

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Pisces: I Second That Emotion

Merry meet! Welcome to the Pisces edition of 13 Magickal Cards.

First off, let me make a shout out to all of my Pisces people to wish them a very happy birthday. You are always ready to listen to the problems of others, and that is admirable. But you still need to let out those strong emotions occasionally to keep balanced; be sure that you're not pouring out your "Cup" without having others refill it for you.

Pisces is perhaps the most sensitive and deeply emotional sign of the Zodiac, and marks the end of the astrological year. It's about this time that the rosy glow of optimism of the new calendar year may be starting to fade, and we look inside ourselves to see what's there; it's the nature of the Fish to always be looking within.

In general, introspection is a good thing. It allows us to form ourselves as human beings, to assimilate our experiences into lessons we have learned over the past astrological year and apply them to our lives.

However, as any Pisces person will tell you, looking within can get truly depressing. Our powerful minds will show us our flaws, mistakes, and mishaps much more quickly than they will our good points, victories, and successes. You can easily drown out the positive by focusing on the negative. That melancholy feeling of seeing our flaws can even be addictive if it goes on too long.

The Tarot balances this out rather well. Cups, as you may be aware, represent emotion in the Tarot, as well as water-sign people and emotional events. It has its

share of excellent Cups cards, like the Two (which is especially sought after this time of year) and the Ten. On the flip side it also has cards no one wants to see, like the Five (OK, no one really wants to see the Five of any suit!) and the Seven.

As difficult as it may be, the challenge that I put to you this month is to look within, but in a balanced, enlightened way. On the positive side, most people wait for praise from others to feel validated. But you should feel proud of the good things you did this past astrological year, and you need to remind yourself of them. Take time for self-praise; celebrate your successes as you search your soul. They are as much a part of us as our miscues, but we often forget about them in our rush to beat ourselves up.

At the same time, we all screw up. It's vital to face the music, learn what we can about ourselves, and move ahead into Aries with the desire to not make the same mistake twice. I have a tendency toward emotional self-flagellation, and Dorothy Morrison gave me some great advice that I'll share. She said, "Keep the message, but burn the videotape!" In other words, learn from your mistakes and move on. I incorporated this into my spiritual work; I've found that using the image of burning a pile of VHS tapes as I meditate to be quite liberating; perhaps as I get better at it I'll burn DVDs; you gotta evolve, right? ☺

I hope you'll keep my "message" in mind as you look inside yourselves over the next month so you can face the new astrological year with faith, optimism, and a balanced emotional outlook.

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



Tarot Deck Review

The Llewellyn Tarot

Normally I don't hear much about new Tarot decks before they come out. This deck, however, was an exception; a number of people mentioned to me that I'd need to have this deck. So I knew I was going to buy it. But this skeptical Scorpio wondered if it would live up to the hype.

This deck retains much of the imagery of the standard Rider-Waite deck. It is brightly colored and reminds me in some respects of the Gilded Tarot. The colors are a little more subtle than the Gilded, and the color palette is more limited. That didn't seem to take away anything for me, however. The backs of the cards are brown and gold with a crest in the center; it's simple and pretty.

I like the fact that the artist went that extra mile and added some subtle touches on many of the cards to make the images distinctive. One point I noticed right away is that many more of the cards of this deck have water in the images than in the standard Rider-Waite. For example, the Seven of Wands usually pictures a man with a Wand defending himself atop a cliff

against six others held by unseen people from below. In this deck, the man is standing at the top of a waterfall, while the rest of the image is essentially the same. The Tower is being struck by lightning, but is also being consumed by a torrent of rushing water. The Fool, astride a horse, is jumping over a waterfall with his dog following him, and the sunlight is producing a small rainbow that mimics the curved shape of both the horse and dog.

The Major Arcana cards list the number and title of the card as well as a name or title. They feature figures from British Isles legends and pantheon; Cerridwen is the [High] Priestess, and Taliesin makes an appearance as the Hierophant.

The one thing I really don't like about this deck is the font. I am fortunate enough to not need glasses or contacts but the cursive font that this deck chose is a little too ornate for me. I'd much rather be able to read the words quickly than revel in their beauty.

You probably noticed that I didn't answer my own question at the beginning. Overall, yes, I feel that this deck lived up to its billing. I'd recommend it for beginner or

intermediate Tarot students who want a more optimistic deck. It has already become a Querent favorite.

This deck comes as a set, and when 13 Magickal Moons gets them in, they don't last long. The set also has an added bonus: it comes with a beautiful Tarot bag made for these cards. So pick yours up today!

Next month's review: The Archeon Tarot

New Witch Bottles!

13 Magickal Moons has designed some new witch bottles. There's one that I am particularly fond of: The Tarot Mysteries Witch Bottle. It contains 22 herbs, each one specifically chosen to correspond with one of the Major Arcana cards. I bought the first one and it is sitting on my altar. Check it out, along with the other 4 new bottles, like Sacred Sexuality and Health and Healing.

Featured Spread of the Month

For the month of March, I'm featuring a **Chakra Guidance** spread for **\$30**. It will have no less than least 21 cards (three cards for each of the 7 chakra points). The cards will focus on the current situation, any challenges you may currently be facing, and ideas on how to deal with them.

Get Ready for the Ball!

That's right everyone...it's that time of year again. The Open Heath Foundation is once again hosting **Persephone's Ball**, a gala event that is once again sure to reach magickal proportions, on April 14 at the Silver Spring Hilton. 13 Magickal Moons had a great showing last year—the Master of Ceremonies joked that they might have to change the name to the “13 Magickal Moons Ball” because of our extensive participation—and we hope that even more members of our community will attend!

Tickets are **\$60** per person; cash (full and partial payments) and credit cards (full amount only) are being accepted. Ask at the store to get yours today!

Shameless Marketing Screenplay

[Scene 24: Leading lady Laura runs out the screen door of a brightly-light home into a stormy night, complete with driving rain and the occasional llama. Less than 30 seconds later, leading man Howard bursts out the door after her.]

Howard: Laura! I'm sorry! Please come back!

Laura: I can't believe you could be so insensitive!

Howard: What do you mean? Didn't you have the birthday night of your dreams?

Laura: Yes, but it wasn't what I truly wanted. I wanted you to book a Tarot party for me and you didn't!

Howard: Sweetheart, I didn't think it was that big a deal...I mean, you can go to 13 Magickal Moons any Wednesday night and most Saturdays for a Tarot reading...

Laura: You know I love the store. But it's not the same, Howard! Don't you get it? My friends all together, learning about themselves, enjoying each other's company, right here in our own home? [PAUSE] Maybe you just don't know me anymore.

Howard: Please, Laura...come back in the house!

[Laura turns and walks away from Howard, petting a wet llama on the nose as she does so. Howard stares after her, tears welling in his eyes, ignoring the llama who tries to comfort him.]

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for Pisces and Aries at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date schedule. If you know in advance you're going to be coming to the store for a reading, you may also call the store or email me (hierophant@cox.net) to schedule an appointment. This is especially true for weekend dates.

Wednesday, February 21	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, February 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, February 28	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 3	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 7	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, March 14	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 17	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 21	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, March 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, March 28	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, April 4	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 7	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, April 11	6:00-9:00pm
Wednesday, April 18	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, April 21	11:30am-5:30pm