

The Minor Arcana

Roses • Coins/Pentacles
Knives • Swords
Feathers • Wands
Goblets • Cups



ROSES – EARTH

The Ace of Roses

Upright: *prosperity, abundance, manifestation, opportunity*

Reversed: *poor planning, missed opportunity, failure*

Like the other aces in the Minor Arcana, the Ace of Roses represents new opportunities, specifically those relating to the material earthly world. This card represents opportunity, but offers no guarantees: it's up to you to pluck the rose that hangs in the center of the dark, earthy field. It is a sign that you're on the right path, but that your work is nowhere near complete. While wealth is within your grasp, you have to do the work to reach it.

The Two of Roses

Upright: *balance, adaptability, priorities, decisions*

Reversed: *disorganization, overwhelming responsibility, skewed priorities*

The Two of Roses represents balance and adaptability. The figure in the illustration holds two roses in each hand, linked by an infinity symbol. They are poised, collected, and focused, secure in the knowledge that as long as they manage their time and energy well, they will be able to maintain balance. The Two of Roses is a reminder to strive for balance in your life, that without rest you will lose focus and that without focus your responsibilities will become overwhelming.

The Three of Roses

Upright: *teamwork, collaboration, learning, partnership*

Reversed: *poor communication, incompatible work styles, solitary work*

Two sex workers count their money after an appointment; they are making jokes about the trick they just saw and gloating over how much money they made. The Three of Roses represents teamwork and collaboration, and there is nothing like the teamwork and collaboration of whores when we do doubles, making in-jokes with our body language, performing the sexuality expected by the male gaze, and doing any other thing we can to liven the mood without the client noticing.

The Three of Roses encourages you to look at what you want to achieve and see what other skills could be applied to further your goal, or possibly to see what you have achieved already and acknowledge the ways that others have helped you along the way.

The Four of Roses

Upright: *self-protection, control, security, accumulation*

Reversed: *scarcity, poor management of resources, greed*

The figure in the Four of Roses crouches over four red and yellow roses. They are preoccupied with the resources they have, obsessed with maintaining their wealth, and paralyzed by the fear of losing what they have stored up. The Four of Roses is a reminder that it is just as important to enjoy the things you have worked for and redistribute the resources you are fortunate to have access to as it is to protect yourself from deprivation. It is a reminder that scarcity is not real—it is created by those who have power—and that clinging to every last cent, afraid that you will lose everything, will only take away your ability to enjoy life.

The Five of Roses

Upright: *loss, devastation, poverty, isolation*

Reversed: *coming out of poverty, excessive optimism, psychic limitation*

A figure sits in the dark with their back to the rosebush behind them. The roses on the bush are withered and brown and although there are two tiny green leaves on the vine, the figure is unable to see them through the bag tied around their head.

The Five of Roses is a card of loss and poverty. While the suit of Roses is generally associated with the material realm, there are many kinds of poverty, not all of them having to do with money. When this card appears in a reading, it's time to look at the ways in which your life is lacking, what hope you have for redeeming those areas, and how you might be able to reverse the poor circumstances that led you to this place or at least find new avenues to offset your losses.

The Six of Roses

Upright: *generosity, sharing, reciprocity, mutual aid*

Reversed: *debt, being taken advantage of, selfishness*

Two figures exchange and are surrounded by roses. It's impossible to know which of them the roses belong to because they hold their resources in common. The Six of Roses is a reminder that property is theft, that we are better served by caring for others and sharing our abundance than by hoarding it all for ourselves. When our resources are held in common we can strengthen each other according to each person's needs rather than looking out only for ourselves.

The Seven of Roses

Upright: *investment, fruition, perseverance, accomplishment*

Reversed: *thankless work, failure, limited vision*

A figure leaning on a hoe gazes at the rose bush they have grown. There's still a lot of work ahead of them and they are not yet ready to harvest the fruits of their labor, but the time is coming and they have the luxury of pausing to look at how far they've come as they reflect on what they still have to do.

The Seven of Roses is a reminder that it's okay to pause and take joy in everything you've done, that appreciating your accomplishments will help you to form a better plan for how to proceed and that you don't have to be in motion every minute of every day.

The Eight of Roses

Upright: *industriousness, skill development, learning, proficiency*

Reversed: *perfectionism, self-obsession, lack of direction*

A figure drawing on a pad is surrounded by roses, which symbolize the wealth of skills and knowledge they have gained through practice. They are intent on their art and removed from all distractions, wrapped up in the task at hand. The Eight of Roses is a card of encouragement. It can acknowledge your application to your chosen project or serve as a reminder to stay focused in order to reach the heights you aspire to.

The Nine of Roses

Upright: *luxury, prosperity, self-sufficiency, accomplishment*

Reversed: *overwork, lack of confidence, fear of failure*

A figure reclines on a bed of roses, smiling contentedly. They are secure in their prosperity and enjoying their security. The Nine of Roses is a card about luxury and security. That security may not be monetary, but the card is a reminder to focus on the ways in which you have achieved abundance and wealth, and to find ways to expand that abundance and share it with others.

