

Witching Hour
ORACLE

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First Edition

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Published by U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC. 179 Ludlow Street Stamford, CT 06902 USA www.usgamesinc.com I would like to thank my amazing husband, Todd, for always supporling me on my crazy and crealive adventures.

My child, Clana, for always encouraging and believing in my arlistic escapades.

And my best friend, Tamera, for always fixing my grammar and her faithful support in my garbage art.

> Without the three of you I would be lost.

> > - Cherie Gerhardt

INTRODUCTION

The Witching Hour and Its Magick

Magick, spelled with a "k", is not a supernatural force as it is often depicted in movies and fantasy novels. Magick is used by pagan and neopagans (witches) alike and is akin to prayer in mainstream religions. You don't need to be a pagan or a witch to tap into your magickal power. Magick lies within us all.

Magick occurs when an individual uses their thoughts, words, intentions and their actions to project positive energy into the universe in order to impact their world with affirmative change. Magick is also living in balance with the flow of life and recognizing that you are a vital force within that flow.

The Witching Hour is the time, most commonly thought to be somewhere between the hours of 2 AM and 4 AM, when the energy of the universe is strongest. It is a time when the positive energy of magick is at its apex, allowing for the

most potent outcomes. It is also a time when the veil between the spirit realm and the mortal world is at its sheerest, allowing us to tap into this otherworldly, infinite energy and use it in our magickal workings. Each *Witching Hour Oracle* card features an illustrated background that emphasizes the infinite power of the universe and the unique atmosphere of this hallowed hour.

Maiden, Mother and Crone: The Three Faces of the Goddess

For those of us who walk the neopagan path, a modern religious movement that seeks to incorporate beliefs or ritual practices from traditions outside the main world religions and worship the gods of old, we are no strangers to the indoctrinating teachings and symbolization of the Triple Goddess. The Goddess is viewed as the triune of the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone, which symbolizes separate stages in the female life cycle, and which align with the phases of the lunar moon cycle. It is these three separate earthly

stages that we worship as one feminine divine being, the Goddess.

The Maiden aspect of the Goddess aligns with the beginning of the lunar moon cycle during the crescent to the Waxing Moon. The Goddess in this form represents the continuation of life and the repeating of endless cycles of birth and rebirth of the body and soul. The Maiden is associated with the qualities of adolescence, innocence, and self-confidence. With the Maiden's intelligence and independence, she guides us to explore the worlds around and within ourselves. allowing for the birth of self-discovery, self-expression, and creativity. Even though the Maiden is associated with adolescence, anyone at any time in their life can experience her and her attributes. She is the part of the Goddess that leads us to the dawn of new beginnings.

As the Moon continues in its lunar cycle, the Mother aspect of the Goddess emerges with the Full Moon. Just as mortal mothers are closer with their young, so are we with this aspect of the Goddess. The Mother is more accessible to us on the

earthly realm, as the essence of her tends to lie within the forests and fields of the Earth. The Mother's essence is also rooted deep within all the creatures on this Earth that grow and mature into the fullness of their life.

The Goddess in this form represents the recreation of life and abundance within the world. The Mother aspect is associated with such qualities as responsibility, manifestation and creation. With the Mother's spirited yet nurturing attributes, she guides us through our lives, allowing us to make mature, responsible decisions. These decisions will enable us to manifest into the wondrous creations within ourselves and without. As with the Maiden aspect of the Goddess, you do not need to be a mother to appreciate the mature guidance of the Mother aspect. She is the part of the Goddess that helps us grow and become what we are meant to be in our lives.

As the Moon begins to wane in its lunar cycle, darkness begins to grow as the Crone aspect of the Goddess advances into her power. The Crone is one of the least understood aspects of the Goddess as she is often

referred to as the Hag or the Dark Mother because she is the aspect that relates to death and the end of life. But don't avoid the Crone, for she holds many significant aspects of the Goddess as well.

The Goddess in this form represents wisdom and counsel as she transforms us with her visions, her prophecy and her guidance. The Crone aspect guides us through our life and the gateway to death and reincarnation. She reminds us that death is part of the life cycle, just as the Waning Moon falls into the darkness of the New Moon and proceeds to be reborn with light again in the Waxing Moon. She makes us examine our lives with wise perspective, which makes us discern what is most important to our soul and then guides our choices to fulfill our greatest potential.

The Moon Cycle through the Lunar Year

In today's neopaganism paths such as wicca or witchcraft, we are cognizant of the lunar cycle. This is not only for our practices and rituals but also how the phases of the Moon relate to the Goddess. A lunar month is a month measured between successive New Moons. Since the lunar month cycle does not match our 365-day, 12-month calendar, the number of lunar month cycles varies from year to year. On average, there are 13 lunar month cycles (also known as Full Moon cycles) in a lunar year.

The 13 Moon calendar is comprised of elegantly simple cycles: the seven-day week and 28-day moon. The lunar days and the days of the week line up perfectly, week-to-week, and moon-to-moon. This makes the 13 moon/28-day calendar a perpetual calendar.

These monthly cycles of the Moon each hold their own traits, identity, and powers to those on the neopaganism path. Within *The Witching Hour Oracle*, I have included all 13 months to guide you.

Ever mind the rule of three.

