

THE WONDERLAND TAROT



INSTRUCTIONS
by Christopher John Abbey

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THE WONDERLAND TAROT DECK

INTRODUCTION TO TAROT

First of all, I recommend that you obtain a copy of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*, both by Lewis Carroll, before you go too much further into The Wonderland Tarot deck. Be sure to get an edition illustrated by Sir John Tenniel, because the imagery presented in The Wonderland Tarot is based on the work of Tenniel.

Many generations of children have grown up loving these fascinating and entertaining stories, while scholars and those in the know laugh it up, having discerned the historical persons behind the satirical characters.

I first began to know *Alice* when I was a little child, before I could read. My mother would tuck me in at night

and tell me the fantastic adventures, and I would eat them up over and over. When I think of all the things that started me on my way to being a budding science fiction writer, Alice must rate up there with Oz, Narnia and The Little Prince.

My interest in the tarot came much later, when I was about ten. For this I have to thank my Aunt Isis, who showed me the wonder and mystery of that ancient wisdom. Whether or not you believe in the cards, they have proven themselves over the years to be a way of finding out about one's thoughts and feelings. There is magic in that, all by itself.

Strangely enough, The Wonderland Tarot almost didn't come about at all. The idea was going to remain nothing but a note in my journal, until I mentioned it to Morgana. She made me sit down and flesh the idea out. Her

help in the design and her fabulous pen and paint have made the entire deck come alive with color and feeling. It is almost shocking to think that before this project, she had only a passing knowledge of the Alice books.

The main sources of this booklet are *The Encyclopedia of Tarot, volume I*, by Stuart R. Kaplan, and *The Pictorial Key to the Tarot*, by Arthur Edward Waite.

THE TAROT DECK

The Major Arcana, which comprises twenty-two cards, is the heart and soul of the tarot. As such, The Wonderland Tarot presents most of the major characters from *Alice* on the Major Arcana cards.

The Minor Arcana should not be considered any less important than the Major Arcana. It relates the details of the story, while the Major Arcana points to the overall plot.

There are fifty-six cards in the Minor Arcana of the tarot. The Wonderland Tarot breaks from tradition with its suit signs, in order that the deck might more accurately reflect the *Alice* books. The Wonderland Tarot suit signs correspond with traditional suit signs as follows.

FLAMINGOS: swords, spades

PEPPERMILLS: staves, wands, clubs

HATS: cups, hearts

OYSTERS: coins, pentacles, diamonds

THE MAJOR ARCANA

THE FOOL (unnumbered) The Mad Hatter stands on the edge of a cliff. He wears a hat he made himself and holds a slice of bread. His shoes are untied. A hedgehog watches him. **Divinatory meanings:** Everything foolish, in all its forms. Lack of careful thinking. Disregard of consequences. Mania

or excess. **Reverse meanings:** No decision at all. Faltering in a quest. Not caring if a decision is reached.

I THE MAGICIAN The Magician is Carroll himself pulling a rabbit out of a hat. On the table are representations of the four suits: a flamingo, a peppermill, a hat and an oyster. Above him is the grinning face of the Cheshire Cat. In the foreground are flowers common to the Looking Glass world, and a hedgehog hole. The card represents the fantasy world of Carroll's own making, a world where things can be anything you want them to be. **Divinatory meanings:** Creator. Creative soul. Craftiness and guile in the positive sense. Strong will and the sense of seeing things done completely. Influence. **Reverse meanings:** Being easily influenced. Lack of will. Personal gain at the expense of others.

II THE HIGH PRIESTESS Alice sits on a stool that is her Looking Glass throne. She has the crown and the scepter of the White Queen. Her eyes are downcast from shyness, as well as from exhaustion. Behind her is a sea of experience. On the entry are the letters B and J. No story can be told unless it passes through the High Priestess, for she has gathered the wisdom of the universe. **Divinatory meanings:** Wisdom and personal judgment. All that comes with maturity. Intuition and common sense. The ability and willingness to learn. Virtue and emotion. On the darker side, impatience, inability to share. A person who is occasionally overbearing, but is nevertheless a good teacher. **Reverse meanings:** Belief in one's own correctness. Lack of understanding. Selfishness. Poor judgment.

III THE EMPRESS The Sheep sits in the back of a boat on a river, passing by an ever-changing landscape. She holds a multitude of knitting needles in her hands. Alice, her face unseen, is in the front of the boat. The entire journey actually takes place in the Sheep's shop. The Sheep is the ultimate woman figure, self-assured, level-headed, patient and kind. **Divinatory meanings:** The Empress is a mother figure, as well as the figure of a sister and wife, and marriage. She is all aspects of feminine influence. She makes decisions based on humanity, not on her own best interests, though the two often intersect. A good partner. Practical, decisive, intuitive. A motivator. **Reverse meanings:** Wavering. Hesitation. Ennui. Inability or unwillingness to concentrate. Procrastination. Nervous tension. Throwing away resources through idiocy. Fickleness. Vanity.