The Ten of Roses

Upright: *family, safety, success, abundance*

Reversed: *failure, loss, family dysfunction*

The Ten of Roses shows the same figure from the previous cards sitting comfortably among ten huge roses, cuddling several cats. They feel secure in their ability to take care of their animal friends, and the cats feel safe with them.

The Ten of Roses is a card that asks you to look at the ways in which you provide for those that you love, to congratulate you for the ways you support your family and friends, and to remind you that the health of your family, whether they are chosen or blood, is as important an aspect of your thriving as any other. It's a reminder to look at the health of your relationships, to decide whether they are giving you as much as you are giving to them, and if everything they are giving you is good.

The Harlot of Roses

Upright: *prosperity, leadership, self-discipline, security*

Reversed: *ineptitude, braggadocio, stubbornness*

The Harlot of Roses sits alone looking at a huge rose in a gold vase. She is confident in her abilities, she knows she can provide for herself no matter where life might take her, and she knows that the skills she has learned in her work have taught her how to walk through the world more freely and confidently than if she were only a woman. She knows how to control men and keep their entitlement at bay, and she knows that she has the skills to lead others when they look to her to lead. She is rich in spirit, and secure in the knowledge that she is better than those who revile her.

The Enchantress of Roses

Upright: *practicality, self-reliance, nurturing, fertility*

Reversed: *dependence, overwork, self-involvement*

The Enchantress of Roses sits on the ground beside an enormous rosebush. She is naked except for a green robe, and she has laid out a few apples for two rabbits to eat. The rabbits are black and white, symbolizing duality and balance, and her robe is open to show her security in her own flesh. Her face is in shadow, but there is nothing forbidding about her; she lures the rabbits to her with kindness, not malice. The Enchantress of Roses is a card of nurturing kindness. While the Harlot is more concerned with material provision, the Enchantress is more concerned with the emotional realm. She has the stability that comes from inner peace and she shares it freely however she can.

The Partisan of Roses

Upright: *hard work, routine, productivity, dependability*

Reversed: *perfectionism, stasis, inability to commit*

The Partisan of Roses leans on a shovel, halfway unblocked, reviewing the work they've accomplished. They are no stranger to hard work and are ready to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals, whatever those may be. The Partisan of Roses is a reminder that sometimes slow and steady can be what wins the race, that sometimes progress is slow, and that the work that it takes to achieve a goal is not always flashy or inspiring. Growth is not always a quick or glamorous process, sometimes it is slow and drudging, but it is no less important.

The Conspirator of Roses

Upright: *manifestation, opportunity, learning, prosperity*

Reversed: *procrastination, failure, malaise*

The Conspirator of Roses sits cross-legged with their arms held up, ready to catch the enormous rose that hovers in front of them. They have spent time and energy finding where to position themselves and they are ready to receive the fruits of their effort.

The Conspirator of Roses suggests that you open yourself to new opportunities, whether by entertaining new ideas or knocking down the obstacles that stand in the way of your ideal life. The name Conspirator necessarily implies that your work cannot be done alone, that it's only through collective action and co-conspiracy that we can achieve anything of value.

KNIVES – AIR

The Ace of Knives

Upright: *clarity, success, power, inspiration*

Reversed: *poor judgment, stagnation, indecision*

The Ace of Knives is a card of raw power. The suit of Knives is associated with the constant, unseen, changing force of air, and the Ace of Knives reflects that. It is a card that tells you to harness your power, to cut through the bullshit, and move forward: you are everything you need, you are razor sharp and full of potency.

The Two of Knives

Upright: *denial, difficult choices, incomplete knowledge, obscurity*

Reversed: *indecision, confusion, avoidance*

The Two of Knives shows a blindfolded figure reaching out to grasp two huge knives stuck in the ground. Their feet are submerged in shallow water and the moon above them is partly covered in a dark cloud. They are clearly trying to find their way but lack the information to be sure of their choice. Although their hands are unbound, they do not remove their blindfold.

The Two of Knives tells you to trust your intuition, to pull yourself out of denial and look closely at the choices you face, and confront the risks and rewards of each one, no matter how uncomfortable that process may be. Nothing is to be gained by allowing yourself to be waterlogged by emotion.

The Three of Knives

Upright: *heartbreak, loss, grief, separation*

Reversed: *release, forgiveness, optimism*

A woman pierced by three knives through her heart, abdomen, and crotch stands on one leg, bent backwards in her exquisite agony. The three knives, representing emotional, reproductive, and sexual traumas, come together behind her back and diverge again, dripping three drops of blood.

The Three of Knives is a card of pain and sorrow. It depicts the way the traumas we experience come together, but it also holds a reminder that it is possible to move past the suffering that is inflicted upon us, that if we take the pieces of our pain separately and express our suffering we can eventually leave the things that have hurt us in the past. Our capacity for pain is infinite, as is our ability to survive.

