

meaning of rider waite tarot cards

****Unlocking the Meaning of Rider Waite Tarot Cards: A Journey Through Symbolism and Insight****

Meaning of rider waite tarot cards is a fascinating topic that draws curiosity from both newcomers and seasoned tarot enthusiasts alike. The Rider Waite deck, created in 1909 by artist Pamela Colman Smith under the guidance of Arthur Edward Waite, remains one of the most popular and influential tarot decks in the world. Understanding the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards opens the door to a deeper connection with tarot readings, allowing for more intuitive and insightful interpretations.

What Makes the Rider Waite Tarot Deck Unique?

Before diving into the specific meanings, it's important to appreciate why the Rider Waite deck stands out among the countless tarot decks available today. Unlike earlier decks that often featured abstract or minimalistic designs, the Rider Waite cards are rich in symbolism and detailed imagery. Each card is carefully crafted to convey specific archetypes, emotions, and spiritual lessons.

This visual storytelling aspect makes the Rider Waite deck especially accessible for beginners. The clear and evocative artwork provides intuitive clues that help readers connect with the cards' meanings without memorizing complex correspondences.

Exploring the Major Arcana: The Core Themes of Rider Waite Tarot Cards

The Major Arcana forms the backbone of the Rider Waite deck, consisting of 22 cards that represent significant life events, spiritual lessons, and universal energies. Understanding the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards often begins with these powerful archetypes.

The Fool's Journey: A Path of Transformation

One of the most iconic cards, The Fool (number 0), symbolizes new beginnings, innocence, and limitless potential. Its meaning sets the stage for reading the other cards, as the Major Arcana can be viewed as a narrative of the Fool's journey through life's trials and growth.

Other key cards include:

- ****The Magician (I):**** Manifestation, creativity, and personal power.

- **The High Priestess (II):** Intuition, mystery, and hidden knowledge.
- **The Empress (III):** Fertility, abundance, and nurturing energy.
- **Death (XIII):** Transformation, endings, and new beginnings.
- **The World (XXI):** Completion, fulfillment, and unity.

Each card carries layers of meaning that shift depending on the context of the reading and the surrounding cards.

The Minor Arcana: Everyday Experiences and Subtle Energies

While the Major Arcana deals with big-picture themes, the Minor Arcana in the Rider Waite deck focuses on the day-to-day experiences and emotional nuances. The Minor Arcana is divided into four suits: Cups, Pentacles, Swords, and Wands, each corresponding to different aspects of life.

Cups: Emotions and Relationships

Cups represent feelings, relationships, and connections. For example, the Ace of Cups often signals new emotional beginnings or a surge of love and compassion. The Ten of Cups is a card of happiness and family harmony.

Pentacles: Material World and Practical Matters

Pentacles deal with finances, work, and physical health. The Three of Pentacles shows teamwork and skill development, while the Ten of Pentacles points to wealth and legacy.

Swords: Intellect and Conflict

Swords symbolize thoughts, communication, and challenges. The Two of Swords can indicate indecision, whereas the Ace of Swords often brings clarity and breakthrough.

Wands: Creativity and Action

Wands embody passion, growth, and ambition. The Page of Wands encourages exploration and enthusiasm, while the Eight of Wands suggests rapid movement or news.

How to Interpret the Meaning of Rider Waite Tarot Cards in a Reading

Interpreting Rider Waite tarot cards is as much an art as it is a skill. Here are some tips for gaining deeper insights:

1. ****Focus on Symbolism:**** Each card's imagery contains symbols that hint at its meaning. For instance, the number of items, colors, and figures all contribute layers of interpretation.
2. ****Consider Card Position:**** In spreads like the Celtic Cross or Three-Card Layout, the position of a card informs its influence—past, present, future, obstacle, or advice.
3. ****Trust Your Intuition:**** While traditional meanings are essential, personal intuition plays a vital role in understanding what the cards are revealing in a particular moment.
4. ****Look at Card Combinations:**** Cards influence each other's meanings when they appear together. For example, The Lovers paired with the Two of Cups amplifies themes of connection and harmony.

