

Uncaged Tarot

COMPANION



MAJOR ARCANA

O. THE FOOL

The Fool is someone just starting on their journey. They represent innocence, beginnings, and eagerness. The Fool must caution against being too hasty, or they may slip and fall off their path into danger. The Lilitu, commonly regarded as Adam's first wife and the mother of demons, has been on her journey longer than anyone. With her hyena reminding her to laugh at her mistakes and her owl looking out for dangers, Lilitu is ready to face wherever her journey leads.

– art by Jenn Peig and D.W. Dagon, inspired by *Winding Paths* from Volume 2 by Blinne Emersyn

I. THE MAGICIAN

The Magician represents resourcefulness, skillfulness, diplomacy, and manifestation of one's dreams. Bridging the mystical with the mundane, the Magician excels at transformation. There is perhaps no greater magician than Baba Yaga. Depicted here preparing to lead her Night Witches into battle, she holds a scythe instead of her usual wand.

– art by Alison Huang, inspired by *The Spoils of War* from Volume 2 by Ashley Warren

II. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Intuition, wisdom, and mystery are all within the realm of the High Priestess. Her domain is secrecy and knowledge of what the future holds. The Drider are powerful priestesses and mages dedicated to secrecy and political dissension. Cast out from Drow society, the Maidens of the Weave formed their own, weaving plots of intrigue and subtle power.

– art by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett, inspired by *Maidens of the Weave* from Volume 1 by Emily Smith

III. THE EMPRESS

The Empress is a creator, nurturer, and romantic. She can also represent time, particularly the time it takes to bring a project to life. Melusine was a mother to great poets, sages, musicians, politicians, and scientists, each of them with a touch of her monstrous appearance. Holding her egg gently, she caresses her future dreams.

– art by Gwen Bassett, inspired by *A Family Reunion* from Volume 1 by Jessica Marcrum

IV. THE EMPEROR

Representing stability, power, and protection, the Emperor is a stern representation of authority. Shahmaran, depicted here with a regal crown and throne of snakes, was willing to die rather than sacrifice her beloved, her people, or her throne. She radiates the strength of will innate to the Emperor.

—art by Gwen Bassett, inspired by Hunt for the Queen-Serpent from Volume 3 by Ataberk Bozkurt

V. THE HIEROPHANT

A religious leader, the Hierophant represents tradition, convention, and occasionally marriage or other societal institutions. The Hierophant is also someone willing to teach those who will submit. Ourania, Muse of Astronomy, rewards only the most worthy in her Trial of the Wreath. Depicted in her orrery, holding the universe in her hand, she is a tough but ultimately fair teacher to win over.

—art by Sandy Jacobs Tolle, inspired by Quest for the Muse's Wreath from Volume 2 by Margaret Mae

VI. THE LOVERS

One of the less esoterically named cards, The Lovers represent beauty, attraction, and romantic love. It may also represent an important choice on the horizon. Adè and Sepha, aka. Hades and Persephone, are one of the great couples of legend, depicted here caressing in their Underdark kingdom.

—art by Sandy Jacobs Tolle, inspired by *The Tale of Sepha and Adè* from Volume 1 by Alex Dayton

