

Tarot Dynamics

Tarot Dynamics

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Tarot Dynamics

Anna Burroughs Cook

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Acknowledgments

I wish to acknowledge the following people whose affection and limitless patience transformed Tarot-Dynamics from a dream into a dream come true.

First of all, my husband, Richard Crombie, for giving Tarot-Dynamics its title, who patiently sifted through reams of text, correcting my grammatical errors and punctuation.

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How could I not say a heart-felt thank-you to thirty years worth of clients from coast to coast for trusting me to tell them the truth – even when it wasn't what they wanted to hear.

Nadine May, who was with me every step of the way in our mad dash to get T-D into print.

Suzy (our spoiled Rottenweiler) Cagney (our good Shepherd) and Buddy (our super Spaniel) just for always making me smile simply by being their irreplaceable selves!

Last but not Least, a warm thank you and welcome, to everyone who is taking the time to read Tarot-Dynamics.

Anna Burroughs Cook

Dedication

This book is dedicated in memory of Eleanor Mannochio

May you have the foresight to know where you're going,
The hindsight to know where you've been,
&
The insight to know where you are.

Irish Proverb

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Note from the Publisher

This book is designed to be used with any 78 card Tarot Deck. We encourage you to place your own cards over the images in the book even if they are from another deck. This widens the scope of the book and reinforces your learning experience.

A lot of love and dedication by the author has gone into the making of this book, so we trust that it becomes a faithful companion to you on your Tarot journey.



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Introduction

There are some things that we do not believe unless we understand them, and some things we do not understand unless we believe them.-

Saint Augustin

The accuracy of any forecast from the stock market, to the weather, or the future success of a single individual relies upon the sensitivity and skill of the interpreter. The art of reading the Tarot has been a respected (if somewhat mysterious) form of divination for hundreds of years. There have been many debates about the Tarot's specific origins but its roots can be traced back to one of the original versions found in the Kabbalah, a book of Hebrew traditions and Gnostic knowledge. *Tarot Dynamics* is intended to be a study guide to help you master the Tarot and develop your own technique for interpreting the cards.

DO'S and DON'TS

DO read this study guide cover to cover and then:

DO memorize the characteristics for the five Tarot suits. Memorizing them in groups of ten worked well for me, but find a way that's comfortable for you.

DO develop your own keywords. How? After having read this book and absorbed its guidelines, sit down with a pen and paper and study the picture of each card in your deck. Write down a keyword that describes what you "feel" when you see that card, anger, enlightenment, success, worry, travel, promotion etc. Use your keywords. Whether or not your definition for a particular card agrees with anyone else's is NOT impor-

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tant as long as the information you provide is correct.

DO be as creative as you wish. Devising your own Tarot spread can be fun.

DO not be surprised, once you've learned to relax, if you discover that doing a reading for someone else is much easier than trying to read a Tarot spread for yourself!

DO you have to memorize the names and numbers of all seventy-eight cards, or devise your own keywords? Not if you don't want to. Memorizing the five keywords for each of the five suits will suffice if you are more curious than serious about learning the Tarot and uninterested in reading any Tarot decks except the one featured in this book.

* * *

DON'T read the cards for yourself unless you're relaxed and in control of your emotions. Otherwise, the cards are more likely to echo your anxiety, which won't help matters.

DON'T do a full reading of the cards for yourself or anyone else too often. I won't read for a client more often than every three to six months. Give matters time to develop. Remember too, that the greater the affection between you and the person you're reading, the harder it is to remain as open and objective as you should be.

DON'T read the cards for other people who are upset. Postpone their reading until they've calmed down. Otherwise, the cards will simply echo their anxiety and your reading will prove inaccurate.

DON'T read the cards for anyone who intimidates you. If your information is inaccurate, they'll never let you forget it. If you're correct, they'll chalk your success up to luck.