LET'S BEGIN

Starting with any oracle deck is quite easy. Oracle cards hold a lot of 'big' energy. They give insight into what is going on in a situation or questions that you meditate upon before drawing the cards. You use your intuition along with this guidebook to get a general understanding of the meaning of the cards.

Before any oracle reading, I would suggest grounding yourself. Get yourself ready by taking deep, long breaths. Scents can accelerate the grounding process, so consider lighting some incense or burning herbs. Also, soft, soothing sounds or music can help. You may want to consider the five-step grounding technique before you read your cards.

Look: Look around for five things that you can see and say them out loud.

Feel: Pay attention to your body and think of four things that you can feel and say them out loud.

Listen: Listen for three sounds. Say the three things out loud.

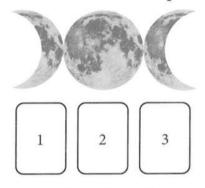
Smell: Say two things that you can smell. If you can't smell anything at the moment or you can't move, then name your two favorite smells.

Taste: Say one thing you can taste. If you can't taste anything, then say your favorite thing to taste.

Now you are ready for your oracle reading.

For all our little daily needs, there are single- and three-card oracle spreads. Sometimes, we need an overall analysis of the day or a little hint or suggestion on a situation that may be confusing. Here are some three-card oracle readings that I have organized and classified based on the layout of the spread itself. Use the following ideas to guide you in building your own spreads. You can think of these card spreads as a foundation for creating a relationship between the cards. Once you grasp the concept of these relationships, you can work on larger, more complex spreads.

The Three Card Luna Spread



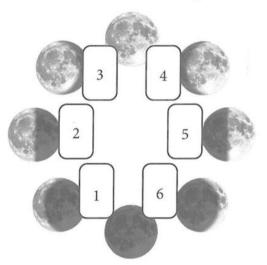
Card 1, Card 2, Card 3:

- Past, Present, Future •
- You, Your Path, Your Potential
 - · You, Relationship, Partner ·
 - · Situation, Action, Outcome ·
 - · Idea, Process, Aspiration ·
- What I Think, What I Feel, What I Do
 - Physical State, Emotional State,
 Spiritual State

A three-card spread is a terrific way to convey a sequence of events or cause and

effect. It's a way for you to understand how you got from point "A" to point "B."

The Six Card Luna Spread



The six-card spread was designed for you to work with the moon cycle and the three moon phases of the Goddess; Maiden (Waxing Moon), Mother (Full Moon), and Crone (Waning Moon).

When you feel grounded, you can begin.

Ask yourself these questions as you draw each card:

- 1. What sequence of events is opening up for me?
- 2. What wants to emerge, grow, or be looked after during this cycle?
- 3. What may interfere with me during this cycle?
- 4. Why will this interfere with me during this cycle?
- 5. How can I heal these interferences?
- 6. How can I work alongside these energies to come back to myself?

The Waxing Moon is the time for action. It's a convenient time for taking the steps needed to bring your dreams and aspirations into reality. It is also a perfect time to conjure energies into your life, such as a more positive attitude, more patience, and more understanding in your relationship. During the Waxing Moon, you'll want to focus on the steps that need to be taken to help Card 2 emerge and grow.

The Full Moon is when the Earth is caught between the Moon and the Sun; the result is the Full Moon bearing the most potent energies of the lunar cycle. Our bodies are heightened as well as our emotions, intuition, and psychic abilities.

The Full Moon is a time for you to utilize extra power when you're facing tough challenges.

This particular time is not just for minor or mundane tasks; this is a time to reserve for those crucial things in your life that need significant changes or major boosts. This is the last thrust in the growth phase of the cycle, so it is a great time to focus on Cards 1, 2 and 3. You have to ask yourself what you are nurturing and growing during this lunar cycle.

The Waning Moon energies repel rather than attract, so it's an excellent time to consider getting rid of things. The Waning Moon is a time for shadow work, for releasing, for turning outward and letting go. It's time to work with Cards 4 through 6 of the spread. Focus on the blocks around your dreams and aspirations, what

is interfering with attaining these aspirations, and the advice for repairing these interferences so we can progress to better well-being.

Final Thoughts:

I want you to remember that nothing with an oracle deck is "set in stone." There are many ways to read oracle cards, different spreads to personal interpretations. Please, feel free to research additional spreads that may apply to your situation or use your intuition to make your own. This booklet is only a guide, but you get to choose its path.



CARDS & THEIR MEANINGS



The Wolf Moon

Also known as the Chaste Moon, Disting Moon and Quiet Moon

During the Wolf Moon, the nights are long and dark, and many of us are trying to stay warm as the Ice Moon approaches. This time of year, we're all feeling a bit slow and "off" as our bodies are sluggish when we are adjusting to the colder temperatures. The Wolf Moon is a time of new beginnings by simplification. It's a time to set aside everything you don't need and try a minimalist approach to both your physical and spiritual self.

1. BEGINNING

Wolf Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Wolf Moon is the start of conceiving and new beginnings. It's time to put aside your lassitude, and focus on beginning anew, just as this Maiden sits in the fetal position on this card, with the nimbus of new ideas luminously encircling her mind.

