The GOLDEN AGE of HOLLYWOOD

Tarot Deck

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Guide Book for
The Golden Age of Hollywood Tarot Deck
The Tarot of the Twentieth Century

Table of Contents

Welcome!.....1
What's New and Different about this Deck?.....2
How this Guide is Structured 5
The Major Arcana 6
Cups – Love at its Purest 12
Wands – The Call to Action.....16
Thought - A Double Edged Sword.....21
Pentacles – The Flow of Life 25
Acknowledgements.....29
Contact Details 30

Welcome!

Welcome to the Golden Age of Hollywood Tarot Deck! I wish you many happy readings with it!

The Golden Age of Hollywood Tarot Deck tells the tarot story through the medium of movies. Images from the golden age of Hollywood (1920's to 1960's) transcend the time and represent powerful archetypes gifted from the twentieth century to the twenty-first.

The deck is a rich and powerful marriage between movies of this era with the deeply meaningful Rider-Waite-Smith (RWS) system of tarot interpretation. The images in the deck provide a glamorous, colourful and yet accessible tarot system.

It is also an alternative, modernised perspective on tarot that will serve current taroistas well but also engage a new audience that resonates with this era of movie making.

This guide will help you get started. In due course, a book is planned. Nevertheless, the Golden Age of Hollywood Tarot Deck was developed based on the standard RWS of interpretations, for which there are many wonderful resources.

You don't have to be familiar with the movies to use this deck although this can enhance your readings, as well as being highly enjoyable. I hope that it does indeed send you back to the movies!

What's New and Different about this Deck?

The Golden Age of Hollywood Tarot Deck is based on the standard 78 card deck RWS interpretations. However, there are a few differences that are worth mentioning.

Renamed Major Arcana

Some of the major arcana have been renamed to better align them with the filmic theme or to modernise them. These include:

- The Magician becoming **The Entrepreneur**
- The High Priestess becoming **The Psychic**
- The Empress becoming **The Matriarch**
- The Emperor becoming **The Patriarch**
- The Hierophant becoming **The Bureaucrat**
- Justice becoming **Liberty**
- Death becoming **Transformation**

The reasons for renaming the Magician and High Priestess are probably obvious, but the others warrant a little more explanation. Card titles that reference ancient regimes of government and royalty have been replaced, hence the Matriarch and Patriarch are framed as the archetypal feminine and masculine in this deck.

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The Hierophant is most often interpreted to mean "accepted wisdom" so The Bureaucrat seemed an appropriate moniker for this. Bureaucrats and bureaucracies run our lives based on standards and accepted forms and processes. Think of organisations of all types - educational institutions, governments, religions and business, etcetera. As people interested in tarot, we seek to look beyond accepted wisdom and the Bureaucrat is a challenge to remember that bureaucracies are at base, made up of systems, processes but mostly ordinary people.

Liberty captures the aspiration to live in a just, fair and free society in a way that resonates with the rest of the deck. Finally, Death becomes Transformation. This aligns with the way this card is generally interpreted and hints at the transformative effects of the medium of film on us as individuals and as a society.

Renamed Minor Arcana

In line with changes to the major arcana references to royalty and ancient systems of government have been removed from the minor arcana and replaced with short descriptive titles that sit better with the genre.

Gender balance has been introduced in the court cards with equal numbers of male and female cards. Stereotypical male/female roles still necessarily exist in the deck but this reflects the mores and attitudes of the time.

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The court cards are titled as follows (aces are also included here for convenience).

- Birth (Ace) - Indicative of a new energy bursting forth.
- Magic (Page) - Indicative of a young woman. There was nothing more magical than some of the performances given by these beautiful young stars.
- Focus (Knight) - Indicative of a young man. The word 'focus' works on a number of levels. Young men in these films were portrayed as 'focused' on being successful in ways that were not expected of women. You 'focus a camera'. A focus is much like a 'tipping point' where small changes can make big differences.
- Glory (Queen) - Indicative of an older woman. This era of Hollywood particularly glorified feminine beauty and elegance.
- Power (King) - Indicative of an older man. Where young men were expected to focus on making a place for themselves in the world and women were expected to be decoratively beautiful, the pinnacle for an older man was to be powerful and effective in his particular arena.