After purchasing your Tarot cards

Remove the cards from the box and cellophane wrapper. Shuffle the cards for a few moments making sure you mix them very well before returning them to the box. During the days before you use your cards for the first time, you may either sleep with the box of cards under your pillow or on your nightstand. If your home is your primary base of operations, keep the box of cards near you as you perform your daily routines. Feel free to shuffle them occasionally. This exercise allows you and your cards to become more familiar with one another. However, if you work outside the home, carry them in your purse, or in the case of a man, in a briefcase or lunch pail. After using your cards for the first time return them to the box and select a special spot to store them until the next time you use them. Some people prefer wrapping their cards in a piece of silk or purchasing a special box in which to store their Tarot cards.

Reading the Tarot

The Tarot is like anything else – the longer you work with it the more proficient you'll become. Reading the Tarot also has a tendency to open or expand your intuitive faculties. Yes, you're probably going to be nervous when you begin to read the Tarot. You know yourself best. It may be two weeks or six months before you feel confident enough to do a reading without referring to this manual or notes you've taken. When you do deliver your very first "solo" reading, don't be surprised if the harder you try to recall each keyword, definition or placement title, the less you remember and the more you rely on your own intuition – because that's exactly as it should be!

Every now and then one card will appear in several readings over the course of a year or for several different people in the space of month. The more often one card is repeated in consecutive readings for a person the more valuable that card's defi-

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dition is to their success or disappointment. In one reading it may represent a matter that they're grappling with, in another it may represent a matter they're avoiding. Each time it appears it will strike you differently, you'll receive and provide a little more insight about the situation. The more often one card is repeated throughout several readings for different people in the course of one week, month, or year the more likely it is that some sort of social or economic trend is either developing or underway in the world at large.

Reading the Tarot for other people

Getting over yourself is the first step to reading the Tarot successfully. The greater your fear of saying the wrong thing, the more likely it is you will. By the same token – the more you think you know, the more you're sure to learn. Until, and unless, you can detach yourself from your ego, worries, or self-doubt, you shouldn't attempt to read the Tarot. Why? Because whenever you do a reading for someone else all your sensitivity and awareness needs to be focused on the other person. Detaching yourself from your own concerns is best achieved by developing and applying your own technique for personal relaxation before doing a reading. If you haven't yet discovered a personal relaxation technique, here's what I'd suggest: Sit quietly with your eyes closed or look out the window. Light incense or a scented candle, listen to soft music, or perform some simple exercises. After the reading, take a moment or two to shuffle your cards before returning them to their case.

Reading the Tarot for people at a distance

Doing a Tarot reading by phone has gained popularity in recent years. If you're the caller, the reader allegedly concentrates upon you, shuffles the cards and proceeds to tell you what you want to hear – which is generally quite different from what you need to know! I have several clients living out of state who call

for telephone readings a few times each year. Yet, I would never dream of shuffling cards for them. They each have their own deck of Tarot cards which they shuffle before they call me. Doing this insures that their reading is uncontaminated by any outside influence. It also affords me a clear picture of what they need to know. Then we proceed to lay out the cards together while I record the session. When we're finished, I mail the cassette tape to them for future reference. I suggest this technique for two reasons: First, it lends the reading a personal touch, second, it increases my accuracy.

Reading your own Tarot cards

Doing an accurate reading for yourself requires that you remain neutral and objective. Some people start each day by drawing and interpreting one Tarot card from their own deck, or selecting a one or three card reading from a Tarot Web Site – similar to reading your daily horoscope in the newspaper. It's not often that I read my own Tarot cards, but when I do, I only employ the three-card spread (see Chapter Eight). Whenever I'm seriously in need of insight about a matter, I prefer to consult another Tarot reader. Why? Because, the more significant the situation, the harder it becomes NOT to interpret the definitions according to what I want to be true or fear the most. The same will be true for you.

Once, when I was very new to reading the Tarot, I had a client who appeared in a state of high anxiety. Shortly after I began to read, they began to get agitated. Upon reaching the conclusion, they were quite irritable. Since they were obviously displeased, I declined payment for my services. Nonetheless, I wanted to know how I had offended them. Upon voicing this question, the client haughtily replied that they too read the Tarot. In fact, they read their own cards EVERY day and not one thing I'd told them had appeared in their cards! I was quite surprised when a few weeks later they called again. This time they were upset because my reading proved accurate; they

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wanted to know if I had jinxed them. I reassured them that I certainly had not jinxed them and gently suggested that perhaps their own emotional strength and intensity had led them to misinterpret when they read for themselves. This story illustrates how reading for yourself can wind up an exercise in hearing what we want instead of what we need to know. Flooding yourself with more information than you can process, is another downside to reading your own cards too often.