IV THE EMPEROR The Cheshire Cat is not really a cat, but can appear as one through his strange powers of teleportation. He is pictured sitting in a tree, grinning. Contrary to general belief, he is brown and black, not orange. Originally seen in the house of the Duchess, he pops up now and then to give Alice advice. His is the wisdom, the floating conscience, in Wonderland. It is assumed that Alice is not the only person to benefit from his insight. **Divinatory meanings:** The Emperor is higher than the kings, more worldly wise and confident, a symbol of stability and leadership, as well as of a male family member. Logic above emotion. A giver of aid and comfort. Sometimes, an overly dominant person. **Reverse meanings:** A benevolent man, but immature and ineffective. Given to petty emotional outbursts, and extremely retentive of gains. Confusing to those who don't know him.

▼ THE HIEROPHANT The Caterpillar sits on his mushroom throne, smoking his hookah and thinking about life, taking not the slightest notice of anything. His smile is benevolent.

The two sides of the mushroom, one for growing and one for shrinking, contrast the good and the evil sides of life. The Caterpillar will disappear, leaving Alice to choose her own path.

Divinatory meanings: The wise one. A religious or spiritual leader. Mercy and goodness. Someone to admire and to look to for help. Sticking with ideas that don't work. Ritualism. Reserve and introspection. Other-worldly philosophy. Alignment with good or bad without proper balance. **Reverse meanings:** Extreme irreverence, especially toward religion. Gullibility. Repeated errors. Inability to cope with different philosophies.

VI THE LOVERS The twin brothers, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, are the closest pair in either book. They are pictured here arm in arm, and above them is the crow who broke up their battle by blocking out the sun. This is the card of interaction between two people and among family and friends. It also represents unexpected events and meetings, as Alice met the pair by chance, and as the crow surprised the twins.

Divinatory meanings:

Unanimity and harmony. Setbacks overcome and confidence in the future. Blindness to the future and its certain trials. All aspects of love, especially that of friends and relatives. Freedom. Strong emotions.

Reverse meanings: Inability to overcome trials. Meanness, frustration, hate and jealousy. Someone else butting in on a relationship and destroying it. Untrustworthiness. Divorce.

VII THE CHARIOT Alice sits in a train. Across from her is a man wearing a newspaper hat and reading a newspaper. The porter is looking at something in the car, his binoculars obscuring all of his features except for hair. **Divinatory meanings:** Body and soul pushing toward a common goal. Possibly too much speed toward a goal, without the actual end firmly in sight. Urgency, turmoil, revenge. An inability to focus on minor details that contribute to the big picture. **Reverse meanings:** Falling short of a goal. Inability to cope with life. Defeat and regression. Rebelling against nothing.

VIII STRENGTH The Lion and the Unicorn are engaged in mock combat. The Lion wears glasses. The Unicorn appears to be winning, but the animals are actually equally matched. They each do what must be done for the sake of their own prestige. **Divinatory**

meanings: Control of a situation. Bravery, unwavering attention to a quest, elan, ability to overcome temptation, physical strength. Mind over matter; matter over mind. A Herculean effort for a personal end or for the sake of the world at large.

Reverse meanings: Inability due to weakness of body or soul. Sickness. Drive for empirical knowledge at the expense of others. Indifference to others' thoughts and feelings.

IX THE HERMIT The Dormouse sits in a teapot, asleep as usual. His lantern sheds light on all. He dreams, possibly of the past, possibly of the future. He is neither young nor old, aged or ageless. Most of all, he is at peace with himself.

Divinatory meanings: Attempting to know oneself. Inner strength. Discretion to withdraw from a fight. Infinite patience. Caution. Sometimes, the card represents insincerity, hypocrisy,

withholding of emotion, secrecy, and fear of discovery. Unused knowledge that could help someone else. **Reverse meanings:** Indiscretion. Jumping into action without forethought. Bad advice. Hesitation to the point of failure. Babyish reaction. Withdrawing from the world too much.

X WHEEL OF FORTUNE The Dodo, the Mouse, an Owl, the Eaglet and a Guinea Pig have just completed a Caucus-race, whose stopping point is in the hands of fate. All opportunities are present, and many will be grabbed and held. Good and evil, beginnings and endings, all things that are, that were, and that are yet to be are on the Wheel of Life. **Divinatory meanings:** Birth and death. Anything unusual or beyond conscious control. The beginning and the end. Resolution. Good or bad luck. Going forward or retreating into trouble. Positive or

negative, depending on surrounding cards. **Reverse meanings:** The bad side of the coin. Defeat, bad luck. Unexpected tragedy. Detrimental outside forces.

