

Take
CONTROL
of your life
with
TAROT



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Chapter 1: Introduction

For generations, the Tarot has been used by clairvoyants, spiritualists, and hobbyists to uncover hidden truths and illuminate the path of understanding. The gentle guidance provided by a Tarot reading can inspire you to try something new – make a career change, take your relationship to the next level, go back to school – as well as offer spiritual assistance to enrich your life.

But the Tarot offers additional opportunities for personal growth outside of traditional Tarot readings. People all over the world have discovered that they can utilize the Tarot themselves, taking their futures into their own hands.

What can the Tarot do for Me?

Tarot enthusiasts and adherents already know about the amazing experience of a personal Tarot reading, but what about the average person? What can the Tarot do for you on a daily basis? Can you really read the Tarot for yourself? This book reveals how the incredible power of the Tarot can enhance your life every day – and how you can use the Tarot yourself to master your destiny and achieve your heart's desires.

Using clear, concise language and practical examples to unlock the secrets of the Tarot, this book helps you:

- Understand the Tarot's origins and the significance of its symbols
- Select the deck that's right for you
- Perform daily readings to prepare you for any challenge
- Identify and interpret each card in a standard Tarot deck

Sample readings are also provided to illustrate how the Tarot can be used to assist with several different scenarios.

If you're ready to take control of your life and walk an enlightened path of self-assurance and hope, read on!

History of the Tarot

The precise origins of the Tarot have been obscured by the passage of time. However, most historians agree that early Tarot decks appeared in Italy during the late 15th century. Fragments of these early decks provided the groundwork for later manifestations of the Tarot. Eventually, cards originally used for playing games became means for divining future events.

Documented evidence of Tarot cards being used for divination prior to the 18th century is scarce, but as time marched forward, various spiritual and occult movements built upon the history of the Tarot, incorporating ancient symbols and universal themes to new decks still in use today.

The most recognisable and widely used Tarot deck appeared in 1910; the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. This deck incorporates symbols from several esoteric schools of thought including the Qabalah, Alchemy, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and many others. Since the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, countless Tarot decks have become available. And with the advent of the New Age in the 1960s and 1970s, awareness of the Tarot expanded even further. As a result, the selection of Tarot card decks grew to include decks specific to virtually any aspect of New Age philosophy. Each modern deck draws upon specific symbols, artistic movements, and archetypes for inspiration, catering to a diverse range of tastes and preferences.

Today, Tarot card decks are widely available from bookstores, specialty shops, and online merchants. The ancient tradition of the Tarot is more accessible today than it has ever been before.

Chapter 2: Choosing a Tarot Deck

There are specialised Tarot decks on the market today that cater to virtually any taste or personal belief system. You can find decks that feature imagery of ancient Egypt, Elves, Cats, and even Extraterrestrials. Modern Tarot decks draw from cultures, religions, and traditions from all over the world, making it both exciting and a bit confusing when shopping for the deck that's right for you. This chapter provides a few shopping tips to help you find a deck that speaks to you personally.

When integrating Tarot into your daily life, you want to be sure that the deck you choose resonates with you personally. The cards you select should be engaging; you should feel drawn to them and the stories they tell. Remember, the goal of personal Tarot readings is to enrich your life; choose a deck you enjoy looking at and handling to make the experience as pleasurable as possible.

A few main points to consider when shopping for your Tarot deck:

- Is there a particular historical period you feel drawn to (Ancient Egyptian, Medieval, Renaissance, etc.)?
- Is there a particular culture you feel drawn to (Asian, Native American, Celtic, etc.)?
- Is there a particular esoteric belief system or religion you feel drawn to (Wicca, Asatru, Angels, etc.)?

In addition to the above, you may also find it useful to consider the images and symbols that repel you rather than attract you. After all, if you're going to be seeing these cards every day, shouldn't you like them? While imagery and labels can vary from deck to deck, most decks follow the traditional structure and meanings found in older decks, such as the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. Decks normally include instructional booklets to help you learn the unique nuances of your deck.

As a general rule, a good deck for beginners is the Rider-Waite-Smith deck. This classic Tarot deck is widely available and used by professional readers the world over, so there is a wealth of information about how to use it.

Where to Buy Tarot Cards

Most chain bookstores carry at least a small selection of Tarot decks. Check in the New Age or Occult section, or sometimes in the Games section. If you are unable to find a deck you like, check with the sales associates to see if they can order the deck for you.

Specialty shops that carry New Age supplies such as crystals, candles, and metaphysical books usually have a good selection of Tarot decks. Check your local business directory to find such a shop near you.

Online retailers and auction sites offer a huge variety of Tarot decks. You can find some truly unique and rare decks by simply searching the Web for Tarot Cards. A good site that sells Tarot decks is:

- <http://www.spiritreader.co.uk/shop.php>