

A TAROT STUDY GUIDE AND WORKBOOK

BY ANDREA DE MICHAELIS





Photographer Debi Buck
<http://beyondtheboxphotography.com/>

A Tarot Workbook by Andrea de Michaelis

WHY STUDY TAROT?

People usually begin the study of tarot for their own enjoyment and personal illumination. If they persevere, they quickly find that in using their cards, they are opening doors of perception that broaden their perspective in other areas of life as well.



WHAT KIND OF DECK SHOULD I BUY?

This workbook uses the [Rider-Waite](#) deck because of its classic symbolism. You should always choose a deck that you have a personal feeling for, or that appeals to your sense of color and artistic arrangement. Every deck that is printed includes a booklet of the author's interpretations as well as suggested readings. For the popular decks, like the Rider-Waite, you can choose among many books of interpretation sold locally. I personally throw away the small book that comes with the Rider-Waite deck and I like the [Eden Grey](#) books on tarot. They're real cheap in any new age bookstore, and the [Easy Tarot Guide](#) by [Marcia Masino](#). As you become familiar with the cards, you'll be drawn to other books to buy.

WILL I HAVE TO MEMORIZE ALL THE INTERPRETATIONS?

You'll be surprised at how quickly you will be able to remember what the cards mean. You will start out right away doing several [3-card readings](#) a day for yourself and friends. For every one, you will use your books for the interpretations. This is the way you will learn quickly. This will make the meanings of the cards personal because you will relate them to a personal situation. After you do a dozen or more readings, you'll begin to see patterns to the card meanings and you will use the books less and your intuition more. A particular card may begin to mean more specific things to you, and it may be completely different than anything a book tells you or anything I teach you. Trust yourself.

WHAT THIS WORKBOOK CAN DO FOR YOU

This Workbook provides basic interpretations for the [22 Major Arcana](#) and [56 Minor Arcana Cards](#). It also contains different spreads that may be used in a reading. Much more than the memorization of the 78 cards, the tarot is a tool to open doorways of perception that will amaze and delight you.

YOUR PERSONAL TAROT JOURNAL

Buy a notebook and use it as your [Personal Tarot Journal](#). Each day, record in it any readings you do and all impressions you receive. This not only gives you a tangible record of how much you advance each day in understanding and development of intuition, it also allows you to see overall patterns in what may initially appear to be chaotic and random information.

PREPARING FOR YOUR READINGS

Create your space, meditate on your intent, shuffle the cards and do the spread.



CARE OF YOUR CARDS:

A. Create a place to read your cards. Respect your space: if possible, find or create a special place to read your cards; try to make it a special time for you by doing it the same time every day, if that appeals to you.

B. Respect your tools; don't leave your cards laying around. Keep them wrapped in a scarf, in a special box, or otherwise treat them as if they were a valued possession.

C. Ground and center. Take a moment to put yourself in a meditative state of mind. Take 3 deep breaths to begin and say your favorite chant or prayer 3 times to center yourself. If you've not done this before and you are so inclined, try saying the **Lord's Prayer** 3 times in a row, that works great for this.



D. Prayer or invocation. Before I begin a reading session, I always say the following prayer:
Heavenly Father/Mother/God, be with me now as I seek insight and guidance into that which (the person's name) seeks to know. Help me to read the cards clearly, and to interpret them without question. Help me to answer all unasked questions and to give (person's name) information that is uplifting and meaningful and significant to their life. I ask this in the name of the Holy Spirit, I give thanks for this opportunity.

E. State your question. Have a question clearly in your mind. Ask 1 question per spread in the beginning. **Write your question down and place it on the table or floor next to the cards.** *It's easy to get sidetracked when reading the cards and to forget exactly what you asked, so you need to keep the question clearly in front of you so you know what the cards are answering.*

F. Lay out the cards in any spread that you like.

G. Review each card individually, as it stands alone. What bearing does this card or any of its meanings have on your question? Don't worry about having to look each card up for every reading, pretty soon you will quickly come to know their meanings and after a few readings when you have memorized them, your intuition will kick in and bring forth more meaning into every card and every combination of cards.

H. Review each card in relation to those around it. How does one card relate to the other? Study the cards carefully until the answer to that question pops into your head and then move onto the next card. Think of any possible relation one card may have to the ones around it, and see what "feels" right to you.