XI JUSTICE Father William stands on his head, balancing the scales of fairness between his feet. Behind him are the pillars that uphold truth. The curtain represents the blindness of justice, or ultimate fairness. Father William learned early on that when life is lived only to prolong itself, then it is merely existence with no meaning. All things must balance. **Divinatory meanings:** Justice is the light side of yin and yang. Equanimity. A psyche in perspective. A fair solution. Logic in life and deeds. Impartiality. Good advice and firmness of character. **Reverse meanings:** Unfairness. Falseness of character. Prejudice and intolerance. Abuse.

XII THE HANGED MAN A lobster is hung by its tail, probably over a cooking pot. It is the lobster's fate to be boiled for someone's dinner. We cannot see who the perpetrator is, but we may assume it is one of the cooks for any one of the kings or queens. This is life in suspension, not in the pot, not out of the pot. Does the lobster know yet what fate awaits it, or is it confident in its immortality, as are all humans and animals? **Divinatory meanings:** This is a card of change not yet fully realized. A lull before a storm. A question between heaven and earth. A regeneration or disintegration of the spirit. Sometimes, decision to sacrifice one's goals or family. An improvement. **Reverse meanings:** Selfishness. Unwillingness to change or sacrifice. Not giving a task or goal full effort. Senseless sacrifice. Going with the crowd. A great egotism.

XIII DEATH The Queen of Hearts points at some unknown person, shouting, "Off with his head!" One of the cards is lying down, playing possum so that he will not suffer a similar fate. The Queen shouts a lot, but no one ever really dies. The victims change so they will not be recognized. In the real world, those that die are in transition and will come back to live in another form. **Divinatory meanings:** Change. Transformation from one form to another or from one situation to another. Changing of the guard. Moving away from the familiar. Loss of security, bad luck. Abrupt or gradual change. Illness, possibly death. A bad loan. **Reverse meanings:** Complete lack of change. Standing still to the point of stagnation. Possibility of slow or partial change, with the proper surrounding cards. A close call in an accident.

XIV TEMPERANCE Haigha, the Messenger, takes a ham sandwich out of his bag. He wears the costume of an Anglo-Saxon page. He looks into the bag and sees nothing more than hay. He has one foot on land, one foot in the water, a unifying of the forces that work on the body and the mind. A long road winds through the background, the road he has traveled to arrive and must travel in order to leave. **Divinatory meanings:** Moderation. Temperance. What comes with compromise and compatibility. A mixing of things in unanimity. An ability to recognize and analyze. No excessive tendencies. Maintaining a good image. Possibly, being too temperate. The past, present and future. **Reverse meanings:** Chaos, discord and disunion. Incompatibility. Intolerance and frustration. Impotence. Religious intolerance.

XV THE DEVIL The Jabberwock is pure evil. He has a long neck supporting a head with bulging eyes and four rending teeth. His legs are outstretched in attack position. The frightened hero is prepared to fight the monster with his vorpal blade. *Jabberwocky* is the story of a man overcoming a monster who has killed many people and terrorized the countryside. It illustrates the human hope that one day good will overcome evil for once and for all time.

Divinatory meanings: Subordination. Ravaging at will. All that is evil. Bondage. Failure. Inability to attain a goal. Dependence to the point of ruin. Violence and destruction. Things that go bump in the night. Bad temper, with no humor unless malicious. Unprincipled. Strange experiences. Temptation and controversy. **Reverse meanings:** Freedom. Bailing out of a bad situation. Receiving help.

Overcoming obstacles. Spiritual understanding. Beginning on the path to enlightenment.

XVI THE TOWER This card depicts two events. The first is Alice grabbing at air and the Rabbit falling into the cucumberframe (a small greenhouse) as a result. The second event is Bill falling, after Alice has kicked him out of the chimney. Both creatures are extremely ruffled by the unexpected turn of events. The White Rabbit thought that Alice was Mary Ann, his maid, and therefore felt he could order her about. Alice got her revenge when she grew to mammoth proportions, and the Rabbit was forced to change his position in the world after giant Alice made a shambles of his house.

Divinatory meanings: Rapid change. Failure of events to go as expected. Beliefs don't live up to their promises. Anything unforeseen, with a negative

implication. Good friends turned bad. Loss of money, security or love. Setbacks, disasters, insanity, disruption. The end of grace. **Reverse meanings:** Too much stability. Continuation of the old and bad ways. Sloth. A bad situation that won't change. Imprisonment.

