

## Introducing Le Tarot des Femmes Erotiques

*Le Tarot des Femmes Erotiques* grew from traditional tarot, but showcases the graceful images and feminine focus of an early twentieth-century aesthetic. It is astounding how these photographs, created for quite another purpose, have the ability to divine, to explore, to reveal. The Witches of BeautyHistoryMagic.com curated these images to bring to the present moment the symbols, mystery, and delight that you experience when you hold this deck in your hand.

### How to Read Tarot

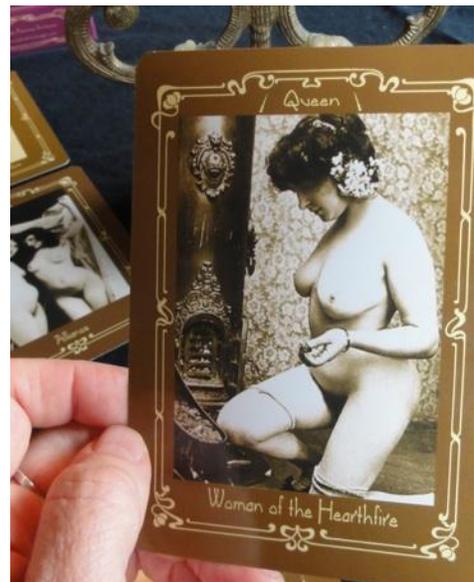
Learning to read tarot is a delight that lasts a lifetime. But it doesn't take long to get started. Here's a simple introduction called *Now, Next, Later*. To get starting learning more about tarot, we recommend AeclecticTarot.com as your best resource for resources, tarot deck reviews, and community.

To begin, think of a question, and keep the question in your mind as you thoroughly shuffle the cards. Our deck is often too large to shuffle poker-style, so just mix them up in a manner that feels comfortable to you. When the cards feel sufficiently warm and shuffled, your question is clearly in your mind, and everything else has fallen away from your attention, separate the cards into three piles.

Turn over the first card, which gives you information about the state of your question right *Now*. The middle card is about the *Next* step, and the card on the right gives information that will become apparent *Later*.

Now comes the reading of the cards. First, what is your immediate reaction to the image on the card? What does she tell you? What is going on in the card? Is there a story? Look carefully at each object in the photograph. Sometimes the words on the card can help—sometimes it's good to ignore them.

Look at the cards together. Do the cards have the same suits? (Those are the symbols at the top of the card, similar to playing card suits.) Swords are about your intellectual life, Cups are about emotions, Wands are about your passions, and Pentacles are



about craft and work. If there are no suits present, then the card is one of the fifth suit, which are more spiritual. Court cards usually represent real people in your life. For more ideas for the richness to be found in a tarot card, we recommend *21 Ways to Read a Tarot Card*, by Mary K. Greer.

Once you've explored the cards on your own, and have absorbed what they mean to you, read the descriptions below to deepen your understanding.

## The Minor Arcana

### *Swords*

#### **Ace**

*The Gift of the Mind.* A woman in a thin shawl looks to the sky. The Aces promise us the gifts of their suit. Often it is said that the Swords, being of the element of Air, inform us about the Mind. Swords can also be more subtle, to be descriptions of the power that we invoke, and then control with our mind.

#### **Deuce**

*Peace After Pain.* Two women sit together, intimate and affectionate but unsure of the next step. This card promises the end of the quarrel, and peace restored. A tension may remain between perceptions of truth and untruth.

#### **Three**

*Separation, Loss, Melancholy.* She sits alone, head in hand, her strong and youthful body crushed under her emotions. One of the saddest cards of the deck, sometimes known as "The rose torn to pieces," because it reminds us that not all love lasts.

#### **Four**

*Inward Study.* A pensive woman, so lost in her thoughts she does not realize her dress has fallen away from her thighs. The curl on her forehead brings attention to her mind. Sometimes this card indicates a dire prophesy, but more often it simply means it is time to put down your keen blade of mental activity, to withdraw, and meditate.

#### **Five**

*Defeat of the Mind.* She leans her weary body against a pillar, while smoke from the incense fills the air around her. She can go no farther. This card encourages us to endure defeat with courage and patience. This particular defeat is fated, to be waited out and perhaps someday embraced as a lesson in the limitation of conscious thoughts.