The Four of Knives

Upright: *rest, rejuvenation, contemplation, stasis*

Reversed: *exhaustion, burnout, lethargy*

The Four of Knives shows a figure asleep next to a large cat who sleeps in a similar position. There are four knives arranged symmetrically behind the two sleepers, symbolizing clarity of focus.

The Four of Knives is an admonition to collect yourself before you move forward, to clear your head, to recuperate both mentally and physically from the trauma of the Three of Knives, and to seek out healing solitude.

The Five of Knives

Upright: *conflict, competition, disagreement, false victory*

Reversed: *reconciliation, discernment, inner confidence*

In the Five of Knives a person stands seemingly triumphant, their hands resting on the handles of three knives buried point down in the earth. Behind them, two other knives lie on the ground, their blades pointed away from the figure. It's clear they think they've gotten away with something, but their protruding ribs, as well as the wind that seems to warn of an oncoming storm, tell a different story.

The Five of Knives is a reminder that not all victories are positive, that sometimes the cost of winning is much greater than the benefits that come with being called a victor. It is tactically unsound to fight every battle, there are times when it is better to sit back, collect your strength, and strike somewhere that will genuinely affect change.

The Six of Knives

Upright: *transition, loss, release, change*

Reversed: *unfinished business, clinging to the past, resistance*

In the Six of Knives a figure in a hooded robe walks a path lined with knives. Their posture is solemn, suggesting that they know that the only way is forward, and that straying from their path will only hurt them, but they have a long way to go.

This card reminds you that clinging to the past will only hurt you, and that you must always move forward to the next stage of your life unencumbered by the baggage of your past.

The Seven of Knives

Upright: *strategy, resourcefulness, self-reliance, secrecy*

Reversed: *deceit, self-doubt, aimlessness*

A figure stands with their robe open to reveal seven huge knives they've concealed in the lining. Their face is in shadow, but a glimpse of a self-satisfied smirk is visible. They are clearly pleased with themselves at having gotten away with so many knives, and feel secure in the knowledge that they will take care of themselves whether by hook or by crook.

No matter whether it appears upright or reversed, the Seven of Swords is a card of trickery and deceit. It reminds us not only to be careful and strategic in our own duplicitous actions, but to watch out for the manipulation of others: as good as it feels to walk off with a bundle of knives, it is not so pleasant to find yourself disarmed without your knowledge.

The Eight of Knives

Upright: *stagnation, restriction, self-isolation, imprisonment*

Reversed: *new ideas, release, inner freedom*

The Eight of Knives shows a person walking through a pool of water, surrounded by huge knives buried in the ground. They are bound at the knees and elbows and their head is covered by a bag, but it's obvious that if they really wanted to, they could free themselves from the ropes. Their feet are bleeding and their steps are obviously uncertain and they are trapped by the knives that surround them, but if they follow the water that symbolizes their intuition they would find a clear path through the danger.

The Eight of Knives teaches us that we must be constantly in a state of adaptation, that some prisons are only in our minds, and that with only a few simple actions we can free ourselves and escape them. Sometimes you are made a victim, but sometimes you make yourself a victim. The first you have no control over, but the second is only up to you to change.

The Nine of Knives

Upright: *trauma, fear, depression, despair*

Reversed: *liberation, redemption, disencumberment*

The Nine of Knives is not a light or happy card. It deals with trauma, nightmares, and defeat, however temporary. The figure from the previous cards is on all fours, with nine knives pointed at her head, which is covered by a black bag, as she is raped by a bright red man, the only person who seems to be having any fun.

This card is a reminder that trauma and violence are real and that the physical suffering that is inflicted on us has mental consequences as well. Long after the immediate pain of violence passes, the pain that's left is no less real for being entirely in our heads. It's okay to ask for help, it's necessary to ask those who we love and those who love us to help pull ourselves out of the darkness. It's okay to admit you're not okay, it's okay to struggle, and sometimes other people are the only ones who can help us out of the nightmare.

The Ten of Knives

Upright: *defeat, betrayal, crisis, bad endings*

Reversed: *recovery, release, resisting the inevitable*

The Ten of Knives depicts a figure hovering in blank space, pierced by ten huge knives. They are covered in blood and visibly suffering, but despite their injuries they are still struggling to raise themselves. This card asks you to remember that no defeat is permanent, that everything is temporary and that as long as we are breathing, we are fighting. This is your final struggle, you can't control the circumstances that

brought you to this place, but you can choose how you will respond. This is no time to be a baby: you can drag yourself up or you can succumb, but if you can weather this, you can weather anything.

The Harlot of Knives

Upright: *truth, knowledge, intellect, lucidity*

Reversed: *manipulation, abuse of power, overconfidence*

The Harlot of Knives smokes a cigarette as she leans on a stack of huge, well-worn books. She is dressed in stockings and garters, but is clearly well educated. She is stable and relaxed as she is lost in thought. She is intelligent and grounded, and her adaptability is clear in her ability to perform the vapid, artificial sexuality required by her job, despite having a deep understanding, grounded in reason and an analysis of the social order, of how laughable the duties of her job truly are.

The Harlot of Knives is a reminder that things and people are not always as they initially appear, and that true sensibility manifests itself in adaptability.

