

# TINSELTOWN TAROT

A DECK BY 50s VINTAGE DAME

The *Tinseltown Tarot* deck is based on the classic Rider-Waite (RW) deck which was originally published in 1910, and much of the artwork I have drawn mirrors those cards. I have used the symbolism and imagery from the original deck and redrawn them as if the situations occurred during the Golden Age of Hollywood. The Fool's journey mirrors the trials and tribulations of becoming a star on the big screen.

The glitz and glamour of Hollywood often hides a darker secret and doesn't fully show the hard work that has gone into achieving success.

I have had a life-long obsession with vintage Hollywood, and a more recent interest in Tarot. The following describes some of the particular features of the cards and the reason why I have drawn them that way. This deck is filled with joy and positive energy, and I would love for you to accompany me on a journey of spiritual awakening with the *Tinseltown Tarot*.

## ✧ MAJOR ARCANA ✧



### 0 - The Fool

An innocent young girl is sitting at the bus stop waiting to begin the adventure of a lifetime. Her head is full of hopes and dreams and she aspires to one day become a big-name Hollywood movie star. Dressed in her best outfit, her life's possessions contained in a little pink suitcase, she is about to begin her journey through life. The white rose pinned to her jacket represents her purity and innocence, and the poodle sticker on her suitcase represents the loyalty and protection she will need on her journey. The Hollywood Hills in the background represent her destiny and the winding road towards them represent the challenges that lie ahead on her journey.

**Upright:** Innocence, new beginnings, freedom, spontaneity, adventure, travel

**Reversed:** Negligence, absence, carelessness, apathy, gullible, foolish, distracted



### 1 - The Magician

The Magician conjures new beginnings and opportunities, and puts ideas into action. On the table are the four suits (pentacles, cups, wands & swords) representing everything needed in life. The red roses behind him symbolise the blossoming and fruition of ideas. The infinity symbol around his neck represents his unlimited potential. He reaches one hand up to the sky and one hand points down to the ground, meaning that he is a conduit between the spiritual and physical worlds. This card reminds us that just as Hollywood can make anything possible, so too do we have the power to manifest new opportunities for ourselves.

**Upright:** Concentration, willpower, manifestation, skill, resourcefulness, power

**Reversed:** Manipulation, cunning, trickery, deception, illusion



### 2 - The High Priestess

The thin veil of sheer curtain represents the separation between the conscious and unconscious realms - your instincts and your logical self. Either side of the High Priestess are two pillars representing the entrance to a sacred temple. The temple in this and subsequent cards is represented by the pink Max Factor building which is now houses the Hollywood Museum. Hollywood would not have existed without the transformational power of make-up and cosmetics. She wears a blue dress which represents truth and understanding, and a horned crown which shows she is wise, instinctive and powerful. The High Priestess has a wealth of inner wisdom and knowledge hidden behind those curtains.

**Upright:** Intuition, secrets, mystery, inner voice, spirituality, higher power

**Reversed:** Secrets, disconnect from intuition, silence, withdrawal



### 3 - The Empress

A beautiful voluptuous woman wearing a lavish boudoir gown represents female sensuality. She is wearing a crown of 12 stars reminiscent of the famous Hedy Lamar studio still from the 1941 movie *Ziegfeld Girl*. (The 12 stars are for the astrology symbols and indicate a connection with the divine realm) The palm trees and waterfall behind her represent the healing energy of nature and a connection with Mother Earth. The pomegranates represent fertility and abundance, nourishment and nurturing. Her luxurious clothing and jewellery represent her willingness to embrace worldly pleasures.

**Upright:** Fruitfulness, femininity, nurturing, abundance, creativity, beauty

**Reversed:** Insecurity, negligence, overbearing, disharmony, lack of confidence



### 4 - The Emperor

A film director represents The Emperor - he represents power and authority and is in complete control of the movie. The film crew behind him do as he bids. He sits in a throne (the director's chair) and wears red as a symbol of power, passion and energy. The circular symbol on the board in his left hand represents the world over which he presides. The megaphone has an ankh (which symbolises life), and he wears a hat (which means protection and security). The Hollywood Hills (which is the kingdom over which he rules) are behind him. The Ankh symbol on his megaphone symbolises life, and the circle drawn on the clapper board represents the world over which he presides.

**Upright:** Stability, authority, father-figure, protection, discipline, structure, assertive

**Reversed:** Tyrant, domineering, stubborn, reckless, chaotic, lack of discipline



### 5 - The Hierophant

A private detective in the style of the Humphrey Bogart character Sam Spade from *The Maltese Falcon* is The Hierophant. Here is a private detective who believes in upholding the law, but maybe bends the rules a bit in doing so. He is a mentor to the police working with him, and offers guidance and wisdom through his wise-cracks. He is the masculine equivalent of the High Priestess so appears in the same Max Factor temple as the earlier card. His crown is a fedora hat. He raises his right hand in a religious blessing (indicating his connection to religion and belief systems), and the triple sceptre from the RW deck is represented by a 3-headed version of the Maltese Falcon. The dramatic lighting pays tribute to the Film Noir genre to which this movie belongs.

**Upright:** Education, religious beliefs, conformity, tradition, knowledge, social structure

**Reversed:** Rebellion, unconventional, ignorance, new methods, restriction



### 6 - The Lovers

The love scene is the climax of the movie - the Lovers have finally made a choice - they are deeply connected and can resist each other no more. They have given in to temptation and fallen into each others' embrace. The serpent bracelet the lady is wearing represents temptation, and the spotlight represents the heat of passion. The draped pink velvet curtains represent balanced relationships and harmony.

**Upright:** Love, relationships, commitment, lust, partnerships, romance, choices

**Reversed:** Disharmony, imbalance, incompatibility, conflict, selfishness, bad choices



### 7 - The Chariot

A movie starlet arrives to the red carpet premiere of her movie in a luxury sports car. Her goals and ambitions are all tied up in that movie, and she is motivated to make it a success. Her long white flowing gown represents the noblest and highest form of action. The laurel wreath on the red carpet represents victory and achievement. One hand rests on the steering wheel of the car, indicating she is in control of the vehicle, and the other has just opened the car door, indicating control of the situation. The crescent moon in the sky represents the potential of what is about to be manifested. The heaving crowd of people watching her arrive (which would crush anyone trying to move against it) is a reminder that it is important to be "in the flow" with the rhythm of life while pursuing your goals.