#### **Six**

*Retreat from Travail.* She is in her bed; the ribbons of her chemise have fallen down, but it doesn't matter. With this card, a perfect balance of intelligence has reached the end of its applicability. Look to the unknowable future; hopeful, anxious, but not in danger.

### **Seven**

*Struggles with Uncertainty.* She sits naked in a fancy chair, her fan may stir the air but it conceals nothing. This card sometimes is called "a curse," but really it is about the attempt to deceive some larger force, and the sudden realization that to successfully do so, one must become too much like that with which we struggle.

### **Eight**

*Disillusionment.* Lifted arms, raised breasts, her expression a mystery. Sometimes this card means we have refused to use the gift of our blade-like mind that cuts between is known from what cannot be known. It can also mean the situation is in such extreme disorder, anything we think of cannot put it right.

### **Nine**

*Cruel Thoughts.* She turns and hides her face; she is bare to the world and vulnerable. This card describes that fear that wakes us in the night, fears like death, failure, guilt, and hallucinations of the mind that destroy reality.

### **Ten**

*End of Delusion.* How clearly she looks back at us. There is no mistake in what she perceives. Traditionally this card can indicate a "defeat of the mind" but it more often means that the mind has let go control, and the true reality can be perceived beyond thoughts. ‘

## *Wands*

### **Ace**

A woman leans back on a settee. She smolders. Wands express the element of Fire. The energies of Wands tells us about the passionate power that is flowing through us. It is the fire of life, the fire of our passion, and drive upward and outward. This Ace gives that all to you.

### **Deuce**

*Alliance.* Two women shelter under a veil of stars. Notice their differences. When this card appears, we are reminded of the power available when we recognize our difference from others, and how success is assured when we channel the power of those different potentials. Even better, understand the power of your internal inconsistencies.

### **Three**

*Destined to Be.* Three women embrace, and dance. When this card appears, the others will come true.

### **Four**

*Completion.* Two women, standing in their pretty stockings, resting together as if after exertion. This card indicates that a cycle is complete, a task is finished. Sometimes it means a death, but whatever it is, this state will not last. Celebrate.

**Five**

*Strife.* A woman appears to be bound in pearls. When this card appears, expect internal struggles that may lead to growth.

**Six**

*Power Rises.* A woman reaches above herself, arms forming a complete circle, hair like flame. This card sometimes means “a leader arises.” It is a moment of victory, a brief time of glory.

**Seven**

*Don't Give Up.* A woman on her back, another stands over her. Neither is defeated. The appearance of this card means you're winning whatever challenge you face, but it is very hard. Fear not.

**Eight**

*Eyes Closed, Take Aim.* Two women practice at archery. When this card appears, trust your intuition, especially in matters of anything you are passionate about.

**Nine**

*A Pause in the Struggle.* A woman sits with legs folded under herself, as if she has collapsed after strenuous trial. This card reminds us that as we strive for what we desire, as our passion drives us onward, it need not be a continuous effort.

**Ten**

*A Heavy Burden.* A woman leans against... a headstone? She is accepting the responsibilities. The appearance of this card is a sign that we may have found what we desired, but with that accomplishment comes duty.

*Cups***Ace**

*The Gift of Loving.* She sits on the floor, her body naked and in profile. A string of beads flows over her arm and around her neck. In another life, perhaps she was a mermaid. The chalice—is she offering it to us? Cups express the element of Water. The energies of Cups tell us about the love that is in our heart, sometimes romantic, sometimes for friends, sometimes a loving connectedness of our heart to the heart of the universe. When this card appears, everything is better, because everything is better with love.

**Deuce**

*Romance.* Two women converse, the rest of the world has fallen away. When this card appears, expect any of the permutations of loving partnership, where self and other flow together.

**Three**

*Grace.* Three women, nude, caught in a moment of dancing together. Their names are Aglaia (Brilliant), Thalia (Flowering), Euphrosyne (Rejoicer of Heart). This card indicates the need for women to work together interdependently, in faith, hope, and love.

#### **Four**

*Love Changes.* Two women embrace. One turned away from us, the other facing us, but looking away. The river flows behind them. This card indicates the “end of the honeymoon” and it always turns up, eventually. A cycle has ended, a new cycle of joy will begin. Someday.