Popular Rider Waite Tarot Card Spreads for Beginners

Using well-known spreads can help structure your reading and make interpreting the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards more manageable. Here are a few beginner-friendly layouts:

- ****Three-Card Spread:**** Past, Present, Future or Situation, Action, Outcome.
- ****Celtic Cross Spread:**** Offers a comprehensive view of the querent's situation with positions for challenges, influences, and outcomes.
- ****One-Card Daily Draw:**** Perfect for daily guidance and reflection.

Common Misconceptions About Rider Waite Tarot Cards

Many people new to tarot often misunderstand the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards by thinking they predict the future with absolute certainty. Instead, tarot is a tool for reflection, guidance, and exploring possibilities. The cards reveal energies and influences at play, helping readers make informed choices rather than fixed predictions.

Another misconception is that memorizing card meanings verbatim is necessary. While learning traditional interpretations is helpful, the true power of the Rider Waite deck lies in engaging with the cards' imagery and letting personal insights emerge naturally.

Enhancing Your Understanding: Resources and Practice

To deepen your knowledge of the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards, consider these approaches:

- ****Study Guidebooks:**** Classic texts like "The Pictorial Key to the Tarot" by A.E. Waite provide foundational meanings and background.
- ****Join Tarot Communities:**** Online forums and social media groups offer

support, shared experiences, and fresh perspectives.

- ****Practice Regularly:**** Drawing a daily card and journaling your impressions helps build confidence and intuitive reading skills.
- ****Attend Workshops or Courses:**** Many spiritual centers and online platforms offer guided instruction tailored to the Rider Waite deck.

The Enduring Appeal of the Rider Waite Tarot Deck

The continued popularity of the Rider Waite tarot deck is a testament to its timeless design and profound symbolism. Whether you're seeking clarity in personal dilemmas, exploring spiritual growth, or simply curious about tarot, understanding the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards enriches your journey.

The layered imagery invites you to look beyond the surface, tapping into archetypes and universal themes that resonate across cultures and generations. Each card is a doorway to insight, encouraging reflection and empowering you to navigate life's complexities with greater awareness.

Engaging with the Rider Waite tarot is not just about divination; it's a personal dialogue with the subconscious mind, a mirror reflecting your inner landscape. As you become more familiar with the deck, you'll find that the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards evolves and deepens, much like a lifelong friendship.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Rider Waite Tarot deck?

The Rider Waite Tarot deck is one of the most popular and widely used tarot decks, created in 1909 by artist Pamela Colman Smith under the guidance of Arthur Edward Waite. It is known for its detailed and symbolic imagery, which is used for divination and self-reflection.

Why is the Rider Waite Tarot deck important for tarot readers?

The Rider Waite Tarot deck is important because it introduced illustrated scenes on all 78 cards, including the Minor Arcana, making it easier to interpret card meanings and tell stories during readings. This innovation has influenced most modern tarot decks.

What do the Major Arcana cards in the Rider Waite Tarot represent?

The Major Arcana cards in the Rider Waite Tarot represent significant life

events, spiritual lessons, and archetypal themes. They include well-known cards like The Fool, The Magician, and The High Priestess, each carrying deep symbolic meanings.

How do the Rider Waite Tarot cards convey their meanings through imagery?

The Rider Waite Tarot cards use rich symbolism, colors, and detailed illustrations to convey meanings. Each card's imagery includes symbols, characters, and settings that reflect themes like emotions, challenges, and personal growth, helping readers interpret messages intuitively and analytically.

Can the Rider Waite Tarot cards be used for both beginners and experienced readers?

Yes, the Rider Waite Tarot deck is ideal for both beginners and experienced readers. Its clear and evocative imagery makes it accessible for learning tarot meanings, while its depth and symbolism offer experienced readers complex insights during readings.

Additional Resources

****Unlocking the Mysteries: The Meaning of Rider Waite Tarot Cards****

Meaning of rider waite tarot cards extends far beyond simple fortune-telling; it represents a rich tapestry of symbolism, history, and archetypal imagery that has captivated readers and spiritual seekers for over a century. Developed in the early 20th century by artist Pamela Colman Smith under the direction of Arthur Edward Waite, this deck has become one of the most widely recognized and utilized tarot decks worldwide. The Rider Waite tarot deck is not only a tool for divination but also a profound psychological and spiritual map, inviting those who engage with it to explore the human experience in all its complexity.