These re-badgings introduce a level of abstraction to the court cards and help to maintain the internal consistency of the deck. The beauty of tarot is the depth of meaning that each individual extracts personally from a deck or a spread. If these don't work for you then use what does.

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Veto Cards

Finally, the deck includes four Veto cards. These help the universe to let you know when you are heading off to places that should not be known, either because your question impinges on someone else's free will, or it is not useful or potentially damaging to answer the question at hand. This is not a suggestion that taroistas are prying or inappropriate, the Veto's can just help keep readings grounded. Feel free to use them or not as suits your style best.

How this Guide is Structured

Each card in the deck has an entry that includes its number and title with a catchphrase to describe its meaning. Following this, key words and phrases help with interpretation. Finally, the movie inspiration is included which lists names of actors, movies and years so you can track down the original material.

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The Major Arcana

III The Matriarch

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O The Fool - A Leap of Faith

Take a chance. Leap into the abyss. New beginnings. Rebirth. Movie Inspiration - Danny Kaye as The Court Jester (1956) and Scraps from A Dog's Life (1918).

I The Entrepreneur – As Above, So Below

Manifestation. Feeling powerful. Able to make things happen. Trust yourself and the universe. Flow. Magic. Movie inspiration - Harry Houdini (1874-1926) making the elephant disappear.

II The Psychic – Spiritual Connection

Higher self. Spiritual purpose and connection. Intuition. Clairvoyance. Divination. Inspiration. Movie inspiration - Ingrid Bergman in Joan of Arc (1948).

III The Matriarch – Mother Love

Nurture. Fertility. Abundance. Cornucopia. Safety. Movie inspiration - Sophia Loren in Heller in Pink Tights (1960).

IV The Patriarch – Fatherly Protection

Head of the house. Protection and support. Structure. Rules. Rigidity. Movie inspiration - Yul Brynner in The King and I (1956).

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V The Bureaucrat – Accepted Wisdom

Teaching. Organisations. Bureaucracy. Corporations. Religious institutions. Red tape. Movie inspiration - The Wizard of Oz (1939).

VI The Lovers – A Marriage made in Heaven

Deep passionate relationships. Being in love. A choice. Movie inspiration – Jane Fonda, John Phillip Law and Anita Pallenberg in Barbarella (1968).

VII The Chariot – Self-Awareness

Id, ego, superego. Civilisation. Conscience. Movie inspiration – Charlton Heston in Ben Hur (1959) and Ben Hur (1925).

VIII Strength – Grace Under Pressure

Self-reliance. Exhilarating challenges. Resourcefulness. Resilience. Charm. Movie inspiration - Katherine Hepburn in Bringing up Baby (1938) and Jackie the MGM lion.

IX The Hermit – A Guiding Light

Hidden knowledge. Higher purpose. Advice. Guidance. A mentor. Movie inspiration - Shane (1953).

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X The Wheel of Fortune – A Change in Circumstances

Luck of the draw. Good fortune. Tipping point. Focus. Seasons. Time. Learning. Movie inspiration - Charlie Chaplin in Modern Times (1936).

XI Liberty – Truth, Justice and the … way

Freedom. Justice. Fairness. Protection of the innocent. Honesty. Protection of those unable to protect themselves. Karma. Movie inspiration - Lady liberty stars in many American movies, too many to list.

XII The Hanged Man – You could go that way, … or that way…

Hung up. Immobilised. Confused. Irreconcilable choices. Contemplation. Damned if you do, damned if you don't. Movie inspiration – Ray Bolger in The Wizard of Oz (1939).

XIII Transformation – Tipping Point

Major change. Revolution. Metempsychosis. Reincarnation. Karma. Movie inspiration – Max Shrek in Nosferatu (1922).

XIV Temperance – Self-Knowledge

Personality make-up. Cosmic choices. Balance. Identity. Movie inspiration – Billie Burke from The Wizard of Oz (1939).

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XV The Devil – Call of the Flesh

Materialism. Manipulation. Selfishness. Trampling others' needs. The psychopath. Addiction. Earthiness. Undue influence. Movie inspiration – The Graduate (1967).