Your Tarot-Dynamics definitions

Each definition contains two very important phrases that begin with: The more encouraging (or reassuring) the situation, or, the more challenging (or less reassuring) the situation.

These terms refer to reasons for conducting the reading. If for example, you or the person you're reading has discovered you're in line for a promotion or a new job—that's an "encouraging situation". Receiving good news or coming up with a fresh idea, or experiencing a "hunch" that tells you matters will soon be taking a turn for the better are also good examples of encouraging situations.

Consulting the cards will reveal more of what you need to know about your new hope or endeavor. By the same token, should you or the person you're reading discover you're in danger of being down-sized on your job that's a "more challenging situation". Yet, whether you're feeling less positive, or have recently received unsettling news, consulting the cards can also tell you more of what you need to know concerning alternative options and avenues.

Each definition also contains the words: "The more encouraging the other cards in the spread", and "The more challenging the other cards in the spread". You can determine this more easily by viewing your entire spread to see whether any particular suit or subject card (numbers two through ten) hold a majority. Chapter Eleven offers several examples to assist you. The

Left Pages contain in-depth Tarot definitions while the Right Pages provide a Quick Reference.

A hint of romance

The definition for each Court Card as well as the entire suit of Cups contains an additional subheading (entitled romantically) beginning with the phrase: “Should your spread contain a hint of romance”. However, there are no hard and fast rules concerning what “a hint of romance” looks like in the Tarot. You see, whether at the beginning, the middle, or the end each romance and every romantic opportunity is as different as the couples that encounter them.

When the client asks, “Can I expect to meet my true love soon?” differentiating between opportunity and wishful thinking in the cards poses a real challenge. I have found it easier to resolve issues concerning romance, as well as romantic misunderstandings, by viewing the entire spread to determine which, if any, Court Cards happen to fall with, or near cards such as the Lovers, the Empress, the Wheel of Fortune, The Star, or The Fool from Major Arcana as well as the Two, Three, Six, or Ten of Cups.

Here too, with a little time and practice as your intuition becomes stronger and more reliable you're sure to devise your own guidelines. Whether or not you or the person you're reading is involved in a relationship or hopes to find one, every now and then—you'll get a “feeling” from one or more particular cards or their alignment in your spread that alerts you to an impending change in their (or your) emotional situation, so follow your feelings!!!

Differentiating between a challenge and an inconvenience

No matter how rushed you are, a flat tire is more of an inconvenience than a challenge – unless you lack the skill to change the

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tire yourself, or the means to purchase a new tire. Yet, by overcoming the challenge of learning to change your own tire, or by re-examining your financial situation, you confront the challenge, and that encourages you to become more resourceful and independent.

Keeping matters in perspective

My favorite definition for the word challenge is; a matter or circumstance that requires our immediate attention. Interviewing for a better job is a personal challenge, but the possibility of landing that job overrides our anxiety concerning the interview. Whether or not it's expected, bad news from a doctor or dentist also presents a personal challenge, but the possibility of feeling better helps counteract any anxiety concerning the upcoming medical procedure. Loss of employment, or an unexpected reduction of income also presents a personal challenge, yet by taking the opportunity to develop marketable skills, or by simplifying our life, the initial challenge may prove to be a blessing in disguise.

Getting ready to read

This book is designed to assist you in expanding your intuitive faculties while mastering the Tarot, in just a short time. The next six chapters provide a comprehensive explanation of the five suits that comprise the Tarot. Before you begin reading, please take a moment to memorize the five characteristics that we will be using to define the five suits.

Major Arcana = Karma (cause and effect)

Wands = Change

Cups = Emotion

Swords = Challenges

Pentacles = Ambition

After reading chapters one through twelve, memorizing the names and numbers of all seventy-eight cards is the next step in mastering the Tarot completely. Working with each suit in groups of five or ten worked well for me. Once you've memorized the names and numbers of one complete suit, test yourself. Take a sheet of paper and write down the number for each card in that suit. Then, fill in the name of each card next to its assigned number and check your notes or study-guide to see how right you are. Working with a study-buddy can also be fun.