VII. THE CHARIOT

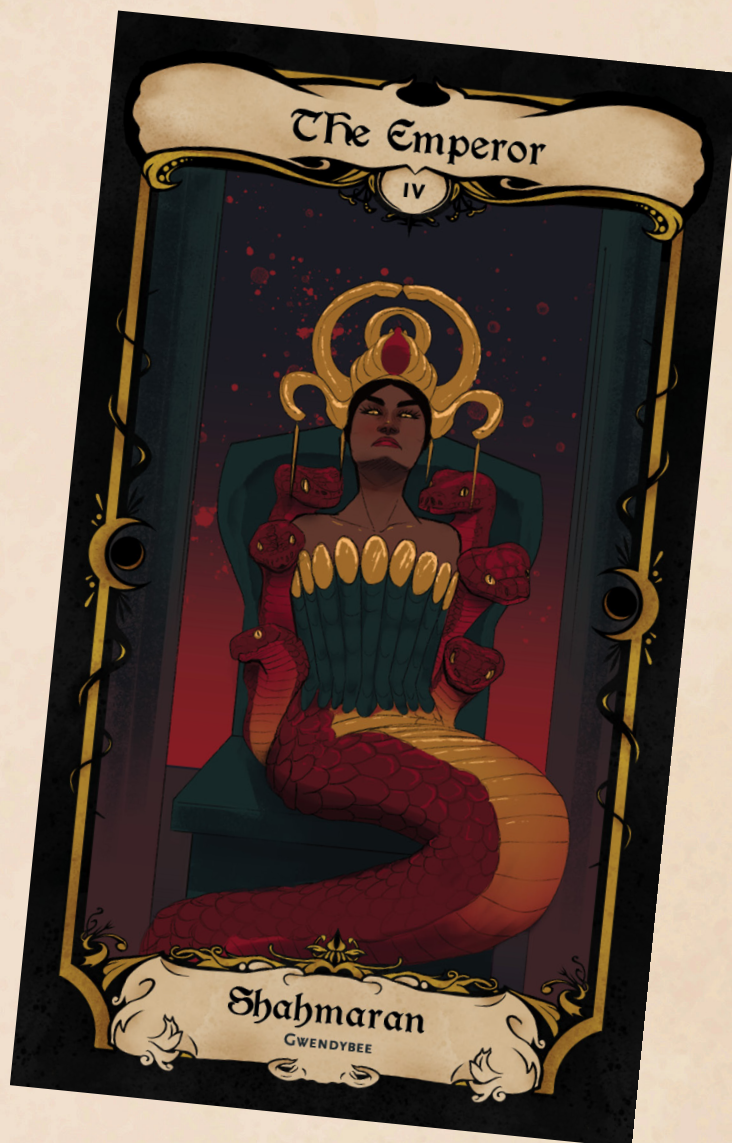
The Chariot represents movement, particularly movement to overcome a conflict. Though there may be a crossroads ahead, through hard work and determination, triumph is assured. Inala the Succubus holding her Red Knight aloft is strategizing six moves ahead of her opponent. Viewing war as a chess game she is determined to win by any means necessary.

—art by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett, inspired by *All's Fair* from Volume 2 by Jess Waters

VIII. STRENGTH

Representing power, courage, and success despite the odds, Strength is a powerful card indeed. It can represent physical strength as well as emotional or mental fortitude. The Mandurugo is often depicted as a beautiful winged youth, though they may take more human or monstrous forms. As depicted here, a mandurugo in human form caresses her more monstrous side, demonstrating her self-control and inner strength.

—art by Caroline Amaba, inspired by *Cursed Hearts* from Volume 4 by Caroline Amaba



IX. THE HERMIT

The Hermit is all about introspection and inner reflection. Focused on enlightenment and discretion, the Hermit casts off the desires of the world to seek a greater truth. Azaleia the Lich abandoned humanity and studies the monstrous in her library outpost at the end of the world. Depicted here with her staff in one hand and a spell in the other, she draws on centuries of study to confront what comes.

—art by David Markiwsy, inspired by *The Lying, the Lich, and the Warzone* from Volume 4 by Jesse Jordan

X. WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Life is cyclical and the Wheel of Fortune represents ever-present change. It often represents success or unexpected bounty, but it may just as often represent devastation and loss. A change is coming, and Asmuzi the sphinx knows all about change. Depicted here at four stages of her life as well as on the wheel of change opposite her former partner and abuser Bazymoros.

—art by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett, inspired by *A Tale of Two Sphinxes* from Volume 1 by Jessica Washburn

XI. JUSTICE

A straightforwardly titled card, Justice is concerned with fairness, rightness, and equality. Justice does not make rash decisions, acting instead with impartiality and efficacy. Aquila, the Queen of Siren City demands environmental justice and justice for people of marginalized genders. Depicted here on her seashell throne, she holds a shell representing the voice of her people and a trident demonstrating her willingness to fight for what is right.