**Upright:** Determination, control, willpower, action, movement, success, ambition

**Reversed:** Self-discipline, opposition, distraction, fixation, unmotivated, obstacles

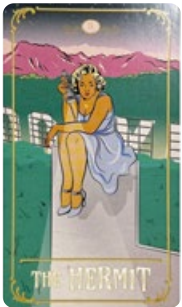


## 8 - Strength

A woman strokes the lion from the MGM movie credits. She has used her inner strength and courage to tame the animal passions of the wild beast. She wears a white robe (symbolising purity of spirit), a belt and crown of flowers (representing nature) and an Infinity symbol hairclip (representing unlimited potential). The two characters are in a lush, bountiful natural landscape. The pomegranates represent abundance, and the Hollywood palm trees (which appear frequently throughout the deck) represent the natural world.

**Upright:** Strength, courage, persuasion, patience, compassion, self-confidence, inner power

**Reversed:** Self-doubt, insecurity, weakness, inadequacy, vulnerability



## 9 - The Hermit

The Hermit in this deck is an actress sitting alone on top of one of the letters of the Hollywood sign. She has sought out a high vantage point to try and see clearly what is around her. We see the backs and framework of the letters - the hidden side that is rarely seen. She seeks wisdom and enlightenment, and it is night time so she holds a flashlight to illuminate her journey of introspection. She is looking for inner guidance, and her 6-pointed star necklace represents the wisdom she already has that will enable her to find the answers she seeks.

**Upright:** Solitude, withdrawal, retreat, introspection, soul-searching, inner-guidance

**Reversed:** Isolation, loneliness, feeling lost, withdrawal/reclusiveness



## 10 - The Wheel of Fortune

The Wheel of Fortune is a movie reel - it is constantly turning and bringing change. Life is full of cycles and good luck is just around the corner. The Reel and the film itself contain symbols representing the essential elements of life. The setting is an ornate gold-trimmed movie theatre, a location that brings together all the movie-making magic of Hollywood. The four sculptured plaster gargoyles decorating the walls are an angel (Aquarius), and eagle (Scorpio), a lion (Leo) and a bull (Taurus). Their wings symbolise stability against the movement of the movie reel, as not all change is easy.

**Upright:** Change, cycles, fate, luck, fortune, unexpected events, karma, turning point

**Reversed:** Repetition, going around in circles, delays, bad luck, lack of control



## 11 - Justice

A movie starlet is holding a sword and scales, the classic symbols for justice. Her pose reminiscent of the Columbia Pictures logo. She stands between the two temple pillars (symbolising balance) and the thin purple veil behind her signifies compassion and fairness. The sword represents logic and points upwards to represent the final decision. The scales in her other hand represent intuition. She is fair and balanced in seeking the truth. The circle of gold stars (reminiscent of the Paramount Pictures logo) represents the circle of life and the fact that everything has a cause and effect.

**Upright:** Fairness, objectivity, truth, honesty, cause and effect, balance, karma

**Reversed:** Unfairness, revenge, corruption, retribution, dishonesty



## 12 - The Hanged Man

This card is based on the famous series of nude photographs Marilyn Monroe did for the first ever issue of Playboy magazine where she is laying on crumpled red velvet. I have flipped her upside down to mirror the pose of the RW deck. So we are looking at an iconic image but from a different perspective. Her hair is spread out in a golden halo which symbolised new insight and enlightenment. The crumpled red satin bedsheets represent passion and the blue sheet wrapped around her represents knowledge. This illustration represents surrender and making a sacrifice in order to advance yourself. (Apparently Marilyn did this shoot because she was late with her rent and needed the money. It was a sacrifice she needed to make in order to advance her acting career.)

**Upright:** Surrender, sacrifice, feeling trapped, letting go, needing release

**Reversed:** Discontentment, apathy, disinterest, stagnation, impulsiveness, negative patterns



### 13 - Death

Death is shown as the classic Boris Karloff Dracula character from Hollywood B Movies. He is rising from a coffin to show transformation and new life arising from the ashes of the old. Death is not about the end of life, it is about new beginnings and embracing the change that accompanies re-birth. The river in the background and the boat are escorting the dead to the afterlife. The sunset represents dying and being reborn each morning, just as the vampire arises each night. The white roses symbolise beauty, strength, purity and immortality.

**Upright:** Endings, letting go transformation, rebirth, moving on, transition

**Reversed:** Resisting change, fear, clinging to the past, personal transformation



### 14 - Temperance

A large winged angel is depicted as a glamorous drag queen. (Symbolising a balance of both masculine and feminine energies) The angel is wearing a blue swimsuit with little symbols of a triangle within a square (showing that humans are bound by the laws of earth and the natural world). She is balanced with one foot on the the ground (representing the need to stay grounded) and one foot is in the water (the need to be in the flow), and calmly pouring water between two cups which represents the flow of life. She is pouring the water carefully and unhurriedly. The road toward the Hollywood Hills represents life's journey, and the glowing sunrise symbolises taking the higher path and staying true to your purpose.

**Upright:** Moderation, patience, caution, thoughtfulness, peace, balance, harmony

**Reversed:** Imbalance, excess, extremes, recklessness, hastiness, discord



### 15 - The Devil

The Devil is shown in a Gothic haunted mansion. He represents all things evil, and his magnetic, hypnotic stare is difficult to resist. The woman kneeling before him has been corrupted - she has lost all control and given in to temptation. Sex, power and money - she is obsessed and wants it all! The candle flames from the ornate candelabra represent pleasure and lust, as do the the woman's grape earrings. The shadow on the wall represents our shadow self. The pale skin and blue dress on the woman represent purity and the fact that we can't have good unless there is bad.

