

SORTILEGIUM  
\*\*\*TAROT\*\*\*

by Natalia Vélez

SAMPLE

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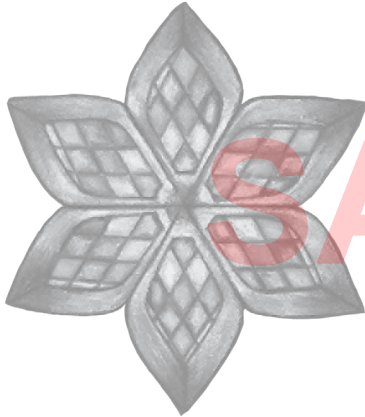
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# Introduction



It all started three years ago when I decided to draw the High Priestess card. It was just one single illustration, an exercise in drawing one of my favorite tarot cards. But when it was finished, the image vibrated, and it seemed to me that I was seeing a magical woman in a mystical place. It was then that I came up with the idea of expanding that place, creating new settings and characters to bring to life a different reality, yet still staying true to all of their traditional symbolism as much as possible.

I have called this new universe *Sortilegium*, whose name comes from the Medieval Latin *Sortis* = Luck and *Légere* = Reading. At that time, this word referred to the practice of divination through different methods, including tarot, but later it came to mean something more like spell or enchantment. And, in any case, it seemed to me an ideal name for this new tarot venture.

My intention in creating this tarot deck was that the cards themselves would have their own magical life. Therefore, they are designed with vibrant colors that emanate strength and vitality. Each character has been

given specific attributes so that they have their own personalities and energy.

I hope that the *Sortilegium* universe will make you vibrate too, and that it will help illuminate your path and that of others through what transpires in each reading.

—Natalia Vélez



## The Cards

The traditional tarot deck is composed of 78 cards, of which 22 make up the Major Arcana. These cards indicate the most transcendental and important aspects of life for the querent, the key information of the consultation or the subject matter.

The remaining 56 cards are the Minor Arcana, which complement the Major Arcana by either giving details such as places, people involved, time frames etc., or by referring to the most everyday situations or events that occur in the querent's life.

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### Witchy Tip

It is advisable to have two decks, one for personal use and the second for conducting readings for other people in order to avoid your own deck coming into contact with foreign energies.



# Major Arcana

## 0 - The Fool



While performing in a village, the harlequin saw a light in the distance, which illuminated a strange path for her. Without thinking, she jumped off the stage and started walking the path. She didn't know yet, but that path would lead to her transformation.

**Arcanum:** The harlequin is impulsive and curious, which prompts her to explore and follow that light in the darkness. Throwing oneself into the unknown is a risk, since the consequences can be both positive and negative; that is why this arcane is commonly known as the Fool. However, it is also true that if you do not take risks, you do not win, you do not advance, there is no evolution. The key is to follow your instincts and know when to take risks.

**Symbology:** The harlequin as a buffoon represents a character that is not usually taken seriously and can even be seen as an object of ridicule, but she does not care about that. She carries in her right hand a bag that contains all her luggage for the trip; this shows that she has

little attachment to material things. In her other hand she carries a rose, a symbol of her innocence and naivety.

The harlequin looks upwards towards the stars, longing to go far away, imagining infinite adventures and incredible discoveries. The dog watching her represents external influences, a companion that can encourage her to continue or to stop.

**Meaning:** This card suggests foolishness, impulsivity, throwing oneself into the unknown, leaving everything behind.

**Upright:** fearlessness, new paths or journeys, adventure, freedom of spirit.

**Reversed:** irrationality, risk, not thinking about the consequences, unconsciousness, delays, procrastination.

## 1 - The Magician



After walking for a while, the Magician found the perfect hidden place to perform her spell work. She began the ritual by invoking the four elements in order to receive their protection and power. She follows this step very carefully every time she practices her magic.

**Meaning:** deep sadness and disappointment, believing that all is lost without changing your perspective to see the value in what remains.

**Upright:** pain over a loss, frustration, impotence, regret, desolation.

**Reversed:** optimism, forgiveness, hope, recovery, acceptance, overcoming, appreciation of the positive.

## Six of Cups

The country house that had hosted several generations of family was full of memories, experiences, laughter, tears and joy. The children were growing up and leaving and taking with them the great gift of a happy childhood.

**Meaning:** review of the past, connecting with those happy moments of childhood in the family, what has been learned and what has been overcome.