Historical Context and Significance

Understanding the meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards requires a brief look at their origins. Published in 1909, the deck emerged during a period of renewed interest in mysticism and esotericism. Unlike earlier tarot decks, which often lacked detailed imagery on the Minor Arcana, the Rider Waite deck introduced richly illustrated cards across all suits. This innovation made it easier for readers to interpret the cards intuitively and symbolically.

The deck's symbolism draws heavily on a mixture of Western esoteric traditions, including Kabbalah, astrology, and alchemy. Waite's intention was

to create a deck that could be used both for divination and as a means of spiritual insight. This dual purpose is reflected in the depth of the artwork and the archetypal themes depicted on each card.

Core Components of the Rider Waite Tarot

The Rider Waite tarot deck consists of 78 cards divided into two primary groups: the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana. Each subset carries distinct meanings and serves different interpretative functions.

Major Arcana: Archetypes and Life Lessons

The 22 Major Arcana cards represent significant life events, universal themes, and spiritual lessons. Cards such as The Fool, The Magician, The High Priestess, and Death symbolize pivotal moments and transformative forces. Their imagery is rich with allegorical content, encompassing human virtues, challenges, and growth opportunities.

For example, The Fool (card 0) often symbolizes new beginnings, innocence, and potential, while Death (card 13) is typically misunderstood as literal death but more accurately represents transformation and rebirth. These cards often serve as the foundation for a tarot reading's narrative, indicating overarching influences or climax points in a querent's journey.

Minor Arcana: Everyday Experiences and Situations

The remaining 56 cards form the Minor Arcana, divided into four suits: Cups, Pentacles, Swords, and Wands. Each suit corresponds to different aspects of life:

- **Cups:** Emotions, relationships, and intuition.
- **Pentacles:** Material wealth, career, and physical health.
- **Swords:** Intellect, conflict, and decision-making.
- **Wands:** Creativity, ambition, and action.

Each suit contains numbered cards from Ace to Ten, along with four court cards—Page, Knight, Queen, and King—each representing different personality types or energies.

Symbolism and Imagery: Decoding the Visual Language

A defining strength of the Rider Waite tarot deck lies in its vivid, narrative-driven imagery. Every card is layered with symbols that provide clues to its meaning. For instance, the suit of Cups prominently features water, a universal symbol of emotion and subconscious flow. Similarly, the Swords often depict clouds, storms, and sharp blades, signifying intellectual challenges and conflict.

The use of color also plays a significant role. Bright yellows often indicate clarity and optimism, while darker hues might suggest uncertainty or introspection. The figures on the cards are drawn with expressive body language and gestures, conveying nuanced psychological states.

Understanding this symbolic language is crucial for accurate interpretation. Readers learn to synthesize imagery, numerology, and traditional meanings to deliver insights tailored to the querent's questions.

Comparing Rider Waite to Other Tarot Decks

While many tarot decks exist, the Rider Waite remains a benchmark due to its comprehensive symbolism and accessibility. Compared to the Marseille tarot, which features more minimalist and abstract images, Rider Waite's detailed illustrations enable more intuitive readings. Meanwhile, contemporary decks like the Thoth Tarot incorporate more complex esoteric symbolism but may be less approachable for beginners.

For those seeking a deck that balances tradition with rich visual storytelling, the Rider Waite deck is often recommended. Its influence permeates much of modern tarot literature and practice.

Interpreting Rider Waite Cards in Readings

The meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards can vary depending on the context of the reading, the position of the cards, and whether cards appear upright or reversed. Upright cards generally convey the core meaning of the card, while reversed cards often indicate blockages, challenges, or alternative interpretations.

Professional tarot readers emphasize the importance of intuition when working with the deck. While each card has established interpretations, the relationship between cards in a spread and the querent's unique circumstances shape the final message.

Popular Spreads Utilizing Rider Waite Cards

- **The Celtic Cross:** Perhaps the most famous tarot spread, it uses ten cards to explore the querent's situation, obstacles, subconscious influences, and potential outcomes.
- **Three-Card Spread:** A concise method focusing on past, present, and future or situation, action, and outcome.
- **Relationship Spread:** Designed to examine the dynamics between two people, often using the court cards to represent individuals.

