symbolizes the connection with her intuition and subconscious mind.

Upright meaning:

Intimacy, deep emotions, love, compassion, intuition

Reversed meaning:

Lacking emotional connection, fear of intimacy, overwhelming emotions

TWO of CUPS

Two women standing close together show their partnership and mutual affection through the sharing of two flowers. The flower stems are intertwined, the spiral symbolizing the women's deep connection to each other. This is a card not only about mutual attraction but also about deep emotional bonding as well. It can be about romantic unions, friendship or business partnerships.

Upright meaning:

Emotional connection, attraction, union, alliance, partnership

Reversed meaning:

Detachment, irreconcilable differences, misunderstanding

THREE of CUPS

It is a bright sunny day! Three women are celebrating their friendship and spending time together as a united group. They are having fun playing with the three hoops that connect them and bind them together in their appreciation, honor and respect for one another. Each woman is unique yet they all share common goals and a sense of camaraderie.

Upright meaning:

Celebration, community, camaraderie, team spirit, friendship, synergy

Reversed meaning:

Disharmony, withdrawal, exploitation of others, alienation, isolation

FOUR of CUPS

A girl is resting with her arms crossed under a tree. She is taking time for herself. The unpleasant rainy weather reflects the girl's heavy thoughts. She is so preoccupied with her thoughts, she does not care about the duck offering an umbrella to protect her from getting wet. The umbrella's four separate colors symbolize the different perspectives and attitudes you can choose in life to change a situation.

Upright meaning:

Indifference, withdrawal, passivity, apathy, retreat

Reversed meaning:

Active involvement, being fully engaged, connection

FIVE of CUPS

The Five of Cups pictures a sad woman dressed in somber colors. She stands in the middle of a lake looking with disappointment at three flowers floating away. The flowers were separated from the branch she is holding in her hand. She is so focused on her loss that the woman does not seem to care about the two remaining flowers still blooming on the branch. Her regret is preventing her from moving on towards the other side of the lake.

Upright meaning:

Loss, regret, defeat, disappointment, pessimism, gloom

Reversed meaning:

Acceptance, looking for the silver lining, moving forward

SIX of CUPS

A woman lies relaxed in the meadow. She observes three carefree children playing in front of her. While enjoying their innocent play, the woman feels nostalgic as she fondly remembers her own long ago childhood activities. The children share the six balloons with one another, showing goodwill and kindness.

Upright meaning:

Nostalgia, fond memories, innocence, kindness, playfulness

Reversed meaning:

Cynicism, stuck in the past, selfishness

SEVEN of CUPS

On this card we see a woman in a dreamlike scene. The woman reclines on a bed of clouds in the sky and her long auburn hair floats weightlessly. She is looking up at seven shining stars, which symbolize the possibilities, opportunities and choices she can make in life. The woman is choosing one star with her pointing wand, but is it the right choice? The chosen star might not reveal the opportunity she has been longing for. The woman needs to wake up from this dreamlike state of illusions and focus on what is good for her.

Upright meaning:

Delusions, wishful thinking, distractions, fantasy, overwhelming decisions

Reversed meaning:

Alignment, personal values, overwhelmed by choices, chaos

EIGHT of CUPS

The Eight of Cups shows a woman wearing the skirt of a ladybug with eight black dots on the back. The woman observes eight surrounding animals in pairs: two swans, two dragonflies, two songbirds and two moths. The woman feels unfulfilled and disappointed with her own life. She regrets how her life turned out to and realizes that she must now move on and search for the missing piece. The water underneath symbolizes her unsettled emotional state. The path of rocks she walks on shows the challenging journey she now ventures on.

Upright meaning:

Disappointment, losing hope, moving on, end of the road

Reversed meaning:

Indecision, perseverance, clinging to what was

NINE of CUPS

A woman looking content and self-satisfied displays her golden fan. Its nine rows of cups combined together stand for her emotional fulfillment. Her hair is covered with colorful flowers and in the background are even more luxurious plants she carefully protects with her right arm. This woman gets great pleasure from the beauty and abundance she has cultivated in her life.

Upright meaning:

Contentment, satisfaction, gratification, wish fulfillment, pleasure, abundance

Reversed meaning:

Greed, dissatisfaction, yearning for more, hoarding

TEN of CUPS

The Ten of Cups is a scene full of peace and harmony. A couple—half human, half fish emerges from the sea to watch a rainbow brightening up the sky. They are connected by their true, everlasting love. Their ten small fry are protected underneath the mother's plant-like dress. This card affirms the depth of family bonds and reminds you to count your blessings.