—lines by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett, colors by Jessica Washburn, inspired by Cry of the Sea from Volume 1 by Alicia Furness

XII. THE HANGED MAN

The Hanged Man represents self-sacrifice, a change in attitude, or a loss of position. The Hanged Man is struggling of their own accord, but with a greater purpose in mind. The Firebird has chosen to hang upside-down, as she is free to fly away whenever she wishes. Released at last from her gilded cage, she waits here with intention before stretching her wings.

—art by Xan Larson, inspired by Outfitted with Artifice from Volume 2 by Chai Power

XIII. DEATH

Though the name can be frightening, Death represents change and transformation instead of physical decay. It is sometimes called the Rebirth card to better describe its representation of endings and the transition that follows them. The Dullahan is a headless rider who foretells death to whomever sees her. Depicted here astride a Nightmare, she searches for her missing head so she can again control her own fate.

—art by Jenn Peig and David Markiwsky, inspired by Ghastly Grins from Volume 1 by Judy Black

XIV. TEMPERANCE

The Temperance card reminds us “everything in moderation, including moderation.” Concerned with balance and patience, the Temperance card represents a state of calm, avoiding extremes. The Pale Lady, a banshee, guides lost spirits to their eternal rest. She stands here bathed in starlight, keening to assist a wayward soul on their eternal journey.

—art by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett, inspired by Keen Misunderstanding from Volume 3 by Karren Loomer

XV. THE DEVIL

The Devil is the ultimate tempter, and this card represents seduction, luxury, and being ruled by physical pleasures. The Devil often offers what we want but rarely what we need, drowning us in our basest desires. Depicted here as Brinemouth the Sea Hag, she offers fish to a dolphin with one hand and gold to a drowning person with another. While that person may yearn for gold, what they need right now is a helping hand out of the water.

—art by D.W. Dagon, inspired by Seven Tears By the Sea from Volume 3 by D.W. Dagon

XVI. THE TOWER

The Tower warns of danger, sudden catastrophe, and great distress. It may occasionally be a card of liberation, but the changes it foretells are always sudden and typically painful. The Iron Maiden Death Knight is sworn into an eternity of pain, seeking revenge against those who wronged her and refusing to rest until an entire family is destroyed. With eyes ablaze with righteous fury, she casts an unsuspecting victim to their doom.

—lines by D.W. Dagon, colors by Jessica Washburn, inspired by Death Don't Do Us Part from Volume 2 by





Kelly Mangerino

XVII. THE STAR

Following the tragedy of the Tower, the Star represents the calm after the storm and hope in a brighter tomorrow. Representing trust, faith, and spiritual renewal, the Star is a welcome respite. Having just rescued her beloved bard from a shipwreck, the mermaid Lily carries her safely to the shore. She hopes for a better tomorrow for the two of them.

—art by Alison Huang, inspired by Maid in Waterdeep from Volume 1 by Bianca Bickford

XVIII. THE MOON

The Moon is a card of illusions, warning that not everything is as it seems. It is often associated with fear and intuition, instincts cautioning of hidden enemies in the dark. A green hag thrives on deception, and Button the healer is no exception. Depicted as both a young woman and older, tired woman, she is as constant and mysterious as the moon itself.

—art by Xan Larson, inspired by A Clawed Bargain from Volume 4 by Maxine Henry

XIX. THE SUN

A joyous card, the Sun represents hope for a better future. Associated with renewal, struggles rewarded, and harmony, the Sun portends good fortune whenever it appears. Kallista, a werewolf, basks in both sun and moonlight, equally at ease in her wolf body as in her human one. She is peacefully anticipating her wolfen birthday party to come.

—art by Liz Gist, inspired by Of Werewolves and Birthday Parties from Volume 4 by Sarah Harker

XX. JUDGEMENT

The end of days, the final trumpet call, and the ultimate moment of karma can all describe Judgement. Judgement is the final judgement, depicting rebirth, second chances, and spiritual awakenings. Depicted here, the angel Galateya casts aside her sacred duty to destroy the undead as porcelain golems ascend into the heavens, free at last from their earthly torments. Beside her, a branch of an orange tree, a symbol of eternal life, blooms, representing the better life yet to come for the dolls.