**Upright:** Addiction, excess, shadow-self, indulgence, temptation, sexuality, attachment

**Reversed:** Independence, freedom, reclaiming power, release



### 16 - The Tower

The tower is the Hollywood Museum (shown as the temple in the earlier cards.) Lightning has struck and knocked the top off the Tower and has set fire to the building. Two people leap from the burning building - it is a scene of utter chaos. The tower is all about cataclysmic change - sudden and unexpected challenges and disruptions. Chaos is all around us, but we need to shift perspective and learn to adapt. The lightning bolt is a surge of energy that causes chaos but leads to revelation.

**Upright:** Disaster, destruction, upheaval, crisis, sudden change, chaos

**Reversed:** Averting disaster, resisting change, avoiding truth, embracing transition



### 17 - The Star

A movie starlet is sitting by a lavish swimming pool with a lush garden in the grounds of a Hollywood mansion. She holds two cups of water (representing the conscious and the unconscious). One cup pours onto the grass to heal and nourish and ensure its fertility - the five rivulets represent our senses. She has one foot on the ground (representing practical abilities) and one in the water (representing intuitive abilities) Her white swimsuit represents vulnerability and purity. Behind her is one large star surrounded by seven smaller stars that represent the chakras. This card is about healing, hope and encouragement. It encourages you to believe and trust in yourself and create your own opportunities.

**Upright:** Hope, faith, healing, inspiration, guidance, purpose, spirituality, rejuvenation

**Reversed:** Despair, uninspired, lack of faith, negativity, hopeless



## 18 - The Moon

The full moon is rising in the night sky between two spotlights in the sky. The moon represents dreams and your subconscious, and the spotlights represent the external beliefs that guide your actions. Again, a path is winding towards our destiny (represented by the Hollywood Hills). A dog is howling at the moon to represent both the tamed and wild parts of our mind. The woman's tears represent water and the subconscious mind awakening as she realises she has been deceived. She should have trusted and listened to her intuition. The shells on the curtains also represent water - symbolising the unconscious, and the need to listen to our instincts.

**Upright:** Imagination, illusion, fear, anxiety, intuition, instincts

**Reversed:** Fear, confusion, self-deception, anxiety, misunderstandings



## 19 - The Sun

The Sun radiates happiness, optimism and positivity. The scene being filmed is from a movie about the life of Lady Godiva. The actress is sitting naked on horseback with her long hair covering her body. The white horse symbolises purity & truth, and the nakedness of the actress means she has nothing to hide, especially from the film crew behind her. She has confidence in herself and will find much joy and happiness ahead no matter how difficult the filming may be. The large, glowing sun represents the source of all life and energy on earth. There are also four sunflowers flourishing in the foreground which represent represent the four elements - earth, air, fire, and water - which are essential for life and growth.

**Upright:** Happiness, vitality, success, positivity, optimism, joy, confidence, truth

**Reversed:** Sadness, negativity, unrealistic expectations, over-confidence



## 20 - Judgement

Judgement has been cast and the winner is about to be announced at the Academy Awards night presentation. The actors are all awaiting the outcome of the decision. Whoever is announced as the winner will have their acting career transformed and elevated to the next level. This card encourages self-reflection and evaluation to understand where we are in life and where we are heading. It is a reminder of the importance of honesty, communication and intuition in achieving personal growth. The sparkly rainbow represents spiritual awakening and revelation, and the podium design is part of the Hollywood Museum temple interior, representing the role of external belief systems and accountability for our actions.

**Upright:** Rebirth, inner calling, absolution, awakening, revival, evaluation, self-awareness

**Reversed:** Self-doubt, indecisive, lack of self-awareness



## 21 - The World

The World is about fulfilment, accomplishment and the end of a cycle or quest. The World card is represented as the closing credits at the end of a movie. The wreath around the world represents victory and achievement. Its circular shape represents continuity and the cycle of completion and beginnings. The four figures around the outside are the same as those on the Wheel of Fortune, as both these cards deal with the cyclical nature of life. They represent the four corners of the Universe and harmony between all the energies.

**Upright:** Completion, fulfilment, attainment, accomplishment, travel

**Reversed:** Incompletion, disappointment, delays, lack of closure

# ✧ MINOR ARCANA ✧

## WANDS

Wands deal with the spiritual level of consciousness and mirror what is important to you. They represent the spark of life and new growth. I have used lipsticks to represent the wands in these cards because the way a lipstick winds up from the case is similar to a branch growing in nature. They also relate to the Max Factor Hollywood Museum - the use of cosmetics being crucial to the movie industry. I have shown a brand-new, unused lipstick to symbolise potential. The symbol for wands is fire, so there is also a lot of red featured in these cards.



### Ace of Wands

The Ace of Wands is about inspiration, new opportunities and growth. A woman is holding a fresh new lipstick, representing new opportunities and potential. It is red for creativity and passion. She is looking in her compact mirror to freshen up her face and give herself a pep talk, ready to follow her dream of becoming a successful actress. The Hollywood Hills in the distance represent the challenges that may occur on the journey but their low position on the card indicates that they are surmountable with enough determination. The Hollywood sign represents the opportunities that are available if you take the initiative and pursue your dreams.

**Upright:** Inspiration, ideas, creativity, new projects, growth, potential

**Reversed:** Lack of direction, delays, distraction, creative block, lack of motivation



### Two of Wands

A woman is wearing a red gown which symbolises the power she has within herself. The compact mirror in her purse has a picture of the world on it (meaning the world is in your hands and you have boundless opportunities - you just have to dare to go for it!) She is putting on lipstick to give herself the courage to go to the cinema and put herself out there, in the hopes of being noticed by a talent scout or movie producer. Even though she feels unsure about herself, she feels confident that this is a step she must take to make her acting dreams a reality.

**Upright:** Planning, progress, making decisions, preparation, discovery

**Reversed:** Fear of the unknown, lack of planning, avoiding risk



### Three of Wands

The three girls in this illustration are each holding their lipstick wand in one hand and their ticket for the cruise liner behind them in the other hand. They are excitedly applying lipstick and getting ready for an overseas journey where new opportunities await them. They may meet someone important and be able to progress their careers and also, it is the journey of a lifetime! The rocky mountains in the background represent the obstacles they may encounter, but from the vantage point of the dock they are prepared for this and they are preparing for what lies ahead.