Upright meaning:

Bliss, family, harmony, contentment, protection, blessings

Reversed meaning:

Lack of gratitude, focused on self, family drama

PAGE of CUPS

The Page of Cups wears a dress with a floral print. Her hair is floating like waves down her back. She sits in front of the sea, which represents emotions and feelings, as well as intuition. The page holds a cup in her hand, out of which, surprisingly, a fish looks back at her admiringly. In this special moment the girl and the fish seem to be sharing an intimate bond of friendship. The fish responds to her beauty and she takes delight in the fish's cheerful nature.

Upright meaning:

Intuition, emotional connection, intimacy, bonding, togetherness, admiration

Reversed meaning:

Fear of intimacy, insensitivity, emotional distance

KNIGHT of CUPS

On a floating water lily the refined Knight of Cups is playing a lovely melody coming directly from her heart. She is in touch with her intuition and emotions, and she uses them masterfully to charm and attract others. The sky is filled with shining stars that illuminate the scenery in a romantic way, providing the perfect backdrop for her poignant songs and stories.

Upright meaning:

Refinement, sensitivity, deep emotions, charm, romantic nature

Reversed meaning:

Melodrama, emotional instability, coldness, self-indulgence, tempermental

QUEEN of CUPS

The Queen of Cups sits on a seashell on the ocean floor. Shafts of sunlight pierce the depths and illuminate the queen in a soft golden light, revealing her warmth and caring spirit. The sea is calm and still, reflecting the queen's emotional stability. Her tentacles are softly floating through the water, showing that the queen is in flow with nature and with her own sensitive emotions. She lovingly looks down at the seahorse she is tenderly embracing and protecting. She has reverence for all living things in the world.

Upright meaning:

Tender feelings, gentle nature, warm heart, empathy, sensitivity

Reversed meaning:

Emotional enmeshment, self-love, insensitivity to others

KING of CUPS

The King of Cups stands in a bright and sunny landscape. In his right hand he holds a sailing ship, keeping it balanced even against rough waves. The turbulent sea inside of him holds large fish, representing heavy emotions that churn within. Even during these rough times the wise king remains calm and steady, withstanding every crashing wave. He manages to safeguard the ship, showing his caring and protective nature.

Upright meaning:

Calming demeanor, accepting, stability, diplomacy, steadiness

Reversed meaning:

Reactive, moodiness, emotional volatility, intolerance

FEMALE KING of CUPS

The King of Cups is represented by a woman standing in the midst of a turbulent sea. Her crown is a giant octopus, whose tentacles can reach and help anyone who is in distress at sea. Rough waves and kinetic swallows symbolize turbulent feelings and heavy emotions. But the monarch's dress is like a cliff that withstands every pounding wave. She has a solid base and nothing can disturb her sense of balance. Instead of clashing against the reef, ships can move through the rock with the king's guidance. The diplomatic and caring king will always take action to help those in need.

Upright meaning:

Calming demeanor, accepting, stability, diplomacy, steadiness

Reversed meaning:

Reactive, moodiness, emotional volatility, intolerance

ACE of SWORDS

The Ace of Swords shows a man holding a large golden key in his hands. He is facing the viewer with clear open eyes. His upper body is filled with sparkling stars, symbolizing the divine universe. The man wears a hat with the spiral shape of a nautilus. At its center is a small keyhole that is a portal to the wisdom of the whole universe. The golden key is a symbol of the mind and intellect. Whoever possesses the key has unlimited knowledge and access to great wisdom. Getting to it can take a long time in your personal development. The high mountains in the background show us the challenging ups and downs you have to face before being able to possess the golden key.

Upright meaning:

Mental force, truth, knowledge, fortitude, success, clarity

Reversed meaning:

Confusion, over-analyzing, poor judgment

TWO of SWORDS

This woman leaning towards us seems to be stuck in a situation. She is thinking about a problem but can't seem to find the solution. The problem is symbolized by the two birds sitting on top of the woman's wooden hat, which is also a birdhouse. The birds are arguing over which one should be allowed to go inside. Since they are unable to come to a decision, they both have to stay outside in the cold night. The woman's eyes are covered with leaves, indicating the inability to see things clearly. She has turned away to avoid dealing with her emotional uncertainty.