These layouts highlight how the rich symbolism of Rider Waite cards can be woven into narratives that address complex life questions.

Educational and Psychological Applications

Beyond divination, the Rider Waite tarot cards have found a place in educational and therapeutic settings. Psychologists and counselors sometimes use tarot imagery as projective tools to facilitate self-reflection and uncover subconscious thoughts.

In academic contexts, the deck serves as a subject for studying archetypal symbolism and mythological motifs. This analytical approach underscores the cards' broader cultural and psychological significance, moving beyond mysticism into the realm of personal development.

Pros and Cons of Using the Rider Waite Deck

- **Pros:**
 - Rich, accessible symbolism suitable for beginners and experienced readers alike.
 - Extensive literature and resources available for study.
 - Versatile for various types of readings and spreads.
 - Strong connection to Western esoteric traditions provides depth.

- **Cons:**

- Symbolism may feel dated or Eurocentric to some modern users.
- The imagery can be complex, requiring study to master interpretations.
- Reversed card meanings are sometimes inconsistent across different guides.

These factors contribute to the ongoing popularity of the Rider Waite deck while also inviting ongoing reinterpretation and adaptation.

The meaning of Rider Waite tarot cards continues to evolve as new generations of readers bring fresh perspectives to this enduring symbol system. Whether approached as a mystical tool, psychological mirror, or artistic masterpiece, the deck offers a profound gateway into the human condition.

Meaning Of Rider Waite Tarot Cards

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: The Ultimate Guide to the Rider Waite Tarot

Johannes Fiebig, Evelin Burger, 2013 A guide to the most popular tarot deck provides lists of the ten most significant points for interpretation; examines each card, including its ten most important symbols; and outlines spreads.

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: Llewellyn's Complete Book of the Rider-Waite-Smith

Tarot Sasha Graham, 2025-08-05 Discover the Fascinating History and Divinatory Power of the 20th Century's Most Popular Tarot Deck Originally published in 1909 to little fanfare, the Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot went on to become the bestselling tarot deck of all time. This complete guide shares the compelling story of the deck's creation, a complete analysis of what each card means, and 78 spreads to help you integrate each card's unique spiritual energy. Discover how artist Pamela Colman Smith and occultist Arthur Waite combined their knowledge of astrology, Kabbalah, metaphysics, mythology, and theater to realize their profound vision. Llewellyn's Complete Book of the Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot delves deeply into the roots of these influential cards, exploring how Waite and Smith brought together an enchanting set of esoteric symbols and formed a magical deck that has guided, inspired, validated, and challenged the countless readers and seekers who have sought its wisdom.

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: Reading the Tarot - the Ultimate Guide to the Rider Waite Tarot Cards Shawna Blood, 2019-02-11 Tarot cards have been used for hundreds of years as a method to help guide those that seek answers to life's questions. Everything from love, money, family, and more can be reflected in the cards, all you have to do is learn to understand them, and that's what 'Reading the Tarot' can do for you.

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Harrington, 2025-06-03 Learn to divine the wisdom of the cards with this beginner-friendly reference Tarot & Oracle Card Reading For Dummies gives you the tools and expertise you need to

become the savvy card reader you've always wanted to be. Inside, you'll find complete information on the meanings of the 78 tarot cards as well as insights into working with oracle card decks of all kinds. You'll also explore tarot's shift from a playing card game to a deeply engaging tool for fortune telling, psychological reflection and creativity boosting. If you're brand new to card reading, never fear! This book offers a step-by-step guide for understanding your deck, nailing the basics, and divining for yourself and others. With fun and easy to use exercises for interpreting the cards, you'll be able to do it blindfolded! Okay, not blindfolded, but definitely with ease. With this fun Dummies guide, you'll become a master soothsayer in no time. Discover the three schools of tarot—Marseilles, Rider-Waite-Smith, and Thoth—and the many varieties of oracles Get clear explanations of basic card spreads and how to interpret them for yourself and others See examples of how to intuitively connect cards to real-life situations and intentions Refine your card reading skills and learn new techniques This unintimidating Dummies guide belongs in the arcane libraries of beginning mystics and regular people curious about tarot and oracle cards.