Depending upon your schedule, it may take as little as three days or perhaps even a week, but once you can think of a random number, (for example) forty-three, and know that that number IS the Three of Cups you're on your way!

Your final step in mastering the Tarot is also your passport to delivering effortless and accurate readings from any and every seventy-eight card Tarot Deck. Just memorize one simple keyword for each of the five Court Cards and eight subject cards from the Minor Arcana listed in Chapter Two of your Study Guide. Please, don't hesitate to devise your own keywords. For example, in Chapter Two Subject Card Seven is said to represent your personal and professional associations. For the sake of simplicity, you might also choose "relationships." Feel free to be as creative as you wish.



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FAQ

Q. Isn't it supposed to mean something when the picture on the Tarot card is upside down?

A. That depends upon the interpretation of your reader. Some readers apply the negative (or more challenging) definition to any Tarot card whose picture is reversed or upside down. Once you begin working with your cards it won't be long before you can recognize the difference between genuine challenges and temporary stumbling blocks or hesitation. In my experience it really doesn't matter, but I prefer to see all the cards right side up. Viewing them in this manner improves my range and accuracy.

Q. Why didn't the Tarot reader tell me as much information as my friend received?

A. There are two parts to the answer.

First: Some people hear more, while some hear less during their reading. Some people are going to be up against a wider variety of issues in the near future. Some are already on the path that's right for them, or their life is currently under better control or more organized.

Second: How often do you have your cards read? No matter how much you may like your reader, the better they get to know you, the harder it is for them to retain their objectivity. It's in your best interest to space your readings at least three if not six months apart.

Q. I went to three different readers in three months and heard three different stories, how do I know whom to believe?

A. Chances are that at least a little something from one or more of those readings will come to pass in time. Nonetheless, you're having your cards read too often! If you were comfortable with all three readers, I suggest that you schedule a return session in another three or four months with the reader who provided

the most accurate information. If you weren't comfortable with any of those readers, consider shopping around for a reader who does suit you. That's very important. The more comfortable you and the reader feel with one another the more accurate and informative your session will be.

Q. All my cards were terrific – why didn't anything good happen?

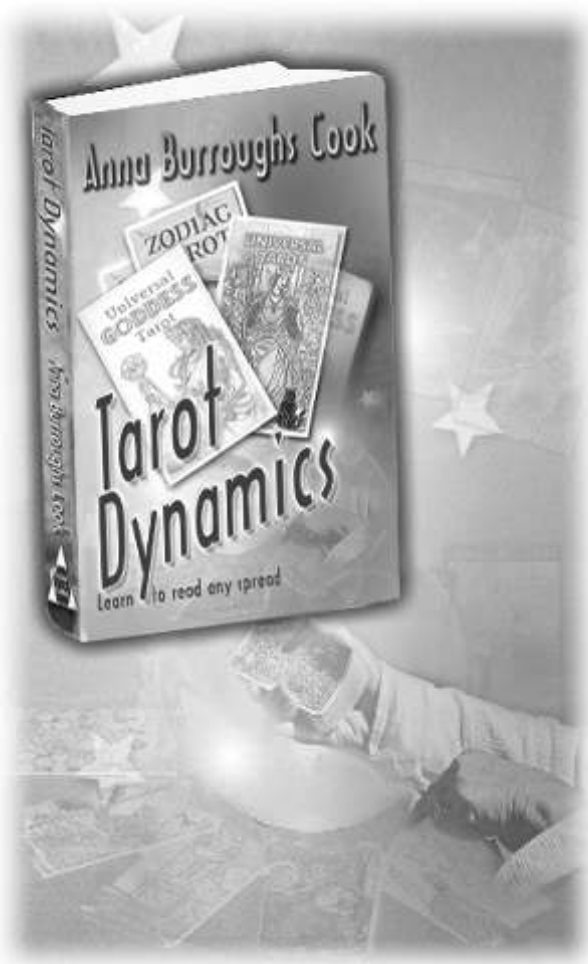
A. Were you relaxed and simply concentrating on pleasant thoughts in general when you shuffled the cards? Or were you wishing really hard for something? Remember there really IS a connection between the cards and the person shuffling them that can't be explained. If you were wishing too hard that something would or wouldn't happen, those thoughts may have contaminated your cards. In other words, your mental intensity may have caused the cards to rearrange themselves in the deck according to what you wanted to see. If this was the case, the next time you meet with your reader relax when you shuffle the cards and don't try so hard. However, if you weren't wishing for anything in particular while you shuffled, did you work with your reading to encourage these brighter episodes to come to pass, or were you just waiting for all the goodness to fall from the sky?