Drawing the Beginning Card:

Consider the option that it is an excellent time to start any spiritual or soul-inspiring project that may have been weighing on your mind. Should you take that painting class or that singing lesson, get involved in your favorite non-profit, or finally begin that project that speaks to your soul? What currently is dwelling in the back of your mind that needs to have a new beginning? Find it and focus on what you need to begin anew.

2. PROTECTION

Wolf Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Wolf Moon is associated with protection. As the Mother in this card has the instinct to protect her child that is in her womb, it's time to look into yourself and see what may need protecting, both physically and spiritually.

Drawing the Protection Card:

Meditate on what in your life may need protection. Is there a loved one who finds themselves in an unsafe position? Or is it more about yourself and your spirit being wary of how you have treated yourself in a specific situation? Use your intuition to guide you into the direction of how you could protect yourself and others.

3. ALIGN

Wolf Moon * Waning Moon * Crone

The Waning Wolf Moon is a significant one for the personal calibration of your various personas while conserving energy. As the Crone scrutinizes her inner self, she detects her multiple personas and draws them together with her self-love.

Drawing the Align Card:

Think about what it is you sincerely want out of life, and whether you're showing people your one true self. Align your different personas into one; in doing so, you will conserve energy. Think about situations where various personas work together to support your authentic self. Let this card guide your mind on how to release the excess baggage from these personas so you can find a path to free your spirit and soul.



Also known as the Horning Moon, Wild Moon, and Hunger Moon

During the Ice Moon, the energy of the world is trying to work its way to the surface. During this energy shift, it is an excellent time to cleanse, grow, and start healing old exposed personal wounds. It's time to start taking responsibility for your past errors and grow from those missteps. It's a time to forgive yourself and heal from the burdens that this growth has cost you.

4. PURIFICATION

Ice Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Ice Moon is about the purification of the body and soul. As this Maiden is depicted sitting upon the Waxing Moon engulfed by a swath of water, she is allowing the pure river to wash away her woes and the light of the moon to cleanse all that troubles her.

Drawing the Purification Card:

This is a sure sign to purify your mind, body and soul. Start with your mind, filter all the negative thoughts about yourself, and replace these concepts or ideas with positive ones. As for your body, this is a great time to cleanse yourself of poor nutrition and start eating healthier. It will make you feel better and give you more energy. Finally, purify your soul by studying your environment to determine what relationships are toxic.

5. GROWTH

Ice Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Ice Moon is associated with growth. As the Mother in this card is "rooted" to her life with her past experiences, she can learn to look beyond that and grow taller and become fuller within her personal growth. Thus, she is depicted as part of the tree.

Drawing the Growth Card:

Think where in your life you can grow. Personal growth is an ongoing process of understanding and developing oneself to achieve one's fullest potential. This card is also about opening your mind to allow yourself to understand that growth has a profound effect on every single aspect of your life. As we grow, we begin to feel more passionate about life in general. We are naturally more motivated because learning and growing add inspiration and a sense of excitement. So, what aspects of your life may need growth, to see from another's perspective?

6. SELF-HEALING

Ice Moon * Waning Moon * Crone

The Waning Ice Moon is suited for self-healing. As the Ice Moon Crone holds her heart in her hands amongst the cornflowers on this card, she is trying to heal her center by the power of the Moon. She is learning that yes, her heart was damaged, but it is still hers, and with time, she can heal that piece of her and make herself whole once again.

Drawing the Self-Healing Card: It is time to consider mending yourself. What is self-healing? Self-healing means becoming more whole, more able to accomplish what you wish to achieve, and more able to enjoy your life. This wholeness may involve the healing of a physical wound, an emotional disturbance, a maladaptive behavior (rage, addiction, withdrawal), or conflictual relationships. Self-healing involves behaving wisely, tuning into the actual needs of your mind, body, and soul and making careful choices.

The Craw Moon

Also known as the Storm Moon, Worm Moon, and Lenting Moon

During the Crow Moon, the energy of the world finally breaks the surface, emerging out into the open. It is a great time to start to grow and explore the universe around you. Allow these new beginnings to break those old illusions that may have held you back in the past. It's a time to see your inner truth, no matter how it may hurt, so your new self can prosper.

7. EXPLORE

Crow Moon . Waxing Moon . Maiden

The Waxing Crow Moon is about exploring through your inner self to find what you may be missing within. As this Maiden is depicted walking through the forest, guided by her lamp glow and her crow companion, she is looking deep into the darkness. She is trying to find her true path and the courage within herself to move forward.

Drawing the Explore Card:

Now is the time to explore your inner self, your surroundings, and even current connections you have with other people. What new routes can you take to solve a current predicament you may be in? Examine what is around. Maybe there is a different path you can make, such as a new job or a class? This other avenue may guide you in the direction where you would like to be in life. Perhaps a connection with an acquaintance or friend may lead you to a unique opportunity.

8. PROSPERITY

Crow Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Crow Moon is associated with prosperity. As the Mother in this card is lovingly waiting for a successful and auspicious birth, she is surrounded by bees, who are bringers of good luck and abundance. The rounded bloom of peonies that lies upon her lap is a sign of wealth and is an omen of good fortune and a blessed life.