The Enchantress of Knives

Upright: *autonomy, bitterness, perception, principles*

Reversed: *exploitability, oversensitivity, emotional unavailability*

The Enchantress of Knives wears a long grey robe, and stands with her hands clasped, looking unflinchingly in front of her. Her face is in shadow and there is a bloody knife stuck in the ground behind her, its blade pointed away from her. She has suffered and lost, but her pain is behind her now; she has learned from it, and found her inner strength. She is unshakable in her principles and knows that she can weather whatever storms life throws at her.

The Enchantress of Swords seeks truth in everything, and she insists that you do the same. She asks you to cut through all the bullshit to find your own inner strength, and although she knows that is something only you can do for yourself, she is prepared to help you find your way. She is centered within herself, and while people often think of her as cold or mean, her love is as expansive as it is practical.

The Partisan of Knives

Upright: *ambition, spontaneity, action, motivation*

Reversed: *impulsiveness, restlessness, lack of focus*

The Partisan of Knives is ready for action. They rush into the thick of things with a strong wind behind them. Like the fool, they are free of fear, but while the fool is full of hope, the Partisan's motivation is entirely practical. They are not concerned with idealism or dreaming, only with action and result. The Partisan of Knives reminds you to be assertive, to not waste time beating around the bush with idle talk or boasting, but to spring into the thick of things as soon as possible. They are often seen as impulsive, but in reality they are simply direct, and they expect the same of others. As much as the Partisan encourages you to be assertive and direct, they can also serve as a warning to remain open to alternative courses of action and not to rush onto any one path too quickly.

The Conspirator of Knives

Upright: *curiosity, learning, communication, new ideas*

Reversed: *boastfulness, egotism, thoughtlessness*

The Conspirator of Knives is a curious person who welcomes learning from many different places. They know that as useful as their book might be, there is just as much to be learned from the world around them. Unable to remain inactive, they seem to be taking a step forward, ready to try to start something that will bring about the better world they dream of.

The Conspirator of Knives is endlessly curious and loves to share the things they've learned with anyone who will listen, They are not always sociable but they know the value of collective action. They provide a model for healthy relations with others. Their spirit of information-sharing and their enthusiasm towards the ideas they help to conceive or perfect is admirable and something we could all work towards in our own ways.

FEATHERS – FIRE

The Ace of Feathers

Upright: *creation, inspiration, beginnings, potential*

Reversed: *distraction, aimlessness, apathy*

The Ace of Feathers, like the other Ace cards in the Minor Arcana, represents the most powerful and positive aspects of its suit. The suit of wands concerns fire, and although fire can be a destructive force, it can also be a cleansing one that makes way for growth. Fire can be dangerous and deadly, but when it's harnessed it can be used to achieve incredible things. The Ace of Feathers represents that potential, but it is a reminder that no matter how much potential you may start with, it means nothing unless you are willing to do the work to direct it.

The Two of Feathers

Upright: *choice, discovery, progress, planning*

Reversed: *fear, doubt, misalignment*

The Two of Feathers represents planning and progress. The figure stands between two feathers holding a globe in their hands. The world they hold in their hands has no borders or walls or civilized structures, showing that the better world is within their grasp. They are in darkness, but they face the light, and they are ready to step forward and bring their dreams to life.

While this card represents progress, it is also a reminder that not all progress is positive, that moving

forward in the wrong direction is as dangerous as not moving at all and that sometimes we must find our way back to the more natural existence we came from—but with a clear vision, anything is possible.

The Three of Feathers

Upright: *opportunity, expanding horizons, foresight, new projects*

Reversed: *delay, uncertainty, excessive caution*

The figure faces the light, their feet firmly planted, their shoulders squared, and their posture confident. They have made their choice, they are committed to their plan, and they are ready to take the next step to achieve their dreams. They know the way ahead of them may not be easy, but their path is clear and bright; they can see the obstacles ahead of them and are confident in their ability to plan out a strategy for how to overcome them.

While the Two of Feathers represents the planning stage of an endeavor, the Three of Feathers represents the beginning of the journey. It encourages you to greet the challenges that are to come with confidence and courage.

The Four of Feathers

Upright: *security, harmony, joy, celebration*

Reversed: *discord, transition, uncomfortable beginnings*

In the Four of Feathers, the figure from the previous cards dances among four brightly colored feathers. At their feet, the cat rolls onto his back as he plays with a string, unafraid to display his belly. There is clearly some kind of celebration going on, and the two creatures are safe, happy, and proud of how far they've come.

The Four of Feathers elicits you to take a moment to celebrate your successes, and take the time to find a place of safety in which to relax and rejoice. As important as it is to keep moving forward and not get stuck in a mire of self-doubt or arrogance, it's just as important to take the time to appreciate the time and effort you've invested in achieving your goals.

