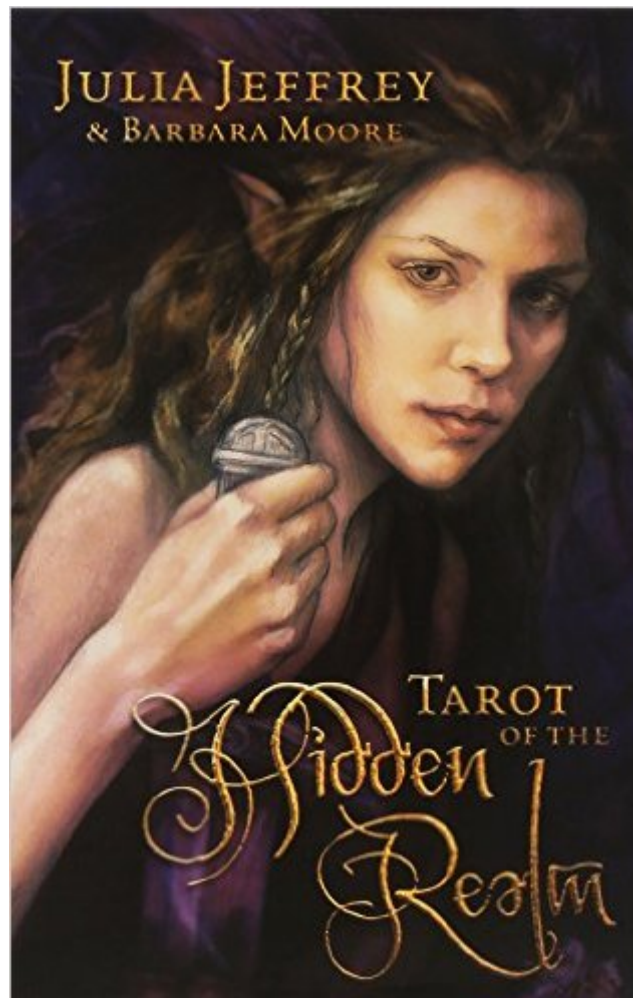


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Tarot Of The Hidden Realm



Synopsis

Evoke the powerful wisdom of the fae with the Tarot of the Hidden Realm. Instead of relying on esoteric symbols, this powerful deck uses the raw elementsâ •water, air, fire, and earthâ •to speak directly to your emotions. The beautifully drawn figures follow the Rider Waite style, but express more energy and movement, drawing you in even as you draw their truths out. The companion guidebook reveals techniques and card meanings for beginners and more experienced readers alike.

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Customer Reviews

Three seals playfully swoop through the water as a pretty girl floats just below the surface in a yellow-green sea, drifting, arms out, head turned down. Interesting, I thought, as I mentally compared this to the traditional interpretation, with the fourth cup hovering just out of reach. Is she looking down towards the fourth seal? I gazed into the image, felt her body as it twisted in the currents and realized, she is the fourth seal, her transformation just out of the frame of the picture. She is the selkie, the mythological beauty who sheds her sealskin to sunbathe on the rocks, enticing fisherman into tragic romances. Thus I discovered the Tarot of the Hidden Realm, by Julia Jeffrey, Artist and Creator, and Barbara Moore, Author. The cards, published by Llewellyn, are a standard size, a little thin, but no over-zealous laminating. They are easy to shuffle. Three sides are borderless with a simple title across the bottom, allowing the characters to interact with each other, gesturing one to another or gazing into an adjacent scene. The backgrounds of each scene depict natural environments, weather such as sun or storm or wind, or moody and stylized decorations.