#### **Five**

*Disappointment in Love.* She sits pensively by herself, wearing nothing but a simple arm bracelet. She could reach for the urn behind her, but she does not. When this card appears you know you have reached the lowest point. It may feel as if you have lost love forever. But you have not.

#### **Six**

*Look backward.* Two women frolic before an urn. If love seems lost, look backward for the source of love. Who loved you first?

#### **Seven**

*Love Dreams.* A woman steps naked out of the river, clad only in a sheer veil. Her eyes are closed. She dreams of all love could be. When this card appears, remember that what has been created, was once dreamed. What may be called the illusions of love become the matter of magic.

#### **Eight**

*Leaving Love.* Beautiful and somber, she pulls a cloak around herself. This card indicates a journey of some kind, and a turning away from the familiar. Take care that you do not turn away from others, however. A journey to the unknown may be toward nature, sexuality, and a new love.

#### **Nine**

*Happiness.* Four friends play outside. Who would want to wear clothes on a day so fine? This card indicates happiness without fear. Whether our bliss is spiritual or sexual? There is no difference.

#### **Ten**

*Salvation through Love.* Two women cuddle, taking care of each other. This card means that a mature love is here, or possible. Love buoys us up from loneliness.

### *Pentacles*

#### **Ace**

*The Gift of Work in the World.* A woman holding a large disk, on which is inscribed the pentacle. Seeing her body reminds us: how bountiful and endless are the gifts of the world. . Pentacles are the rooted in the power of Earth and the memory of the body. This Aces gives us the power comes through our creativity and takes form as art and material matters: Our work in the world.

#### **Deuce**

*Juggling Work.* Two women study old books, one on a bench and the other on floor cushions, with their legs propped against the wall. This card indicates a pleasant harmony between working and non-working.

### **Three**

*Good work and recognition.* Two women laud a third, who is regally posed in her throne, her breasts strong, her crown earned. This card indicates something about the skills in the marketplace, where creativity is bought and sold. Yes, this can be good, or an uncomfortable prostitution.

### **Four**

*Miserliness.* She looks directly at us, holding her pearls. This card indicates that work can become a kind of prison of our own making, where we hold on too tight to the material gain and earthly power we created.

### **Five**

*Poverty.* Under the moon, she sits precariously on a seawall. She wears nothing, not a stitch, because she has nothing. She wonders if she should jump in. This card brings little hope. There is no money for work.

### **Six**

*Easy Money.* She is comfortable wearing only a slip, and if her pretty breasts are showing, why should she care? This card is a sign not to overspend, because although you have what you immediately need, it's just temporary. Don't forget your roots.

### **Seven**

*Wait for the Moment.* A woman baths, the water up to her thighs. She has paused, the water is still, and her hand is on the rock. This card indicates a state of anxiety, where you seem to be working hard, but for little gain. Just wait, a new vision will come.

### **Eight**

*Apprenticeship.* Two women on a bed, one instructing the other from a book of lore. This card indicates a time of learning about learning, where the true craft is obtained, where great intelligence is brought to the world of money and work.

### **Nine**

*Solitary Creativity.* She walks in her orchard, tending its fruit. Her dress is disheveled, but she doesn't care, because she is happy alone. This is a card of "good luck" where success and inheritance may just happen — after all your hard work.

### **Ten**

*Wealth Forever.* A ladies maid dresses her young woman, who looks directly at us. She is sure of her future. Think of this card as promising the protection of a five-sided windowless tower. Your family's wealth is protected.

## The Court

*The witches at BeautyHistoryMagic read the cards in the court as descriptions of real people in your life. Other traditions see The Court as voices of your secret selves.*

### *Swords*

#### **Novice**

*The Scholar.* Look at her reading that huge book. This card indicates the presence in your life of a young person who is just realizing the power of her mind.

#### **Lady**

*She Rides the Wind.* A nude woman, in high contrast to a dark background, her body arched as if in flight. When this card appears, there is someone in your life who thinks fast and asks questions later.

#### **Chatelaine**

*Woman of Ideas.* A woman sits at her toilette, and the hand on her hip has drawn back her lacy blouse. What could she be thinking? This card indicates that there is someone in your life who is full of ideas, and perhaps overly intellectual.

#### **Queen**

*She Thinks the Unthinkable.* A mysterious woman hooded and veiled, bejeweled, and graceful. There is someone in your life who is complex and quick witted, who can understand you deeply but may be too frightening to face. Someone this intellectual can sometimes be cruelly logical.