The Five of Feathers

Upright: *strife, conflict, confusion, bad communication*

Reversed: *inner turmoil, avoidance, accountability*

The Five of Feathers shows the figure looking up at a cluster of feathers that seem to be floating to their left in a disorganized whirl. Their hands are covering their ears as if they are trying to block out the frustrating rush of the feathers' movement. It's unclear why the feathers are there, why they are upset, or what could possibly be the outcome of this situation other than more chaos.

When the Five of Feathers appears, it's a sign that you need to look at the conflict in your life, the influences that oppose your happiness, and the ways in which you can return your situation to a more positive, orderly state. Look at the way you communicate with others and how others communicate with

you. If you aren't being heard, ask yourself if there are better ways to get your point across, and look at the ways in which you might be ignoring what other people have to say.

The Six of Feathers

Upright: *recognition, achievement, confidence, success*

Reversed: *egotism, arrogance, private victories*

In the Six of Feathers, a performer stands ready to take a bow. She has impressed her audience, and she is proud of the recognition she has gained. This card is a reminder that it's okay to be proud of the things you've achieved and to enjoy the acclaim that comes with success. You've worked hard and you deserve to be celebrated.

While the Six of Feathers reminds you to accept praise, it's also important to remember that while the applause feels good, glory should not be your only motivation. Your self-confidence should be based in the things you achieve, not in the applause you receive for them. Private victories are no less victories than public ones, and it is more important to be secure in your self-concept than to receive the adulation of a hundred people.

The Seven of Feathers

Upright: *self-protection, attacks, challenges, competition*

Reversed: *exhaustion, surrender, burnout*

In the Seven of Feathers the figure is braced on the floor, holding up one large feather as if to defend themselves from the six others that are flying at them. Their hair is blown by a gust of wind, suggesting that this situation came on suddenly, catching them unprepared. The Seven of Feathers concerns situations in which you feel attacked or under siege. This may have come one suddenly, or it may have been building for a long time, but either way you may feel unprepared to defend yourself. This card is a reminder not to bow to external pressures, but to stay true to yourself, your goals, and your beliefs. If you stay strong and refuse to cede ground, eventually, the wind will die down and you can get back to the things that are important.

The Eight of Feathers

Upright: *change, freedom, action, spirit*

Reversed: *frustration, stagnation, hanging on to the past*

The Eight of Feathers shows the figure leaping into the air to grab onto one of the many feathers that seem to be speeding upwards. They have chosen to rise above the people who want to hold them back, move past the traumas they have experienced, and grab onto the things that will take them to the next level.

The Eight of Feathers encourages you to take the plunge, follow your dreams, and grab onto the opportunities that present themselves to you. Change can be frightening, but stagnation will kill your soul.

It is time to go where your inspiration leads you, step out of your comfort zone, and leave your self-doubt behind.

The Nine of Feathers

Upright: *resilience, struggle, self-preservation, persistence*

Reversed: *paranoia, defensiveness, hurt*

The figure in the Nine of Feathers is struggling to get up after being injured. They are bleeding and their posture shows they are in pain, but they are still getting up. They have already encountered adversity and their struggles are not behind them by any means, but they have the strength to face the trials ahead of them and are nowhere near beaten.

This card is a reminder to never give up. Even when things seem impossible you can find the strength within yourself to keep going. Focus on the things and people around you who have your back, find your support system, whatever that might be, and keep yourself safe: you don't have much farther to go.

The Ten of Feathers

Upright: *hard work, responsibility, commitment, completion*

Reversed: *overcommitment, overwhelming, release*

The figure in the Ten of Feathers is tired and overburdened, they have come a long way and they are bent over, struggling with a bag that holds ten feathers. They are ready for their journey to end, and the last leg seems impossible.

The Ten of Feathers acknowledges that anything worth achieving will not be easy, that struggle is an inherent part of success, but that perseverance pays off. At the end of the day, it's only feathers that you're carrying, even when it seems like too much, you have what it takes to make the last push and move into the next phase. Being honest with yourself about your ability, while you can doesn't just mean making sure you don't commit to what you can't handle, it also means not selling yourself short and realizing what you are able to probably endure more than you think, enduring and living are different and if you keep biting off more than you can chew you will eventually choke. .

The Harlot of Feathers

Upright: *leadership, enterprise, honor, foresight*

Reversed: *unrealistic standards, ruthlessness, poor planning*

The Harlot of Feathers sits backwards on a chair, the fire of the match she uses to light her cigarette symbolizing her life force and creativity. She is a leader, knowing how to keep men in line and convince them to do her bidding. She is quietly confident and knows better than to let the world tell her what she is capable of or what she should do: that is up to her to decide. She doesn't waste time on projects or people who bleed her of her resources, but instead directs her energy towards things that will do the most

good not only for her, but for others. She is a reminder not to let the opinions of others sway you, but to chose your own path and stay focused on it, rather than allowing the goings-on of the world at large to distract you from your chosen purpose.

The Enchantress of Feathers

Upright: *charisma, independence, confidence, secrecy*

Reversed: *introversion, realignment, shallowness*

The Enchantress of Feathers contains multitudes. As charismatic and sociable as she often seems on the surface, she is full of secrets and knows never to reveal too much. While she may come off as a social butterfly, she is in touch with her most wild inner self and knows that sometimes real strength and courage are not immediately obvious.