**Upright:** Progress, expansion, overseas opportunities, looking ahead, growth

**Reversed:** Obstacles, regret, unexpected delays, frustration, restriction



### Four of Wands

The bundle of four lipsticks is tied with a pink ribbon sitting on a dressing table. The bowl of white roses and the rose compact represent joy and celebration, as does the mirror etching of bunches of grapes. The invitation to an awards night represents celebrating an achievement, and the dressing table and cosmetics represent the excitement of getting ready to go out. This card says it's time to free yourself from responsibilities and enjoy yourself socially.

**Upright:** Celebration, joy, harmony, satisfaction, fruition, relaxation, returning home

**Reversed:** Lack of support, home conflict, transition, instability



### Five of Wands

The Max Factor cosmetics store is having a sale. Five rival actresses are all competing against each other to be a movie star and they all want to look their best. Their hands are all reaching for the lipsticks in the cosmetics display, trying to get there first and beat the others to the one they want. Each hand wears a different coloured glove to show that, because of their differences, they cannot find harmony and common ground with one another. They are ambitious rivals and each considers the other to be an irritating annoyance on the journey to stardom, but unless they all work together and cooperate the movie will never get made.

**Upright:** Conflicts, arguments, disagreements, tension, disputes, aggression

**Reversed:** Avoiding conflict, jealousy, rivalry, truce, peace



### Six of Wands

A glamorous woman is vainly admiring herself in a hand-held mirror. She is extremely satisfied with what she sees reflected, and knows that she has worked hard to be recognised as the most beautiful actress in Hollywood. She is dressed lavishly and her home is ornately decorated - she is proud of her achievements and she wants to show off her success. The white feathered sleeves of her gown symbolise strength and purity. The gold sequinned gown and the laurel wreath on her head symbolise triumph and success.

**Upright:** Success, public recognition, triumph, success, victory, self-confidence

**Reversed:** Private achievement, lack of reward, no recognition, fall from grace



### Seven of Wands

A mature, silver-haired woman is holding a fan decorated with seven lipsticks in her hand. She is hiding behind it almost like a shield. She is staring defiantly over the top of the fan, daring anyone to challenge her. She is leaning on the back of a heart-shaped padded boudoir chair symbolising that she is defending her territory. The white feathered collar and cuffs represent purity of spirit, and the black lace gown means she has the courage to wear whatever she wants to. She has reached her mature age as a Hollywood actress and is prepared to assert herself against her younger rivals.

**Upright:** Protectiveness, standing up for yourself, persistence, protecting territory

**Reversed:** Giving up, admit defeat, surrender, defensiveness, victimised



### Eight of Wands

A pink suitcase covered with travel stickers sits on the ground. The lipstick stickers have been randomly and urgently applied. The owner is in a hurry to depart and needs to resolve some unfinished business. There are also stickers of a world map symbolising the need to embrace bigger opportunities. The aeroplane symbolises air travel, and the road and hills in the background symbolise the life ahead once you embrace the opportunities being presented. The hustle and bustle of the airport represents dynamic energy, movement and fast-paced change.

**Upright:** Movement, energy, progress, sudden change, action, alignment, air travel

**Reversed:** Chaos, delays, frustration, resisting change, obstacles



### Nine of Wands

A person is searching for the perfect lip colour. This perfect lip colour symbolises all their hopes and dreams for the future. If only they can find the perfect lip colour, they will be a success. They have persisted with the task and tried every single colour there is in order to find the one they want. This represents the challenges that need to be overcome and the stubbornness and hard work you need to put in before you reach your goal. Persistence pays off and success is in sight!

**Upright:** Resilience, courage, determination, persistence, boundaries

**Reversed:** Inner resources, struggle, overwhelm, burnout, giving up



## Ten of Wands

The lipsticks are displayed on a circular display card to show the completion of a cycle. With the Ten of Wands the end is in sight and by taking on extra responsibilities you are taking the final steps to achieve your goal. The "Goes on Easier" and "Stays on Longer" taglines reflect the hard work involved in looking glamorous all day long - one of the requirements for success in Hollywood.

**Upright:** Burden, extra responsibility, hard work, overstretched, obligation, completion

**Reversed:** Burnout, burdens, delegation, release



## Page of Wands

The Page of Wands is a young, free-spirited, lighthearted, handsome and charming young actor signing autographs with a lipstick. He is being hounded by a group of eager young fans, all desperate to beat the others to be the one to get his attention. He wears a red tie with a salamander tie pin to symbolise fire and transformation. The rose bud pinned to his lapel symbolises growth and potential. He is young, enthusiastic and willing to try anything new - this card shows eagerness and the limitless potential of trying something new.

**Upright:** Inspiration, ideas, enthusiastic, possibilities, discovery, limitless potential, free spirit

**Reversed:** Unreliable, indecisive, self-limiting beliefs, delays, disorganised



## Knight of Wands

The Knight of Wands is a charming rogue whom you cannot resist. He is vivacious, daring, adventurous, seductive, lustful and full of passion. Just like Cary Grant. The Knight of Wands is holding single red rose tied with a lipstick to symbolise his energy and enthusiasm to venture into new challenges. His horse is a racy sports car. His passion has inspired him, and the asphalt road he is about to drive on will take him to new adventures.

**Upright:** Energy, passion, ambition, eager, adventure, impulsiveness

**Reversed:** Passion project, haste, volatile, violent, delays, frustration



## Queen of Wands

A glamorous cabaret performer is the Queen of Wands. Her throne is a giant gold-cased lipstick. It is red to symbolise passion. This woman is independent, self-assured and attractive and doesn't worry what other people think of her. She knows where she is going and is determined to get there. She wears a golden crown and is applying lipstick which symbolises passion, confidence and self-assuredness. The spotlight represents the heat of passion and the shadow on the curtains represent the fact that the Queen is in touch with her shadow-self.

**Upright:** Courage, confidence, independence, social butterfly, passionate

**Reversed:** Self-respect, self-confidence, introverted, jealous, fickle spiteful



## King of Wands

A Zorro character is the King of Wands. His hat-band is a golden royal crown. The gold lining of his cape symbolises his royal position, and he wears red to symbolise power and passion. The lions and salamanders decorating the cape symbolise fire and strength and the motivation to move forward against all obstacles. This man is totally confident about himself. He is charismatic, inspiring and bold, and a natural-born leader. He can take on any challenge that presents itself, and can take charge of a situation.