Drawing the Prosperity Card:

Reflect on what prosperous things and events have happened to you within your lifetime. Focus on the successful things that have transpired. These may be material or spiritual things, but what aspect made your soul feel untroubled and fulfilled? Was it getting that new apartment? Was it your partner's promotion at work that allowed you to quit your job to pursue an unusual career that you have always wanted to do?

9. BREAKING ILLUSIONS

Crow Moon * Waning Moon * Crone

The Waning Crow Moon suggests looking deep inside yourself to confront any misconceptions you have about your life. Just as the Crone is here on this card looking inside a pool of truth, her outer self begins to break away, and she sees herself for who she truly is inside.

Drawing the Breaking Illusions Card: It may be time to shatter any illusions you have of yourself or others. Peel away these misconceptions about your life and see yourself for the amazing being that you are, and how the Goddess intended you to be. We are made in her image; therefore, there is nothing wrong with how you are emotionally or physically. Do you tell yourself, "If I were just smarter" or "If I could be less reserved, I would be a better person?" Break those illusions, for they are not true!



The Growing Moon

Also known as the Planting Moon, Eostre Month, and Budding Trees Moon

During the Growing Moon, it's time to take the energy that broke through the surface from the last lunar cycle and propel that forward, using that vitality to create and produce new things. Start to build selfreliance in order to use your own powers and resources rather than those of others. By creating and building self-reliance, your self-confidence will flourish.

10. SELF-RELIANCE

Growing Moon • Waxing Moon • Maiden

The Waxing Growing Moon is about autonomy and how using your powers and resources, rather than those of others, will help you thrive. Just as the Maiden is sitting upon the books from which she has gained information and skills, she uses the

hourglass, a symbol of time, to apply that knowledge to become self-reliant.

Drawing the Self-Reliance Card:
It may be time to consider being more self-sufficient. Are you struggling with personal accounting issues, leaving your budget in pure chaos? Maybe you should consider taking a personal finance course at your local library or trade school.

Perhaps you want to start your own business, but you don't know how to promote yourself. Think about a marketing class or purchase a book on selling and advertising strategies to become a better spokesperson for yourself. Meditate on the things that will improve your reliance on your own abilities instead of others'.

11. CREATING

Growing Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Growing Moon is associated with creating and bringing something into existence. As the Mother is painted upon this card, beautiful music flows from the energy of her muse, the Goddess. The joy and power of creation passes through

her fingertips, into her violin, and drifts towards the power of the Full Moon.

Drawing the Creating Card:

Time to let your creativity soar. Look all around you for a muse and use that inspiration to create something wondrous. Have you desired to start painting, to feel how it would be to have brush in hand? Maybe you thought about writing that book that has always rumbled in the back of your mind. Perhaps that small souvenir you picked up a few years back sparked an idea for a living room makeover. It is time to harness these ideas and advance towards something amazing.

12. CONFIDENCE

Growing Moon • Waning Moon • Crone

The Waning Growing Moon encourages you to rely on the feeling that you can truly trust yourself. The Crone shown on this card has great knowledge and experience. Her visage and steady gaze shows that she is confident in her convictions. She knows her right to speak her mind as she grips firmly to her speaker's staff.

Drawing the Confidence Card:

It is a time to generate confidence in your feelings and your existence upon this physical world. You have a voice, and you should stand firmly behind it. You were put here in this world by the Goddess, and it is time to trust that is for a wondrous reason. Meditate upon where you may need to be more fearless in your life. Is there a time where you did not want to do something but were not strong enough to say no? Or is there something you want to say to someone, but have not yet had the courage to do so? Well, now is your time!

The Hare Moon

Also known as the Dryad Moon, Flower Moon, and Winnemanoth

During the Hare Moon, it is a period of rebirth for life on Earth. With its reputation for being prolific, no creature is more suitable than the hare as this month's symbol. The Hare Moon marks the time to cultivate the energy from the Earth and use it with your intuition to guide you through this invigorating month.

13. INTUITION

Hare Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Hare Moon is about using your ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning. The Hare Moon Maiden is pictured here with a charged light upon her third eye, a wondrous power source, thrusting her third eye gateway to higher consciousness and using the power to infuse intuition.

Drawing the Intuition Card:

It is time to tune into your inner voice, your intuition. Have you ever had a moment where you felt as though something wasn't right? Perhaps you sensed negative energy around someone without knowing why, or a little voice within you says, "Wait, this does not seem right?" That is your intuition, your inner knowing, letting you know that something is wrong with the environment

around you. Think about a situation where you have not been listening to that little voice within you, and start to understand why it is alarming you.

14. PROPAGATING ENERGY

Hare Moon & Full Moon & Mother

The Full Hare Moon is a time to cultivate or tap into the Telluric current, which is the energy that derives from the heart of the Earth. Here the Mother of the Hare Moon is pictured holding the Earth in her hands as the current of energy swirls from the center. She is cradling this Earth energy in her palms, ready to use it within herself, to make her strong and intuitive.

Drawing the Propagating Energy Card: This card represents the need to gather in your personal energy. You need to take inventory of all your unused, or more importantly, your misused power and store it for an essential purpose. Have you ever been in a situation that drains you of your vitality? Is there a specific person you deal with who depletes you? Reflect

on what parts of your life are diminishing your energy and how to pull that energy back to you to redirect it toward a better purpose.