XVI The Tower – Fall From Grace

Let go and let god. Tragedy. Disaster. Depression. Devastation. Movie inspiration – King Kong (1933).

XVII The Star – One in a Million

Queen of Heaven. Idol. Leading lady/man. Luminary. Lovely to look at. Rich, young and pretty. Success. Narcissism. Movie inspiration – Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962).

XVIII The Moon – I Dream Too Much

Things are not what they seem. Unsettling conditions. Unusual behaviour. Tidal flows. Mania-depression. Metamorphosis. Instability. Movie inspiration – Universal's The Wolfman (1941), Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954) and The Mummy (1932).

XIX The Sun – Bundle of Joy

Happiness. Success. Luck. Goodwill. Bonhomie. Something to sing about. Movie inspiration – Shirley Temple in Curly Top (1935).

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XX Judgement – Thanks for the Memory

Renewal. Resurrection. Communion. Seeing things in a new light. Celebration. Simpatico. Life after death. Reconciliation. On with the show! Movie inspiration – various.

XXI The World – On Top of the World

Success and achievement. Victory. Glory. Expertise. Mastery. Self-actualisation. Movie inspiration - Rita Hayworth in Gilda (1946).

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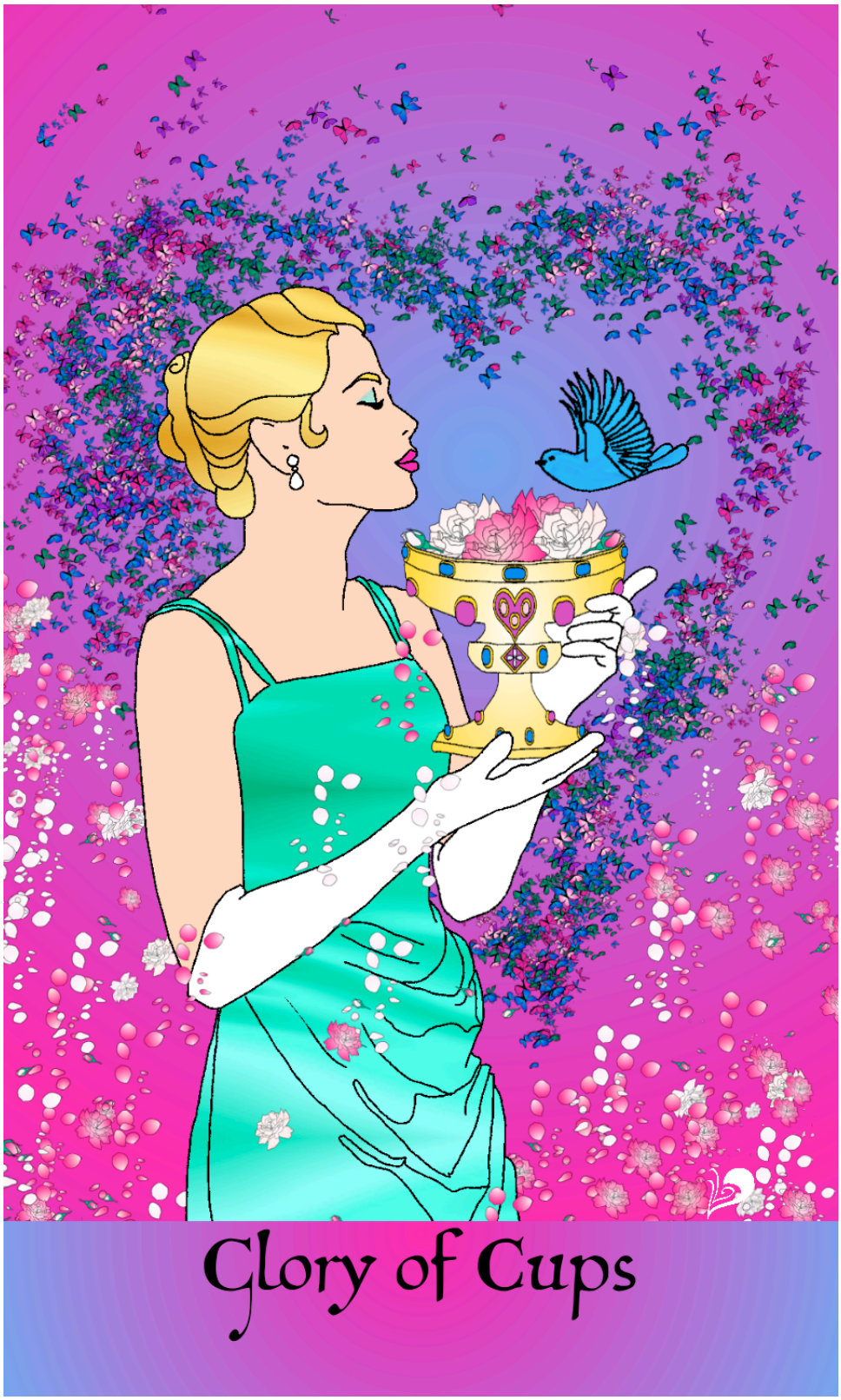
Cups – Love at its Purest