Upright meaning:

Stalemate, indecision, impasse, self-delusion, barriers

Reversed meaning:

Analyzing the facts, confusion, rushing to decide

THREE of SWORDS

Three arrows are hitting a man in the middle of his heart. His heart is represented by a large red rose that stands for the man's love and passion. The arrows, which represent painful words or deeds, have hurt his feelings. His eyes are closed and streams of tears are running down his face. The attack seems to have happened unexpectedly, because the man wears no protection and his gesture is welcoming rather then defensive.

Upright meaning:

Betrayal, heartache, sorrow, grief, rejection, abandonment

Reversed meaning:

Togetherness, reconciliation, trust, optimistic expectations, forgiveness

FOUR of SWORDS

A woman is resting up in the sky. She has found her special place on top of the moon. Clouds are protecting her from noise and other distractions. Four feathers are falling softly from the sky, reflecting the peaceful atmosphere she is surrounded by. In this place the woman finds perfect tranquility and silence to contemplate and regenerate.

Upright meaning:

Respite, time out, meditation, reflection, recovery, tranquility

Reversed meaning:

Exhaustion, pushing through, taking on too much

FIVE of SWORDS

On this card we see a couple after a struggle. The man has lost the fight and turned himself away into the shadows. He is mentally wounded and his hurt feelings have been mended with five scarlet stitches. The woman won the fight and stands in the spotlight. She is wearing a red dress, which symbolizes the drama and emotional conflict the fight was about. In one hand she holds a fragment of her opponent's wounds, in the other hand she holds a large flower symbolizing her triumph. The flower hides half of her face, indicating that she has not played fair and wanted to win at all cost, no matter how much pain she caused.

Upright meaning:

Conflict, defeat, self-interest, winning dishonorably, manipulation, unfair advantage

Reversed meaning:

Acting with integrity, reconciliation, harmony, compromise

SIX of SWORDS

A woman covered in a dark cloud is traveling over the sea. She looks troubled and seems to be in grief. Six clouds floating beside her carry all the woman's troubles and pain. The woman reaches out to a rope, attached to a star at the top and an anchor at the bottom. She is hoping the rope will lead her to a new place where she can recover from her sorrows.

Upright meaning:

Transition, 'the blues,' recovery, change of scenery, moving on, hope

Reversed meaning:

Wallowing in misery, stuck in a bad situation, despair, inertia

SEVEN of SWORDS

The Seven of Swords shows a woman in a sunny meadow. The woman is a thief who has just stolen five eggs from a bird's nest. She sneaks away and leaves two eggs behind in the nest. The woman hides her dishonorable heart behind beauty and shallowness. In fact, she is a snake but she covers her skin with leaves and flowers, so that nobody can see her true nature.

Upright meaning:

Deception, dishonesty, manipulation, getting away with something, secrets

Reversed meaning:

Honesty, facing the music, exposing the truth, taking responsibility

EIGHT of SWORDS

A human angel with large wings is trapped inside a large birdcage surrounded by eight trees that stand like sentinels guarding him. The angel is crouched and bent over in despair. In his desperation to escape he is unable to analyze his situation. Although he could easily flee from the prison through the open top, he is unable to see the way out and remains confused and powerless.

Upright meaning:

Despair, imprisonment, restriction, powerlessness, feeling persecuted

Reversed meaning:

Focused on solutions, liberation, clear choices

NINE of SWORDS

A woman wakes up in the middle of the night. A nightmare has turned her room into a dark and frightening place. She is shaken from fear and worries. Nine pairs of eyes are watching her and won't let her rest. They symbolize the woman's anxiety and depression.

Upright meaning:

Anxiety, worry, nightmares, anguish, despair, distress

Reversed meaning:

Peace of mind, perspective, objectivity, letting go of worry

TEN of SWORDS

This card shows a woman being attacked with ten needles being pierced into her head, causing her deep pain. The people who are so cruel to the woman remain hidden and anonymous. We can only see their hands. This card speaks about betrayal and deep wounds that leave the victim feeling as low as she can go. But the card also shows there is always hope for things to get better; it's always darkest before the dawn. Her misery will soon come to an end.

Upright meaning:

Being under attack, worst-case scenario, painful wounds, hitting rock bottom

Reversed meaning:

Empowerment, recovery, fighting back, keeping things in perspective

PAGE of SWORDS

The Page of Swords is all about curiosity and the thirst for knowledge. We see a young student wearing a graduation cap and gown standing on top of a tall stack of books. The young man is proud of his educational accomplishments, but his life goals are much loftier. The large dandelion in his hand stands for the expansive ideas that inspire the young man to face life with his gifts of reason, insight and integrity.