The Enchantress of Feathers has a level of self-knowledge that can only come from digging deep into the darkest places of your mind and facing your most uncomfortable truths. Her self-knowledge gives her total confidence in herself and her capabilities and encourages you to be equally confident in yours. She gives little thought to the people and influences that seek to hold her back from her goals, and reminds you that you have the same potential within yourself.

The Partisan of Feathers

Upright: *adventure, impulsivity, action, fearlessness*

Reversed: *lack of focus, delays, frustration*

The Partisan of Feathers stands holding a lit match and a Molotov cocktail. They are ready to put their goals into action and while they know that there is danger ahead of them, they are completely unconcerned with what could be and focused only on bringing about their dreams.

The Partisan of Feathers envisions a better, brighter world and are willing to do anything to achieve their dream. While they bring you a call to action they also carry the warning that you should not be hasty, and that sometimes it is better to formulate a solid plan before springing into action without a second thought.

The Conspirator of Feathers

Upright: *inspiration, freedom, discovery, potential*

Reversed: *limitation, self-doubt, incomplete ideas*

The Conspirator of Feathers stands holding a lit candle. A strong wind symbolizing new ideas blows over them, but the candle flame is sheltered by their body and does not go out. Their face is turned towards the light and they are intent on the candle's flame, and the new ideas it symbolizes. Their mind is open to new concepts. They are a deeply curious and ingenious person, full of ideas and eager to learn. They greet the world with an attitude of wonder and do not discount things without reason, and they encourage you to do the same.

GOBLETS – WATER

The Ace of Goblets

Upright: *creativity, compassion, love, intuition*

Reversed: *self-repression, selfishness, mental blocks*

The Ace of Goblets represents all the most brilliant and beautiful qualities of the element of water. It is a card of love and compassion that invites you to open your heart, look into yourself, and follow what your intuition is pointing to. When the Ace of Cups appears it is encouraging you to open yourself not only to receive, but also to give, to foster connection and mutual aid and to let your creativity flow.

The Two of Goblets

Upright: *balance, passion, equality, love*

Reversed: *discord, lack of trust, self-involvement*

The Two of Goblets shows two people embracing. They are concerned only with each other, and are immersed in their own world. This card represents love and partnership between two people, whether that be romantic love or the love shared by two close friends. The relationship depicted in the Two of Cups is one of mutual respect and admiration, where each partner sees the other to be a full human being and allows them the autonomy to express that. It encourages us to strive for relationships that are as equal and loving as the one between the two figures, and serves as a reminder that the way to foster partnerships that encourage mutual growth is by creating systems of mutual support, communication, and respect.

The Three of Goblets

Upright: *friendship, cooperation, ingenuity, celebration*

Reversed: *independence, overcrowding, hedonism*

The Three of Goblets shows a group of three femmes in the middle of making Molotov cocktails. As serious as their project obviously is, they are drinking and laughing together. Each of the characters has their own part of the project to carry out and each is equally important. It's clear from the serious nature of their endeavor that they have known each other for a long time and trust one another absolutely. The Three of Goblets encourages you to focus on community and collective action, to look to the people closest to you for support and inspiration, and to cultivate strong networks of support and solidarity among your friends and loved ones.

The Four of Goblets

Upright: *disconnection, apathy, overthinking, withdrawal*

Reversed: *isolation, indecision, re-prioritization*

In the Four of Goblets the figure sits lost in thought, staring into space with three goblets in front of them.

A fourth goblet hovers in the air in front of them, partially obscured by a cloud. They are so lost in their own thoughts that they don't seem to notice either the three goblets at their feet or the fourth one materializing in front of them.

The Four of Goblets tells you to reach out and take the fucking cup already. It's very easy to get caught up in self-doubt, to spend so much time analyzing your options to death that opportunities pass you by, and to focus so much on what could be that you miss the opportunity to take action. Planning is a waste of time if it's never followed by action, and opportunity is worthless unless it's seized. While it's important to recognize whether or not you're ready for the opportunities that present themselves to you, it is just as important not to doubt yourself and your abilities or close yourself off to new experiences or paths. Allow yourself to be passionate, allow yourself to experience. You can't predict where new paths will take you.

The Five of Goblets

Upright: *regret, disappointment, failure, heartbreak*

Reversed: *liberation from pain, growth through setbacks, new chapters*

The figure in the Five of Goblets crouches over three spilled cups. It is clear they are suffering, agonizing over what they have lost and either unable or unwilling to see what they still have: the two upright cups just beside them.

The Five of Goblets tells you to stop focusing on what you have lost and stop living in the past. Learn from your mistakes and move past them, release the things that have been done to you. That may mean forgiveness, but that is a personal choice. Some things are unforgivable, but forgiveness is not always a necessary part of moving forward. Nothing good can come of dwelling on the past; it is only by looking at what we still have and finding ways to direct those resources that we can grow past pain.

