

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Capricorn: Climbing that Mountain

Merry meet! Welcome to the Capricorn edition of 13 Magickal Cards, and the first issue of 2008.

First things first...I wish a very Happy Birthday to all Capricorns out there. When it comes to ambition, you Goats can certainly teach us a thing or two. But it's so important to mix a little bit of sympathy and compassion in there on your climb to the top of your "mountain". Finish it off with a little bit more laughter and you'll be absolutely unstoppable.

Secondly, I would like to take the opportunity to wish all of you a safe, peaceful, and prosperous New Year in 2008. I thank you very much for your confidence and trust; because of all of you I feel that I continually improve as a Tarot reader and become a more spiritual person.

It's only appropriate that Capricorn comes at the beginning of our new calendar year, the time when we make our New Year's resolutions. Saturn, the old man who is often seen on New Year's decorations representing the outgoing year, is the ruling planet of Capricorn. His domain is boundaries, respect, responsibility, and discipline. It's interesting to note that the word "Saturday" comes from Saturn, the only day named for Roman mythology. How funny it is that many parties and occasions where we might ignore all kinds of boundaries occur during Saturday night.

I've been thinking a lot about how I can add some more useful information to this newsletter, and I've decided that in 2008 I'll be adding a section in which I discuss one Tarot card in detail in each issue. And I'm not just talking about the Major Arcana

cards either. I will probably just pick a Tarot card at random from my deck each month and talk about it. So starting with the Aquarius issue you'll find a section on the Card of the Month. Of course, after what I just typed the Universe decided it would be funny to have me pick one of the Major Arcana to start with, and so my next issue will feature an in-depth look at The Star.

Also, one of my goals this year is to continue to deepen my knowledge of astrology, a discipline that I'm extremely fond of. Part of this goal is to bring more astrological information into my Tarot practice. You may have noticed that I am consistently asking for your astrological sign when I do readings (but I try to remember it!). I'm making that standard practice for all of my readings. I would encourage all of you to have your astrological charts done; there are quite a few web sites that will do it for free. All you need to have is your date, time, and place of birth and you're good to go.

To start giving you more connections between astrology and Tarot, I'll list the Tarot cards that represent the sign we're currently in and their ruling planet(s). Appropriately enough, Capricorn is represented in the Tarot by The Devil, a card of boundaries and restriction. The planet Saturn is represented by The World, the wise man who can tell you about what you've accomplished and how you can be more involved in making a better future for yourself. Keep these in mind as you read for yourself and for others.

Finally, my Tarot practice has made it possible for me to help many people, and for that I'm extremely grateful. But Tarot is a very small part of a much larger,

interconnected picture that encompasses all of us. I think many more people can benefit from the sense of empowerment that comes from working with the metaphysical. So I'm going to encourage more people to explore the spiritual side of themselves in 2008. While Witchcraft is my chosen path—and it is not the path for everyone—anyone can enjoy the benefits of being more spiritual and connected to the earth around us. I hope you will encourage

those around you who seem receptive to embrace their spiritual, metaphysical side in 2008.

I look forward to serving you in 2008, and hope that you will grow personally, professionally, and spiritually.

I hope to see you across my table soon. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Universal Fantasy Tarot

I received this Lo Scarabeo deck as a Yule gift and couldn't wait to get home to try it out. As an unrepentant Dungeons and Dragons player—I started playing when I was 10 and only gave it up a few years ago—I had high expectations for this deck, that it would be something different.

Turns out that I wasn't disappointed. The artwork on the cards is gorgeous. Even if you bought this deck just for the images and weren't planning to use it for divination, I found the pictures on each card fascinating and unique. It is unlike any other deck I have seen before. I used it last week at Tea Night and it read very well too; I did find,

however, that the images had an edge to them. This deck is darker than many of the decks I normally use, and as such could work well for someone who is exploring that side of themselves.

Many of the cards do look alike at first glance but Lo Scarabeo has made it easier to identify what is what with their numbering system. At the top center of each card, a yellow Roman numeral (for the Major Arcana) or Arabic number (for the pips) is clearly visible. However, there is no designation for the Court cards. In addition, like almost all of Lo Scarabeo's offerings, the titles of each card is given in many languages; in this case, the titles are in English, Spanish, Italian, French at the top, and German and Dutch at the bottom. I'm a big fan of multi-lingual decks.

