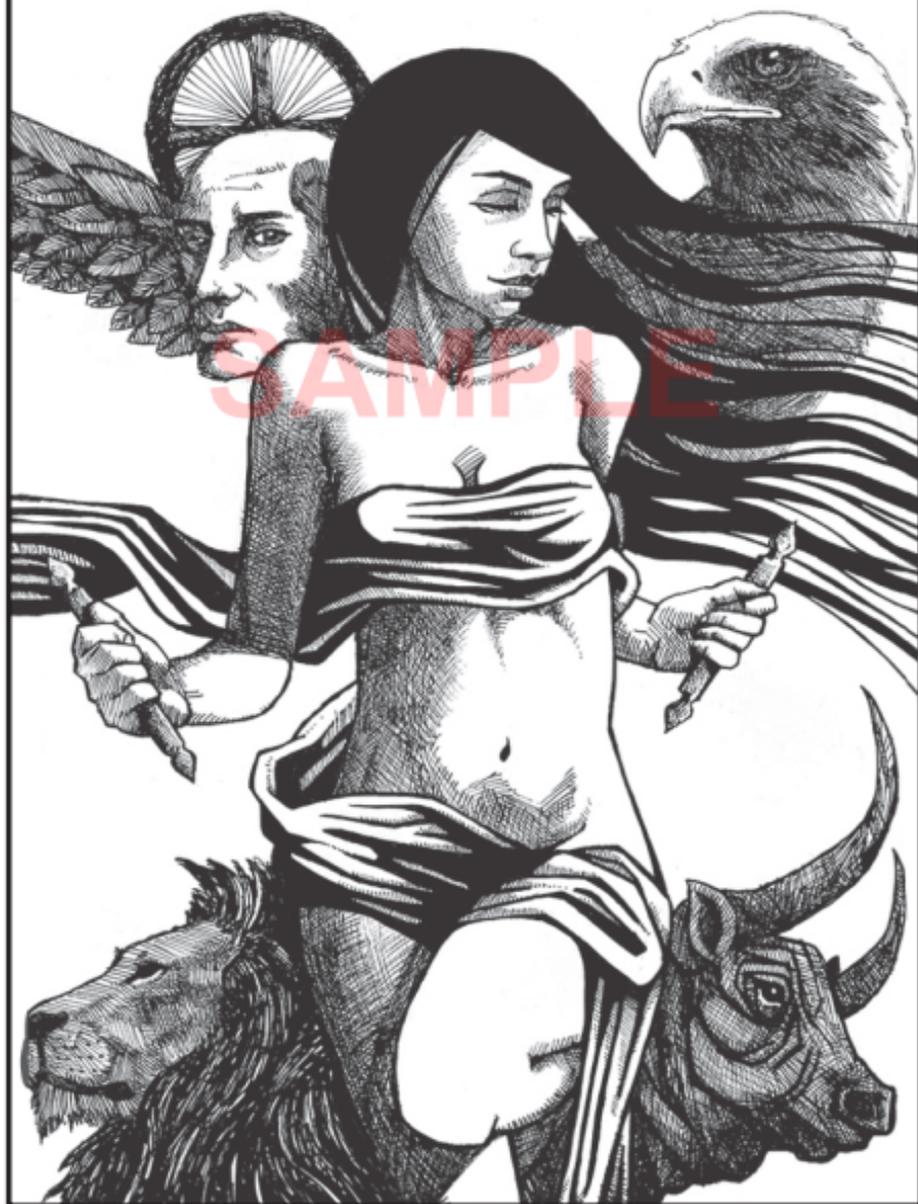


Bianco Nero Tarot



By Marco Proietto & Arwen Lynch



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Introduction



Bianco Nero (Black and White) Tarot blends the classic iconography of the Visconti Tarot with the modern illustrations of the Rider-Waite Tarot. This deck seeks to stay true to the images, symbolism and figures used in those popular tarot decks. The cards are hand-drawn black and white ink illustrations on paper. This style of line drawing was inspired by Gustave Doré's antique engravings and Albrecht Dürer's woodcuts and chalcography, as well as by Sergio Toppi's modern illustrations. The deck is designed to have a figurative and realistic style, but it also has a fantastical touch that adds a dream-like quality to the representation. Each illustration is well de-



finely and rich in symbolic details that help explore the meaning of the card. The faces, the look, the clothes and the age of the characters are designed to allow the card to be easily understood. Readings are assisted by details, such as expressions and gestures that accentuate the general character of the card.

The representation of the symbols of the suits is different on each card; in the case of Swords, in particular, the symbol never repeats itself. The setting, the landscapes and the characters' clothes, as well as the tools, are taken from the iconography of classic decks, revisited to look neutral and ageless. The same care was used for the drawings of both the Major Arcana and those of the Minor Arcana, as no card is more important than another from an aesthetic point of view. The design on the back of the cards is symmetric, in order not to reveal the direction





of the cards before they are turned face up. At the center of the back design there is a circle that symbolizes the centrality of the Major Arcana. The eight-pointed star in the middle has a long history as a symbol of spirituality and prophecy. A floral decoration, with roses and thorns, surrounds the circle. The symbols of the four elements in the corners indicate the four suits of the Minor Arcana. These are designed to be readable independent of the direction of the card.

Bianco Nero Tarot is the culmination of an artistic path that combines the studies on the human figure, art history, life drawing and anatomy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome with the study of etching at the School of the Art of Medalmaking, creating illustrations that seek both to have an artistic value and to be functional in tarot reading.





The MAJOR ARCANA

In the 78-card tarot deck the Major Arcana, or Trumps, is a set of 22 cards that portrays the Fool's Journey. These are archetypes that one can learn from to become a more complete spiritual being. The Major Arcana helps by highlighting important aspects of the journey that can profoundly impact one's life. Look at these cards as major hitters where you must factor in the importance of an issue.



❧ O. THE FOOL ❧

Upright: Spontaneous, Fresh, Beginning

Reversed: Too risky, Recklessness,
Disingenuous

The Fool travels the Major Arcana. With his eyes to the sky, he trusts in Spirit. The little black and white dog prances along to serve both as companion and guardian. The next step will carry him off the cliff. In his bag, he carries just what he needs. He believes in the promise of possibility. The white rose traditionally stands for the Fool's pure heart. Once he goes over the cliff, his innocence will be gone. This card reminds us that all journeys begin with hope. Fearing the unknown limits forward movement.

❧ I. THE MAGICIAN ❧

Upright: Skill, Diplomacy, Concentration,
Will, Self-confidence

Reversed: Loss, Mental illness, Disgrace,
Manipulation, Latent talents

The Magician stands before a table where all of his tools are seen. These represent the four suits of the tarot—Swords, Wands,

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