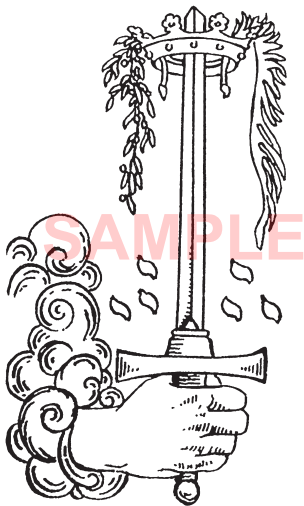


# BLACK & WHITE RIDER-WAITE® TAROT GUIDEBOOK



ARTWORK BY  
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— *Booklet by Jody Boginski Barbessi* —

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## INTRODUCTION

The Black and White Rider–Waite® Tarot Deck is comprised of the line artwork created by Pamela Colman Smith for the Rider–Waite® Tarot, first published in 1909. The deck has 78 cards and is divided into two sections:

- The **MAJOR ARCANA** has 22 cards, numbered from 0 to 21. Each has a stand-alone meaning, but as a group, they can be viewed as a sequential story—a journey from beginning (0/The Fool) to completion (21/The World).
- The **MINOR ARCANA** has 56 cards, divided into four suits, with 14 cards in each suit: ace (1) through 10 and four court cards (Page, Knight, Queen and King). More detailed information about the tarot suits and card ranks can be found on pages 17–19.

# CARD MEANINGS



## ~ MAJOR ARCANA ~

### **O • THE FOOL**

- New beginning; fresh start
- The first time you do something
- Open and eager for new things
- Spontaneous and carefree
- Boundless potential

#### *Reversed Meaning*

- Feeling like a fool due to your inexperience; gullible
- Immature
- Impulsive, thrill seeking; irresponsible; watch your step

### **I • THE MAGICIAN**

- Manifestation: transforming an idea into something real
- Skillful, intentional action; full, focused attention
- Individual confidence and power
- Having all the resources you need and the skill to use them; using the proper tool for the job

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Improper use of power
- Manipulation; selfish maneuvers
- Lacking the necessary skill

## **II • THE HIGH PRIESTESS**

- Intuition, instinct, clairvoyance
- Silent wisdom
- Accepting duality
- Take time to contemplate the situation at hand
- Profound truth that's not generally seen or acknowledged

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Out of touch with intuitive sense
- Secretive; holding back
- Too passive/quiet; weak passivity

## **III • THE EMPRESS**

- Mother figure; natural woman
- Nurturing
- Fertile, abundant, fruitful
- Enjoying the senses
- Connection to nature

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Unhealthy smothering
- Overindulge; spoil; coddle

- Conversation is over
- Receiving devastating news
- Cut down by a verbal attack
- Mental ambush; backstabbed
- There's nowhere to go but up

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Things have changed—it will never be the same as it was before
- Mentally ready for something new
- Reminder of old wounds

## **PAGE OF SWORDS**

- Having fresh new ideas; creative thinking
- Bright mind; quick learner
- Curious; eager to learn new things
- Receive or give new information

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Too many new ideas
- Easily influenced by others
- Still a student; intellectual novice
- Silly or unrealistic idea

## **KNIGHT OF SWORDS**

- Bold thinking; confident about personal opinions, ideas and beliefs
- Confident communication; blunt, direct, outspoken, persuasive

- Diving into a topic and forming your own educated opinions
- Attacks problems head on
- Likes to debate, argue an issue

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Rigid, inflexible thinking; too opinionated
- Reckless communication
- Rash conclusions

## **QUEEN OF SWORDS**

- Quick, sharp, witty, astute
- Helping others see and understand the truth
- Knows the facts and shares them
- Intellectual honesty; independent thinking; no tolerance for lies or nonsense
- Articulate; outspoken, candid; direct, gets right to the point
- Values rationality over emotion, strategy over instinct

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Trouble caused by speaking the truth
- Demands proof
- Cold, unemotional
- Intolerant of uninformed or weak-minded people; no mercy
- Sharp tongue

## **KING OF SWORDS**

- Intelligent leadership
- Rational; objective, strategic, clear thinking; good problem solver
- Well-trained/educated mind; mentally prepared
- Strong, unflinching mind; bears witness to unpleasant truths
- Truth is important; ethical, honorable, principled
- Skillful communication of ideas and information
- Wise advice; solid information

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Harsh (manner, speech)
- The cold, hard truth
- Mentally unprepared
- A weak underlying concept
- Weak or unethical: principles, information, advice

## **— THE SUIT OF PENTACLES —**

### **ACE OF PENTACLES**

- New opportunity for growth and prosperity; new business venture or investment
- Having the resources to build, produce or make things that take form in the real world



- Gratitude for health, shelter, job
- Being practical and realistic; identifying what is useful

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Overreliance on practicality
- Too materialistic
- Worry about money or health
- Risky new venture
- Lost opportunity

## **TWO OF PENTACLES**

- Adept at juggling multiple activities and/or responsibilities
- Not getting overwhelmed or stressed-out; handling the situation
- Adaptable, flexible
- Keeping it in balance for now

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- The juggling situation has gone on too long; unsustainable efforts
- Inability to multitask
- Need to focus on *one* thing
- Instability (financial, health, work)

## **THREE OF PENTACLES**

- Collaboration, teamwork, cooperation
- Recognizing the strengths and weaknesses

of each team member

- A specific expertise or skill is needed; hiring a professional
- Wanting input, assistance or patronage from others
- Planning, skill and resources (or financial backing) are all required to successfully complete a project

### ***Reversed Meaning***

- Not getting enough support or input from others
- Overdependence on others to complete a project
- Mediocre work; needing more skill

## **FOUR OF PENTACLES**

- Tight hold on money; no new investments or spending
- Hesitant to change the current situation (employment, finances, residence); maintaining the status quo
- Prudent; perhaps stingy
- Being very aware and in control of your assets and liabilities
- Spiritual neglect due to a preoccupation with money/things

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