XVII THE STAR The Gryphon sleeps contentedly beside the waters of life. Behind him are the mountains. Seven stars, one large and six smaller, are above him. The stars are of wishes and dreams, the most important gifts of the heavens. As sleep eventually brings waking, so is all of life a series of deaths and rebirths. Through this is the divination of the future and a clearing out of the past. **Divinatory meanings:** Hope, faith and inspiration. The optimism of wishes. A bright future. Learning from experience. Fulfillment, satisfaction and pleasure.

Moving easily toward a goal.

Astrology. **Reverse meanings:** Dreams abandoned. Continued striving without results. Arrogance. Cutting off a bad relationship, with nothing new on the horizon. Bad luck and disappointment. Lack of balance between dreams and actions.

XVIII THE MOON The Walrus and the Carpenter sit on a rock, chatting with a group of oysters they invited for a walk. In the background, the Moon is distraught, because the Sun has decided to shine in the nighttime, a rude imposition. The Walrus speaks about trivial subjects while trying to decide which of the oysters to eat first. He laments their fate, but that doesn't stop him. **Divinatory meanings:** Deception in all its forms. Trickery, deceit, cajolery, bad motives, dishonesty, false friends, false pretenses. Unknown enemies. A trap.

Being led to ruin. **Reverse meanings:**
Minor errors. A slight deception.
Avoiding temptation. Easy gain. Taking
advantage of someone.

XIX THE SUN Alice meets Humpty Dumpty, who sits on a wall, holding a banner of unknown origin. He has just given himself a compliment and so is allowing Alice to shake his hand. The King has promised to bring around all the horses and all the men if Humpty Dumpty should fall from his perch.

Divinatory meanings: Satisfaction, accomplishment and success. Love and friendship. Reveling in the pleasures of life. Freedom from boredom.

Happiness. New or old friends.
Warmth. Truth. Artistic achievement.

Reverse meanings: Unhappiness.
Boredom. Loneliness, possibly a
broken relationship. Attainment of goal
delayed. Uncertain future.

XX JUDGEMENT The White Rabbit blows a trumpet, signifying the beginning of the trial of the Knave of Hearts, who foolishly stole some tarts from the Queen. In the foreground, the Knave stands before a barrister. On the table are the tarts in question. Before the verdict can be given, the entire court is transformed into playing cards which swirl around Alice, who then wakes up from her dream of Wonderland.

Divinatory meanings: Confessing all sins. Accounting for deeds and thoughts. New life, possibly a bettering of oneself. Reward. The spiritual self. Warning of someone's unfair advantage. Outcome of a conflict. Consideration of actions.

Reverse meanings: Blindness to the world. Delay or disappointment. Divorce, procrastination, theft, lost affection. Morbid thoughts.

XXI THE WORLD Alice stands in one of the squares that make up the Looking Glass world. Only a few steps remain in Alice's adventures, and then she becomes the White Queen. The symbolism is that of completion, of having the world put into proper order, of things going the way they should. **Divinatory meanings:** The goal to which all other cards have led. Perfection. Eden. Fulfillment. The end of the path to wisdom. Spirit and life everlasting. A pleasant outcome. In some cases, what might be if other warnings are obeyed. High magic. **Reverse meanings:** Shortcomings. Falling short of a goal. Disappointment.

THE MINOR ARCANAS

THE SUIT OF FLAMINGOS

The suit of flamingos corresponds to the suit of swords, or the suit of spades. Superficially, it is a suit of battle, but beneath the surface there is friendship and other major relationships.

KING OF FLAMINGOS **Divinatory meanings:** The power of life and death. The king mitigates the excesses of the queen. **Reverse meanings:** Beating a dead horse. Perversity. Cruel and arbitrary person.

QUEEN OF FLAMINGOS **Divinatory meanings:** Sorrow, often widowhood. Intelligence, with knowledge of the darker side of the world. One who has gone from happiness to failure. **Reverse meanings:** An evil person who cannot perceive ways other than his or her own. Vengeance and malice. Bigotry.

KNIGHT OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: Rushing without fear into the unknown. Bloodlust. This card magnifies other cards dealing with death. With cards of wisdom, indicates foolishness. War, opposition, heroism.

Reverse meanings: Rushing into danger. Dispute over a person of the opposite sex. Naiveté. Physical, mental or spiritual incapacity.

PAGE OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: Seeing beyond the surface. A spy. Vigilance. Respect for authority. A person who will complete a task regardless of danger. Insight.

Discretion. **Reverse meanings:**

The evil side of these qualities. An unexpected illness. Lack of preparation. A powerless person.

TEN OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: A pain that feels like a violent death. A mental death. Ruination. Mental anguish. Guilt

that cannot be reconciled. Trouble and misfortune. **Reverse meanings:** A victory won at excessive cost. A moment of power.