15. GUIDANCE

Hare Moon • Waning Moon • Crone

The Waning Hare Moon is an ideal time to ask for guidance from the supernatural protectors and beings around you. The Crone on this card is burning incense and praying to her ancestors to assist her as she ponders an important decision. Here, the crow is pictured in a ghostly manner within the smoke as one of these supernatural beings that will guide her toward her final decision.

Drawing the Guidance Card:

It is a perfect time to ask your supernatural protectors for guidance where it is most needed in your life. Do you have a critical choice to make? Is there a situation that you are not sure how to resolve? In what area of your life do you need direction? Is there an expert or someone you trust you can ask for advice? It's time to look for guidance from those who excel or have personal experience in your current situation.

The Mead Moon

Also known as the Honey Moon, Strawberry Moon, and the Moon of Horses

The Mead Moon occurs during the time of the Earth's fertility. It is a time when the fruits of farmers' labors are ripening in the fields. The Mead Moon is a great time to make crucial decisions and to take responsibility for what is happening around you. It is a time to strengthen and reward yourself for the effort and dedication that you have poured into your current ambitions. It is a period to marvel at the miracle of growth and rebirth that is evident on this beautiful Earth.

16. RESTLESS ENERGY

Mead Moon • Waxing Moon • Maiden

The Waxing Mead Moon represents all the restless energy that lies deep in the heart of the Maiden Face of the Goddess. The Mead Moon Maiden is pictured here glowing with a charged energy pulled from the Earth, surrounding her body. She is filling herself with mead, the gods' elixir.

Drawing the Restless Energy Card:

It is a good sign that it is time to take that restless energy that is within yourself and use it towards a purpose or goal. What is making you unsettled? Perhaps it is a result of anxiety or boredom? Where can you focus that power to be more productive? Creating something is a more efficient use of your bundle of energy and can make you feel accomplished. Time to take that restlessness and redirect it.

17. DECISIONS

Mead Moon & Full Moon & Mother

The Full Mead Moon is a time for decisions about how you will harness the Earth's

restless energy and where you are going to apply it. Here, the Mother of the Mead Moon is depicted standing before two paths. She is looking upon these paths, deciding where she should refocus her life. Which road will fulfill her soul? Time is up; now is the time to choose one with conviction.

Drawing the Decisions Card:

This card is a reliable indication that time is up. Move forward and make that decision that has been bouncing around the back of your mind, that decision that you've been hesitating to make. Act now to take steps toward a resolution to the problem you have been mulling over. Move forward in the direction that feels right in your soul.

18. SELF-REWARD

Mead Moon • Waning Moon • Crone

The Waning Mead Moon is an excellent time to reward yourself. The Crone on this card is paying herself with mead, the elixir of the gods. She knows that she has done a good job with the decisions that she has made, and it is time for her to reward that hard work with a bit of fun.

Drawing the Self-Reward Card:

Time to celebrate! You deserve it. You have worked hard, made your choices, and completed a specific goal to its fulfillment. Maybe that objective is a new promotion at work. Perhaps it was the intention to finish your degree or start that business that you always dreamed about. You made the decision, went out there, and tackled that goal. Now it's time to bask in the glory of this accomplishment and reward yourself.

The Buck Moon

Also known as the Blessing Moon, Hay Moon, and Thunder Moon

The Buck Moon rises during the peak of the fullness of the Earth's fertility. It is when the rewards of the farmer's long hours of labor are most apparent with the ripening of the fields. Around this time farmers harvest, bale, and stow hay for the winter. This moon is also known as the lunar event that corresponds to the season when male deer grow new antlers. The Buck Moon is an excellent time to use relaxed energy to focus and prepare for both inner and dream work.

19. RELAXED ENERGY

Buck Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Buck Moon represents all the relaxed energy that lies deep in the soul of the Maiden. The Buck Moon Maiden is pictured here meditating, free from tension and anxiety, allowing a spirit buck to step into her orb. It is a calm moment and she focuses on her inner quietude.

Drawing the Relaxed Energy Card: This card is a sign to free yourself from stress and drama and to put yourself at ease. Take a deep breath and unwind, look at your current state of affairs, and see where you need to soothe your energy. Are you always getting upset with someone and tend to argue? Maybe it is time to take a step back and give yourself the gentle space to soften. What situation do you need to approach with relaxed energy?

20. PREPARE

Buck Moon & Full Moon & Mother

The Full Buck Moon is a time to prepare. It is time to make something ready for use in your current situation. The Mother is illustrated on this card perched upon a pillar, as she has been given a place to concentrate on the strategy that she is preparing for her current undertaking.

Drawing the Prepare Card:

This card is a strong signal that it is time for you to develop a plan. Is there a business idea you would like to launch, or maybe you are looking to remodel your home? Sit down and write out the necessary steps you need to get this project in motion. Maybe it is time for you to start packing for a trip or organizing your home for a new baby. Consider where in your life you may need to make some preparations and plans.

21. DREAMWORK

Buck Moon * Waning Moon * Crone
The Waning Buck Moon is a wonderful

time to undertake dreamwork. For this card, here is the Crone with the swirling universe in front of her like luminescent stardust. Butterflies float around her in a dreamy landscape. The Crone gazes at you as if she can see your inner self. By doing so she tries to get your soul to manifest the imaginings in your mind.