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Veto – When One Door Closes, Another One Opens

Let it be. Let go, and let god. This is hidden for now. Leave well enough alone. It is not appropriate for you to know at this time. This door is closed. Look elsewhere. Movie inspiration – An usher showing you the theatre doors are closing.

Birth – A Gift of Love

Pure love. Agape. Innocence. Deserving to be loved and nurtured. Inspiration – Sleeping Putto, Leon Bazille Perrrault (1882).

Two – The Chapel of Love

Attraction. Romance. Marriage. Partnership. Pair-bond. Inspiration – A classic 50's wedding.

Three – Celebration!

Joy. Shared happiness. Communion. Three smart girls. Happy days. Spring is here. Good companions. Movie inspiration – How to Marry a Millionaire (1953).

Four – I Want to be Let Alone

Ennui. Boredom. Too much of a good thing. Hangover. Hair of the dog. The girl said no. Movie inspiration – Greta Garbo as Mata Hari (1931).

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Five – A Cry of Pain and Loneliness

Anguish. Sadness. Self-indulgence. Regret. Movie inspiration – A Streetcar Named Desire (1951).

Six – Kindness

A blessing. Mended fences. Compassion. A freely given gift. Generosity. No expectations. Movie inspiration – The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939).

Seven – Spoilt for Choice

Decisions. Karma. Identity. Self-awareness. Follow your heart. Movie inspiration – Hamlet (1948).

Eight – Frankly Scarlett, I Don't Give a Damn!

Leaving a bad love. Regretful separation. Being unappreciated. Resignation. Love lies bleeding. Movie inspiration – Gone With The Wind (1939).

Nine – My Cup Runneth Over

Material success. Independence. Satiety. Abundance. Happiness. Self love. Self respect. Enjoying the fruits of your labours. Fulfilment. No limit. Life of the party. Movie inspiration – Million Dollar Mermaid (1952).

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Ten – Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly!

Overflowing love. Understanding. Welcome. Family unity and joy. Mutual support. All is forgiven. Communion. Kindred spirits. Abundance. Paradise on earth. Movie inspiration – It's a Wonderful Life (1946).

Magic – Playing the Glad Game

Learning to love. Joy. Compassion. A love letter. Friendship. Message of love. Support. A promise kept. Movie inspiration – Hayley Mills as Pollyanna (1960).

Focus – Knight in Shining Armour

A romance. New love. A fortunate change in love. A new understanding of love. Enduring love. Movie inspiration – Elvis Presley in Love Me Tender (1956).

Glory – The Queen of Love

Creation of love. Imagination. Creative force. Inspiration. Movie inspiration – Grace Kelly receiving the Oscar for A Country Girl (1954).

Power – King of My Heart

Creative and beautiful man. Swept off your feet. Irresistible love. Movie inspiration – Rudolph Valentino in Son of The Sheik (1926).

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Wands – The Call to Action

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Birth – A Gift of Energy

Fire imp. Buoyant energy for work and projects. Inspiration – A little angel bringing the movies to us.