NINE OF FLAMINGOS **Divinatory meanings:** Anxiety over a loved one. Worry and concern. A quarrel or other major unhappiness. Miscarriage. Despair and suffering. Sometimes, death. Desolation. **Reverse meanings:** Suspicion of a close friend. Imprisonment and intrigue. Gossip, shame and timidity. A reasonable fear.

EIGHT OF FLAMINGOS **Divinatory meanings:** Censure and censorship. Bad news. Temporary bondage. A person dominated by another person or by a situation. Making one's own prison. Sickness, conflict or a severe disaster. **Reverse meanings:** A skeleton in the closet. Industriousness. Depression or disquiet. An accident, possibly fatal.

SEVEN OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: A wonderful fantasy and a new hope. Confidence and perseverance. Wishes. A grand design for life and the pleasurable living thereof. Artistry of thought. **Reverse meanings:** Uncertain advice. Beating around the bush. Arguments.

SIX OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: A journey, usually pleasant. Hoping for a fast solution to a problem. Success after many attempts. Sometimes, a messenger. Expediency. The end of a journey. **Reverse meanings:** Stagnation. A difficulty without end. A public confession. An unwanted and unwarranted proposal. Declaration.

FIVE OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: A grave defeat, possibly the final battle. Infamy and dishonor. New enemies arising. Disaster. **Reverse meanings:** The same as the upright

meaning, but less definite. Strong possibility of redemption.

FOUR OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: A rest after a long period of adversity. Sleep and dreaming in solitude. Temporary abandonment or hermitage. Sometimes, a tomb or a coffin, signifying the ultimate rest. **Reverse meanings:** Activity. A cautious moving forward. Gathering wisdom or counsel. A desire for the lost. Back door influence.

THREE OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: Disappointment, opposition and separation. A breaking apart of a relationship. Delay and absence.

Reverse meanings: A mistake or a loss. Confusion, distraction and anxiety. Alienation.

TWO OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory

meanings: Balance in a conflict.

Alternatively, friendship and harmony. A

stalemate or truce. **Reverse meanings:** Treachery and lies. Mind out of balance. False friends or bad business dealings. Duplicity and disloyalty.

ACE OF FLAMINGOS Divinatory meanings: A great effort leading to an overwhelming victory. Strength, power, success and fertility. A conquest for the sake of conquest. Excessive behavior. Deep emotion. **Reverse meanings:** Complete disaster. Violent and self-destructive behavior. Obstacles and infertility. Tyranny and embarrassment.

THE SUIT OF PEPPERMILLS

The suit of peppermills corresponds to the suit of staves or wands, also the suit of clubs. It has the themes of good intentions and good friends. It is also the suit of battle against very long odds and very heavy burdens. It is not necessarily a suit of violence.

KING OF PEPPERMILLS Divinatory

meanings: Honest and true. Unable to understand bad motives. Fatherly and kind, yet sometimes quick to anger. Educated and sympathetic. Often a man with a close family. **Reverse meanings:** Well-intentioned, but severe. A martinet. Idealistic to the point of blindness. Overly religious and intolerant. Prone to exaggeration.

QUEEN OF PEPPERMILLS

Divinatory meanings: An honest and homey woman, able to cure ills of the mind. A dark woman who is very secretive. Sincere and charming. Capable of love and affection. **Reverse meanings:** Jealous and overly emotional. An unstable and fickle liar of a mean stripe. Opposition.

KNIGHT OF PEPPERMILLS

Divinatory meanings: A journey into the unknown. An important message to be delivered. A general change of

location. Running away or escaping a bad situation. A mysterious character.

Reverse meanings: Chaos. An unexpected and unwanted change. A fight, possibly with someone very close. A dissolution or temporary interruption of a relationship.

PAGE OF PEPPERMILLS Divinatory

meanings: A loyal and true person.

A man who speaks well of others.

An envoy, messenger or stranger coming to help. Intelligent. A bearer of important news, usually good. **Reverse**

meanings: Cruel and malicious stories.

A bounder. Inability to make decisions.

Harbinger of bad news.

TEN OF PEPPERMILLS Divinatory

meanings: Giving in to excessive

burdens. Being controlled by

possessions. A faithful servant. The

pressure of maintaining a lie or

disguise. Selfishness. Loser of a dispute.

Reverse meanings: Intolerable

difficulties. A traitor or deceiver. Subterfuge and intrigue. A definite loss.

NINE OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** Waiting for a fight. A mental standoff. A deterrent to enemy attack. Prepared for any difficulties. A pause in an ongoing battle. Order and discipline.

Reverse meanings: Calamity or ill health. Being caught by surprise. A wall of adversity. Long delay. Unhappiness.

EIGHT OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** Swift activity. A sudden progress or movement. Hasty movements. Advancement too quick for easy assimilation. **Reverse meanings:** A dispute among a previously close-knit group. Jealousy. A family quarrel.