—art by D.W. Dagon, inspired by Galateya's Will from Volume 1 by Luciella Elisabeth Scarlett

XI. THE WORLD

A perfect union, a completed cycle, The World is an ouroboros. This card speaks of accomplishment, completion, and satisfaction before continuing on the journey anew with The Fool. Madla, a Lamia, encircles La Llorona in an eternal path of defying traditional roles given to people of marginalized genders. La Llorona steps from one phase of her life into another. Behind them, an eagle, angel, bull and and lion represent the four elements, four compass points, four fixed signs of the Zodiac, and four suits of the Tarot. The card represents a completed journey.

—art by David Markiwsky, inspired by Rites of Passage from Volume 2 by C.J. Oliver and The Weeping Woman from Volume 1 by Kristina Sosto Kindel.

MINOR ARCANA



WANDS

Initially the card representing the peasantry, wands are closely associated with hard work and deep feelings. In Zodiac terms, they are the Fire signs. Medusa is the unofficial symbol for the Uncaged Anthology. She drove over a hundred people to create something wonderful and is a perfect depiction for Wands.

Depicting Volume 1's Medusa, background art by David Markivsky

ACE OF WANDS

All aces represent renewal, and the Ace of Wands represents a rekindling of passions. There are opportunities ahead and plenty of energy for them.

2 OF WANDS

The 2 of Wands speaks of planning, preparation, and looking ahead. Everything is in place for the next step.

3 OF WANDS

Plans are progressing and the 3 of Wands depicts opportunities ahead. It speaks of movement and progression, whether spiritual or physical.

4 OF WANDS

The project is completed. The 4 of Wands represents joy, relaxation, and a homecoming. It's time to celebrate.

5 OF WANDS

The 5 of Wands speaks to conflict and competition. There's too many loud voices for any one person to be heard, but sometimes that struggle can lead to something truly magnificent.

6 OF WANDS

The 6 of Wands represents self-confidence and public recognition for success. It speaks of celebrating personal progress with a supportive community cheering your growth.

7 OF WANDS

Sometimes it feels like you need to protect what you've achieved. The 7 of Wands speaks to persevering against challengers both real and imagined, and determination to hold onto what you've accomplished.

8 OF WANDS

The 8 of Wands is a card of movement. It may feel like you're under attack or everything is up in the air. Whatever is happening can't stay like this for long. Change is coming and soon.

9 OF WANDS

The battle is almost over, but there are still struggles ahead. The 9 of Wands represents resilience, courage, and persistence in the face of obstacles.

10 OF WANDS

The 10 of Wands represents too many burdens for one person to carry. It represents hard work, though warns of overwork, and looks to completing an arduous task.

PAGE OF WANDS

The Page of Wands is excited to tell everyone about their new task, but haven't decided how to start it. They have boundless inspiration and potential. The Page of Wands is overflowing with creativity but perhaps isn't quite ready to begin.

KNIGHT OF WANDS

The Knight of Wands is passionate and eager, full of energy that could be directed seemingly anywhere. They are impulsive and ready for adventure, wherever it leads.

QUEEN OF WANDS

The Queen of Wands radiates courage, determination, and the confidence of a job well done. She is comfortable in her home and accepting of her whole self.

KING OF WANDS

The King of Wands is a natural leader. He speaks to leadership and vision. He radiates professionalism and capability.

CUPS

Initially the card representing the clergy, cups are closely associated with emotion and intuition. In Zodiac terms, they are the Water signs. The Rusalka yearns for her lost life, lost love, and vengeance. Tied to the water of her death, the Rusalka represents the Cups.

Depicting Volume 2's Rusalka, background art by Sandy Jacobs-Tolle

ACE OF CUPS

The Ace of Cups represents the beginning of an internal search for meaning and the nurturing of what connects the mortal to the spiritual realm. It represents a renewal of compassion and love, particularly for the soul.

2 OF CUPS

The 2 of Cups represents a couple beginning a relationship. It implies attraction, sexual passion, and the beginning of a partnership.

3 OF CUPS

The 3 of Cups is a card celebrating friendship and collaboration. It represents community, showing that community support leads to prosperity for all.