Upright meaning:

Seeking knowledge, inquisitiveness, personal growth, honorable goals

Reversed meaning:

Impetuous action, close-mindedness, shallow

KNIGHT of SWORDS

This female Knight of Swords is flying on a feather through a rough stormy sky. The clouds depict the aura of energy surrounding her and the feather symbolizes the knight's ability to think fast on her feet. The news excerpt on her dress relates to women's equal rights, a cause she is battling for. The knight is fighting with her words and she wants to win with her intellect. She holds her weapon—a pen—high in the sky and cuts clouds of opposition into pieces. Nothing can stop her ambitious dedication to the cause.

Upright meaning:

Unwavering devotion to a cause, ambition, opinionated, influential, self-assurance

Reversed meaning:

Tempered, diplomacy, hesitation, self-doubt, obedient follower

QUEEN of SWORDS

The Queen of Swords is sitting on a balloon high up in the sky. Looking through her telescope she faces the future and seeks the truth in all matters. She wears a blue dress, which expresses her mental clarity. Birds are surrounding her, reflecting the queen's caring nature. Strings connecting the balloon with the Earth enable the queen to be flexible in receiving other information as well. Gathering the facts helps her to judge things independently.

Upright meaning:

Independent thinker, honest communication, truth seeker, straight shooter

Reversed meaning:

Self-respect, self-righteous, pretentious, drama queen

KING of SWORDS

On this card the King of Swords is represented as a Japanese Samurai. He is a well-respected authority and a master in using the sword, which represents his intellectual power. He can be confronted with any problem and manages to keep a clear, logical mind. The bird's eye reflects his ability to react quickly and intuitively. The blue color surrounding him symbolizes the breadth of the kings knowledge.

Upright meaning:

Mental adeptness, intellectual prowess, insightful, quick learner, problem solver, ethics

Reversed meaning:

Overly analytical, abuse of power, confusion, rash action

FEMALE KING of SWORDS

Instead of a sword the female King of Swords is holding a large needle up into the sky. This needle is so sharp that the King can pluck the shining stars from the universe and sew them onto her sparkling dress. The King's crown demonstrates that she possesses stellar gifts of intellectual power and mental clarity. She has the authority that compels people to listen to her and she can see the truth in all matters. The stars symbolize the infinite knowledge that exists in the universe.

Upright meaning:

Mental adeptness, intellectual prowess, insightful, quick learner, problem solver, ethics

Reversed meaning:

Overly analytical, abuse of power, confusion, rash action

ACE of PENTACLES

The Ace of Pentacles shows a woman sitting in a lush garden in bloom. She looks at a fern that has just emerged from the earth. As the plant grows the leaves unfurl in a spiral pattern representing its potential. The woman is being asked to take care of the plant and help it develop into something valuable and sustainable. It will take time and effort, as symbolized by the challenging path the plant has had to follow to rise up to the surface. But it will be worth it to cultivate this resource.

Upright meaning:

Opportunity, manifestation, investment, growth, achievement, rewards, gift

Reversed meaning:

Wasted opportunity, unhealthy choices, lack of focus, impractical approach

TWO of PENTACLES

On this card we see a woman balancing on top of a building. She is juggling two balls and the infinity symbol, which shows that this woman can handle all kinds of challenges with elegance and grace. The cityscape with numerous tall buildings in the background reflects the busy life she leads and illustrates her ability to manage the ups and downs.

Upright meaning:

Flexibility, grace under pressure, balance, adaptability, multi-tasking

Reversed meaning:

Disorganization, feeling overwhelmed, lack of enthusiasm

THREE of PENTACLES

The Three of Pentacles shows two parrots helping a young girl build a flower out of bricks. All three figures work as team, helping each other succeed with this collaborative project. Each has something useful to contribute. Because they respect each other and value the others' opinion and knowledge, together they will succeed.

Upright meaning:

Teamwork, cooperation, combined skills, harmony, collaborative endeavors

Reversed meaning:

Competition, dissension, lack of direction, going solo

FOUR of PENTACLES

A woman stands behind the gated entrance to her property. The gate is secured with four locks, keeping everybody at a distance. The woman holds a small version of her house close to her body. She is aware of what she has achieved in life and wants to protect her belongings. However, in her fixation to hold onto her wealth she isolates herself. She has alienated herself from her community, family and friends.