The Six of Goblets

Upright: *innocence, harmony, safety, nostalgia*

Reversed: *living in the past, inhibition, naiveté*

The Six of Goblets, a child in a dress offers the contents of a goblet to the large adult cat sitting beside them. They are wearing the same jewelry worn by the figure in the other cards although the cat is no younger or older than how he appears in the rest of the deck. They are here to remind you to nurture or even revive your childlike sense of wonder and generosity; these are the things that make the world worth living in.

But although this card encourages you to allow yourself to entertain a more innocent outlook, it is a reminder that the past is the past, and that it is useless to dwell on how things used to be. Life is very hard, and while it usually gets more manageable, it doesn't usually get easier. It's easy to obsess over how things were and to despair at how bleak the present is in contrast, but it does you no good and your time

is better spent pursuing the things that bring you joy and harmony.

The Seven of Goblets

Upright: *hope, choice, opportunity, imagination*
Reversed: *pipe dreams, overwhelming, indecision*

In the Seven of Goblets, the figure is surprised by seven huge goblets materializing in front of them. Each cup contains a different object—a human heart, a snake, a tower, a rose and pearls, a candle, a mask, and a knife—and each object represents a different influence or choice.

The figure will be asked to choose their cups, as they can't have all of them, and the Seven of Goblets insists that you make a choice as well. When you're confronted with this card it is time to look at your life, to choose what is important to you, and to follow the path that leads to it. It's also important to remember that simply making a choice is never enough, that you must follow your decision up with the work that's necessary to make your vision into reality. It's better to spend your life with only one big dream and to do everything in your power to bring it to fruition than to have a new idea every day, but never put in the work to bring them about.

The Eight of Goblets

Upright: *introspection, breaking cycles, abandonment, moving on*
Reversed: *attachment, lack of direction, escapism*

In the Eight of Goblets, the figure walks away from stacks of cups. Only two of the three groups are complete sets of three, but there is no cup to complete the third stack. The figure knows there is no resolution to what they were pursuing and they have chosen to move on to the next thing. They know the way forward is dark and uncertain, but they can't find fulfillment and wholeness in the place they're in. The Eight of Goblets is a card that asks you to take a hard look at your needs and wants and to evaluate whether your current situation can fulfill those things. Attachment to things that don't nourish us is a breeding ground for suffering, and sometimes it is better just to walk away, no matter how uncertain the way forward might seem. As much as this card is about accepting that not everything has a resolution, it's also a warning not to confuse release with avoidance. The things we walk away from leave as much of a mark on us as the things we hold onto and you can't move on unless you accept that your past experiences affect the way you approach the future.

The Nine of Goblets

Upright: *success, satisfaction, stability, commitment*
Reversed: *discontent, miserliness, materialism*

The figure sits on a chair with a self-satisfied expression on their face. At their feet are nine cups, and it's obvious that they are pleased at what they have amassed. They have achieved their dreams and are proud and happy.

The Nine of Goblets is about allowing yourself to bask in your success and take pride in your

accomplishments, while also remembering to be grateful for what you have. No one gets anywhere on their own, and no matter how much you have achieved by yourself, none of it would have been possible without help and support, whatever form that takes or wherever it originates.

This card invites you pause to enjoy the things you have built and to share your abundance with the people who helped you on your way, but cautions you not to get too comfortable. Our circumstances are constantly in flux, and everything is temporary. Enjoy your laurels, but don't rest on them; you have no way of knowing what is to come.

The Ten of Goblets

Upright: *harmony, affinity, love, fulfillment*

Reversed: *codependence, disconnection, strife*

Two figures embrace under a ribbon that holds ten goblets. They are looking into the distance, rising on tiptoe with excitement and anticipation. They have found love and harmony and as they look towards the future, it appears to be as bright as the present. Their love is strong and they are in harmony with each other. Their unity has made their shared life beautiful.

The Ten of Goblets encourages you to celebrate the love in your life, whether it's romantic, platonic, or both, and reminds you to approach your relationships from the best part of your self.

The Harlot of Goblets

Upright: *inner calm, emotional balance, creativity, compassion*

Reversed: *moodiness, manipulation, self-pity*

The Harlot of Goblets sits in a chair looking at something she's drawing. She is creative and sensitive; her knowledge of the world comes as much from her intuition as from her experiences. She is comfortable with her emotions, but is not led by them, and she is strong in her principles and unafraid of solitude. The Harlot of Cups encourages you to stand your ground when faced with opposition, and to follow your intuition and the path you know is right, not the path that others are telling you to follow. No one other than you knows what is best for yourself.

However, the Harlot of Goblets is also a reminder not to get so caught up in being right that you lose your sense of compassion. It's easy to fall into the trap of using your emotional perceptiveness for manipulation and in the short term it may get you what you want, but in the end it will only poison your relationships.

The Enchantress of Goblets

Upright: *intuition, introspection, empathy, calm*

Reversed: *codependence, self-involvement, martyr complex*

The Enchantress of Goblets draws her hooded blue robe around her and gazes into the cup she holds in her right hand. She understands her own emotions and those of others. She is highly intuitive and brings that ability to all her relationships.