Drawing the Dreamwork Card:

This card encourages you to look back at your recent dreams and consider what you may have conjured in your sleep. Dreamwork is the process by which the unconscious mind alters the manifest content of thoughts to decode their real meaning for the dreamer. Your higher self, or your dream-self, has been waiting for you to start paying attention. What were you dreaming about? What could be the meaning behind such images or emotions? Were you afraid in your dream, angry, or forlorn? Try to think back to your vision and reflect on what your inner self is telling you.



The Barley Moon

Also known as the Corn Moon, Wort Moon, and Moon of Cherries Blackening

The Barley Moon occurs during a time when the Earth's fertility is at full maturity and harvest is at hand. It is a time to put energy into gathering the fruits of your labor and appreciating what the crops have propagated. It is also the phase to bring exuberance and health to your friendships, so those bonds thrive.

22. VITALITY

Barley Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Barley Moon represents vitality. Here, the Maiden is pictured healthy, full of exuberant life, and flexing her muscles in the moonlight. She is surrounded by barley, a hardy grain whose coarse bristles extend from the grain-bearing tip of the plant.

Drawing the Vitality Card:

The Vitality Card is a sure sign that you need to be in the state of being strong,

active, and in full power. Look deep within yourself and see where you can apply more zestful energy. Where in your life can you go the extra mile, to work a little bit harder? Can you put more participation in a current group project? While working out, maybe you can push yourself to run another mile or do another push up. Where can you put more effort and energy into your life?

23. APPRECIATE

Barley Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Barley Moon is a time to step back and smell the flowers. This card portrays the Mother stopping to appreciate the fragrant lilies around her. She is taking the time to be grateful for the beauty and grandeur this symbol of fresh life brings to her world.

Drawing the Appreciate Card:

This card is a good indicator that you need to stop and recognize those around you. Be thankful to those reliable and honest friends in your life. Now could be a chance to write them a letter about

how much you value their part in your life. You might want to express gratitude for the family member or spouse who is always your rock in hard times. Maybe you appreciate a beloved pet. It is time to step back and see how you are truly blessed in your life.

24. FRIENDSHIP

Barley Moon . Waning Moon . Crone

The Waning Barley Moon is a spectacular time for the deepest friendships in your life. Depicted upon this card are two best friends standing in a field of barley. As with any good sisterhood, they have a strong bond, and each of them can see the other's inner self, knowing and accepting who they really are. They have their arms draped over each other's shoulders to show support for the other in times to come.

Drawing the Friendship Card:

It is a time to focus on your closest and most faithful friends. You may be in a current situation where you need help or advice from a friend. It may be that a close friend needs you there for them, to support

them and help them through a difficult period. Call that special person and spend time with them. Consider where a state of mutual trust and support is needed in your, or another's life, and either provide or gratefully receive that aid.



The Harvest Moon

Also known as the Wine Moon, Singing Moon, and Haligmonath

The Harvest Moon is the time of year for harvesting grains from the fields and celebrating the fruits of the year's labors. Harvest Moon legends are tales rooted in the gathering of crops. The Harvest Moon is also a time to gather, get organized and tame any spiritual, mental, or emotional chaos. By taming this disorder, it's also a time to balance the good and bad in your life. After this cleansing, it is time to rest after all your hard work.

25. BALANCE

Harvest Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Harvest Moon represents an equilibrium between dark and light. Here, the Maiden is shown balancing a light and dark orb of energy in each hand. She also has a port-wine stain on half of her face showing a natural asymmetry.

Drawing the Balance Card:

This card signifies that your balance is off in a situation in your life. It is a time to contemplate what is off-kilter and then evenly distribute the positive and negative energy, enabling the situation to become upright and steady. Sometimes this task is about work and family. Are you spending too much time and energy at work? When you get home, are you wholly drained? If so, center your precious energy on balancing your life by spending more time with your family. Focus on what circumstances in your life require balance.

26. REST AFTER LABOR

Harvest Moon . Full Moon . Mother

The Full Harvest Moon is a time of rest after you've harvested the fruits of your labors. Here the Mother is napping, laying upon her harvest with her newborn baby sleeping in her arms. Not only did she bring in the provisions for the winter, but she also labored and brought her child into the world.

Drawing the Rest After Labor Card: It is time to rest after all the hard work you have accomplished. Take a step back, recognize that you did all you can and enjoy the relaxation you deserve. Sometimes this can refer to a friendship, relationship, or marriage that you have worked so hard to repair. Maybe you have been putting in many hours to meet a deadline at work. Now that the deadline has passed, take some time off. You toiled and sacrificed to finish your project. Now, rest.

27. ORGANIZE THE MIND

Harvest Moon . Waning Moon . Crone

The Waning Harvest Moon is a time to collect all your thoughts and organize your mind. As the Crone is illustrated on this card, she sits in worry about all the things that won't settle in her mind. The crow is pulling those worries out of her mind and arranging them within her hair, so she has less to agonize over.

Drawing the Organize the Mind Card: Now is the time to take all the feelings of worry, nervousness, or disquiet out of your mind and refocus on how you will conquer what is causing you anxiety. Sometimes you may have to come to grips with a situation, accept it, and move on. Maybe you need to figure out what is the best approach for a particular circumstance. It is time to organize the chaos in your mind, for when you can calm yourself you can be more mindful of the things that cause you unease.