I. Begin interpretation. Write down or tape record your impressions as you get them, or as you read them from the book. See what passages from each book stand out to your attention more. Read or listen to them later and I promise they will begin making sense to you.

J. Finish with a prayer of gratitude and release of energies. *Heavenly Father/Mother/God we thank you for this session, and ask that all energies that are not our own be released into the light where they may continue to grow and prosper.*

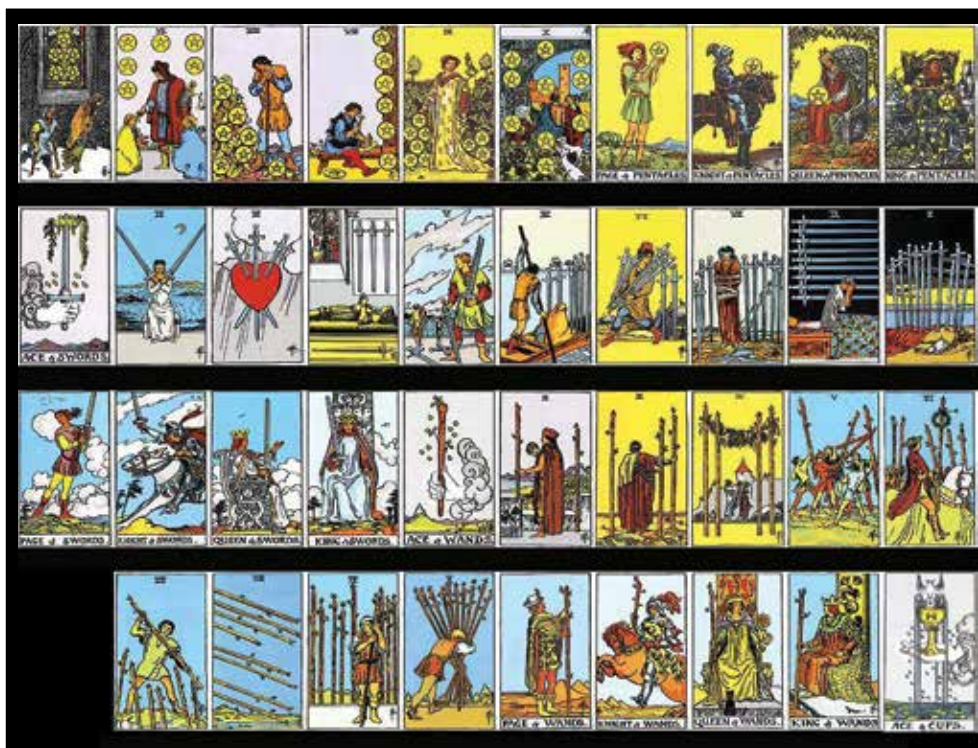
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SUITS

CUPS: The cups correspond to the water signs in the zodiac; they represent our emotional life, our relationships, the way we feel about those around us and the way we feel about ourselves. The cups tell us where we're pouring our emotions and attention into.

WANDS: The wands correspond to the fire signs in the zodiac; they represent the creative parts of ourselves, our enthusiasm and zest for life, and also our career, our profession and our mission in life.

SWORDS: The swords correspond to the air signs in the zodiac; they represent our mental processes, our belief systems, our communication and our conflicts. Swords are used to cut to the heart of a matter, to cut thru the veil to see what is behind it.

PENTACLES: The pentacles, also called the coins, correspond to the earth signs in the zodiac; they represent grounding, our practical side, our quest for education. the way we relate to nature and what we do to make money. Also real estate.



THE SPREADS

MY DAILY READING: My daily reading for myself consists of two cards: the first card represents what is going on around me during this current 24 hour period and the second represents a message from my Higher Self, offering me guidance for the day.