The backs (non-reversible) have an intriguing root-like knotwork pattern that curves into hearts and sweeps up into dragon eyes. As a rule, I don't refer to the books that come with decks, but when I do, I usually am looking for an answer to a specific question, such as what animal is that, or what is that person holding. But the book by Barbara Moore is not only well written, knowledgeable and informative, it is also evocative and highly descriptive, truly serving as a guide, sharing intimate knowledge of this realm. These cards feel to me like they reflect the influence of the Rider-Waite-Smith (RWS) lineage without being bound to it. You catch a glimpse of the poised concentration of a woman with blazing red hair as she turns past you, raising bow, arrow nocked, quiver on her back. (Eight of Wands) You look up from the dancing flames as a powerful, bare-chested man furrows his brow in concentration, raising a golden pentacle with iron tongs. (Eight of Pentacles) Two young blonde women in pale yellow gowns look curiously at you as you interrupt the conversation they hold with a third who has not yet seen you. One raises a cup in welcome. (Three of Cups) Blood drips from a thorn-pricked hand, stains her diaphanous white gown, and she loosens her grasp of the deep red roses as she looks up and away, the wind of a stormy sky lifting her thick brown locks, crowned with a circlet of pink flowers. (Three of Swords) Some cards break from traditional imagery. Four blue butterflies flit above the shaggy hair of an ivy crowned girl. She looks over her shoulder with patient eyes. (Four of Swords) Water droplets spray as a gray sea rises in a deep, curving wave, crested with five horses stretching and bucking toward their destination. A tattooed woman the color of the stormy ocean displays a resolute profile. (Five of Cups) Six glowing dragonflies circle a woman decorated with tattoos of intricate knotwork and twisting flames. Her wild red hair extends in a thick ruff of mane around her head. Her arms windmill as she turns-- or falls-- in her dance or summoning. (Six of Wands) Some cards are intriguing, disturbing, complicated. A male child with ten red flames circling his arm and ten red teardrops flanking the red ink mask on his face clutches a tangerine to his bare chest. His vulnerable eyes look out, his back against a red wall. (Ten of Wands) (Upon consulting the book, I find that Barbara Moore says he is holding a phoenix egg.) A beautiful but wild woman in a chestnut colored gown lifts her strong chin as she tilts her head up, her gaze skyward, as seven reddish budding branches stick out of her disheveled hair like sprouting antlers. (Seven of Wands) Not only in the Seven of Wands do person and animal seem to merge. The Page of Pentacles distorts her young body into a bestial crawl as her snaky dreadlocks tumble over her shoulders. A man dances in the costume of a phoenix in the Nine of Wands. My favorite is the Four of Cups, the graceful woman undergoing her hidden transformation into the seal, the myth of the selkie. Other myths are also represented. Odin and his ravens are depicted on the Emperor card. The Mārrgān and her crow mirror each other

as they fly forth in the Death card. And I wonder if the Strength card depicts Hel and her wolf-brother, Fenrir. Some of the Major Arcana are renamed, including the Faery Stallion for the Chariot, the Fortune Faery for the Wheel of Fortune, Shadowdance for the Devil, the Blasted Beech for the Tower, and Life Renewed for Judgment, a young girl standing among the oak leaves and holding out an acorn that has begun to sprout. Animals, birds and insects share the scenes with the natives of this realm. The Star is a favorite, as a fairy child gazes in breathless wonder as a butterfly floats towards outstretched finger. The Aces are all animals--the cunning red fox for the Ace of Wands, a playful and affectionate otter for the Ace of Cups, a sharp-billed heron for the Ace of Swords, and a safe but curious hedgehog for the Ace of Pentacles. Every person is absolutely real in this deck, each scene expressing action and emotion. The animals, tattoos, pointed ears, and often unkempt hair show the freedom and elemental forces of the fairy kingdom. Every person is beautiful, each in their unique way. A variety of ages is represented from young children through gray haired elders. The deck lacks racial diversity, as does the folklore and peoples of the northern climes that these images derive from. It is not unusual to feel a sense of androgyny from many of the inhabitants of the Hidden Realm. The cards read beautifully and the characters' clear affect and captured moments let the story unfold easily and naturally. This is a lovely, powerful and magical deck ready to share its stories. The cards have a deep sensuality to them, although actual nudity is limited to only the World card. But there is a magnetic chemistry to the impending kiss between the flower crowned blonde innocent and the fae with skin the color of an oak leaf after the first frost. It seduces her--and us--into this kingdom of leaf and tree, where a tendril binds her hand, and a tiny pink rose opens its petals for us to see. The Tarot of the Hidden Realm is an artful, soulful and tantalizing deck, simple yet deeply personal. The sensuous detail allows us to easily cross into the twilight kingdom, to discover and share the heart-filled and heart-rending moments that we weave like flower garlands into the stories of our lives.