The Blood Moon

Also known as the Shedding Moon, Ten Colds Moon, and Winterfelleth

During the Blood Moon, the changes upon the Earth show the first signs of winter. The trees change colors, and all that live upon the land start to prepare for the cold months to come. It is a time of adjustment as we begin to let go of the warmer days. Now we must prepare for the hard times to come.

28. KARMA

Blood Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Blood Moon represents your destiny, or fate, following the effect of your actions. The albino Maiden of the Blood Moon painted on this card is cradling an owl that she saved by bandaging its injured wing. In the oval of energy, you can see the owl healing from her kindness and flying around her. What goes around, comes around, as shown by the red ring around the moon.

Drawing the Karma Card:

It is time of reckoning with everything and everyone affected by your actions. The sum of your efforts in this and previous states of existence will be viewed, and will decide your fate in the future. Think about what current situation you are going through. Are you treating people with the same respect that you would want to be given? Are you allowing the unjust treatment of another? Remember, what goes around, comes around.

29. LET GO

Blood Moon . Full Moon . Mother

The Full Blood Moon is a time to let go. Here, I painted a Mother breaking away from her past self, as represented in the shadow of herself fading behind her. This Mother is letting go of the past, and everything that haunts her soul so she can move forward with the child that is inside her.

Drawing the Let Go Card:

It is time to let go of the past that has haunted you to this point. That is the person you used to be, and even though that old self allowed you to be the person you are today, you are no longer that individual. This card can also represent that now is a perfect opportunity to release a negative factor in your life. This could be a person or a habit that harms your happiness or sense of self. Think about what you need to set free.

30. JUSTICE

Blood Moon * Waning Moon * Crone

The Waning Blood Moon is a time for justice. The Crone is pictured on this card with a firm and steady grip on the scales of justice, referring to fairness by weighing the evidence. The skulls represent her consideration of her current existence and her mortality. The Crone is blindfolded to represent impartiality to the situation at hand.

Drawing the Justice Card:

It is time to consider just behavior or treatment in a specific set of circumstances. Have you not been fair in a particular situation with a loved one? Have you rushed to a conclusion without

considering the thoughts and feelings of the other person? Or, has someone else not treated you fairly in a recent situation? The time is right to find where the inequity lies and bring justice to that situation.



Also known as the Moon of the Dead, Hunting Moon, and Ancestor Moon

There are 13 Moon months in the lunar year cycle since the lunar calendar does not coincide with the solar year. The Blue Moon usually occurs in the long months that consist of 31 days. The phrase "once in a blue moon" refers to this extra Moon, which occurs only once every two-and-a-half years.

The Blue Moons open the portal to the realm of the dead. Now is a time to remember those who have passed and to release those whose souls are on the verge of moving to the spirit realm. Since the Blue Moon is a time for the realm of the

dead, the spirit domain is stronger, amplifying the sight of prophecy.

31. HONORING THE PAST

Blue Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Blue Moon represents a time to honor your past. Here the Maiden is pictured cradling a skull in her hands, honoring the dead or those who have gone before. The raven represents prophecy and insight into that past, where she can grasp the full meaning of how those experiences impacted her life.

Drawing the Honoring the Past Card: It is time to recognize what has passed in your life. Understand that without those bygone days, you would not be the person you are today. It may be that you honor the past you, the unenlightened you, the you who did not know back then. Maybe it is time to praise the integrity of someone in your past, like a parent or friend. This person's advice may have led you to the right path. Think about the lessons

learned, and let those ethics and morals guide you in the future.

32. COMMUNE WITH THE DEAD

Blue Moon & Full Moon & Mother

The Full Blue Moon is a time to have fellowship with those who have passed. Here is the Mother of the Blue Moon sitting on a skull representing a passed life, as spirits swirl all around her. She is having a conversation with a skull symbolizing a deep emptiness and a connection with those who have passed.

Drawing the Commune with the Dead Card:

It is time to have empathy and kinship with others or your past self. It is a moment to talk and empathize with yourself, understanding that your old self did the best they could at the time. Maybe it means it's time to commune with others. Is there a person you should be more empathetic with? Perhaps you could talk to that soul and understand what they are going through on a deeper degree. Allow

harmony and understanding on a more profound level with another person, or yourself.

33. PROPHECY

Blue Moon . Waning Moon . Crone

The Waning Blue Moon is a time for prediction and foresight. As the Crone is shown upon this card, there is a skull referring to the past and how she can use that for insight going forward. Future selves are pictured as ghostly figures around the wise woman, and the raven represents divination and awareness.

Drawing the Prophecy Card:

Now is the time to use past experiences to predict the outcome of a current state of affairs. It is also time to seek knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means. Reflect on what has happened in the past and how that can likely happen again. How did you react previously to a specific situation? Do you want to act that way again, or is it time to change paths? Maybe a loved one treated you poorly before and may do so again with current

circumstances. Think about possible outcomes to the events that are about to unfold.