ONE CARD READING: What's happening around me 360 degrees (this 24 hour period)
Shuffle, cut, count down 8 cards and choose the 9th card to read

| DATE | ONE CARD | DEFINITION |
|------|-------------|------------|
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| | | |

YOUR NOTES: _____

THREE CARD READING: Past, Present, Future Shuffle, fan cards, read top 3

Past, Present, Future

Shuffle, fan cards, read top 3

DATE **THREE**
CARDS

DEFINITIONS

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

YOUR NOTES:

[illegible]

ANOTHER THREE CARD READING: Situation, Obstacle, Outcome
Shuffle, cut cards, read top 3

ANOTHER THREE CARD READING: Situation, Obstacle, Outcome
Shuffle, cut cards, read top 3

| DATE | THREE CARDS | DEFINITIONS |
|------|-------------|-------------|
| | | |

[illegible]

YOUR NOTES:

[illegible]

FIVE CARD READING

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Card 1 | Card 2 | Card 3 | Card 4 | Card 5 |
| Present | Immediate Past | Immediate Future | Distant Past & Foundations | Outcome & Distant Future |

YES OR NO READING

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 5 cards upright = | DEFINITE YES, destined to be, smooth sailing |
| 4 cards upright = | MOST LIKELY YES, minor problems to overcome |
| 3 cards upright = | POSSIBLE YES, with changed plans and hard work |
| 2 cards upright = | POSSIBLE NO, changes may not let it happen |
| 1 card upright = | MOST LIKELY NO, major problems may block the way |
| 0 cards upright = | DEFINITE NO, destined not to be, problems may arise if plans are put into action. It may also merely be too soon to ask the question - more data may be needed. |

YOUR NOTES: _____

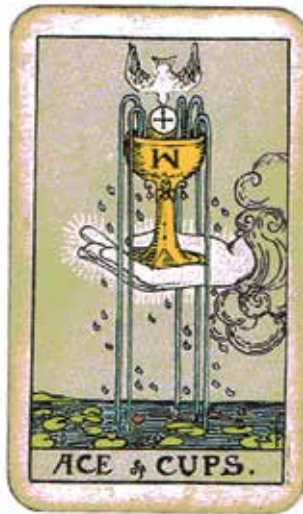
THE ACES

ACE OF WANDS



Opportunity for a new enterprise; promotion; new job; enthusiasm and creativity

ACE OF CUPS



Opportunity for new love or a new way of loving; new friendship

ACE OF SWORDS



Opportunity to overcome obstacles; victory through the use of will; using mind over matter; surgery

ACE OF PENTACLES



Opportunity for a situation to materialize; gain in money and pursuing education

THE MAJOR ARCANA

0 THE FOOL

Favorable opportunity; major decision; new beginning. (The number 0 = infinite potential)

I MAGICIAN

Opportunity for the planning and directing of an ambitious, creative idea or plan; identifying and making the best use of all tools available to you in a new endeavor

II HIGH PRIESTESS

A signifier. Pure essence of femininity and receptivity; inner wisdom, the subconscious; circumstances may change; there are factors concealed from view.

III EMPRESS

A signifier. Pure essence of fertility; the earth mother; growth, development; the ability to give and receive love; prosperity and abundance in emotions and finances. May indicate a pregnancy.



IV THE EMPEROR

A significator. An controlling, authority figure or father figure; success; sometimes it applies to the sitter but many times it signifies a controlling figure in the life of the sitter; plans come to pass; analyzing a situation; leadership; control; responsibility; independence. Also a government figure.



V THE HIEROPHANT

A significator. The bridge between God and man. Take a conservative approach to the question being asked; conforming to acceptable methods; adhering to standard modes of practice. A real estate card. A marriage card.

VI THE LOVERS

A good relationship -- love, marriage -- is coming. Focus on love relationship. A decision is offered; the correct selection will be made at the proper time; honesty and balance.

VII THE CHARIOT

Mastery; winning thru mind over matter; controlling the emotional and desire natures; being centered; controlling habits; overcoming difficulties; Can also represent short distance and the military.

VIII STRENGTH

Self-understanding, patience, self-nurturing; the use of spiritual love. Self analysis helps put fears and complexes to rest, resulting in control. This card assures you that you will have the strength to handle whatever situation is occurring or about to occur.



IX THE HERMIT

Inner guidance; wise advice to others; trust inner judgment; following guidance from reliable sources. Your goal is near completion. You are almost at the end of your search.

X WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Unexpected turn of luck; reward and opportunity; a change for the better; growth & expansion in possibly a new direction; making the most of opportunities sometimes means taking calculated risks; probabilities for success are excellent.