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: *Tarot for Beginners: The Ultimate Guide to Real Tarot Card Meanings, Simple Spreads, and Intuitive Exercises for Seamless Readings - Learn Symbolism, History, Secrets, Intuition and Divination.* Sybil Wolfe, 2022-05-05 Unlock the Mystical World of Tarot with the Ultimate Beginner's Guide Are you ready to discover the secrets of Tarot and master the art of seamless readings? Tarot for Beginners is your comprehensive guide to understanding real Tarot card meanings, exploring simple spreads, and developing your intuition for accurate readings. Whether you're just starting out or looking to deepen your knowledge, this book provides everything you need to become confident in your Tarot practice. Learn the Tarot Secrets and Enhance Your Intuition Learning Tarot can seem daunting, with its rich symbolism and deep history, but with the right guide, you can quickly master this ancient art. Tarot for Beginners simplifies the process, offering clear explanations and practical exercises to help you develop your intuitive skills and understand the true meanings behind each card. This book is your gateway to unlocking the mysteries of Tarot and using it as a powerful tool for guidance and insight. What You'll Discover in Tarot for Beginners: - The History of the Tarot Cards: Start your journey with a strong foundation by exploring the rich history and origins of Tarot, giving you a deeper appreciation of this mystical practice. - Decode Arcane Symbolism: Learn to interpret the symbols on each card, understanding their deeper meanings to enhance the accuracy and depth of your readings. - Trust Your Intuition: Practice intuitive exercises designed to help you feel the truth of the cards and build confidence in your readings. - Step-by-Step Guidance: From basic spreads to advanced techniques, this book offers in-depth information that takes you from a novice to a Tarot master. If you enjoyed *The Ultimate Guide to Tarot* by Liz Dean, *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom* by Rachel Pollack, or *Tarot for Your Self* by Mary K. Greer, you'll love Tarot for Beginners. Awaken Your Intuition and Master Tarot Today! Scroll up, click on Buy Now, and start your journey into the world of Tarot with Tarot for Beginners.

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tarot to decipher the secret magic that lies beneath. Explore the astrological, Kabbalistic and occult meanings of both the major and minor arcana. Along the way, discover the evolution of the tarot from a recreational game for the Italian nobility to their use by ritual magicians of the Golden Dawn order at the turn of the 20th century, who saw it as a tool for spiritual enlightenment. A great companion to any tarot deck, this book gives tarot readers a deeper understanding of the cards, where they originated and what each card means - and why.

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: Discover Psychic Tarot Reading, Tarot Card Meanings, Numerology, Astrology and Reveal What The Universe Has In Store for You Sofia Visconti, 2020-07-23 The Only Book On The Tarot You Will Ever Need Have you always been interested in Tarot, but you didn't know where to start? Have you ever wanted a Tarot reading, or wondered what it takes to become a Tarot reader? Begin Your Exploration & Find The Answers Your Searching For.... Many people use tarot cards to make important decisions about their careers, health, investments, and love life. Tarot cards can reveal opportunities and blockages that are happening now, in the past, and in the future. Tarot is a time-honoured means of developing our intuition. Many of our greatest visionaries, including Nikola Tesla, Steve Jobs, Elon Musk, Karl Lagerfeld and Oprah Winfrey credit their intuitive knowing for their success. Intuitive development is essential to honouring the call of our unique life purpose, connecting empathically with others and manifesting our fullest lives. Of course, like anything in the Occult realm, the Tarot is surrounded by myths and misconceptions. Too many learn the tarot books give you only a handful of spreads to memorize - or endless paragraphs you have to try to remember every time you stare at your cards. In this book you will learn what your cards mean, how to cast spreads easily and get the answers you need. Ever wished you could have instant access to all the Tarot card meanings for nearly every type of reading . . . Love, career, spirituality and much, much more? Knowing how to read tarot cards can be a skill that is used in many areas of your life. Through the course of the centuries, Tarot gained a lot of rules and complications, however, it is much easier than it appears to be. Start reading the Tarot immediately with this quick and easy method. In This Book You Will Discover: Introduction and History of Tarot How to use Tarot as a powerful Spiritual Development and Business Tool Tarot Symbols Decoded: Discover what each Tarot card means How Ignite Your Intuition and Awaken With Tarot Use the Tarot deck to Gain valuable insight in different situations. Master your Psychic Ability and Give Accurate Professional Level Readings Use the tarot to rapidly improve your, love life, business, career and finances Identify what spiritual lessons you need to master Inspiring quotes to increase your understanding of each card. And Much, Much, More.... So if your looking to improve your life or help others then this is the perfect book to begin or continue your exploration into Tarot.