I'm not a Tarot card reader; I bought this for the 78 mystical, fae paintings by a favorite, acclaimed artist. I'm not disappointed, I'm in heaven! Exquisite, enchanting, extremely personable and alive faces grace both the gratifyingly high quality cards and are also repeated in each of the book's entries. The writing is simple and easy to understand, even for this barely familiar reader, but also detailed and so interestingly laid out that I will, for the first time, attempt to learn Tarot. I can recommend this purchase confidently and enthusiastically.

Of all my decks, this is my favorite. Stunning images, bright colors. The photos don't make it

justice. The cards are normal tarot size, sturdy, and a little bit thicker than the others I have. The book is a nice companion, since some of the meanings differ slightly from the Rider Waite Tarot. The only flaw I found is the box. It won't last long, and the deck has no safe place to be put inside after you take the plastic wrap.

This deck has an interesting story around it for me. I didn't seek out to purchase it at all. We went to Barnes and Noble to buy an astrology book that they didn't have in stock, the tarot decks were right next to the astrology section so I decided to scope out what they had, out of curiosity. I have been coveting the Anna K tarot for a little while, and they actually had it in stock. They also had this deck in stock. Which I had looked at on aelectic when it came out and it wasn't something that I necessarily wanted. The second I picked it up, it was like a magnet to my soul! I looked at my husband, and said sorry babe, but I can't leave without this deck. I usually do lots of research before buying any deck, I want to see the reviews, how it works, and all of the pictures. I had done none of this for this deck. It was such a strong call, I couldn't ignore it. When I started looking at the cards, I felt a strong love for them, without even having a chance to use them! We went to dinner right after, and I brought the cards in with me, and played with them while I was eating. The colors are very balanced, its dark when it needs to be, its light when it needs to be. The artwork is absolutely gorgeous, Julia Jeffrey does a great job at making the people look realistic without looking like a cartoon, but also artsy rather than humanistic. I love that it has no borders! I can be completely immersed in the card when it comes up. It doesn't have a lot of detail, they are more up close, but the details on the people and their expressions tell you everything you need to know. It has a celtic feel to it, and we have deep irish roots, and so that makes me feel very connected to it, even more! It doesn't follow the RWS system. Not closely anyways. Some cards are more similiar, but it has a feeling all of its own. I usually wouldn't like this, but my soul has been urging me to go beyond, and try to be more intuitive, and so it feels refreshing to me to change it up a little bit. One of the things that I'm a little disappointed about is that the backs are irreversible. I want to respect the nature of this deck, and so I don't use reversals with it. Its almost like a love - hate situation. I like that its different, and something tells me that its one of the reasons it called out to me, so that I can be more intuitive with my readings. I also feel like it has the ability to add more depth to your readings, because you have to really think about whether there is a block there or not. You have to feel the energy of the reading. Overall its an amazing deck! I felt such a strong connection with it, I didn't want to show my friends I even had it, or let anyone else touch it. It was going to be just my deck alone, and nobody elses. I really didn't want to share it at all. So I bought a second one! One for me

and one for my clients. I have been searching for a deck like this since I started learning tarot, and I have so many in my treasure chest that are all wonderful decks, but this one is different from all of those. It stands out from all the others. It's like I have finally found my soul mate! Even if you don't feel the pull like I had with this deck, it's still a wonderful deck to have in your treasure box.

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