XI JUSTICE

Getting what is deserved; Reaping what was sown Action, balance, positive decision; A legal matter is afoot or a lawyer is involved; A lawyer, politician, government person or project is involved.

XII THE HANGED MAN

Renunciation; sacrifice. Change in priorities; forfeiting one thing to attain something better. Rearrangement of values or priorities. Being uncertain of a situation. Releasing old, outworn beliefs .



XIII DEATH

New beginnings; A welcome change; A positive, liberating change; Emotional growth and transformation; Moving - leaving the past behind, moving forward.

XIV TEMPERANCE

Timing is important; stabilizing or adjusting. Meeting others halfway. Art and teaching; whenever this card appears it tells me that there is something the person does that is creative or artistic (maybe they haven't done it in a while) and they need to pick it back up and pour more energy into it.

XV THE DEVIL

Encountering personal fears; Making errors by basing judgments and decisions on fears. A preoccupation with money and impressing others through maintaining appearances Your only enemies are your own fear. Mistakes made due to clouded judgment



XVI THE TOWER

A breakdown in the current structure to allow something preferred to emerge; truth surfaces; an awakening; honesty and truth out of the blue; selfish tendencies exposed; situation seen for what it really is. Regarding health, breakdowns through nerves or illness may be indicated.

XVII THE STAR

When this card appears, you will get your wish regarding the question asked. Be confident in pursuing your natural talents, your hopes and dreams.

XVIII THE MOON

Confusion, self-deception; being victimized, behaving deceitfully; unexpected changes or new information can cause disruptions. Fluctuation. Be cautious as something is concealed from view.

XIX THE SUN

Rebirth, personal transformation, happiness, accomplishment, self-sufficiency; mastery in education, artistic, or career matters; a marriage card if that is the question. Abundance, new baby, overcoming ill health.

XX JUDGEMENT

A liberating release and transformation; a wholeness and balance between mind, heart and spirit. Liberation from a person or situation; refusing to be dominated by another. This card can depict a student/teacher situation; a teacher/ counselor or a social worker.



XXI THE WORLD

Realization of plans; responsibility, assurance of triumph and prosperity; power and accomplishment coupled with acceptance of responsibility; acceptance of all that is as it is. World travel.

TWO OF WANDS



Balancing previous success with an idea regarding a new venture; waiting for results in a creative or business matter; putting out feelers.

TWO OF CUPS



Sharing in a relationship; romance; reciprocal give & take; commitment; loving communication between friends.

TWO OF SWORDS



Feeling unable to see clearly or deliberately not seeing something; postponing action; indecision; a truce has been called; eye problems.

TWO OF PENTACLES

Handling and balancing in financial or educational matters; confusion regarding finances or education; "I don't know"; staying flexible helps us accept change when it happens.



2's

THREE OF WANDS



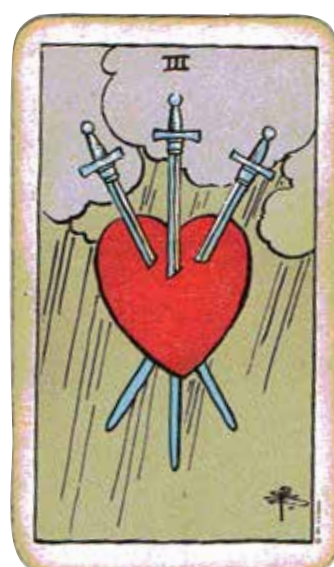
Initial success in a project; development of a joint venture; teamwork; a merchant may be involved in the question.

THREE OF CUPS



Celebration among friends; a developing relationship; growth in love; family and friends gathering to celebrate.

THREE OF SWORDS



Expressing grief in a healthy way; experiencing emotional pain; a necessary severance needs to be made; something has outgrown its usefulness. cutting out a third party.

THREE PENTACLES

Working steadily; getting recognition for something one does well; promotion; growth regarding job, talents, education and money; mastery. This is the apprenticeship card.