Two – A Star is Born!

Early success. Accolades. Prodigy. Plans. No limit. Potential. Movie inspiration – Janet Gaynor from A Star is Born (1937).

Three – The Good, The Bad and the Ugly

Maturation. Engaging successfully with the world. Success and winning by focusing on the good. Wanting excellence, but working with what is practical. Travel. Happy landing. Movie inspiration – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly (1966).

Four – A Little Bit of Heaven

Shangri-La. Paradise. Homecoming celebration. Success. Accolades. Welcome. Happy reunion. Rewards for a job well done. Movie inspiration – Lost Horizon (1937).

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Five – Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better

Feisty competition. Better ways of communication needed. Challenge. Game. Play. Movie inspiration – Annie Get Your Gun (1950).

Six – Nothing succeeds like success

Victory. Accolades. Laurels. Hallelujah. Puttin on the Ritz. Movie inspiration – The Oscar surrounded by the first five motion picture academies – and the audience makes six.

Seven – Fighting The Good Fight

Positive influence. Identity. Winning against the odds. Rationality. Humanity. Movie inspiration – Twelve Angry Men (1957).

Eight – There's a Sun in My Heart

Success. Happiness. Can't put a foot wrong. Everything coming up roses. Plans coming to fruition. Movie inspiration – Singing In The Rain (1952).

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Nine – I keep going back for more, don't ask me why…

Beleaguered. Achievement without accolades. A trooper. Prepared. Professional. Protecting resources. Movie inspiration – Cary Grant (1904-1986) and some of his leading ladies over the years.

Ten – Weight of the World

Over-burdened. Too many cares. Sisyphus. Feeling low. Feeling unsupported. Not seeing the wood for the trees. Overwhelmed. Under-appreciated. Need to prioritise and delegate. Movie inspiration – Death Of A Salesman (1951).

Magic – Learning about Life

Good news. Unconventionality. Unconformity. Uncertainty. A beginner. The prodigal. A promise broken. Movie inspiration – Audrey Hepburn from Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961).

Focus – Strike a Blow for Freedom!

Tipping point. Righting wrongs. Changing the world. Bringing justice and freedom. Changes for the better. Freedom fighter. Movie inspiration – Kirk Douglas as Spartacus (1960).

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Glory – Mistress of All She Surveys

Self-reliance. Accomplishments. Intuition. Luck. Ambition. Energy. Movie inspiration – Cyd Charysse in Bandwagon (1953).

Power – Burning up the Dance Floor

Energy. Mastery. Active partner. Mover and shaker. Movie inspiration – Fred Astaire in Top Hat (1935).