The Enchantress of Goblets is an encouragement to get in touch with your deepest self and to look past

the superficial in others because it is only when you see people for who they truly are that you will be able to relate to them effectively. She reminds you to treat others with compassion, but to trust your intuition: you know when things aren't quite right, even if you don't immediately know what's wrong or why. But just as this card asks you to find your softest self, it also serves as a warning against codependency and martyrdom. It can feel good to be needed, but care and support should be mutual, and there should be give and take—otherwise it just becomes a different kind of poison.

The Partisan of Goblets

Upright: *inventiveness, emotion, romance, imagination*

Reversed: *jealousy, delusion, unrealistic expectations*

The Partisan of Goblets leans on a black flag, partially masked and holding a cup in their right hand. They are motivated by the idealism and creativity of their romantic nature and although they're driven by their emotions and instincts, they're not impulsive or hasty. Their goal is to bring their message of caring and mutual aid to as many people as possible, through both their words and their actions.

Like the other face cards of the Goblets suit, the Partisan of Goblets encourages you to follow your intuition and to pursue projects you feel drawn to, even if those are not the things you're told you should pursue. They remind you that if you open your heart, the rest will follow. Apply action to your inspiration and do the work to bring about the better world you dream of.

The Conspirator of Goblets

Upright: *curiosity, possibilities, inspiration, perception*

Reversed: *immaturity, doubt, creative difficulties*

The Conspirator of Goblets sits on the floor holding their hands out to catch a fish that's popping out of the cup in front of them. They seem delighted at this surprising development. When this card appears, it's a sign that you should open yourself to new ideas and find new ways to express your creativity. Open your mind to new possibilities, even if they come from unlikely places, and allow yourself to see the interconnectedness of everything, letting yourself follow those connections to wherever they may lead. Like the Partisan, the Conspirator of Goblets tells you to keep your heart open, nurture your strangest self, and reach out for what is new and better•

Reading Tarot

While a lot of tarot companion books will tell you a lot of things about how to read tarot, and give you a lot of different widely used spreads to use for various things, I have intentionally chosen not to do that.

Like most things used for the more abstract occult practices, the most effective methods will be unique to the individual. What works for someone who is primarily focused on introspection and meditation will be useless to someone more focused on divination, and the spreads that one person finds useful for divination could be completely useless to someone else using it for the same purpose.

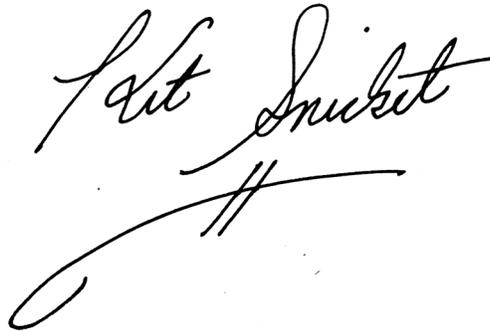
When I started reading tarot as a wide-eyed fourteen year old, it was still a fairly fringe pursuit, mostly practiced by various types of weirdos, professional fortune-tellers, and the intersections of those two. The internet was still basically limited to dial-up unless you were rich, and there wasn't a lot of information out there. My mother's knowledge of tarot was in line with her view of it, as a parlor trick or a way to make money in a pinch, so she was not particularly helpful, and my father had a nasty habit of going through my room and confiscating anything he felt might have to do with Satan, or whatever demon he thought I was worshipping. This meant that I mostly had to make things up as I went along, and that meant that I made up a lot of my own spreads according to what seemed intuitive at the time. While I'm a lot older now and have a solid working knowledge of most of the more common spreads, I still tend to find a lot more illumination from the spreads I make up for specific readings.

A lot has changed since 2004: tarot is very much having a moment, and the internet is full of information, including lots of different spreads, both traditional and brand new, that have been created for different purposes. If you're new to tarot and want somewhere to start, Labyrinthos has a lot of solid free information (there's even an app!) Tarot Readings from a Bitch is an amazing, no-nonsense resource, and although they can be a little overly cheerful for my taste, Bidy Tarot has some good information for when you're first starting out. There's even a #tarotspreads hashtag on Instagram, though like much of Instagram the content on there ranges from really cool to "what. thee. fuck." But even if you want to know about the more structured ways people use tarot cards, I don't think there's any better way to get to know your way around a specific deck, or tarot in general, than to create your own spreads. They can be as simple as three, or even two, cards in a row, or as needlessly convoluted as the whole deck laid out on your front-room floor (something I very much do

NOT recommend if clarity is what you're looking for) and you can learn a lot from trusting yourself that way.

Whatever direction you take, I hope you and this deck can forge a strong and beautiful relationship of mutual love and understanding.

Love and Rage,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pat Snicket". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish that extends from the bottom of the name across the page.

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And last, but most importantly, thank you to the King of Cups who reminded me to start drawing again, believed in this deck from the very beginning, reversed my Nine of Knives, and at whose counter I drew so many of these cards. You don't know how much you give to me.