3's

FOUR OF WANDS



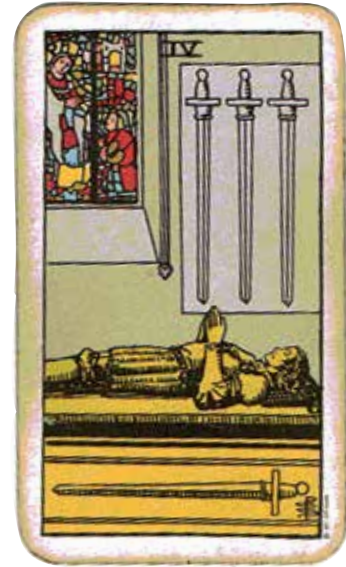
Completion; reaping; successful completion of a project; victorious enterprise in home, relationship, health and profession; legacy.

FOUR OF CUPS



An offer of friendship; new opportunity going unrecognized; security from successful efforts; pregnancy; unexpected occurrences.

FOUR OF SWORDS



Temporary truce, the matter will be taken up again in the future; the problem is not over yet; retreat and meditation; waiting to be rescued; frustrated ambitions.

FOUR OF PENTACLES

One who has money, power, control; miserly, finding it hard to share; selfishness; one who is unable to give or receive; possessiveness; inability to let go; change in employment; new job; increased salary; more demanding responsibility.



4's

FIVE OF WANDS



Healthy competition, friendly rivalry, arguments, deliberate agitation and instigation causing changes; divided opinions; internal fighting within oneself. Be courageous in fighting back.

FIVE OF CUPS



Emotional matters unstable; loss in love; something salvageable yet he doesn't see it; focus on what you have now rather than what was lost; appreciate loved ones - life holds new promise.

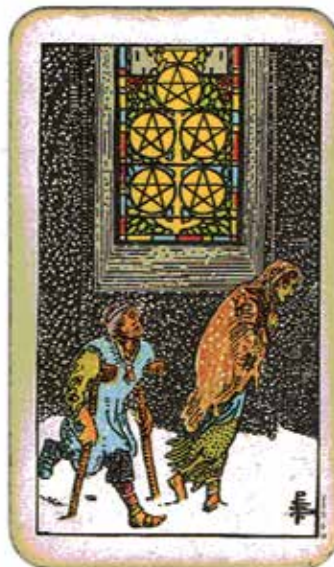
FIVE OF SWORDS



Victimizing; game-playing; defeat; taunting by someone ruthless; revenge; cruel words tempt one to hurt another.

FIVE OF PENTACLES

The poverty card; someone is feeling loss in every conceivable way; sticking together through what appears to be a bad situation. Not yet ready to leave a bad marriage or relationship.



5's

SIX OF WANDS



Recognition and reward for effort and hard work; success & conquering; returning victorious from a situation.

SIX OF CUPS



A happy loving relationship is coming. Reunion; someone or something from the past coming back into your life within 2 to 4 months; restored harmony and love; playful relationship; childhood, happy memories.

SIX OF SWORDS



Leaving difficulties; moving from a bad situation to a better one; a long trip to a place near water.

SIX OF PENTACLES

Unexpected expenses; relatives wanting to borrow money; sharing in money matters; getting personal satisfaction from helping others to succeed; proceed with business as profits will return multifold.



6's

SEVEN OF WANDS



Confrontation; a situation must be faced; defending one's position; maintaining courage in the face of opposition.

SEVEN OF CUPS



Confusion about goals; indecisive about desires; motivation or direction is unclear.

SEVEN OF SWORDS



Negative, aggressive behavior and attitudes defeat your purpose; someone taking advantage; cheating; stealing; betrayal from others or self; feeling that someone is getting away with something

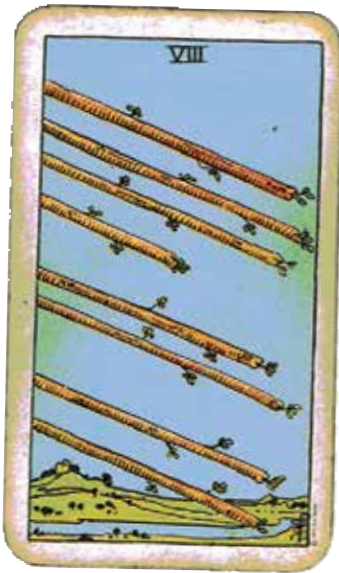
SEVEN PENTACLES

Reevaluation after much work; no longer wanting what's been achieved; undergoing a job identity crisis. a feeling of failure or dissatisfaction; worry over money matters.