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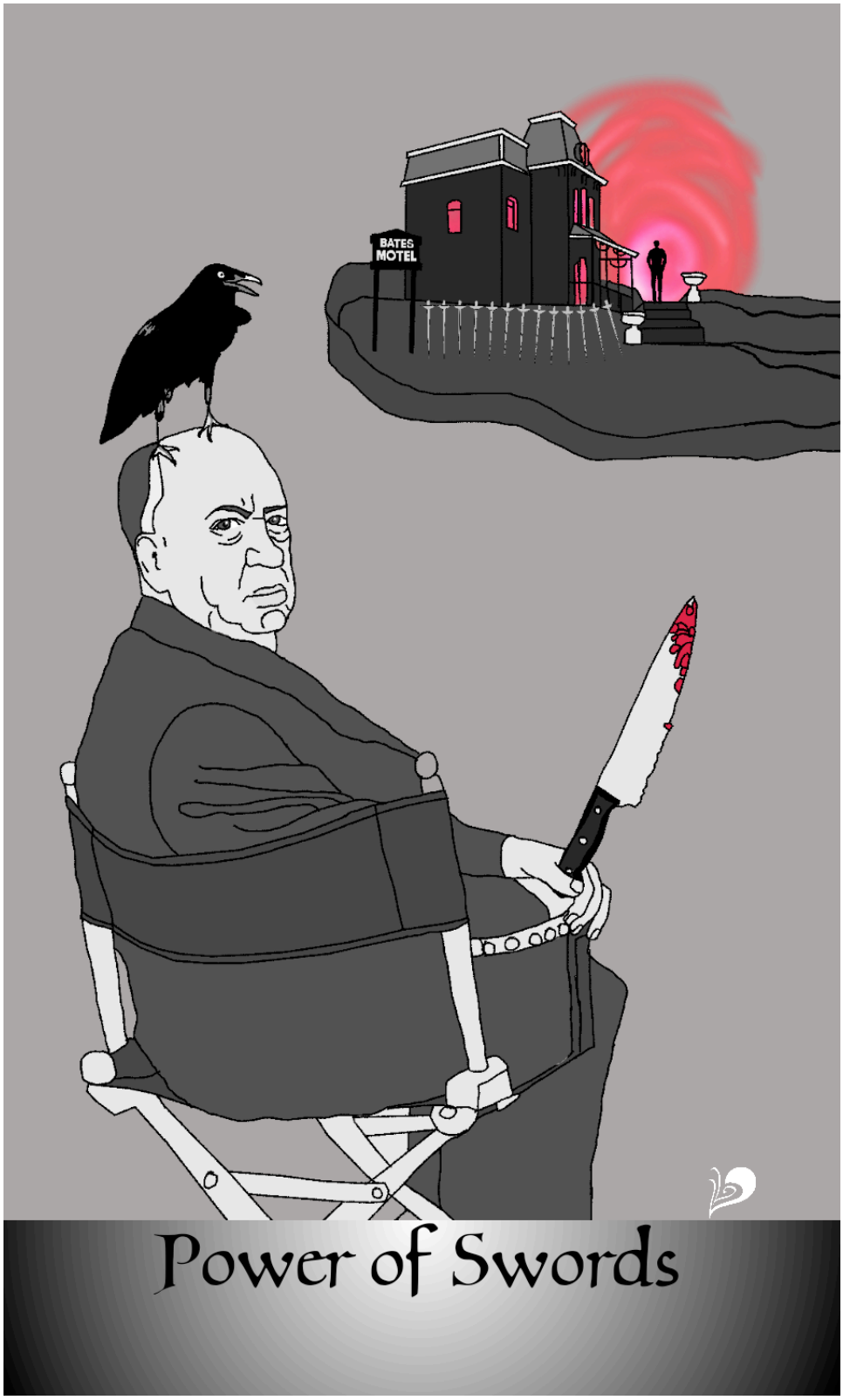
Thought - A Double Edged Sword



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Birth – A Gift of Thought

Computation. Cutting ideas. Science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom. Movie inspiration – Barbarella (1968).

Two – She Loves Me Not

Arrested development. Stunted growth. Closed off. Lack of maturity. Unmet expectations. Unmet needs. Apprehension. Movie inspiration – Great Expectations (1946).

Three – A Broken Heart

Sorrow. Loss. Grief. Hearts divided. Movie inspiration – The Wizard of Oz (1939).

Four – Time to Rest

Withdrawal. Release. Reprieve. Rest. Peace. Movie inspiration – Madame X (1966).

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Five – Winning at any Cost

Conflict. Winners and losers. Narcissism. Hard feelings. Anything goes. Movie inspiration – Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Dorothy Comingore and George Coulouris in Citizen Kane (1941)

Six - Leaving Failure

A sad journey. Quiet passage. Resignation. Self-doubt. Shame and defeat. Sorrow. Anxiety. Licking one's wounds. Movie inspiration – Deborah Kerr in Black Narcissus (1947).

Seven – Betrayal

Malice. Injustice. Hidden agenda. Hate masquerading as love. Movie inspiration – The Night of the Hunter (1955).

Eight – Self-Denial

Self-abnegation. Captured by social conventions. Self-imposed constraints. Conservatism. Conventionality. Regret. Poor little rich girl. You can't have everything. Movie inspiration – All that Heaven Allows (1955).

Nine – You Mean All This Time We Could Have Been Friends?

Obsession. Miscommunication. Misunderstanding. Subterranean agendas. Deception. Movie inspiration – Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? (1962).

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Ten – Defeat

Terror. Devastation. Despair. Movie inspiration – Psycho (1960).