4 OF CUPS

The Four of Cups represents meditation and self-reflection. It warns of falling in such a hole of self-reflection that we miss opportunities handed to us.

5 OF CUPS

Sometimes we're so focused on what we've lost, we can't see how to move forward. The 5 of Cups represents regret, loss, and disappointment. It reflects an inability to move on from failure.

6 OF CUPS

The 6 of Cups represents generosity and sharing. It tells us we've let our guard down in the interest of cooperation. This card is wholesome and earnest.

7 OF CUPS

Not every opportunity is a gift, and the 7 of Cups warns us against acting selfishly. Some gifts come with a heavy price. This card represents choices and urges thoughtful consideration before action.

8 OF CUPS

The road to fulfilment is long and arduous. The 8 of Cups represents putting the past aside to find satisfaction in the future. It speaks to yearning for more and abandoning or escaping the past.



9 OF CUPS

The 9 of Cups reflects contentment and gratitude. While one shouldn't get complacent and stop growing, this is a time to celebrate long-awaited satisfaction.

10 OF CUPS

The 10 of Cups celebrates love, harmony, and satisfying relationships. The card of "domestic bliss," it speaks to stability, emotional fulfillment, and faithfulness rewarded.

PAGE OF CUPS

The Page of Cups is receiving a message from within. They are open to possibilities both internal and external. A bout of creativity or deeply emotional encounter is on the horizon.

KNIGHT OF CUPS

The Knight of Cups is a messenger, ideally bearing hope, love, and the power of the imagination. They seek both to create and venerate beauty wherever they find it.

QUEEN OF CUPS

The Queen of Cups is fully in tune with her inner self. She is intuitive, compassionate, and nurturing. While she feels her emotions deeply, she is not ruled by them.

KING OF CUPS

The King of Cups is deeply connected to his emotional self. He is so connected to the emotional and spiritual that he may have lost some sight of the mundane world. He is calm and balanced, listening to his emotions to determine the proper course of action.

SWORDS

Initially the card representing the nobility, swords are associated with thinking and quick action. In Zodiac terms, they are the Air signs. Yuki-Onna is described as beautiful and quick-witted as she is deadly, tricking those who encounter her to frosty graves. With her icy sharpness, Yuki-Onna represents Swords.

Depicting Volume 3's Yuki-Onna, background art by D.W. Dağon

ACE OF SWORDS

A spark of inspiration, a brilliant idea, a breakthrough out of seemingly nowhere. The Ace of Swords represents new ideas leading to triumph. The renewal here is one of inspiration.



2 OF SWORDS

There is a difficult decision to be made. The 2 of Swords represents being conflicted between two opposing sides. It reminds us to trust our intuition. We can't stay indecisive forever.

3 OF SWORDS

The 3 of Swords represents heartbreak, sorrow, and grief. It offers a slight hope in that pain, like tears, eventually wash away. Sorrow and joy are both necessary for growth, and this too shall pass.

4 OF SWORDS

This card represents a place of rest, meditation, and quiet contemplation. The 4 of Swords depicts someone "dead to the world" in order to better evaluate their needs.

5 OF SWORDS

The opportunist says that one person's loss is another's gain. The 5 of Swords represents winning, but at a great cost to someone else. It implies underhanded competition and conflict.

6 OF SWORDS

The 6 of Swords represents leaving a troubled situation behind for a more peaceful future. Though the past may be full of sorrow, there are better days ahead. It speaks of transition and release.

7 OF SWORDS

Getting away with something can feel pretty good. The 7 of Swords represents deception, betrayal, and a clever strategy paying off.

8 OF SWORDS

Negative self-talk can be devastating. The 8 of Swords represents being imprisoned by sadness, anger, and imposter syndrome. Trust your instincts to find your way out.

9 OF SWORDS

The 9 of Swords represents nightmares, fear, and foreboding. Sometimes the anticipation of something awful is worse than the event itself.

10 OF SWORDS

The worst has happened. The 10 of Swords represents deep betrayal, loss, and tragic endings. Every night is followed by the dawn, however, and hope rises faintly on the horizon.

