

## 13 Magickal Cards

### Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

#### **Scorpio: Change Doesn't Have To Sting**

Merry meet! Welcome to the Scorpio issue of 13 Magickal Cards.

A sincere but extremely intense happy birthday to everyone—me included—born under the sign of the Scorpion. The willpower and determination of our sign is legendary, as is our famous Scorpio stare (ever see someone look right at you but it feels like they're looking right to the core of you? Probably a Scorp!). These qualities are only matched by our potential for jealousy and revenge. Moderating our extreme natures in all things is a constant challenge!

Change is an inevitable part of who we are. Sun in Scorpio reminds us of how powerful each one of us is in our ability to change ourselves, to evolve, to be “reborn” into a newer, stronger person. And that transformation is part of the meaning of Scorpio's representative in the Tarot's Major Arcana, the Death card. While it can be unsettling to receive this card in a reading, it can portend a life change that is unavoidable and necessary.

I'd like to tell you an old story. Once upon a time there was a scorpion who found a river in his path. It was too deep for him to cross, but a fox was drinking at the river and the scorpion asked her, “Will you take me across the river on your back?” The fox looked at the scorpion suspiciously and asked, “How do I know you won't sting me?” “Well,” replied the scorpion, “if we are crossing and I sting you, you'll die and then I'll drown. So it's in my best interest not to sting you.”

Convinced by the scorpion's argument, the fox allowed the scorpion to get on her back and they started across the wide river. When they were about halfway across, the scorpion repeatedly stung the fox, mortally wounding her. “Why?” cried the fox. “Why did you sting me?” “Because it's in my nature to sting,” replied the scorpion. And true to the scorpion's earlier statement, the fox died from the scorpion's stinger, and the scorpion drowned in the river.

Not a real winner of a story, is it? But the larger message is clear. As humans we have a tendency to do things that hurt others and ourselves without really questioning them. How many times have you heard someone say, “Well, that's just who I am,” as an excuse for poor judgment, bad behavior, or pretty much anything else?

There is no denying that we are all different people. And not everyone is going to react to every situation the same way. But as much as our upbringing, our relationships, our astrological signs, and our experiences form who we are, some patterns of our actions and reactions to other people can be very negative and need to be left behind.

I ask you during the month of Scorpio sun to take time to look at yourself closely and find where you can improve. Use your past mistakes not as a way to beat yourself up, but to learn and grow.

Evolution can sometimes be painful, but it's a lot better to choose and embrace change than to have it forced on you. I wish you all the willpower and courage it will take to do so, and I look forward to seeing you across my table soon. Blessed be, J2B



## Tarot Deck Review

### *The Sensual Wicca Tarot*

I realized that I didn't give a preview last month of which deck I was going to review during Scorpio. And I am awfully glad I didn't, because I've had this deck for just over 12 hours and didn't know how I was going to change gears and review another deck. It's amazing and powerful.

A new deck from Lo Scarabeo in October, the Sensual Wicca Tarot really appeals to me. The imagery is Rider-Waite based but Wiccan themes permeate this deck to its very core. And as "Sensual" is in the title, it's only appropriate that this deck show some skin and sexual situations. You won't hear any Scorps complaining! Well, not this one anyway. ☺

The backs of the cards are simple, yet powerful. They are light purple with a Triple Goddess symbol adorned with a five-pointed star to make it a pentacle. A sword and cup complete the image. The faces of the cards are bordered in purple, and at the top of each card (except the Court Cards), the Triple Goddess symbol has the number of the pip card or the Roman numeral for the Major Arcana card.

The Major Arcana has the traditional 22 cards, and while they all have titles, many of them are different from the Rider-Waite. For example, card III is named "The Mother" instead of The Empress (with a pregnant woman leading a child through a wheat field), and card V is named "The Initiator" instead of the Hierophant, which is very interesting; to me, it highlights the theme of empowerment in the Craft; while a spiritual leader may help you get started, their role is to put themselves out of a job by empowering each one of us to our fullest potential. Appropriately enough, card XIII is listed as "Transformation" and the artist makes an *hommage* to the Rider-Waite by putting a picture of the original Rider-Waite Death card in the upper center of the card.