Magic – Age of the Robot

Inventions. Manufactured. Not real. Machine-like innocence that is prone to manipulation. Ingénue. Movie inspiration – Metropolis (1927).

Focus – Why was I not made of Stone, Like Thee?

Tipping point. Change in thoughts and feelings. Rebalancing. Expansion of consciousness. Awakening. Confusion. Rapid growth. Things done for the right reasons, but with mixed results. Movie inspiration – The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939).

Glory – Damsel in Distress

The Queen of Tears. A woman of sorrow. Sorrowful wisdom. Sorrowful experiences. Transformation through sorrow. That which does not kill you makes you stronger. Movie inspiration – Bride of Frankenstein (1939).

Power – Cutting Edge

Creative and incisive man. Innovative. Genius. Imposing. A hard task-master. Movie inspiration – Alfred Hitchcock, the Birds (1963) and Psycho (1960).

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Pentacles – The Flow of Life

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Birth – A Gift of Flow

New flow energy. Things coming together. Synchronicity. Good luck. Going places. Shall we dance? Dance like no one is watching. Inspiration – Joy, Kate Cameron (1982).

Two – Juggling Priorities

Too much going on. Too many responsibilities. Need to prioritise and plan. Movie inspiration – Charlie Chaplin (1889-1977).

Three – Manifesting the Divine

Recognition of work. A skilled artisan. Plans being realised. Reaching for the stars. Ready, willing and able. Movie inspiration – The Agony and the Ecstasy (1965).

Four – Bah Humbug!

Miserliness. Lack of charity. Security. Self-protection. Movie inspiration – A Christmas Carol (1951).

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Five – Well, Here's Another Nice Mess You've Gotten Me Into!

Cut off from the mainland. Decisions made that alienate your support systems. Disenfranchisement. Lack of refuge. No sanctuary. Need to acknowledge own role in current situation. Movie inspiration – Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz in The Long, Long Trailer (1954).

Six – Sweet Charity!

Largesse. Giving and receiving. Dependency. Injustices righted. Movie inspiration – The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938).

Seven – Life's a Banquet!

Enjoyment. Achievement. A full and productive life. The best things in life are free. Wake up and live. Wisdom. Harvest. Fruition. Movie inspiration – Rosalind Russell in Mame (1958).

Eight – You're a Legend!

Top of your game. Skilled artisan. A trooper. Hit the deck. Skill. Harvest. Fruition. Movie inspiration – Katherine Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart in the African Queen (1951).

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Nine – Be Careful What You Wish For

Independence. Success. Self-reliance. Standing out, but alone. Beauty. Elegance. Accomplishment. Movie inspiration – Joan Crawford in Mildred Pierce (1945).

Ten – Not Seeing Eye to Eye

Multiple perspectives. Hidden agendas. More going on than meets the eye. A sophisticated perspective of the world. Round up the usual suspects. Movie inspiration – The Ten Commandments (1956).

Magic – There's No Place Like Home

A magic message. Intuition. Learning. Defining what is important in a situation. Movie inspiration – Judy Garland as Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz (1939).

Focus – Double or Nothing

Tipping point. Things changing quickly and inexplicably. Events coming to a head. Fast and furious. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. Movie inspiration – Marx Brothers in A Day at the Races (1937).

Glory – A Woman of Substance

An accomplished woman. Mistress of herself, her family and her community. Skilled. Helpful. Worldly wise. Movie inspiration – Elizabeth Taylor in The Taming of the Shrew (1967).

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Power – A Man for All Seasons

A mature and reliable man. Powerful. A good mentor. Integrity. Movie inspiration – Gregory Peck from To Kill a Mockingbird (1962).

Acknowledgements

There are a few people and resources that I would like to mention.

First, I would like to thank my husband John for his constant support and encouragement when I undertook this project that has consumed my every waking moment for some time now.

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Corel Painter 12 was the illustration package that gave me a whole artist's studio on my computer, without the mess!

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Jonah Scribbler, my facebook friend, for being the first person to really love the deck, sticking with me throughout the process of self-publishing, making many good suggestions and providing much encouragement. I no longer scoff at the idea that true friends can be made on the web.

Contact Details

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