7's

EIGHT OF WANDS



End of opposition; freedom to move ahead rapidly with no interference; conflict being resolved; your ideas are becoming reality; goal reached thru dedication & devotion; journey by air.

EIGHT OF CUPS



Disappointment, abandonment; something is now missing; searching for meaning/depth. You left an event 3-5 weeks ago or there will be an event within 3-5 weeks.

EIGHT OF SWORDS



Self-imposed restriction of power; imprisoned by own making; fearful thoughts impede action; excessive need for success binds you; feeling interference from others; not divorced yet.

EIGHT PENTACLES

"Working on" making money or educating oneself; improving oneself to enhance financial future; motivated by money; becoming qualified at work; being practical.



8's

NINE OF WANDS



Guarding and alertness; reoccurrence of past situation (health also); the problem is not yet over.

NINE OF CUPS



Attainment of sensual happiness; good health; financial well-being; wishes come true.

NINE OF SWORDS



A grieving process; fearing the end of a situation is coming; fearing great setbacks; guilt, confusion, self-hatred; feeling totally at fault for what has happened.

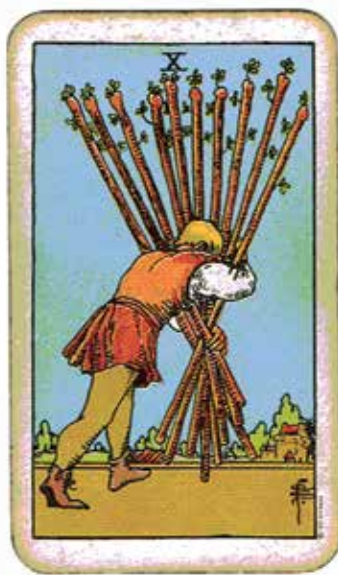
NINE PENTACLES

Attainment for achievements worked for; financial gain, increase in security, self-reliance; self-employment or controlling one's working environment.



9's

TEN OF WANDS



Overcommitment; burdens become overbearing; feeling failure, oppression re ambitions; worry brings illness.

TEN OF CUPS



Promise for tomorrow; family; harmony; true love; lasting situations; stability; satisfaction in emotional matters.

TEN OF SWORDS



Plans do not work out; a feeling of disaster but not all hope is lost; feeling failure in a situation; reaping the results of a situation mishandled; back-stabbing or back trouble also.

TEN OF PENTACLES

The wealth card; stability, money, secure family conditions; tradition; transition; inheritance; dealing with large companies.
All is in order.



10's

PAGE OF WANDS



A sandy or golden haired child who is outgoing & energetic. A message to be more impulsive, enthusiastic & competitive regarding the situation asked about.

PAGE OF CUPS



A fair haired child who is sensitive, emotional and artistic. A message to be more sensitive, idealistic or creative regarding the situation asked about.

PAGE OF SWORDS



A brown haired child who is intelligent, talkative and curious. A message to probe deeper into and analyze the subject more before making a decision. Suspicious circumstances may abound. Someone is gossiping about the matter,

PAGES

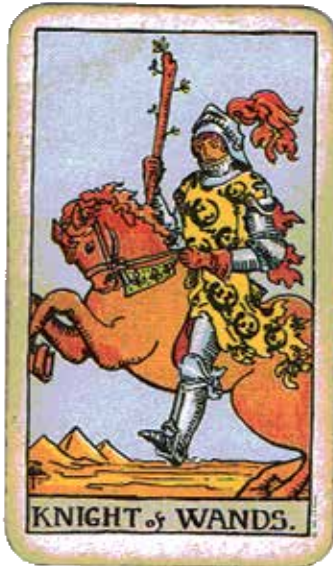
PAGE OF PENTACLES

A dark haired, dark skinned child who is careful and responsible. A message to pursue education or be more practical regarding the situation asked about. A message is coming that may alter events.



**PAGES CAN BE PEOPLE
OR
MESSAGES**

KNIGHT OF WANDS



A sandy or golden haired younger man who is outgoing & energetic. An event involving competition is coming up and requires you to be dynamic and pro-active.