Also known as the Mourning Moon, Dark Moon, and Moon of Storms

During the Snow Moon, the Earth is blanketed with the first snows of the winter season. The cold grasp of winter's ice and shorter days begin to take hold. It is the beginning of that challenging time for those who depend upon nature for their survival. Yet, legends of the Snow Moon are stories of transition and hope. It is a time for people to take root and brace for new transformation that happens in the world.

34. TRANSFORM

Snow Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Snow Moon represents a time for transformation. This Maiden is

depicted on the card breaking out from a cocoon, transmuted from her past experiences. Her chest bears mastectomy scars, showing beauty and resilience after a traumatizing event in her life.

Drawing the Transform Card:

This is the time for a dramatic change in yourself, whether that be a state of mind or a state of being. Maybe you have become idle in your life, without drive or purpose, and you need a fresh start. Perhaps you have been allowing a toxic relationship to continue with a friend or partner that you should have ended a while ago. Now is the time to take that step into the unknown and transform into the new you.

35. TAKE ROOT

Snow Moon * Full Moon * Mother

The Full Snow Moon is a time to become established in your life, to take hold of a new idea, or a way you wish to live. The Mother is illustrated on this card firmly rooted to the Earth.

Drawing the Take Root Card: Timing is ideal to take an idea or belief

and make it become established or accepted. If you believe that you would be happier living a vegan lifestyle, this could be the time to embrace and commit to it. Maybe you moved to a new city, and you have been feeling alone. Consider volunteering or spending more time in your community. Where in your life do you need to be accepted, to have a permanent solid base to turn to? Time to take root and do what is necessary to be part of that world.

36. COMMUNICATION

Snow Moon & Waning Moon & Crone

The Waning Snow Moon indicates it is an opportune time for imparting or exchanging information and ideas. Here I have portrayed a woman communing with the Goddess, who is depicted as her three selves: the Maiden, Mother and Crone. With the Crone as the most prominent face, she communicates with the woman and helps her with pressing issues.

Drawing the Communication Card: This card is a sign that it may be a time to

discuss your feelings, ideas, and worries you have with another. Have you not been honest and open with your partner? Have you been keeping to yourself and ignoring a friend instead of telling them how you feel about an action that they have done? Open up to yourself and others, without judgment, and communicate.



Also known as the Oak Moon, Beaver Moon, and Moon of Long Nights

During the Cold Moon, when the winter is in full reign over the Earth, it is vital to remember endurance and strength are needed to survive. During the hardships of winter, people must find within themselves their hidden fortitude. It's a time to endure what life throws at you and to reach out and help those who are dispirited.

37. REACH OUT

Cold Moon * Waxing Moon * Maiden

The Waxing Cold Moon represents a time to reach out to another. As the Maiden is illustrated here, strong and bold carrying an owl upon her shoulder, she stretches a hand out to help those in need.

Drawing the Reach Out Card:

Now is the time to make an effort to do something for other people. This card indicates that it is essential to lend a compassionate hand to those in need. Maybe there is a classmate who may need help on a paper where you excel. Reach out and offer your support. Perhaps there is a person who is struggling with addiction who needs encouragement. Where in your life can you do something good for another?

38. ENDURE

Cold Moon & Full Moon & Mother

The Full Cold Moon is a time to endure life's difficulties. Here I painted the Mother of the Cold Moon, holding out against the

shadows in her life that are grasping at her as she tries to move on and move forward. As she confronts past trials and tribulations in her life, the Mother's winged confidante by her side lets her know she is not alone.

Drawing the Endure Card:

You or a loved one may be suffering something painful, confusing, or unpleasant. You must endure and push yourself through this moment in life. You should know that you are strong, and though it may be incredibly hard in the moment, you will move past this to better times. If it is a friend who is suffering, maybe you should consider being like the owl on this card and let them know that they are not alone in these hard times.

39. PERSONAL ALCHEMY

Cold Moon * Waning Moon * Crone

The Waning Cold Moon is a time for you to process a deep, embodied, yet personal inquiry of yourself. As the Crone is illustrated on this card, she is reaching deep inside herself, finding her soul represented in the glowing orb she holds within her chest.

Drawing the Personal Alchemy Card:

This card indicates a time to start identifying the areas of your life where you want to make changes. Gather the resources to make those shifts, plot out a plan, and then take steps to implement the new ideas. We engage with this process of change by breaking it up into small, easily implemented new habits. Where in your life can you apply personal alchemy and start changing those patterns?

ABOUT CHERIE GERHARDT

Art is not only what I do, it is who I am. It's as if the Goddess blew the breath of creativity directly into my soul.

The arts have always consumed my life. From a young age, I crafted, sketched, painted, and sculpted my imaginings into existence. My professional career started when I was 18, with the sacred art of tattooing. It then morphed into graphic design, where I discovered digital painting. In 2003, I established my business, Mystic Moon Media LLC, and started painting

on a broader scale. I have sold my art in shops and events all over the country. My art has been featured on magazine covers, and I have shipped my creations all over the world.

The Goddess has guided my art over the years. In her Maiden form, She led me to paint unicorns, fairies, nymphs and mermaids. In her Mother form, She shepherded me to the lands of the dragons. Next, She revealed a bond that manifests from the universe, the first time I held my child.

Now, I can faintly hear the whispers of the Crone. I don't know where She will lead me, but I am delighted to approach the new creative venture that awaits; and I would love for you to join me.

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