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introduces The Fool, the central figure of the Tarot. She weaves his journey into a narrative that blends personal anecdotes with collective history—showing that it is not a fortune-telling tool but a guide for insight and transformation. Recognising how daunting it is for those wishing to learn, she offers simple guidelines to make it enjoyable for both beginners and seasoned readers who may be looking for a slightly different approach. This is an easy-to-read book that invites the reader to embark on their journey of love with the Major Arcana as a first step in exploring the entire Tarot deck, providing insight into the magic, myth, and influences that have shaped divination for many centuries.

meaning of rider waite tarot cards: BERESHITH : THE HUMAN SKULL IS THE HOUSE OF GOD William John Meegan, 2024-06-18 Religion, Esotericism, Psychology The first Hebrew word inscribed into the sacred scriptures is BERESHITH . The three middle letters in the Hebrew word BERESHITH spells out the Hebrew letter/word RESH that symbolizes HEAD/SKULL. And the first and last two Hebrew letters in the Hebrew word BERESHITH spells out the Hebrew letter/word BETH that symbolizes HOUSE. That is why I translated the Hebrew word BERESHITH : THE HUMAN SKULL IS THE HOUSE OF GOD. It is quite interesting to envisage that the first two Hebrew letters: BETH and RESH in the Judaeo Christian Scriptures spells out the first word of Genesis: BERESHITH . “In the Beginning” was considered in antiquity and in modern times to be the interpretation of the Hebrew word BERESHITH . In this volume I will illustrate that the first letter of the BIBLE BETH ; though, it is not translated as “in the Beginning” it does mystically symbolize the phrase “In the Beginning”. The first chapter of Genesis is a commentary on the first Hebrew letter BETH and it is also a commentary on the VESICA PISCIS. The first Hebrew letter of the Bible BETH is mystically inundated and surrounded by another Hebrew letter called PEI that cannot be seen, which, is literally invisible for anybody to see. PEI has the gematria (numerical) value of eighty (80). And BETH has the gematria (numerical) value of forty-hundred and twelve (412). The first chapter of Genesis has sixty-nine (69) groups of one-hundred and forty-two (142) Hebrew words held together by eighty (80) hyphens; however, the number one-hundred and forty-two (142) is a transposition of the number four-hundred and twelve (412). Chapter six (6) will illustrate the sixty-nine (69) groups of words colored coded in orange. The number sixty-nine (69) is a very spiritual number, which will be discussed later in this volume. Chapter six (6) is written with Hebrew and English words with STRONGS EXHAUSTIVE CONCORDANCE’S numbers placed over the Hebrew and English words.

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question, even if you have never picked up a deck. We do this through unique exercises and games, taught nowhere else in the world. Click on the Look Inside link above to see exactly how you will quickly and easily master the Tarot. This is a highly interactive workbook: You don't just read this book and put it on the shelf-you practice what you learn in real time, and you see results instantly from your education. The more you practice the better your results will be and the more you will understand your cards. We even have TONS of free videos every week and audio lessons to supplement your education at our easy tarot lessons website. This book is the best way to start learning the tarot. When you have completed this book and you want to read cards better than most professional tarot readers you will ever meet, you will want to pick up a copy of Advanced Tarot Secrets. That book will help you get 3-5 times more information from every spread you cast than anyone you know, and it will teach you the deepest secrets of distance divination and manifestation. Best of all, unlike any other professionally published tarot book this book comes with complete support. If you ever get lost, stuck, or bored, we are here to help. You can find us inside the book. Thanks for checking out The Easiest Way to Learn the Tarot-EVER!! We are here to help you. This is all we do.

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