KNIGHT OF CUPS



A fair haired younger man who is sensitive, emotional and artistic. An event requiring sensitivity, idealism or creativity, possibly infatuation or new love.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS



A brown haired younger person who is intelligent, talkative and curious. An event requires you to probe deeper into and analyze before making decisions. Suspicious circumstances may abound, gossip, possibly deceit.

KNIGHTS

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

A dark haired, dark skinned younger person. An event requiring you to be careful and responsible. An event involving education, possibly real estate or financial matters. A message is coming that may alter events.



**KNIGHTS CAN BE
PEOPLE OR EVENTS**

QUEEN OF WANDS



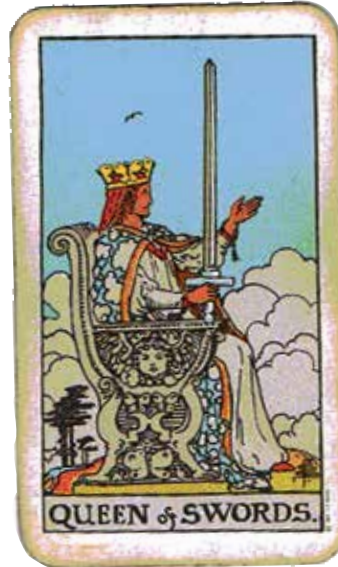
A sandy or golden haired woman maybe green or hazel eyes, who is outgoing & energetic., competitive. A salesman or entrepreneur type. Can be aggressive and domineering.

QUEEN OF CUPS



A fair haired, maybe blue eyed woman who is sensitive, emotional, artistic, musical, or involved in humanitarian ventures. Reversed may be emotionally dramatic, and self centered.

QUEEN OF SWORDS



A brown haired, light eyed woman who is intelligent, talkative, curious, in the communication or journalism field; a legal representative or law enforcer. One who is critical and can be sharp tongued, mean spirited.

QUEENS

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

A dark haired, dark skinned dark eyed woman who is careful and responsible, a student teacher, mechanical or technical person, nature loving, hardworking. sting, banking, financial industry.



KING OF WANDS



A sandy or golden haired man maybe green or hazel eyes, who is outgoing & energetic, competitive. A salesman or entrepreneur type. He can be aggressive and domineering.

KING OF CUPS



A fair haired man maybe blue eyed, is sensitive, emotional, artistic, musical, or involved in humanitarian ventures. Reversed may be a drinker or substance abuser.

KING OF SWORDS



A brown haired man maybe blue eyed, who is intelligent, talkative, curious, in the communication or journalism field; a legal representative or law enforcer. A man who is critical and can be sharp tongued, mean spirited.

KING OF PENTACLES

A dark haired, dark skinned dark eyed man careful and responsible, a student teacher, mechanical or technical person, nature loving, hardworking. Can be into real estate and investing, banking, financial industry.



KINGS

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PSYCHIC TO READ TAROT CARDS!

I've been asked "Why study the tarot if you have to be psychic to interpret the cards well?"
The answer is, "You don't."



Photographer Debi Buck
<http://beyondtheboxphotography.com/>

Studying the tarot is one method of awakening your intuition and making you aware of things from a broader perspective. When we isolate the different elements of our lives, as reflected in the 22 archetypes of the major arcana, we can deal with each in a more objective way and thus proceed to greater unity through an understanding of how everything is related and is also important as it stands alone.

EVERYONE IS BORN PSYCHIC. Your ability to use it is dependent upon your awareness of it. Your awareness of it is dependent upon your receptivity to it. The more time you devote to quieting your active, thinking, analytical, daydreaming mind, the more receptive you will become to inner guidance.

GIVE YOURSELF A TAROT RETREAT

A good exercise is to give yourself a tarot and meditation retreat. Set aside one entire weekend alone and set down the rules: No television, no radio, no newspapers, no magazines, no telephone calls, just you, your tarot cards and your favorite book of interpretations.

Spend your time alternately studying your book, meditating on your cards, doing mini-readings for yourself and, very important, recording your readings in your journal.

In the week before your "retreat," make a list of all topics you expect insight into by your readings: job, relationships, health, family, travel plans, whatever.

You will be surprised what insights you receive over that weekend. The important thing is to clear the inner and outer chatter and focus carefully on wanting to sense your inner guidance. And it will come.