**Upright:** Natural-born leader, inspirational, vision, entrepreneur, honour

**Reversed:** Impulsiveness, haste, ruthless, high expectations, powerless, arrogant



# MINOR ARCANA

## SWORDS

Swords deal with our state of mind and our intellect. They deal with understanding the world by analysing what is happening all around. A double-edged sword represents the balance that occurs between intellect and power and the battle of good and evil. The swords can either be an inert object or a tool for action and change.



### Ace of Swords

The Ace of Swords cuts through illusions to provide clarity and resolve problems. The white curtains at the top of the stage represent clouds and the divine realm. The wreath in the spotlight represent triumph and victory. The stairs represent the challenging road that lies ahead. The dancer is looking down at the stairs in order to see clearly where they are going.

**Upright:** Breakthroughs, new ideas, mental clarity, success, efficiency, new perspective

**Reversed:** Confusion, conflict, hostility, miscommunication, clouded judgement



### Two of Swords

The Two of Swords is based on the Hollywood gossip columnist Hedda Hopper. She wearing sunglasses at night (symbolising that she can't see her situation clearly nor can she see a solution). She is also holding a pair of crossed swords which represent balance - she is weighing up her thoughts and looking at both sides of the situation. The water and rocks behind represent emotions and the swords represent intellect, so she will need to use both her heart and her head to make a decision. The small crescent moon represents intuition and the fact that you need to trust your instincts to find the truth.

**Upright:** Difficult decisions, weighing up options, hesitation, reluctance, avoidance

**Reversed:** Indecision, confusion, stress, disorder, stalemate



### Three of Swords

A woman is out in the stormy weather dressed in an overcoat. She is filled with sorrow. She has been let-down and betrayed and is broken-hearted. She wears a ruby heart-shaped brooch pierced by three swords (indicating the pain and heartbreak she is feeling right now). The truth hurts. The stormy clouds in the background mirror her gloomy mood, but they offer hope because, just as the clouds will clear, the pain she is feeling now will also disappear.

**Upright:** Heartbreak, separation, emotional pain, sorrow, grief, hurt

**Reversed:** Reconciliation, healing, releasing pain, optimism, forgiveness



### Four of Swords

An actress is reclining on a luxurious Chaise lounge in an ornate mansion. She has decided to take a break from the swords which are hanging above her in the chandelier. She needs to slow down from her hectic filming schedule and contemplate, rest and recuperate. It is time for some self-care. The portrait of a woman and child in the gilt frame on the wall behind her represents the contemplation of life and working out what are our priorities.

**Upright:** Rest, relaxation, meditation, contemplation, recuperation

**Reversed:** Exhaustion, burn-out, self-neglect, stagnation



### Five of Swords

A sly-looking man is picking up swords to keep for himself after a battle scene from the movie has been shot. This has involved conflict, confrontation and defeat. This man is taking advantage of an opportunity without having fought the battle himself - he wants to win at all costs. There are two actors walking away with slumped shoulders which indicate sadness and loss. The two swords left on the ground indicate conflict and show that a battle has been fought and lost.

**Upright:** Conflict, bullying, deceit, disagreements, competition, defeat, winning at all costs

**Reversed:** Reconciliation, compromise, making amends, forgiveness



### Six of Swords

A woman is leaving a movie screening at a cinema. The movie production is now something in her past that she needs to let go of in order to move on to the next movie. That part of her life will be left behind as she gets into a big limousine ready to take her on to new opportunities. By leaving her troubles behind she is transitioning to a new stage of her acting career. She is feeling positive about life. The spotlights moving back and forth in the sky represent transition and unfinished business that is still ongoing.

**Upright:** Transition, change, moving on, departure, releasing baggage

**Reversed:** Stuck in past, unfinished business, running away from problems, trapped



### Seven of Swords

A dastardly villain in a hat and cape is stealing the swords from a stage set. There has been a magic performance involving a velvet-lined coffin and swords. He is sneakily looking sideways at the two swords left behind, as if he is proud of getting away with his dastardly deed. He is being stealthy and dishonest, and running away from the truth. He has no conscience and is happy to get away with his scheming behaviour to reach his goal.

**Upright:** Betrayal, deception, getting away with something, cunning, scheming, sneaky

**Reversed:** Imposter syndrome, self-deceit, confession, secrets



### Eight of Swords

A woman is on stage as part of a sword-throwing act. She is a helpless victim trapped on the stage as the swords are thrown in her direction. Although she feels victimised and powerless, she does have the power to escape. If she removed her blindfold she would see that the ropes that bind her wrists are only loosely tied and she could easily escape her predicament. Her boots have waves on them (water is symbolic of your intuition) which suggests that her intuition might be able to see a way out of her predicament.

**Upright:** Negative thoughts, restriction, imprisonment, victim mentality, self-sabotage

**Reversed:** Freedom, releasing negative thoughts, taking control, empowerment



### Nine of Swords

A woman sitting up in bed, dishevelled and distressed after having woken from a terrible nightmare. She has been overwhelmed by worries and regret for things she has done in the past and now she can't sleep. The red roses on her nightgown symbolise blood and her need to get moving to overcome her worries. The white roses on the curtain symbolise hope and purity. The astological symbols on the curtains represent the cosmos and the fact that spiritual development can come from the darkest nights.

**Upright:** Anxiety, worry, fear, depression, nightmares, breaking point, guilt, shame

**Reversed:** Despair, learning to cope, deep-seated fears, secrets, releasing worry, finding help



## Ten of Swords

In Hollywood Film Noir and Detective movies a body is often found on the waterfront. The docks are a dangerous place after dark. The body of the man lays face down having been stabbed with ten swords in his back. This card deals with the ending of a cycle and involves an immense amount of pain and loss. The calm water in the harbour shows that even in dark moments a sense of peace and calm can be found. The fact that it is now daytime suggests that things will eventually look brighter and eventually get better.