**Upright:** nostalgia, memories, childhood, innocence, brotherly love, roots.

**Reversed:** reluctance to change, attachment to the past, need to overcome past traumas or issues, melancholy.

## Seven of Cups

The young maiden had always waited for this moment, to become the adult, mature woman she had always dreamed of. But now, faced with so many choices, what would she do: rescue a prisoner from the clutches of a dragon, find a treasure with a lost map, or become the queen of a great castle?

**Meaning:** need to keep your feet on the ground and stop living in a fantasy world, to make coherent decisions and be able to avoid temptations.

**Upright:** confusion, doubts, idealization, pursuing unattainable goals, addictions, unconsciousness.

**Reversed:** need for prudence and realism, willpower, opening the eyes, awakening.

## Eight of Cups

The daughter of the marquis always lived surrounded by luxury within the walls of her castle. She looked out of the window and saw beautiful fields, and distant horizons that she did not know. She grew tired of dreaming about them and decided to discover them for herself.

**Meaning:** stability and comfort that no longer satisfy, inner calling to turn the page, to start a new cycle and move on.

**Upright:** need for change, to move away, new path, spiritual retreat, abandonment.

**Reversed:** disorientation, restlessness, not knowing what to do or where to go, constant dissatisfaction.

## Nine of Cups

Her dominions had increased, she was now the queen and mistress of all that she had achieved with so much effort. She knew she had done very well, and she enjoyed it; she valued it. She also knew, because of her great instincts, how to make the most of what she had.

**Meaning:** happiness and pride for the achievements, the capacity to attract and achieve much more.

**Upright:** success, prosperity, wishes being fulfilled, good luck, happiness.

**Reversed:** dissatisfaction, goals not achieved or delayed, pride misplaced, wrong assumptions.

## Ten of Cups

The family at the lake house was very happy, so they chose a day to celebrate their wonderful life together. They prepared a rich feast in the open air, told each other stories, sang and danced, and decided to repeat it every year.

**Meaning:** harmony and family union; the home where happiness, security and emotional well-being reign.

**Upright:** abundance, joy, family love, family life, dreams come true, fulfillment.

**Reversed:** enmities in the family, conflicts, family that separates, lack of affection in the home, unhappiness.

## Page of Cups

The young page wrote stories at the king's request, but he had lost his inspiration and did not know what to do. One day he met a young girl with whom he fell in love. As his feelings for her grew, his inspiration returned and he was able to write wonderful stories, but this time stories of love.

**Meaning:** development of intuition, blossoming of emotions, messages or invitations that come with news of love and happiness.

**Upright:** inspiration, sensitivity, emotional stability, romanticism, seduction, conquest, love letters, invitation to an event or wedding.

**Reversed:** emotional blockage, immaturity, inexperience, distrust, falsehood, emotional dependence.

## Knight of Cups

On her white horse, the Knight of Cups proceeded slowly but steadily toward her new destination. She did not go unnoticed; all eyes turned her way. But she only responded to a young man who was looking at her from afar. She felt something in her heart light up.

**Meaning:** the arrival of romance, the irresistible seduction of a sensitive, flirtatious, and charming person.

**Upright:** falling in love, arrival of love, amorous proposals, imaginative and dreamy person.

**Reversed:** false love, deception, jealousy, being closed to love, evasion of reality, self-deception.

## King of Cups

As if from out of the sea, the King of Cups transmits a calm energy from his throne. People came from all corners of the kingdom: swimming, by boat, or by whatever means necessary. The sight of the king inspired them, and his advice and guidance always helped them.

**Meaning:** spiritual and emotional fulfillment, the wise man who knows how to control his emotions, maintain balance and achieve stability in his relationships.

**Upright:** authority, mentor, teacher, guide, leader who is firm but sensitive, therapist, emotional tranquility, harmonious relationships.

**Reversed:** insensitivity, manipulative person, emotional dependence, lack of emotional control.

## Queen of Cups

The queen's priority was that love and harmony reigned among her people, so she guided her kingdom with her heart. She encouraged the artists, helped the poor, encouraged those who did good deeds, and listened to her people when they needed advice.

**Meaning:** sensitivity and wisdom, the serene woman who listens and advises, the matriarch who inspires and guides with her love.

**Upright:** intuition, creativity, helping through love, priestess, teacher, mother, a leader, emotional fulfillment.

**Reversed:** lack of control, repression of emotions, cold and insensitive person, dishonesty, dependence.

## The Suit of Wands



The suit of Wands is related to vitality, action, movement, willpower, spontaneity, and enthusiasm.

