

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Sagittarius: In Search Of...

Merry meet! Welcome to the Sagittarius issue of 13 Magickal Cards.

A joyous—but brief—birthday shout to all of the Sagittarian folks on their birthdays! Some of my best friends—including my brother—are Archers, and they definitely know how to have a good time. Hopefully you can keep up with them, because they are always on the move. You ever wonder why Sagittarius is represented as the centaur archer? They are quick, off like a shot and always aiming for truth.

Sagittarius rules astrology's 9th house, which rules higher learning of all kinds—education, training, etc.—and anything that involves a long-term voyage of the mind or body. Foreign languages and cultures, as well as spiritual journeys or pilgrimages, philosophy, belief systems, and ethics are also ruled by the Sag. In the Tarot, while the Fire (Wands, Rods, etc.) Court Cards can represent Sag people, Temperance also represents the sign of the Archer as well.

One of the most misunderstood Tarot cards, Temperance represents the Sag personality perfectly. While “balance” often comes up in our readings when this card appears, one meaning is often overlooked is that of “combination”. Sagittarians know how to do many things well (my brother is a paramedic, computer expert, and liturgical vocalist!) and combine seemingly different approaches to be successful. While they might lack the persistence of Scorpio, they can be much more inventive and resourceful because of their more “moderate” natures. I'm sure you're starting to see what I'm talking about now.

The Archers in our lives love to have fun, but they are also some of the most brutally honest people you'd ever meet. And while they don't walk around typically dispensing the wisdom of the ages, they are aware that life is too short and it's time to cut loose. And it makes perfect sense. We've just come out of Scorpio sun as we try to make sense of the constant evolution that our lives are taking, and while that process is important, it's very SERIOUS business. Our Archer friends are good at saying, “Time enough for that later. Lighten up!”

I was recently very surprised by a conversation I had with my Sag brother, who, by his own admission, is not very good at returning phone calls. Out of the blue, he called me on my birthday last month. He said that he was sorry he didn't call more often and realizes he's got to remember what is truly important. I was surprised at this admission, but as I thought about it later, I reminded myself that Archers are always on a search, a search for truth.

Feeling stuck in a rut? Take a page out of the Archer's book and try looking at life from a different angle. Not having much fun in life right now? Lighten up a little and realize how short life is. At this time of year, when lots of people focus on their pain and suffering, ask yourself: What can I do to lighten my load and enjoy life just a little more? And how can I help others do that?

Please accept my warmest wishes for a safe, happy, and, above all, FUN holiday season, filled with spiritual wonder and enlightenment. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Phantasmagoric Theater Tarot

I found this deck in a place where I least expected it: In a toy store in New Hope, PA, a number of years ago. But for enthusiasts who are looking for a fun way to access the Tarot, this may be your ticket.

In a word, this deck is “otherworldly” which is one of the reasons I picked it for this month’s review. The images on the cards are bright and funny; you may find yourself chuckling as you go through this deck. It definitely has a carnival/side show feel to it, and some of the drawings remind you of things you’ve seen up on the refrigerators of proud parents.

OK, so let’s be honest...it’s easy to write off this deck. Heaven knows I wanted to, but I was too intrigued to walk away. It is definitely a more modern take on a venerable tool, but if you choose to work with it I think you’ll find yourself letting your intuition tell you more; since the imagery on the cards is decidedly less “serious” than on the traditional Rider-Waite, for example, you may find your subconscious taking you to places you never imagined you could go.

So to say this deck is not typical would not be much of a stretch, based on what I’ve said so far. The Major Arcana is excellent at bringing out the astrological meanings of the cards, with the astrological symbol of the sign it represents somewhere on the card, like the Pisces symbol on one of the bottles on the Moon. The Emperor has a symbol of Aries on his forehead, but he definitely looks like a woman. For the first time in any Tarot deck I have seen, the Devil appears as a woman, but she doesn’t look imperious; rather, she looks like she is enjoying her role as Princess of Darkness. The Tower is shown as a broken castle on a chessboard, but the bright red and blue colors make it look more like a buoy than the shocking revelation it portends. The Empress holds a shield and whip and looks a little bit confused as to what her role should be, while the High Priestess’ one eye is a pentacle.

The Minor Arcana has the traditional suits of Cups, Wands, Swords, and Coins (replacing Pentacles). Once again, the imagery is not traditional, yet the cards do convey meaning just the same. For example, the 10 of Swords shows a woman holding her head like she has a migraine, and a large cup has tipped over spilling an orange liquid on what appears to be a blueprint. The “Woe is me!” idea that often comes to

mind for this card is apparent despite the nontraditional representation. The Two of Coins has a child with a barcode imprinted across both its eyes holding a mask, while other masks line the walls. For me, the masks represent the “fun” that is represented by the card, and the number of masks (at least 10) show the “flexibility” meaning rather well.