SEVEN OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** The king of the hill. A brave person facing incredible odds. Business or competition. Debate. Success. Victory. **Reverse meanings:**

Anxiety. Being unsure of one's position. Hesitancy to the point of loss. Embarrassment. Hard failure.

SIX OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** A great triumph. A victory. Good news with far-reaching ramifications. Expectations rewarded. Hope. **Reverse meanings:** Fear of the future. Paranoia. Uncertain victory or gain. Long delay. Disloyalty.

FIVE OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** Youth imitating their elders. A future of constant competition, labor and strife. **Reverse meanings:** Complexity of deeds or decisions. Trickery. An intense involvement.

FOUR OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:** The best of home and hearth. The warding off of evils. Romance or unexpected happiness. Prosperity, peace and tranquility. The achievement of a dream that leads

to wealth and/or happiness. Country life. A rest after a struggle. **Reverse meanings:** A false sense of security. Uneasiness, even in the face of full security. Never being sure of what one has. Ruthlessly holding onto possessions. Happiness diluted by subconscious inhibitions.

THREE OF PEPPERMILLS

Divinatory meanings: Discovery of a new way. A stability in job performance and abilities. Broad knowledge of the world. The thrill of negotiation. Trade. **Reverse meanings:** Someone giving help in order to gain future influence. Treachery. A problem diminished.

TWO OF PEPPERMILLS **Divinatory meanings:**

A man set apart, often a ruler. Courage to face and contemplate the world. Great riches and magnificent stature not appreciated. **Reverse meanings:** Great sadness, as in a monumental loss of faith.

Imprisonment by others' actions. A surprise.

ACE OF PEPPERMILLS *Divinatory*

meanings: The beginning of all things. Life, love, family, business. The start of a new adventure. A meaningful experience. Inheritance and fortune. Home.

Reverse meanings: Ruination. A senseless delay or a cancellation before beginning. Anger. Unfulfilled dream. Decadence and meaningless existence.

THE SUIT OF HATS

The suit of hats corresponds to the suit of cups, which is also the suit of hearts. The suit deals primarily with messages, travel and the home. It is the suit of gifts and contains all that is truly important.

KING OF HATS *Divinatory*

meanings: A good man, respected in business and the community. A

leader, but subservient to the querent. Liberal, artistic and religious. Kind. Scientist or lawyer. Adaptable. **Reverse meanings:** Flaring temperament. Trickster. Injustice, loss or ruin. An unredeemable character.

QUEEN OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: A warm and loving person. Absent-minded, but with unique vision. A good parent or friend. A sought-after advisor. Practical, honest and happy. Poetic. Loved. **Reverse meanings:** Inconsistent. Dishonest and dishonorable. Perverse. Falsely respected. Immoral.

KNIGHT OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: A message. Arrival. Moving up or forward. Requests or challenges. Attraction for a place or person. A gift, opportunity or invitation. A proposition. **Reverse meanings:** Artifice. Fraud. The bearing of false news.

PAGE OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: A person given to intense concentration on studies or on a project. Reflective. Loyal, helpful and trustworthy. A good type for secretive work. News or messages. **Reverse meanings:** Susceptible to distraction. Artifice. Unable to ignore impulses. Seductive, destructive.

TEN OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

Home and hearth. Serenity of a familiar place. All that comes with family and friends. Someone looking out for the querent's interests. **Reverse meanings:** False heart. Violence within the home. Petty jealousies and rivalries. Loss of friendship.

NINE OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

Contentment. Personal advantage, sometimes financial. Material gains and business growth. Success, good health. Victory. **Reverse meanings:** Bad decisions, but also a liberty that comes

from them. Opposition, disputes, difficulties. A false sense of security or freedom.

EIGHT OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: Running away from responsibility or friendship. The yin and yang of choices. Leaving behind that which is best in a person. Abandoning a plan or goal. Disillusionment. Making a great matter of something that is really trivial.

Reverse meanings: Happiness. Joy. Feasting. Striving for a goal.

SEVEN OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: There are seven hats with themes of dreams and nightmares, and the querent will choose among them. The first holds a maiden, the second holds an unknown spirit, and the third holds a serpent. The fourth holds a castle of riches, the fifth holds the demon of hell, the sixth holds jewels of wealth, and the seventh holds the

crown. A goal within sight. Desires. A dream fulfilled but unrecognized.

Reverse meanings: Desire and determination. A dream attainable. Willpower. Resolution of a conflict.

SIX OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

Thoughts of childhood. Nostalgia. The sweetness of memory. A desire for the old, without measuring the true worth of the past. At times, the future.

Reverse meanings: The future. Goals attainable. That which will be or which should be. Plans that go awry.