**Upright:** Painful endings, defeat, closure, relief, deep wounds, betrayal, loss, crisis

**Reversed:** Recovery, regeneration, survival, release, learning a lesson



## Page of Swords

The Page Swords is full of innovative, youthful ideas and is ready to face whatever new challenges lay ahead. He is a handsome and debonair young actor. He is looking over his shoulder in the opposite direction to where he is heading so he can see what is happening around him. The green grass and trees indicate a fertile landscape and that his ideas are likely to be fruitful and bring positive change. The wind blowing the palm trees indicates the dynamic energy involved with implementing change. His tiepin is a scimitar sword that curves upward for positive energy.

**Upright:** New ideas, curiosity, witty, chatty, thirst for knowledge, communication, quick thinking

**Reversed:** Gossip, insulting, spiteful, rude, defensive, bad planning



## Knight of Swords

The Knight of Swords is accelerating away in a racy red sports car. He is self assured, ambitious and driven to succeed. The red colour indicates power and purpose. The swords form the gold emblem on the side of the car and are echoed in the decoration on his tie. There are two crossed swords to indicate taking charge and actioning of ideas. His open top convertible car is forcefully driving headlong into the wind. This indicates that nothing will stop him on his mission. The wind is blowing the trees in the background and brewing up some storm clouds but the Knight's unwavering determination will overcome these obstacles in his quest.

**Upright:** Ambitious, action-oriented, decisive, daring, fast-thinking

**Reversed:** Restless, unfocused, impulsive, arrogant, bully, tactless, burn-out



## Queen of Swords

An Amazonian Goddess with sword and shield is facing towards the future and protecting her people. She is motherly, bossy, direct, able to make unbiased judgement, and totally honest about the situation. Her shield is decorated with cherubs (representing her softer, motherly side) and butterflies (which symbolise change and transformation). She is holding her sword upright (which symbolises her desire for the truth). The stormy sky and clouds in the background represent the ongoing nature of change and transformation.

**Upright:** Independent, unbiased judgement, constructive criticism, truth, perceptive

**Reversed:** Pessimistic, overly-emotional, easily influenced, bitchy, cold-hearted, grudges



## King of Swords

A swashbuckling Errol Flynn character means business - he is ready to confront whatever challenges life throws at him. He is dynamic and assertive, knowledgeable, adept and ready to get to grips with any situation. The upright sword in his hand represents conscious, rational thought. The fact that it points slightly to the left (towards his subconscious) indicates that he is decisive, but also flexible in his decision-making. The purple scarf around his neck indicates compassion and intellect. The butterfly near the ropes indicates transition. The trees and water are still, and there are birds in the sky which means the wind has died down - symbolising clarity of thought.

**Upright:** Mental clarity, intellectual power, high standards, logical, authority, truth, strict

**Reversed:** Dictator, misuse of power, manipulation, cold, ruthless, violent, controlling

# ✧ MINOR ARCANA ✧

## CUPS

Cups represent our feelings, emotions, love, relationships and personal interactions.

Their element is water, which is symbolic of the fluidity of our emotions.

The cups in this deck are shown as champagne and cocktail glasses - which are synonymous with parties and celebrations - so they perfectly reflect the glamour of the era.



### Ace of Cups

A champagne glass (representing the subconscious mind) is being filled to overflowing. There are five streams overflowing the edge of the glass and these represent the five senses and the importance of listening to your inner voice. The fact that the glass is overflowing indicates abundant intuition and the potential for emotional and spiritual fulfilment. The crescent moon ring indicates a connection to the divine. The clouds of bubbles indicate pure emotion and spiritual energy.

**Upright:** Love, new relationships, compassion, creativity, friendship

**Reversed:** Self-love, intuition, repressed emotions, feeling drained, empty, isolated



### Two of Cups

A young man and woman are pledging their love for each other with their arms entwined in a toast. Their energies have a mutual bond and there is a partnership involved. They could also be declaring a truce and making up after a lover's quarrel. The red roses on the woman's dress indicate passion, and the lion's head and crown on the red tie indicate a fiery sexual tension. The blue veil and also the wall mirror indicate the subconscious and introspection.

**Upright:** Unified love, partnership, mutual attraction, romantic connection, emotional bond

**Reversed:** Self-love, break-ups, disharmony, distrust, inequality, incompatibility



### Three of Cups

Three young women from an Esther Williams water ballet are working together in perfect choreographed unison. They are each lift their cup in a toast, which indicates respect and appreciation and the fact that they are helping and supporting each other. The water-ballet choreography requires open communication, team spirit and a sense of community for this movie scene to be filmed successfully.

**Upright:** Celebration, friendship, social circle, parties, creativity, collaborations

**Reversed:** Gossip, scandal, excess, solitude, alone time, feeling left out



### Four of Cups

A young man at a glamorous cocktail party is lazily daydreaming with his eyes closed. One person offers him a tray of drinks, and another person offers a glass too, but he is so self-absorbed with his thoughts that he doesn't even notice. This young actor is full of self-contemplation and too self-absorbed to see what opportunities are on offer around him. The answer to his problems could be right in front of him, but unless he opens his eyes he probably won't see it.

**Upright:** Meditation, contemplation, apathy, detachment, boredom, feeling disconnected

**Reversed:** Awareness, clarity, acceptance, depression, negativity



### Five of Cups

There are five champagne glasses on a table. Three have been knocked over and have had their contents spilled which symbolises sadness, loss, regret, disappointment, loneliness and failure. There are two fresh glasses behind them, which symbolise new opportunities. Although loss is painful, what we have lost will be replaced with something new. The castle on the bottle label represents the security of home, and the etched designs on the glasses symbolise intuition and the subconscious. The sunrise in the background also represents new hope after the disappointment.

**Upright:** Loss, grief, regret, failure, disappointment, pessimism, sadness

**Reversed:** Personal setbacks, self-forgiveness, looking forward, acceptance, seeing positives



### Six of Cups

The two actors are frolicking in the pool having a good time. They are innocently enjoying the freedom they once had when they were younger - before they became weighed down with the responsibilities of an acting career. They are in the grounds of a Hollywood mansion, which symbolises the safety and security of home. The cups lined up on the edge of the pool are filled with flowers, symbolising love.