Upright meaning:

Miserly, financial insecurity, scarcity mindset, possessiveness

Reversed meaning:

Generosity, envy, greediness, sound financial planning, spendthrift

FIVE of PENTACLES

On this card we see a woman standing in a cold, snowy landscape. A long journey has taken all her energy and she feels exhausted and depleted. Her hair has turned into dry knobby branches and her wire dress displays her inner emptiness. The thorny rose in her hands, which is sinking into a hole in the ground, symbolizes her painful loss and poverty. Five windows above are shining their warm welcoming light. They are symbols of hope and spiritual support. However, in her despair she does not see the help that is available and therefore goes on with her desperate journey alone.

Upright meaning:

Loss, poverty, hard times, misfortune, ill health, struggles

Reversed meaning:

Recovery, vitality, stamina, strength, resilience

SIX of PENTACLES

The Six of Pentacles is about sharing and receiving. Two women are holding their cups waiting patiently to get some tea. The owner of the big teapot pours six drops of tea into each of the women's cups. The scale shown on the teapot surface stands for the fairness in the man's distribution. Maybe in the future the situation will change and he will be the one in need and the woman will return his generosity.

Upright meaning:

Donations, sharing resources, generosity, philanthropy, distribution, support, reciprocity

Reversed meaning:

Affluence, abundance, self-care, debts, hoarding, dependence, neglect

SEVEN of PENTACLES

On this card we see a woman sitting on top of a tree. She has been busy harvesting fruits from the tree and is now resting from the hard work. On her lap she holds a sliced apple with seven apple seeds. They symbolize the investments she has made over the years and the potential profit that could come out of it. It was hard work and she looks forward to enjoying the results, but first she must take the time to assess the results and plan the next stage.

Upright meaning:

Diligence, progress, sustainability, investment, long-term results, reward

Reversed meaning:

Perfectionism, laziness, failure, short-term results, boredom, carelessness

EIGHT of PENTACLES

On this card we see a female artist with eight colorful butterflies. The woman is concentrating on painting the butterflies' wings, hoping to develop her creative working skills even further. She paints with ease and pleasure, focusing on each tiny detail. Nothing distracts her dedicated work and her diligence.

Upright meaning:

Focus, discipline, mastery, developing skills, dedication, craft, workflow, details

Reversed meaning:

Impatience, apathy, taking short cuts, dilettante

NINE of PENTACLES

A refined woman enjoys the beauty of her luxuriant garden. She has made a selection of delicious fruits and carries them in a bowl on her head. The woman's colorful jewelry is a symbol of her wealth; her earrings and ring consist of nine beautiful stone mandalas. The woman has a healthy relationship with money and her financial independence allows her to enjoy the fruits of her labor. The tamed blue bird sitting on her hand symbolizes the woman's sense of freedom and joy. The small snail on top of the bowl is a reminder that the road to success is a slow, steady process.

Upright meaning:

Abundance, refinement, financial success, selfreliance, independence, fulfillment

Reversed meaning:

Over-indulgence, decadence, austerity, restraint, reliance on others

TEN of PENTACLES

An old man sits on a huge tree trunk symbolizing his longevity. Ten rings on the trunk's surface stand for the decades he has spent on Earth and the experiences he's had all those years. The flowers entwining the trunk illustrate the intricate paths life can take, and how beautiful life could be. Through the tree rings we see the patriarch's biggest achievements: building a house and raising a family. He has led a successful life and is well positioned to share his legacy with his family.

Upright meaning:

Affluence, financial empire, stability, family life, security, sharing the prosperity

Reversed meaning:

Business failure, isolation, financial insecurity, disinheritance

PAGE of PENTACLES

A young girl stands on the leaves of a plant holding a peony flower carefully in her hands. On her back she carries a watering can, as her job is to take care of the garden. The flower symbolizes new beginnings coming to the young girl. She has to seize her chances and welcome the new opportunities life is offering her. Her dragonfly companion reminds her to stay aware of the challenges she might face in the future.

Upright meaning:

New projects, tangible results, opportunities, commitments, ventures

Reversed meaning:

Unrealistic plans, procrastination, impractical approach, wasted chances

KNIGHT of PENTACLES

The female Knight of Pentacles sits on a horse, watching over a freshly ploughed field. She is in no hurry and stands thoughtful and vigilant on her watch. Her horse is made up of leaves from an oak tree, a symbol of constancy and reliability. The knight is fulfilling her responsibility to guard the field, even though the job is sometimes difficult and monotonous.