FIVE OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

Partial loss. Seeing the broken and ignoring the whole. Friendship without devotion. Marriage without love. That which could be perfect, yet isn't. An incomplete view of the world and of people. **Reverse meanings:** The hope of the future. A good companion. A reunion with an old friend, or a truce with an old enemy.

FOUR OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

Aversion to imaginary flaws. Not wanting what is offered. A former bad choice which influences all future choices. A need for perfection. A stagnant period of life. **Reverse meanings:** Hope. Great expectations that are to be delivered. New approaches. New friends. New access to knowledge or dreams.

THREE OF HATS Divinatory

meanings: A happy solution to a problem. Joy and dancing. Healing of the soul. Victory. Solace. Partial fulfillment or a compromise. **Reverse meanings:** Burning out on pleasure. Excess in recreation and inability to find new diversions. Decadence. Loss of respect. Delay. Inadvertent or malicious exploitation.

TWO OF HATS Divinatory meanings:

The relations between males and females as well as between friends. Discord, with unity and happiness

to follow. Cooperation. Marriage or engagement. A mutual understanding of divergent opinions. New friend or relationship. **Reverse meanings:** Unrequited love. A dangerous or false friend. Separation or divorce. Incompatible desires. Misunderstanding.

ACE OF HATS **Divinatory meanings:** Something above the material world. The spirit of the universe. A happy home, beauty and pleasure. Something beyond the veil of the tarot. A great and unexpected opulence. Goodness overflowing. **Reverse meanings:** A revolution of feelings. A false heart. Joy tempered with tragedy. Inconsistency.

THE SUIT OF OYSTERS

The suit of oysters is the suit of coins or pentacles, also the suit of diamonds. It implies possessions, along with the pleasures and pains of them. In *Alice*,

the oysters are the most prized of all things, and they are bought and sold, and tricked.

KING OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: A person of grace and charm, with natural leadership and business abilities. Intelligent, loyal and successful. Courageous. Punctual.

Reverse meanings: Corruption and collusion. A codger. Danger. Faithlessness. Going for ends without consideration of means.

QUEEN OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Extreme wealth. Magnificence and grace, opulence. Security, liberty, generosity. Intelligence. **Reverse meanings:**

False front. Underdeveloped ego. Need to impress. Evil and suspicion. Viciousness. Irresponsibility.

KNIGHT OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Mature and responsible.

Reliable, patient, persistent. Organized and dependable. Confident spirituality.

Reverse meanings: Complacency. Stagnation. A refusal to move forward, and thereby being pushed back. Dogmatic.

PAGE OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Academic tradition.

Plodding scholar. A love of the new.

Stable and loyal within boundaries.

Do-gooder. **Reverse meanings:**

Inability to face reality. Overlooking the obvious. Illogical and rebellious.

Loss or bad news.

TEN OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Home and hearth.

Prosperity, riches and security. Safety and a long family history. Inheritance.

Reverse meanings: Loss of family security, gambling, burglary or squandered funds. Financial burdens relieved.

NINE OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: An accomplishment and a feeling of safety. Physical pleasure and love of nature. Discretion. Foresight.

Reverse meanings: Bad faith. Villainy. Danger to self or spirit. Loss of a friend or a treasured keepsake. Abandoned project.

EIGHT OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Artistry. Quickness of thought. Modesty. Straight talk. Great personal effort for craft or art. Talent.

Reverse meanings: Sloth. Conceit. False gifts. Flattery. Being untrustworthy and vain. Intrigue. Talent misused. Extortion.

SEVEN OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Naiveté. Innocence.

Progress toward wealth and personal gain. Moving away from old ways, into the new. Growth and hard work.

Reverse meanings: Worry, especially about money. Loss of money. Loss of innocence in a detrimental fashion.

SIX OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Generosity to those less fortunate. Kindness and gifts from the heart. Well-being that comes from kindness and giving. **Reverse meanings:**

Envy, jealousy. An illusion of generosity. Bad debts, unpaid loans. Overwhelming greed.

FIVE OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Trouble. Destitution.

Insoluble problems with family or lovers. Failure in a goal or attempted gain. **Reverse meanings:** Turnaround in a bad situation. New goals.

Reconciliation with family or lover.

FOUR OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Love of wealth. Obsession with possessions. Miser, selfishness.

Inability to understand or support charity. **Reverse meanings:**

Loss of material wealth. Inability to gain wealth. Encountering a less charitable person.

THREE OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Nobility. Glory. Great renown or respect. Tradesmen or workers. Fun with artistry. **Reverse meanings:** Lack of initiative. Pettiness and mediocrity. No artistry. Money problems.

TWO OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Fearing the consequences of a new project. Worry and embarrassment. Looking into the infinite. **Reverse meanings:** Literary talent. Bills. Feigned enjoyment. Any message or letter.

