

THE CARTOMANCER



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THE WISE FOOL TAROT

Review by Jadzia DeForest

Author and Artist: Cade Burkhammer

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The Wise Fool Tarot has 85 cards and a 140 page booklet with a forward

by author R.J. Stewart, all packaged in a sturdy, two-part box.

The card's measure 5" by 3.5" and are printed on very nice, coated cardstock. The mottled, multi-colored greenish border extends to the edge so that there is no white outer border.

The cardbacks, which are reversible, show an apple from the tree of life and one from the tree of knowledge cut in half, rainbows, the five-pointed star, and two columns that depict DNA and LUCA strands, serpents of creation, light and matter. Yeah, even the backs of the cards are rich with symbolism and layered meaning. The booklet covers all of this symbolism on page 9.

The perfect bound, soft cover, black and white booklet includes an

introduction to the deck, what tarot is, and ways to use the tarot. Each Major Arcana cards have a couple of pages describing the card images and meaning. The Minors have a page each, again with description of the image, symbolism, story, and meaning.

Burkhammer did some really fun and interesting stuff with his deck. To start with, each of the suits begins with its own Fool card preceding the



Ace. Instead of the Minors having titles you'll find a playing card suit icon and number at the top right and bottom left corners of each card. The suits are Clubs (Wands), Hearts (Cups), Spades (Swords), and Diamonds (Pentacles).

Another interesting bit about this deck is that each piece of art was originally painted on wood. You can see the unique wood grain on each card

in the deck. And Burkhammer chose specific panels because of the grain pattern for each card.



A couple of my favorite cards from the Minor Arcana are the Three of Hearts (Cups) and the Five of Clubs (Wands). The Three of Hearts shows the three graces surrounding a cauldron in which they're pouring liquid that becomes a river. The booklet says that this card is about a more realistic view of love. That *the room is filled with love and positive intentions*. And, as this kind of atmosphere is fleeting, it's a *time to respect the transient power of love*.



The Five of Clubs scene is five baseball player in field fighting each other with flaming bats. Each player wears a different color uniform and is from a different team, but the numbers on their uniforms each add up to 5. The booklet says: *You may be feeling conflict*

in your environment because you are not the person you used to be. Burkhammer states that the players fight each other until they realize that they have the same passion for the same game.

The Major Arcana has several new cards. It begins with the card numbered (-1) and titled Muggle. This card represents the mundane and regular class that often taken advantage of by the upper class.

In this deck Justice is number 8 and Strength is number 11, as it is in the Thoth tarot system.



There are two cards numbered 15 (15a and 15b). The first is the traditional Devil card in meaning that Burkhammer calls: Industry. The booklet states that *the Devil stands on a foundation of oppressed, ignorant, and enslaved minds and bodies*. Also that this card represents *a sociopathic corporation (and legally considered human) that is able to purchase its own politicians and laws*.

Card 15b is a very different symbol, the Horned One (Nature). The Horned One is the guardian of nature and the earth. He is a primal, wild, and represents masculine fertility. He is Herne, Pan, and Cernunnos.

The last two cards in the deck are 21a (Earth) and 21b (World). 21a represents the living planet, the tortured earth, and Mother Nature at odds with the humans. The booklet says this card is a reminder to fight against



those who take advantage of the earth and change our ways to live in harmony and heal Mother Nature.

21b is the traditional World card indicating completion, success, lessons learned, and the end of the journey in the Major Arcana.



The Wise Fool Tarot is a wonderful new deck for the modern era. Each card is filled with social commentary and modern imagery that reflects today's world.

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