The Major Arcana

Major Arcana - Spiritual Karma

Major Arcana cards test, reward, and replenish your strength of character.



CHAPTER 1

The Major Arcana is the first suit in the Tarot. It contains twenty two (22) cards. When translated from Latin, the name Major Arcana means Big Secrets. Major Arcana cards are like the headlines in a newspaper. Collectively, as well as individually, Major Arcana cards represent spiritual karma, which we are forever resolving, creating and/or re-creating.

The more Major Arcana Cards there are in the spread the more emotionally or spiritually significant this reading will prove to be. Although Major Arcana cards sometimes accompany a surprising situation that requires immediate action, as a rule their influence is more subtle – they signal a turning-point in your perception.

On Page 12 you discovered that the more often one card is repeated in consecutive readings the more valuable that card's definition is to your success or disappointment. This is especially true with Major Arcana cards. Depending upon your situation it's not uncommon for as many as three cards to keep reappearing in consecutive readings. Whether their definitions appear to be encouraging you to pay more attention to a situation or give a more serious consideration to an opportunity, the longer you choose to deny, rather than apply your new awareness the longer matters will either remain the same or in limbo.

Although I have not found that it makes any difference whether the card is upright or reversed some people feel that it makes a great deal of difference. Should you be among them, whenever a card appears in reverse (or upside-down) you'd be wise to warn whomever you're reading that some type of unexpected development is on horizon. While it might represent an upcoming matter beyond their control, they could also become their own worst enemy other by giving up too quickly or pushing themselves, or matters too far!

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Card 1 the Magician

You can handle or confront anything. Self-Reliance.

The Magician can help you to help yourself become a hero or a heel in the near future. Your willingness, or refusal, to apply your willpower constructively will reward, or undermine, your progress. You won't be satisfied with giving less than your best now. Your need to prove yourself is very karmic. Each of your decisions and actions are designed to produce a definite effect. Emergencies as well as unexpected developments can create opportunities for you — if you're paying attention. You'll feel ready to handle anything, but be careful not to take on more than you know you can handle comfortably.

The more encouraging the other cards in the spread, the more likely you are to receive some type of recognition or reward for your efforts or services. A subconscious harmony between your intuition and the facts can make you more adept at “sensing” what's going to happen next in matters. The more definite your goals the more resourceful your approach to any obstacle that threatens your progress. Your determination to reach your goals can enable you to handle even the most delicate matters with a gentle detachment – getting to the point without making others feel offended or foolish.

The more challenging the situation or other cards in the spread the more you may need to rely on yourself, and if so learning to, or letting yourself relax may be one of your biggest challenges. Trying to make yourself and everything else so perfect may be preventing you from enjoying your gains and loved ones as much as you deserve to. The greater your success or the closer you come to achieving it the more you may fear it will disappear.

Key word:

Self-Reliance.

Card 1

The Magician

Tip:

If this card appears in reverse (or upside-down) it can signify obsessive self-interest and total disregard for others' opinions, advice or assistance.



Card one means: you are not afraid to stand alone—in fact, you sometimes prefer to do so, and often work best alone.

At your best, by challenging yourself to make your best better you can become as courageous as you are innovative.

Under more stressful conditions however, you become very impatient – even ill-tempered in such a way that you thoroughly undermine matters for yourself.

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Card 2 The High Priestess

Your relationships will experience some degree of reconstruction and re-evaluation. Passion.