ACE OF OYSTERS Divinatory

meanings: Paradise. Perfection. Contentment. Money. The body and soul gaining wealth. Items of beauty and value. **Reverse meanings:** Money without happiness. Wealth abused. Corruption and greed. Becoming a Scrooge.

THE TEN-CARD SPREAD

The ten-card spread is one of the most popular and effective methods of using the tarot for divination. It is a slightly altered version of the Ancient Celtic Method described by Arthur Edward Waite in *The Pictorial Key to the Tarot*.

The person seeking an answer to a question is known as the questioner or querent. The questioner sits at a table opposite the diviner and both persons maintain a serious attitude.

This question is stated aloud to the diviner while the questioner shuffles the face down deck. When the questioner is satisfied with the shuffling, the deck is placed face down in front of the diviner. The cards are always viewed from the diviner's position.

Beginning with the top card as number one, the second card as number two, and so on, the diviner turns over the

first six cards, one at a time, placing them face up on the table in the sequence shown in the diagram.

The cards with pictures upside down to the diviner are said to be reversed and therefore the reverse meanings apply to them. Generally if more than half the cards are reversed, the diviner may find a better reading is obtained by moving the reversed cards to upright position.

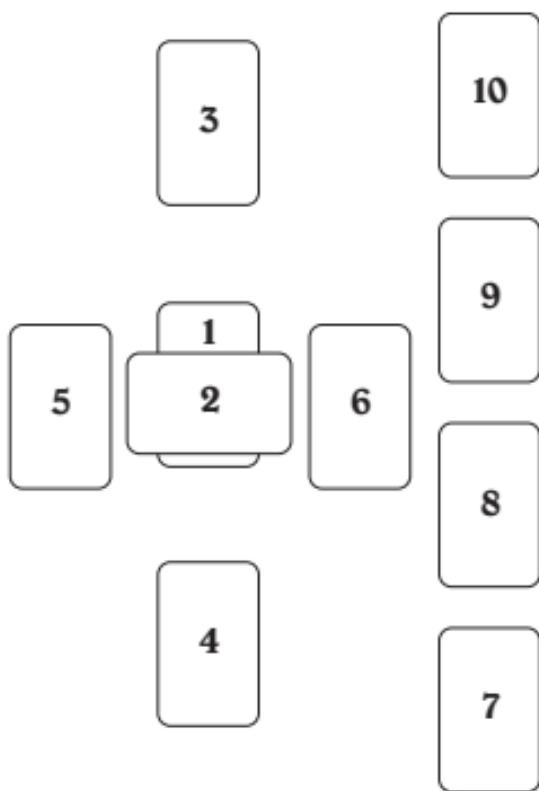
Card 1: Present position. Atmosphere in which the questioner is presently working and living.

Card 2: Immediate influence.

The nature of the influences or the obstacles that lie just ahead.

Card 3: Goal or destiny. The ultimate goal or destiny of the questioner. The best that can be accomplished by the questioner.

THE TEN-CARD SPREAD



Card 4: Distant past foundation.

The broad and basic influences which existed in the past and upon which the present events are based.

Card 5: Recent past events. The most recent sphere of influence or events that has passed or is just passing.

Card 6: Future influence. The sphere of influence that is coming into being in the near future.

After reading the preceding six cards, the diviner turns over the next four cards from the deck.

Card 7: The questioner. The questioner's present position or attitude.

Card 8: Environmental factors. The questioner's influence on other people and their influence on the questioner.

Card 9: Inner emotions. The inner hopes, emotions, desires and anxieties of the questioner.

Card 10: Final results. The culmination and results of all the influences revealed by the other cards in the divination.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

When *The Wonderland Tarot* was created by Christopher Abbey and Morgana Abbey in 1989, U.S. Games Systems decided to include playing card suit marks on the Minor Arcana cards. These indices allow the cards to be used for traditional card games and are a playful nod to the Queen of Hearts and the many references to playing cards and games in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Playing cards also have a long history of being used for divination. The four Minor Arcana suits of tarot correspond to the four playing card suits:

Spades: Swords (Flamingos)

Clubs: Wands (Peppermills)

Hearts: Cups (Hats)

Diamonds: Coins or Pentacles (Oysters)

In *The Wonderland Tarot*, the court cards have the following designations:

Kings: (K)ings

Queens: (Q)ueens

Pages: (J)acks

Knights: (C)avaliers, following the French tradition in tarot and playing card decks.

Whether reading tarot for fortunetelling or for fun, or playing Hearts, enjoy *The Wonderland Tarot* deck. Just don't lose your head!

As Alice says “*Why, they're only a pack of cards, after all. I needn't be afraid of them.*”



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