The Rider-Waite imagery is present, at least partially, on many of the cards. The 9 of Cups, for example, shows a table set in a forest with eight of the nine Cups suspended in the trees with lit candles in them. The ninth lit candle sits in a Cup on the table itself. A lizard (dinosaur?) dressed in what appears to be Renaissance garb is standing before the table. So the image of pleasure is there with the table, but if you're expecting the lizard to be smiling with satisfaction...well, let's put it this way: He MAY be smiling but it's not obvious. And Smokey the Bear is definitely NOT smiling; doesn't that lizard know he can start a fire with candles in the trees? ☺

The 8 of Pentacles card shows a man at the bottom of a tree spiraling upward into a starry sky. He looks upward, and to his right is a ladder sitting against the tree next to his toolbox. The pride in work image of the cards is clearly here, and evidently he does need to pay attention to the details to get all the way up to the top for that last pentacle. Incidentally, the suit is called Pentacles but in this deck they are more like golden disks with blue centers. The only true pentacle I saw in the deck was that on the Magician, but I may have missed others.

The Devil card is very interesting. In the background looms a large purple winged monster that looks like something like Frodo and company faced under the mountain. In the foreground are not two chained people, but two chained stone cat statues. If the cats are actually alive—and given the nature of this deck, anything is possible—there is no room for them to slip out of the chains. I think this is probably the first devil card that I have seen that has a cat on it. The image was chilling until I got to the cats; no offense to felines intended but it lost its punch right then and there. The fact that the cats appear to be standing

stock still and unconcerned about their situation just took something away for me.

My favorite card on this deck was Justice. This card is truly stunning. Lady Justice has an interesting sword in her right hand; the magenta handle is almost as long as the blade itself. The scales in her left hand are truly original and she holds them almost delicately; they hang down almost the entire length of her torso and truly must be seen to be believed. Like many modern images of Justice, she has her breasts bared (Author's note: There is some female skin to be seen in this deck but very little male nudity. My apologies ladies!) but wears a long flowing blue dress. She is not blindfolded but has her head turned dispassionately to the left, looking at the scales.

The bottom line is that you really do have to know what you're getting into with this deck. Because of the fantastical nature of the images, those who prefer something more conventional are not going to like it at all. But if you're into fantasy or sci-fi, and have progressed in your studies of the Tarot to the point where the card images do not need to be totally traditional, then you will be very pleased. Ask [13 Magickal Moons](#) to order one for you today!

Shameless Marketing

Yes, it's Capricorn, which means that everyone is looking to expand their businesses to start off 2008 right. With my Capricorn moon, I am hardly an exception. At least I admit it, OK? ☺

It's that time of year again...time to pull out the **New Year Spread**. This horoscope spread examines each of the 12 houses of the Zodiac and looks at each of these areas of your life for the next year. Some of you also ask for this spread on your birthdays, so it is also known as the **Birthday**

Spread. The spread is **\$30**, and it is more than worth the money at about \$1 per card. The good news is that this particular spread has become so popular that I'm making it a permanent part of my repertoire. So have one at the New Year, but feel free to ask for it anytime, like on your birthday.

From now until the end of February, I will offer the limited edition "S/he said, S/he said" spread for **\$30**. This is ideal for anyone in a relationship and offers perspectives from each party and suggestions for improvement.

And this is a perfect time to start thinking about gifts for Valentine's Day. Get your Valentine a gift certificate to be used toward a Tarot reading. Or better yet, schedule a Tarot party so you and your friends can hear all the details in the privacy of your own home.

If your beloved isn't interested in Tarot (as crazy as that sounds), how about picking

up a great gift from 13 Magickal Moons? If you can't get into the store, buy a gift online at www.13magickalmoons.com.

Crossword Puzzle

As a New Year's gift to you, the extra attachment to this newsletter is the crossword puzzle. To find the answers, go back through previous newsletters. NOTE: The answers are NOT included; [email me](mailto:) if you want them. Enjoy!

Congratulations!

A HUGE congratulations to all my fellow new Priestesses and Priests of the [Tradition of the Witches Circle](#) who graduated in December! You should be extremely proud of your accomplishments.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot on the following dates for the remainder of Capricorn and Aquarius at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Readings are done on a first come, first served basis; when I arrive at the store I start a list, and you may sign up at that time. I do not take appointments, so please do not call 13 Magickal Moons asking for one. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date reading schedule.

Saturday, January 12	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 16	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, January 26	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, January 30 (Open Imbolc Ritual)	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, February 9	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 13	6:00-9:00pm