The High Priestess is capricious. When you're having a good day, you can easily attract positive attention and cooperation. On a bad day, without meaning to or realizing it, you could attract negative attention unless you are careful. During this time period your dreams may become more vivid or precognitive. Your personal and professional relationships (especially but not exclusively with women) will experience some degree of reconstruction and re-evaluation. Your likes and dislikes will be more noticeable. The better you feel about yourself and your life, the better you'll feel physically. The greater your irritation or dissatisfaction with yourself, or matters, the greater your vulnerability to illness, negative thinking and suspicion.

The more encouraging the other cards in the spread, the more reliable your intuition will be. Your desire to understand can make you more tolerant of other's idiosyncrasies. Your knack for making the impossible possible could soon be your key to gaining some type of emotional, material or even medical advantage.

The more challenging the situation or other cards in the spread the more you need to monitor your moods and stick to the facts. Giving the impression that you're saying "maybe" instead of "no", could create unnecessary problems. Your desire to protect your loved ones may be making your relationships more challenging than they have to be. Chance, rather than destiny, may bring a material inheritance your way – but not without strings attached.

Key word:

Passion

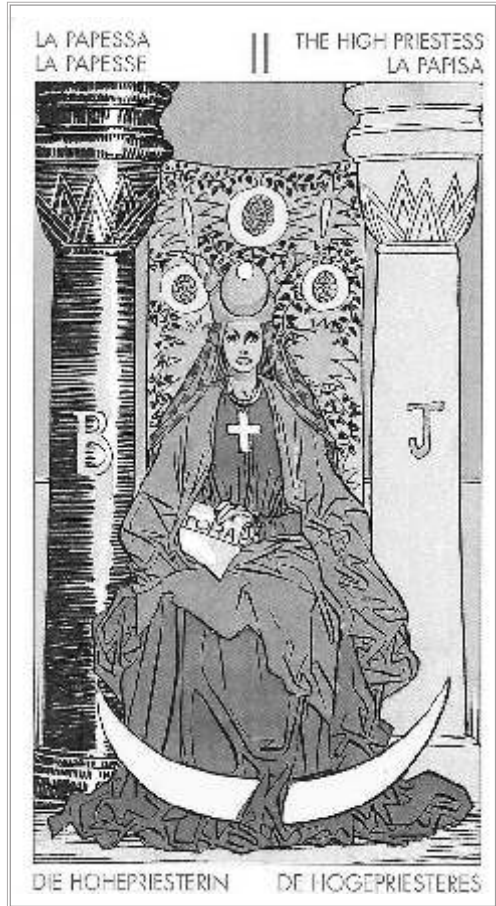
Card 2

The High Priestess

Tip:

If this card appears in reverse (or upside-down)

The inability to resist a “little” intrigue could bring more than you are prepared to and able to handle.