In a negative sense it is related to stagnation, lack of motivation, recklessness, risk, and arrogance.

The suit of Wands is associated with the element fire.

## Ace of Wands

The leaves had already begun to sprout from the rod, heralding a new beginning. Life energy was flowing, and opportunities were blossoming.

**Meaning:** movement and creativity, beginning of a flourishing stage full of inspiration and creative energy.

**Upright:** new opportunities, work proposals, proactive attitude, professional projects, initiative, passionate relationship, sexual energy.

**Reversed:** stagnation, lack of energy and inspiration, career blockage, delays, lack of passion.



## Two of Wands

It had been two weeks since the cartographer had returned home from a long business trip. Soon she felt it was time to leave again. She couldn't stop thinking about the places she would see, the adventures she would have and how much she would enjoy it all.

**Meaning:** vision and broadmindedness, state of security and stability that encourages desires to continue exploring and conquering, desire for expansion.

**Upright:** decision-making, planning, adventures, new horizons, travel, progress.

**Reversed:** lack of foresight, disorientation, dispersion, dissatisfaction, uncertainty, inability to see options, truncated plans.

## Three of Wands

With her father's inheritance, the young lady had bought a boat and was doing very well. She rented it out for transporting goods, but eventually her small business could no longer accommodate so many customers. She therefore began to buy more boats as business increased.

**Meaning:** concretion of ideas and projects, the ability to achieve, to undertake and plan successfully, expansion opportunities.

**Upright:** promising opportunities, new business, great scope, determination, motivation, achievement of goals, vision.

**Reversed:** doubts, delayed results, setbacks, unattainable goals.

## Four of Wands

They had met at art school. They both liked to paint flowers, birds, and anything to do with nature. After some time of courtship, they threw a big engagement party where they enjoyed themselves and danced all day and all night.

**Meaning:** home, moment of splendor and joy propitious to celebrate, a union, a wedding, an achievement, all the gifts of life.

**Upright:** new partner, marriage, domestic bliss, foundation, harmony, happiness, celebration, fun.

**Reversed:** sadness, communication problems with a partner or family, suspension of an event, delays, disappointment.

## Five of Wands

Strolling through the countryside these five friends lost their way. Each one suggested a different route or strategy, but the other four could never agree. They argued and struggled, getting tired, but made no progress at all.

**Meaning:** struggle and competition, appearance of an internal struggle or conflict with other people.

**Upright:** rivalry, fights, provocation, different points of view, competitiveness, being on the defensive, clash of egos.

**Reversed:** the end of conflict, staying out of a dispute, reaching an understanding, avoiding conflict, cooperation.

## Six of Wands

A tribe was threatening her people, so she set out to defend them. The people were frightened, but when they saw their leader returning home with the banner of victory, they cheered and thanked her for restoring peace.

**Meaning:** victory, recognition and admiration received for great achievements and good reputation.

**Upright:** popularity, fame, acclaim, success, triumph, reward, gain, accolades.

**Reversed:** failure, delay of success, low morale, bad reputation, lack of recognition.

## Seven of Wands

She was traveling with some court guards when they were ambushed. They fought for as long as they could but marked their retreat because they were outnumbered. She was doggedly pursued, but they could not catch her. She continued to elude them and had no intention of surrendering.

**Meaning:** courage and valor, constant struggle to overcome obstacles, to stand, to make your effort and dedication count.

**Upright:** to overcome difficulties, impediments, opposition, challenges, to face problems, courage.

**Reversed:** to feel incapable, to give up the struggle, to be overwhelmed by problems, to stop making an effort.

## Eight of Wands

From the window, the lady saw signs of great news approaching from the distance. The eight sticks were flying swiftly, but in a highly organized fashion. She ran out of the house to greet them with enthusiasm as the news spoke of marvelous events.

**Meaning:** immediacy and speed, opportunities or events that come without delay.

**Upright:** speed, swiftness of action, quick solutions, accomplishment, end of delays, travel, news.

**Reversed:** slowness, stagnation, delays, delay of news, need to slow down.

## Nine of Wands.

It had cost her a lot to get there, and that's why she leaned on a stick and surrounded herself with others to rest and to feel protected. She had been through a lot, she had won battles, she had crossed towns and cities, but she kept moving forward despite the wear and tear. Her steadfastness was the key to her success.

**Meaning:** endurance and persistence, the courage to not give up in spite of obstacles, to endure and press on until goals are achieved.

**Upright:** conviction, perseverance, determination, self-defense, self-protection.

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