**Upright:** Nostalgia, childhood memories, comfort, innocence, joy, renewing friendships

**Reversed:** Trapped in the past, forgiveness, leaving home moving forward, independence



### Seven of Cups

The lady is at a glamorous cocktail party and is being offered numerous drinks by different men. These symbolise all the opportunities and choices around her. The drinks are all different colours to indicate that the choices are all different and need to be considered carefully.

**Upright:** Opportunities, choices, wishful thinking, illusions, fantasy, daydreaming

**Reversed:** Lack of purpose, overwhelmed by choices, confusion, distraction



### Eight of Cups

A man is abandoning the cocktail party. It is time to go. He has his back turned and has slipped out quietly to avoid confrontation. He is shuffling sadly away along a winding path towards the mountains in the distance. He is disillusioned and the party was not as exciting as he thought it would be and now he needs to reconsider his position. Something needs to change, and the mountains suggest the journey will not be easy. In the foreground are eight cups arranged so it looks like one is missing, indicating a lack of emotional fulfilment.

**Upright:** Disappointment, abandonment, walking away, leaving behind

**Reversed:** Stagnation, aimless drifting, fear of change, staying in a bad situation



### Nine of Cups

The lady is sitting contentedly at a cocktail party. Her wishes have been granted and she is satisfied and grateful for the luxury and splendour she is able to enjoy. The curved table behind her is draped with a blue cloth which indicates a need for rest and rejuvenation. Arranged on the table are with nine golden cups a nine cups filled with champagne representing emotional fulfilment and satisfaction.

**Upright:** Contentment, satisfaction, wishes come true, gratitude, recognition, pleasure

**Reversed:** Unhappiness, lack of fulfilment, disappointment, underachievement, disillusioned



## Ten of Cups

The cups for the champagne tower have been stacked in an intricate arrangement, indicating a relationship built on balance, harmony and alignment. The castle on the bottle label indicates the stability and comfort of home. The champagne flowing from the bottle into the glasses indicates the flow of emotion. The rainbow on the bottle label and behind the glasses indicates the end of difficult times and better times that lay ahead.

**Upright:** Happiness, homecomings, fulfilling relationships, harmony, emotional security

**Reversed:** Disconnection, separation, struggling relationships, domestic disputes



## Page of Cups

The young man is curious and open to possibilities. He wears a blue floral shirt to indicate intuition and sensitivity. The fish popping out from his glass indicates that creative inspiration often comes out of nowhere when you least expect it. The water behind him represents all things to do with creativity, intuition, feelings and emotions. It's time for him to embrace his emotions and trust his intuition.

**Upright:** Creative opportunities, intuitive messages, possibility, naivety, innocence, dreamer

**Reversed:** Doubting intuition, creative block, emotional vulnerability, rejection



## Knight of Cups

The Knight is leaning against his racy sports car which replaces the traditional horse. He is holding a glass decorated with a heart, indicating that he brings a message from the heart. He is creative, romantic and charming. The fish on his tie symbolises consciousness and creativity. The winged emblem on the car symbolises active and creative imagination, and an appreciation of the finer things in life. The landscape is dry and barren, but a stream winds its way in the background showing that imagination has the power to create new life.

**Upright:** Creativity, romance, charm, imagination, beauty, lover, mediator, artistic

**Reversed:** Unrealistic, jealous, moody, vain, tantrums



## Queen of Cups

The Queen of Cups is compassionate, caring and emotionally empathetic. She is a burlesque dancer and her throne is a giant champagne glass. The glass is decorated with shells and sea creatures (which are symbols of the unconscious mind). She waves her feet in the air to indicate that she is connected to her feelings but not overwhelmed by them. The bubbles of champagne represent pure emotion.

**Upright:** Compassionate, caring, emotionally stable, intuitive, in flow, kindness, supportive

**Reversed:** Gloomy, depression, giving too much, self-care, self-love, co-dependency



## King of Cups

The King is an authoritative father-figure who is emotionally balanced, compassionate and diplomatic. This suave and debonair gentleman is attending a movie premiere. He is calm and composed despite the screaming, turbulent crowd behind him, and he is able to make wise and informed decisions. His crown appears as decoration on his hat, and the fish decorating the head of his cane indicates creativity. He is holding a cup in his right hand (symbolising emotional maturity). He is not looking at the cup, which indicates he is in control of his emotions and doesn't need to focus on them at this point in time.

**Upright:** Wise, emotionally balanced, compassionate, diplomatic, counsellor, advisor

**Reversed:** Overwhelmed, turbulent, moodiness, emotionally manipulative, cold, selfish

# MINOR ARCANA

## PENTACLES

The suit of Pentacles deals with reality and the physical world - health, finances, work and material possessions. Hollywood is obsessed with the outer trappings of success, however the illusion of financial achievement and status is often a house of cards that can collapse at any moment. Fame is fleeting but happiness is priceless.



### Ace of Pentacles

The Ace of Pentacles is based on the famous photo of Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell leaving their handprints on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The plaque is represented as a pentacle. This represents a new career opportunity, or the manifestation of abundance. Now that the actress has reached this next level of fame, there will be many new opportunities presenting themselves to her. The lush gardens and floral arch in the background indicate abundance and prosperity. The mountains in the background represent the hard work and determination that is required to be successful.

**Upright:** A new financial or career opportunity, manifestation, abundance, prize, prosperity

**Reversed:** Lost opportunity, lack of planning and foresight, poor investment, loss



### Two of Pentacles

The Two of Pentacles is an Auntie Mame character performing a cabaret act on stage, juggling two pentacles. This represents juggling multiple priorities and the need to be flexible with time management. There is a chain connecting the pentacles that forms an infinity sign. This means she can juggle unlimited obligations so long as she can manage her time. The stairs symbolise the ups and downs of life, and signify that they are manageable with focus and attention.

**Upright:** Balancing multiple priorities, time management, prioritisation, adaptability, flexibility

**Reversed:** Over-committed, overwhelmed, disorganisation, imbalance



### Three of Pentacles

A movie star is sitting on set waiting for her scene. She is wearing a charm bracelet with three pentacles. The hair and makeup team is making her look beautiful, and the film crew is in the background. This indicates the importance of teamwork and collaboration. Even though she is skilled and competent, she knows it is important to value and learn from others with specialist knowledge. The hair and makeup people and the film crew all have their tools of trade, indicating that they are experts in their fields.