The Minor Arcana has the traditional suits of Cups, Wands, Swords, and Pentacles, and Wicca is at the center of the imagery. Characters from the Major Arcana come back to visit in the Minors. On once quick pass through the cards, the Maiden appears on three cards that I saw, and the Mother appears on several more. The Court Cards names also further the theme: Maiden (Page), Acolyte (Knight), Mother (Queen), and Sage (King).

This deck eagerly embraces homosexuality as well, which is a welcome change from the more traditional Rider-Waite imagery. For

example, the two figures kissing on the Two of Cups are both women, while two of the three figures in the Five of Cups are naked men who are kissing. The disappointment meaning of the Five of Cups comes out loud and clear, as a naked woman represents the third figure on the card. She is in another room, rather upset, breaking the cups.

My favorite card in this deck is the Seeker (the Hermit in traditional Rider-Waite lingo). An old woman sits at a table with a red cloth, a candle with skulls to her left and behind her on her right looks like shelves of herbs and implements. What got me was the deck of cards and the runes that are on the table. The light from the candle illuminates only a small part of the room, so to me it shows the perspective of the Seeker (or the Querent, if you will): This is a person you come to for enlightenment, even though what you really are seeking is within yourself.

I'm extremely impressed with this deck, and know that it's going to become a favorite of mine. I recommend it for beginning Tarot students who walk a Witch's path, and for anyone who lacks a Wicca-themed deck in their collection. [13 Magickal Moons](#) has only one of these left...get it while you can! Or better yet, ask the folks at 13 Magickal Moons to order you the set that has the deck and the beautiful purple carrying bag!

### Mercury Retrograde Ends Today

Mercury retrograde ends later today (November 1). Time to breathe a sigh of relief as the planet goes back to direct motion.

I really took a hard look at my life during this period to see how Mercury's motion—or lack thereof—affected me. And I shouldn't have been surprised to see its impact on my life.

On no less than seven occasions, appointments I had to meet with people were delayed or cancelled. On at least one occasion, an email that was sent to me never arrived. And technically, I'm taking a chance even sending this email out during the retrograde. We'll see how it goes.

### Shameless Marketing: Contest Results

And now...the moment you've been waiting for. The contest winner is Lyre, who guessed that I have 42 decks. The runner-up is Richard, who guessed 35 decks. Suffice it to say that neither guess was exactly correct. The total number I actually own...is a mystery, and will stay that way for some time.

Lyre receives **\$15 off a Tarot party** (party must be at least two hours), and Richard will receive **\$10 off any Tarot reading of \$20 or more** during any session I am reading at 13 Magickal Moons (phone readings are not eligible.) Congratulations to you both!

### Shop Now For Yule/Christmas!

It's already November, ladies and gentlemen. Time to get on the stick and start shopping for the holiday season. Why not give Tarot this season? [13 Magickal Moons](#) has a ton of outstanding gifts for everyone on your list. Astrology has become a real passion of mine, and I just picked up "The Creative Astrologer" last week from the store, written by one of the most well-known astrologers, Noel Tyl.

Also, you're going to need a place to mark down all of your appointments that has all of the information needed by the witch on the move. Last night, I picked up the store's excellent date book, "[13 Magickal Moons of 2008](#)," to keep me on track during the next

year. It's an excellent reference for gods and goddesses, different herbs, the Sabbats, magickal tools and spells, and so much more!

### **Upcoming Dates**

I'll be reading Tarot on the following dates for the remainder of Scorpio and Sagittarius 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](http://www.13magickalmoons.com) for an up-to-date reading schedule.

Saturday, November 10	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, November 14	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, November 24	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, November 28	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, December 8	11:30am-5:30pm
Saturday, December 15	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, December 19	6:00-9:00pm (Open Yule Ritual)