Upright meaning:

Reliability, constancy, discipline, endurance, routine, diligence

Reversed meaning:

Distraction, boredom, shirking responsibility, imprudent

QUEEN of PENTACLES

We see the Queen of Pentacles in the midst of a lush green garden. Her dress is made of tulips and connects her with the surrounding flora and fauna. Under her wide skirt rests a rabbit family, symbolizing the queen's protective nature, especially for those under her care. The queen carries flowers in a basket and wears a formal jacket, which illustrates that she is a serious, working woman and a good provider.

Upright meaning:

Fertility, nurturing, provider, earth mother, generosity, resourcefulness

Reversed meaning:

Pretensions, materialism, too driven, unwelcoming

KING of PENTACLES

Wearing a suit and a hat, the King of Pentacles looks the part of the smart businessman. He stands confidently on a deer's antlers, being able to handle every problem masterfully. The deer is a symbol of strength, leadership and manliness and also connects the king with the natural environment. Three golden coins with the imprint of Caesar symbolize the king's financial success.

Upright meaning:

Wealth, business acumen, management skills, discipline, financial adeptness

Reversed meaning:

Poor financial decision-making, status seeker, ineffective role model, impulsive

FEMALE KING of PENTACLES

This card shows the female king in a garden surrounded with blooming flowers. The blossoms have round, golden centers that look like shiny gold coins. They represent the wealth and success the king has achieved. She is carefully absorbing the golden coins into her chest, which shows her discipline and dedication to handling business and finances. On top of her head lies a castle nested in her hair, like a beacon to others. She represents stability and security. She is not only a savvy business woman, she is also caring and generous with others.

Upright meaning:

Wealth, business acumen, management skills, discipline, financial adeptness

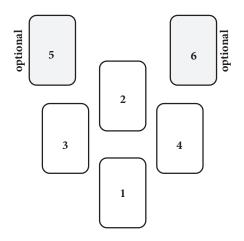
Reversed meaning:

Poor financial decision-making, status seeker, ineffective role model, impulsive



READING WITH THE TAROT OF MYSTICAL MOMENTS

Choose which version of the Emperor and King cards you wish to read. Remove the alternates from the deck and set them aside. Shuffle the 78 cards as you contemplate the question you intend to explore. Pull a card from the middle of the deck. Place it face up in position 1 as shown in the diagram. Pull three more cards and place them face down as shown. Turn each card over only after reading the previous card.



- Card 1 Where are you in this moment? (Emotionally)
- **Card 2** Where would you like to find yourself? (This might be professionally, romantically, creatively, etc.)
- Card 3 What factors (and people) will help and support you?
- Card 4 What challenges will you face?

For further clarification about your goals, you may wish to pull two additional cards from this deck, or from the *Oracle of Mystical Moments*, if you have it. Place one card face up at the upper left of your spread and one card at the upper right. Consider the messages and imagery of these cards as added insight to your vision of where you would like to be.

ABOUT CATRIN WELZ-STEIN

In my art, I blur the lines between imagination and reality, while exploring womanhood in many different ways. I like to give my images a vintage, ethereal feel. During the creative process, I scan old paintings, photographs and illustrations, making sure they are in the public domain. I work digitally and transform the scans by first tearing them apart. They are like puzzle pieces that I work together, until they reveal a whole new meaning and tell an unknown story.

I started to create digital images when my children were two and four years old. At that time, I was desperate to do something creative. The images helped me to be aware of my feelings and worries. I did not plan to make them public; they were very personal, private images. Then I created Christmas cards and sent them to my family and friends. I was surprised by the positive reactions I got. After this encouragement, I became more courageous and started to post my images online. Now, I feel overwhelmed by all the positive feedback I have received! It is my motivation to go on with my work. I feel very blessed to be able to reach so many people's heart and souls.

Follow me at www.facebook.com/CWelzStein

Catrin is also the creator of *Oracle of Mystical Moments*.

For our complete line of tarot decks, books, meditation cards, oracle sets, and other inspirational products please visit our website:

www.usgamesinc.com



U.S. Games Systems, Inc. 179 Ludlow Street Stamford, CT 06902 USA 203-353-8400 Order Desk 800-544-2637 FAX 203-353-8431