My favorite card in this deck is the Fool. He wears a tall pointed hat with question marks (a recurring theme in this deck) standing near the top of a mountain of brightly-colored rounded platforms. I know I’m dating myself but it reminds me of the game Q*Bert. [NOTE: If you were born after 1980 or so, or if you are as old or older than I am and video games did not have as formative a role in your childhood as they did my own, do a web search and take a look.] As he steps off into the unknown, The Fool is accompanied by a rat, who makes an appearance on several other cards; typically the rat is not an animal found on many Tarot decks, but he seems cute enough.

After reading Tarot for a while, you figure out that no deck is for everyone. But this deck will appeal to Archers and others who want to explore the playful side of the Tarot and let their subconscious mind out for recess. However, it is **NOT** for beginners and will only appeal to some. For me it is a great, playful change of pace from the Rider-Waite imagery. I’ll have it with me through Christmas so please ask me and I’ll show it to you or use it for your reading. If you like what you see, ask Sam at [13 Magickal Moons](#) to order you a deck and start working with it yourself.

While all of the Tradition of the Witches’ Circle classes are all excellent, when Rev. Sam teaches a new set of Tarot classes, I get so excited. It was this set of classes that originally brought me to 13 Magickal Moons a few years ago (boy how the time flies!). Even though I had been reading for some time, I got a lot out of Sam’s explanations and perspective on the Tarot. It really helped me get out of the reading rut I was in at that time, and attending the class definitely gave me an ego check and a much-needed reality slap. Sam gave me so much new information that it caused me to re-evaluate my thoughts about the Tarot. That, in turn, made me a much stronger reader. So when I tell you that these classes are worth every penny, I mean it. And you won’t find a better teacher out there than Sam.

So now that you have no reasons left to NOT sign up for this series of classes, just sign up today and get ready to take your Tarot skills to the next level.

If you’ve already taken these classes and want to go further, contact me via email (hierophant@cox.net) about private lessons. Currently, I have a few openings for motivated students who are very serious about learning the Tarot.

SIGN UP NOW
Tarot Series Begins December 7!

HEY! I see your eyes “wandering” down there...stop looking at my footer, pervert!
Keep your eyes where they belong...on the ads!

Shameless Marketing: Top Ten List

One of my Querents told me that s/he skips ahead to the Shameless Marketing portion of this newsletter every month wondering what I'll do next. To be honest, my last few Shameless Marketing sections have been WAY too serious so let's take care of that now with this Top Ten list.

Top Ten Fictional Characters You Shouldn't Channel While Reading Tarot

10) The Wicked Witch of the West

"I'll get you, my pretty, and your little relationship too!" The fact that she lives in a big Tower might clue you into the fact that she's into shock and awe.

9) Neo from "The Matrix"

"Whoa!" While his verbal expression skills leave something to be desired, in good conscience you shouldn't tell Querents to have someone load the "Financial Management" program into their heads.

8) Quint from "Jaws"

Aside from the fact that the activity of "sharking" doesn't come up very often in Tarot readings, it's not very good form to harangue Querents with vulgar epithets while charging them \$10K for a reading.

7) Han Solo from "Star Wars"

"Just do what I tell you! I don't care what you smell!" turns Querents off. And being threatened with a blaster is not the best way to win friends and influence people. Just ask Greedo.

6) Severus Snape from "Harry Potter"

So, yeah, he's very powerful but you don't want your reading to feel like Harry's detentions in the lab: gloom and doom! Go for something a little less...well, dark.

5) Maverick from "Top Gun"

OK, so you don't need a wingman to read Tarot. But you will need an attitude adjustment if you tell Querents that they're "writing checks their bodies can't cash."

4) Any adult comedian

Tarot is not the place for "dead baby" jokes. You'll note that all of the babies on Tarot cards are alive (check out the Sun card), and we'd like to keep them that way. Thanks for understanding. ☺

3) Frodo Baggins from "The Lord of the Rings"

You shouldn't be reading for Tarot without shoes on anyway, and especially not without having had a major pedicure. Also, that whole ring trance thing distracts from making intuitive connections with the cards; running for your life will be distracting to anyone.

2) Michael Corleone from "The Godfather"

Killing the heads of all the five families will absolutely ensure that you won't get asked to do any Tarot parties in the area. Thankfully, the Tarot business is already "completely legit".

1) Eric Cartman from "South Park"

[COMMENT REDACTED TO AVOID OFFENSIVE CONTENT. SUCH A SHAME; IT WAS REALLY FUNNY TOO.]

Pick Up Your Date Books!

You're going to need a place to mark down all of your appointments that has all of the information needed by the witch on the move. I picked up the store's excellent date book, "[13 Magickal Moons of 2008](#)," to keep me on track during the next year. It's an

excellent reference for gods and goddesses, different herbs, the Sabbats, magickal tools and spells, and so much more! If you've already bought one, buy one for a friend.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot on the following dates for the remainder of Sagittarius and Capricorn at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Readings are done on a first come, first served basis; when I arrive at the store I start a list, and you may sign up at that time. I do not take appointments, so please do not call 13 Magickal Moons asking for one. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date reading schedule.

Wednesday, November 28	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, December 5	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, December 15	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, December 19	6:00-9:00pm (Open Yule Ritual)
Wednesday, January 2, 2008	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 12, 2008	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 16, 2008	6:00-9:00pm