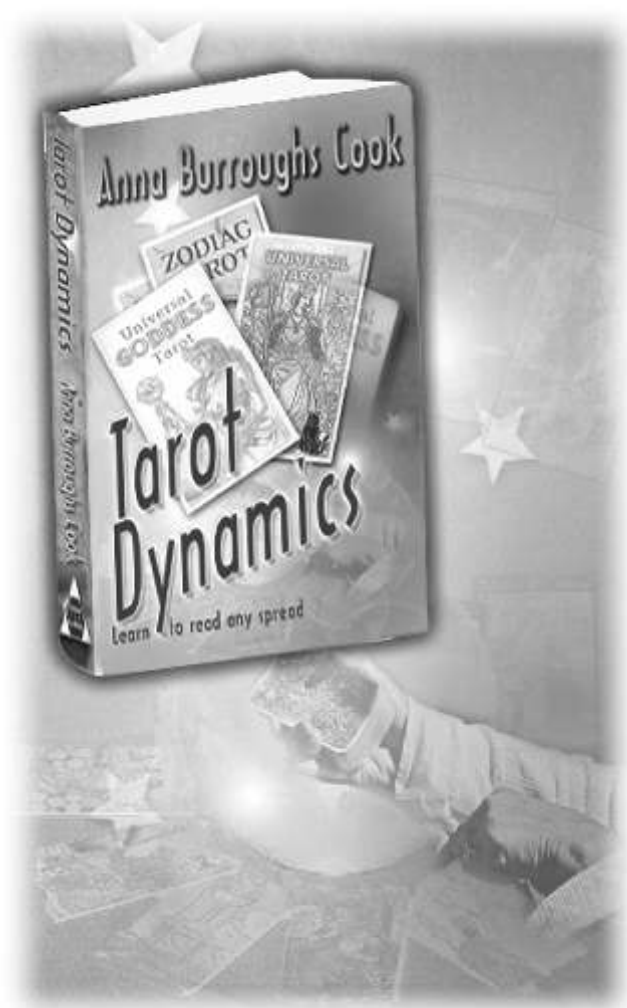


Card two means: Subconsciously, if not consciously, your emotions are lending a passionate, even sensual impact that other people can feel and will respond to accordingly.

At your best, you will be uncommonly intuitive and compassionate.

Under more stressful conditions however, you may sometimes change the rules in matters to suit yourself, whether to eliminate an obstacle or to confound anyone that you perceive as competition.

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CHAPTER 12

Horoscope Spread

Readings for a birthday present

You can do this spread anytime you wish but when you do, take notes. You'll be amazed at how accurately your Tarot Cards outline the prognosis of the coming months – especially if you treat yourself — or someone else to this reading for a birthday or at the start of the New Year!

After you relax and shuffle your cards feel free to arrange the cards in any pattern you wish! If, (for example) your birthday falls in July you can choose whether to begin your reading by allowing Card Number One to represent July or August. If you have a question in October about next March you can choose

January

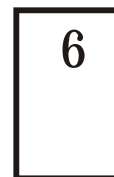
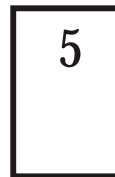
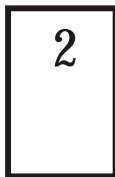
February

March

April

May

June



July

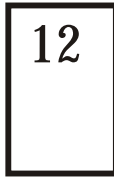
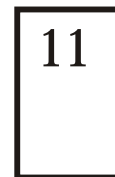
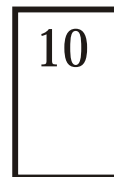
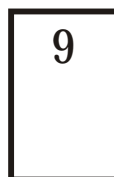
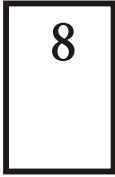
August

September

October

November

December.



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whether to begin your reading by allowing Card Number One to represent October or November.

Before you retrieve each card's definition, take a moment to study the cards, and see what "feelings" you receive from the cards you selected.

MAJOR ARCANA CARDS = Personal Transformation. This month you'll be doing some soul-searching.

WANDS = Change. Wands blaze their own trail and this portends an adventurous or busy month ahead.

CUPS = Emotion. An emotional month at home, work or both that could improve your communication and understanding with yourself and other people too.

SWORDS = Challenge. Self-control is the key to transforming any challenges or delays that you encounter this month into an opportunity to succeed.

PENTACLES = Ambition. A good month for prioritizing, making and finalizing plans as well as setting yourself and matters in order.



The Author

Anna Burroughs Cook has been reading and interpreting the Tarot for 30 years and has developed a wide base of clients across the United States as well as throughout Ohio and in Lorain County area where she currently resides.



She has appeared on Television and radio programs and taught private classes including Tarot and Psychic Development classes in Adult Education programs. Tarot-Dynamics has been well received by students, educators and Tarot enthusiasts for its accuracy and ease of use.

Taught and lectured

TV Evening Sports News with Paul Warfield — November 1979

TV Afternoon Exchange — Dec 1980

Private Class in Tarot and Psychic Development — April 1981

Lecture Series for Adult Education on Tarot and Psychic Development — 1983

Adult Education on Tarot and Psychic Development at Rocky River High School — 1984

Private Class in Tarot and Psychic Development Parma Ohio 1985

Radio Appearance on WCPN 90.3 FM National Public Radio — October 2000

Author & Teacher of “Tarot-Dynamics” — April 2003

Interviewed By Lane Strauss for Cleveland Magazine – October 2003

Private Class in Tarot and Psychic Development — October 2007