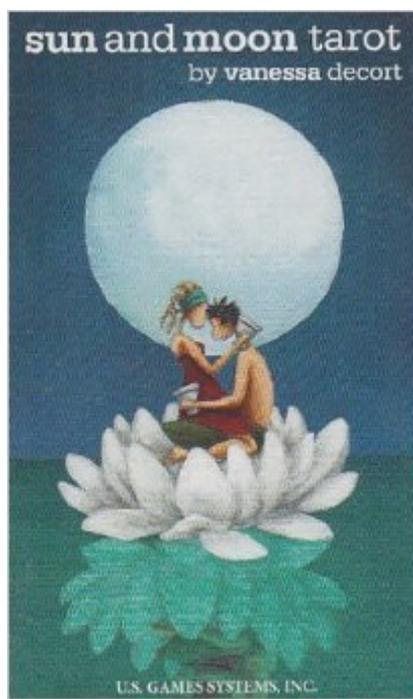


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Sun And Moon Tarot



Synopsis

With fresh, contemporary artwork, Sun and Moon Tarot gives a modern twist to ancient spiritual symbols. By playfully incorporating mythology and astrology, Vanessa Decort brings unique interpretations to traditional tarot, presenting a deck that is both insightful and accessible.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Illustrator Vanessa Decort has created a stunning yet simple deck with her Sun And Moon Tarot. This latest offering from U.S. Games looks rather plain at first glance but on close inspection, there is a richness and complexity that draws you in and lends new, subtle nuances to your tarot readings. Decort describes the deck this way: "The Sun And Moon Tarot considers universal archetypes and cultural symbols, and also incorporates the artist's own personal symbols." The deck is comprised of the standard 78 cards, with Majors, Minors and Courts. Based on the Thoth deck, it stays true to the titles that Aleister Crowley used (ex: 7 of Pentacles - Failure; Art - Temperance; Princes and Princes rather than Knights and Pages). I've always been somewhat intimidated by the Thoth deck but Decort has taken that influence and infused it with an almost playful, childlike essence. This could be because she has a background as an illustrator for children's books or perhaps she simply wanted to deliver the wisdom of the Thoth deck in a more whimsical and accessible manner. I'm not sure which reason guided her work but the result is an inviting, fun deck that never loses its Thoth roots. This is a well made deck on sturdy card stock with a somewhat matte finish. It felt great in my hands, shuffled well and seemed built to last. This is very important to me as I tend to be hard on my decks through constant use. The back of the deck is a gorgeous

black and white mandala - and it's reversible, another small detail that I like. Each image is framed by white borders with titles (in English) and numbers clearly printed. The typeface is easy to read, no squinting required. Colors are bold yet muted.

I laid this deck out with both a regular Crowley/Thoth deck and a Rider-Waite deck to compare and contrast. The illustrations are easy on the eyes with faceless "waldorf doll" people on them. The people are in many hues of skin tone and hair style and gender. The sword cards all have cloudy backgrounds so it makes it easy to remember sword = air. The wand cards are all black backgrounds and have fire in them somewhere. This makes it easy to remember wand = fire. The cups have people playing in, on, or near water with a dark blue background. Cups = water. The disks all have the same yellow/green earthiness background to them. It takes after the Crowley/Thoth deck in that it has the minor arcana with words on the top. It tends to "blend" imagery from the Crowley deck and the RWS deck. The fool for example, is on a cliff with a pack with the sun in the corner similar to RWS but in more modern clothing. However the butterfly flying in "coils" around him, the tiger, and the crocodile are elements drawn from the Crowley deck. Through most of the major arcana you can see the influences of both. When you get to the minor since Crowley has no people and is more abstract, this deck goes for more RWS influences. Sometimes it goes in other places -- for instance the death card is a woman phoenix image rather than the skull knight of the RWS deck or the skeleton reaper of the Crowley deck. In general you could call this a "Crowley Jr" deck and not be too far amiss. But it has the approachability of RWS -- sometimes the Thoth deck just has too much going on in imagery to get a handle on. Especially for a beginner adult or a kid. The cards themselves are reasonably sturdy like any other playing deck of cards or tarot cards. They come in a 2.

The title, Sun and Moon Tarot, conjures celestial images, thoughts of outer world versus inner world, masculine and feminine, and, of course, two Major Arcana cards. In looking through the deck, it is unclear to me why it is so titled. There don't seem to be any obvious references to celestial bodies, light and dark, God and Goddess, or inner and outer worlds. The deck does have a sense of universality; we are all different, and yet all one. Perhaps that is what Vanessa Decort was trying to convey with her heavenly title; that we are all the same under the sun and the moon. Unlike many tarot artists, Vanessa Decort is both a tarotist and an artist. Her first introduction to tarot was the Crowley Thoth Harris deck. According to the deck's accompanying materials, Decort designed the deck "to deepen her understanding of tarot's messages". It was her goal to incorporate in Sun and

Moon Tarot "universal archetypes and symbols from many cultures". The colors of Sun and Moon Tarot are lovely and the images are evocative. This deck is like no other I have seen, and yet it is grounded enough to make it serviceable and understandable. While there are many tarot decks available, there are very few that are both unique and truly usable. Sun and Moon Tarot is. The cards are standard sized, and have a plain white border. The card titles are on the bottom, in the border. There are no capital letters; all words on the cards and the box are lower case. Numbers are written out in the card titles; there are no roman numerals. New students will enjoy the ease with which they can identify each card, even the pips, by name. Sun and Moon Tarot honors both Waite and Crowley. The Crowley keyword for each pip card is boldly printed in the top of the white border.

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