### *Wands*

#### **Novice**

*The Catalyst.* A young woman carries dried flowers on a pole across her shoulders. She wears a fur stole, but it does not hide her beauty. This card indicates the presence of a catalyst in your life. Someone who will effect a great and permanent change, but who will quickly leave, herself untouched.

#### **Lady**

*She Seeks Unexpected Change.* Two women play on... a giant mushroom? When this card appears, you can know that someone in your life has the power to change you—and wants that change passionately.

#### **Chatelaine**

*Friend of Women.* Two women in classical togas stand close, one whispering to the other. Someone in your life, probably a man, is a passionate friend to women, and can be trusted.

#### **Queen**

*Woman of the Hearthfire.* A woman kneels before a coal stove. There is someone in your life who shows you how to use your own power because she uses her own so well. She tends to her power, she is not consumed by it.

### *Cups*

#### **Novices**

*Unexpected Love.* She plays with her sheer veil—perhaps this black veil was once worn in mourning, but this girl plays with it, twining it into a scarf that hides her belly, but not her breasts. She looks directly at us, with invitation. When this card appears, expect the one you did not know you were looking for.

#### **Lady**

*She seeks intuitive wisdom.* In a pagan temple, a woman contemplates bathing in the sacred water. There is someone in your life who seeks the greatest wisdom of romance and love.

#### **Chatelaine**

*She Loves Strong and Deep.* A woman on a divan, who turns her face away from us, too full of emotion. There is someone in your life who is a warrior of love.

#### **Queen**

*She Who Offers Love.* A woman on a bed, peeking out of the bed curtains, her tea balanced on her naked legs. “Come share this,” she seems to say. There is someone in your life who simply loves you, and teaches you what love is.

### *Pentacles*

#### **Novice**

*Opportunity.* The fruit of the earth adorns her head, her face is wistfully hopeful. There is someone in your life who offers you some opportunity in bringing your creative energy to market.

#### **Lady**

*She Earns Her Way.* Here is a woman who knows her business, and is one of the best at it. This card indicates someone in your life who seeks to make her own way in the world of work and money. Someone who is supremely practical.

#### **Chatelaine**

*She Who Controls the Money.* Dressed in a toga, belt, and sandals, she commands the little gods of the world. Someone in your life will be your mentor, and show you how success in the world is to be obtained.

#### **Queen**

*Earth Mother.* She reclines on a dark throne, clothed only in her own fecund gorgeousness. This card means there is someone in your life who, with her body (Pentacles), brings to you love (Cups).

## The Major Arcana

The minor arcana concern everyday matters, while the majors are influences of your destiny. Not that anything is destined, but you are here for a purpose, and the Major Arcana helps you understand what that purpose is.

### The Fool

*Begin Life's Adventure.* A hopeful woman sits demurely, ready for everything. This card's appearance means something is starting. As you begin, be careful not to trust everyone. And, although it is best to go about your business without any clothes on, your well-intentioned choices may lead to mistakes. Build your own adventure.

### The Magician

*As Above, So Below.* Her body is only slightly hidden by the fabric, but her face conceals all. Will she teach you? The appearance of this card indicates you're in a time where much power is flowing through your life, where you can juggle the four elements like stones. Present in your life is much skill, craft, and cunning.

### The Witch

*Intuition Will Reveal.* She looks at us through half-closed eyes. She may not be entirely safe. When this card appears, realize that not everything that can be learned can be written down. Sometimes a mystery remains a mystery because it can only be known by experience and intuition.

### The Goddess

*Lushness.* A woman reclines on a bed, her breasts are full. Some might wonder if she were pregnant. This card tells of a time of great growth, a special opportunity for artists, where what you make now may last for generations.

### The Abbess

*Unblock Your Emotions.* A woman sits on a throne and crosses her legs. She's dressed in furs, lingerie, and a feathered hat. She's in full possession of herself. This card reminds us that people around us who seem to be in control sometimes aren't. Open your heart, and let go control.

### The Shaman

*Accept the Mystery.* Here is a woman who charms the snakes. Although nude, she is in complete control. How does she do this? This card is about ritual and conventionality. Ritual is neither required or sufficient, but a gratuitous grace. Conventionality in its ceremonial garb is not always restrictive, but a well-traveled path toward mystery.