**Upright:** Teamwork, collaboration, learning, growth, implementation, organisation

**Reversed:** Disharmony, competition, working alone, lack of vision, poor motivation



### Four of Pentacles

The Academy Awards have been presented and this man is clutching his trophies tightly to his chest. The trophies are adorned with Pentacles. He is being possessive and greedy and afraid he might lose them. He is looking distrustfully as if he is worried someone might take his hard-earned awards. He has his hands full so he is unable to do anything else except focus on what is immediately in front of him.

**Upright:** Saving money, security, conservatism, scarcity, control, possessiveness, caution

**Reversed:** Over-spending, generosity, giving, financial insecurity, reckless spending



### Five of Pentacles

A sad, lonely woman walks past a cinema clutching her overcoat against the cold. Hollywood is an expensive town to live in and aspiring actors struggle to survive. She is unemployed and has fallen on hard times. The cinema behind is a symbol of hope and the success that is possible. It is lit up with neon signs and spotlights, exuding warmth and comfort. If the woman was not so focussed on her plight she might see that help is available and she could shelter from the cold and seek comfort and relief.

**Upright:** Financial loss, poverty, material insecurity, isolation, worry, unemployment

**Reversed:** Recovery from loss, positive changes, overcoming adversity, realising value



### Six of Pentacles

We are inside the golden movie theatre. The walls are decorated with lavish plaster mouldings that include the six pentacles. This card is about balance and fairness. The Comedy and Tragedy masks are a traditional symbol for acting and drama, but they also perfectly illustrate the concept of giving and taking, generosity and karma, and the fact that there are two sides to every coin.

**Upright:** Giving, receiving, sharing wealth, community, gratitude, generosity, charity

**Reversed:** Power dynamics, unpaid debts, strings attached, inequality



### Seven of Pentacles

The actress is standing proudly in front of a row of movie posters promoting her new movie. She has persevered and worked hard to get this far with her acting career, and now she is enjoying the fruits of her labour. The pentacles are shown as gold jewellery to indicate her material wealth and financial success.

**Upright:** Harvest, rewards, Long-term results, perseverance, investment, patience, planning

**Reversed:** Unfinished work, limited success, no reward, laziness, procrastination, setbacks



### Eight of Pentacles

The cinematographer is working hard to further his skills and become a master of his craft. He has very high standards and is examining each frame of the film to make sure it is perfect. His dedication to fine detail will pay off, and his talent, and craftsmanship will ultimately be recognised when the movie is a success.

**Upright:** Apprenticeship, expertise, mastery, skill development, ambition, high standards

**Reversed:** Unprofessional, rushed job, mediocre, haste, bad reputation, unrewarding job



### Nine of Pentacles

The woman in this card is based on the Sharon Stone character in *Ratchet*. She is glamorous and well-dressed and financially independent. She has worked hard to amass her wealth and now she has the freedom to enjoy it. She is living in a lavish mansion and the pentacles are shown as gold jewellery to indicate her material wealth and financial success. The potted palm and the urn of roses represent her abundant and fruitful financial achievements. The hooded falcon sitting on her shoulder represents her intellectual and spiritual self-control.

**Upright:** Abundance, luxury, self-sufficiency, financial independence, achievement

**Reversed:** Overwork, hustling, debts, living beyond means, reckless spending





## Ten of Pentacles

A successful elderly movie mogul stands in front of his movie studio (representing prosperity and financial security). The pentacles form part of the wrought iron gates that protect the grounds. They will be standing for many years to come as a testament to his legacy. He is a wealthy patriarch who has achieved wealth and financial security and it now brings him satisfaction to share his financial success. He loves to surround himself with family (represented by the two young starlets either arm) and enjoys the fact that he has created a secure future for everyone working in his studio.

**Upright:** Wealth, financial security, family, long-term success, legacy, family, inheritance

**Reversed:** Financial failure, family disputes, financial loss, family burdens, fleeting success



## Page of Pentacles

The Page of Pentacles developing his skill as a cinematographer. He has just started a new film project. The pentacle on his movie camera he holds indicates he is wanting to manifest more success with each movie he makes. Looking through the camera lens represents looking through a window of opportunity. The grass and green bushes behind represent the promise of abundant financial success, and the mountains in the background represent the obstacles that he may find in his path to success.

**Upright:** Ambition, manifestation, financial opportunity, skill development, diligent, studious

**Reversed:** Lack of progress, procrastination, immature, under-achiever



## Knight of Pentacles

The Knight of Pentacles has arrived at the movie premiere in a luxury car rather than on horseback. He is hardworking and stubborn and prepared to put in the hard work required to make his dreams come true. He is arriving at the Hollywood Walk of Fame, which represents the success he aspires towards. He is looking down at the pentacle plaque, planning how he will achieve his goal. He is in no hurry and has plenty of time to work out how to do it. The grapes on his tie symbolise abundant harvest and the manifestation of his financial dreams.

**Upright:** Slow and steady, hard-working, committed, patient, conservative, responsible

**Reversed:** Workaholic, cheap, irresponsible, gambler, risky investments



## Queen of Pentacles

The Queen of Pentacles sits on a throne consisting of a single gold pentacle. She is motherly, nurturing, generous, creative and resourceful. The white roses at her feet indicate abundance, fertility, and her connection to nature. She represents success and prosperity.

**Upright:** Generous, nurturing, practical, providing financially, working parent

**Reversed:** Financial independence, work-home conflict, gold-digger, self-centred, envious



## King of Pentacles

A successful movie producer sits at his desk at the movie studio (which represents his determination and effort). He is a charismatic, successful, generous father figure who has created his own wealth and success. His crown is a gold emblem embroidered on his tie. He holds the gold Pentacle Award (which is a symbol of his success) in one hand, and the other holds a golden sceptre with a bull's head (which symbolises power). The Taurus markings on his socks also indicate power. The grapes on the curtains behind him and the potted plant symbolise wealth, abundance and material success.

**Upright:** Wealth, business, leadership, security, discipline, abundance, protector, patriarch

**Reversed:** Wasteful, obsessed with wealth and status, stubborn, possessive, greedy