PAGE OF SWORDS

The Page of Swords surrounded by new ideas, but pauses before committing to anything. They weigh their options, internally preparing for whatever comes next. Their thoughtfulness bodes well for their future actions.

KNIGHT OF SWORDS

The Knight of Swords charges ahead, eager to dive into battle. They are ambitious, driven, quick-witted, and just a bit reckless. They are unparalleled at defeating foes, but must take caution against seeing foes everywhere.

QUEEN OF SWORDS

The Queen of Swords is confident and swift in meting out judgement. She is focused on the truth and comfortable in her position of power. She favors open, clear, and direct communication.

KING OF SWORDS

The King of Swords relies on his intelligence and is confident in his decisions. He speaks with authority backed by mental clarity, intuition, and an unclouded mind. He is analytical and independent from others.



PENTACLES

Initially the card representing the merchant class, pentacles or coins are associated with wealth, strength, and sensation. In Zodiac terms, they are the Earth signs. La Llorona weeps for her children, taken due to uncaring colonizers looking to exploit a new land for fiscal gain. La Llorona cries tears of Pentacles.

Depicting Volume 4's La Llorona, background art by D. W. Dagon

ACE OF PENTACLES

Success is in the future. The Ace of Pentacles represents a new path of opportunity. The renewal is one of opportunity.

2 OF PENTACLES

The 2 of Pentacles represents juggling resources, be they time, funds, or projects. Everything is in hand, though it may be difficult to keep balanced. This card speaks to smiling in the face of hardship and the need to prioritize.

3 OF PENTACLES

Working for hire is often an experience based in learning and collaboration. The 3 of Pentacles represents creative teamwork, particularly when paid for by an established larger entity.

4 OF PENTACLES

The 4 of Pentacles represents hoarding wealth, desire for control, and a fear of losing resources. By holding onto what we have so tightly, we lose sight of other important things in life like friendship, community, and connection.

5 OF PENTACLES

The 5 of Pentacles is a direct result of the 4 of Pentacles. The card represents poverty, worry, and isolation due to lack of resources. While there is spiritual wealth alongside fiscal devastation, that is little consolation here and now.

6 OF PENTACLES

The 6 of Pentacles represents charity and generosity. It shows a possible answer to the 5 of Pentacles. Sometimes we have bounty to give and other times we require assistance from others. The card is at heart one of sharing.

7 OF PENTACLES

The 7 of Pentacles represents long-term plans coming to fruition, investments paying off, and a well-deserved rest after hard work. It cautions against overwork so that you are unable to enjoy your bounty when it arrives.

8 OF PENTACLES

The 8 of Pentacles represents hard work and the labor that goes into making money. Often the labor required to master a craft is less than thrilling and repetitive, but practice, we move a bit closer to perfecting our skills.

9 OF PENTACLES

The 9 of Pentacles represents taking satisfaction in the fruits of one's labors. It deals with abundance, luxury, and a touch of sensuality. There is time to enjoy the ample bounty at hand, for more is yet to come.

10 OF PENTACLES

The 10 of Pentacles represents wealth being passed from one generation to another. It deals with financial security, legacy, family connections, and accomplishment.

PAGE OF PENTACLES

The Page of Pentacles studies an opportunity carefully before taking the plunge. They have means at their disposal, but want to take a moment to contemplate the beauty around them and possibly increase their future bounty.

KNIGHT OF PENTACLES

The Knight of Pentacles is searching for a new opportunity. They have the means to invest, but are unsure where to plant their next seed. They are prepared to do hard, possibly even dull, work to achieve their goals, once they decide what exactly that goal is.

QUEEN OF PENTACLES

The Queen of Pentacles is a nurturer and a caretaker. While she has everything she needs, she views herself as one part of a whole instead of an owner. She is balanced and at ease, seeking to share her wealth and attention with those who need her.

KING OF PENTACLES

The King of Pentacles has the power to create and maintain wealth as well as the means and determination to defend it. He prioritizes business acumen and tangible results. He is a leader who values reliability and discipline, but is not opposed to physical and earthly pleasures.

—Jessica Marcrum, producer of *Uncaged Tarot*