### The Lovers

*The Soul's Deepest Need.* One woman accepts the loving attention of another. But is that actually a woman? It is a more like a classical bust, come to life on a stone plinth. Sometimes this card indicates sexuality with great meaning. Lovers invoke great power, with their poetry

and their dancing. To what purpose is that power put? Is it not to find connection across the void?

### **The Chariot**

*Enjoy the Ride.* A woman stands behind an ancient bicycle, her face is hidden by her summer hat, her chin is in her hands. Doesn't she see how her dress is caught up on the handlebars? When you encounter this card, you can be assured that your current triumph is real and transformative, and won't last forever. So while it lasts, try not to be prideful and arrogant. Better to realize that you're not really in control unless you focus on the current moment.

### **Justice**

*Wait for Decision.* A woman stands before a pagan idol, she appears to be wondering. This card means that you will soon know the decision or the answer. But for now, wait.

### **The Hermit**

*Withdraw, and Change Direction.* A naked woman is turned away from us, and opens a door, slowly. The meaning of this card usually implies a journey to seek out mystery. Usually a journey of that type requires first that you listen to the inspiration that comes your way. Once prepared, move into the unknown.

### **The Wheel**

*You Are Lucky.* A nude woman is framed in a hoop. This card is always a good omen. Yes, life is a spinning wheel, and sometimes you're on top, and sometimes your not. But for now, you're lucky. Something will turn up.

### **Strength**

*Courage from Passion.* A nude woman stands on the bank of a river and tames the swan. This card means when we channel our passions— sometimes known as lusts— when we allow that passionate fire to flow through us freely, there is no challenge we cannot meet with courage and strength.

### **The Fairy**

*Change Your Perspective.* A woman balancing across a footstool suspends herself playfully over the pillows and carpets. Traditionally, this card indicates it is time to wait for enlightenment. Sometimes that grace is given us if we just make a move, and see things another way.

### **Death**

*You Are Mortal.* A woman whose face is half-hidden in her cap contemplates the flower in her hand. When this card appears, remember that fear of death is far worse than death itself because it poisons life. And further, this card is actually about change; that we are undergoing change all the time, because we are alive. When you see this card, expect great change.

### **Temperance**

*Love Transforms You.* A woman dressed for a party hold aloft her cup. This card, like The Lovers, is about the mixing of difference. In this time, the emphasis is on the transformation that effects yourself.

### **The Devil**

*Be Aware.* A woman caresses herself, her attention caught by something unknown to us. The lesson of this card is the importance of awareness. It is said that the Devil is a trickster, and tricksters gain the confidence of their victims by misdirection. If you stay aware of the the current moment, no one can take advantage of you.

### **The Tower**

*Shattering of Structure.* A woman dramatically poses in half-shadows, one hand to her head, the other cupping her breast. This card is about sudden conversion. Suddenly you find yourself uncontrolled, and you are free to live your life of fully conscious, passionate, loving, and grounded.

### **The Star**

*Healing after Destruction.* A woman stands with eyes closed, hand on her heart. When this card appears, you know you are ready to shine. You are ready to begin (or return to) your sacred work whatever that may be.

### **The Moon**

*A Turning in the Journey.* Revealing her beautiful naked body from behind her veil, she is an inspiration glowing in the dark. This card is sometimes called the most dire in the deck, because it can mean a crisis of faith that some people are unable to recover from. Remember that tides rise and fall and the flooding is nourishment of the soil. This is a time to be intuitive, to follow your hunches, and to name your fears. You will find that elements of yourself are now released.

### **The Sun**

*Life's Joyful Admiration.* A woman in pearls with her shawl around her hips contemplates the light. This card often indicates a time of playfulness, but a childlike innocence that is paradoxically the product of long experience and connectedness with nature.

### **Rebirth**

*The End of Judgment.* A woman sits above a blazing light, her stare is intense, her body is nude and powerful. When this card appears, it is time to step into a new world. You've awakened (or can awaken) from your self-judgment.

### **The World**

*Dance in Bliss.* Evocative of Courbet's "Origin of the World," we see only her torso and lower body. She is all loveliness. When this card appears, it is something like the Fool, as it indicates a new beginning, as well as an ending. In some traditions, all of reality is a dance, and bliss is attained when we are fully aware of each partner in that dance.