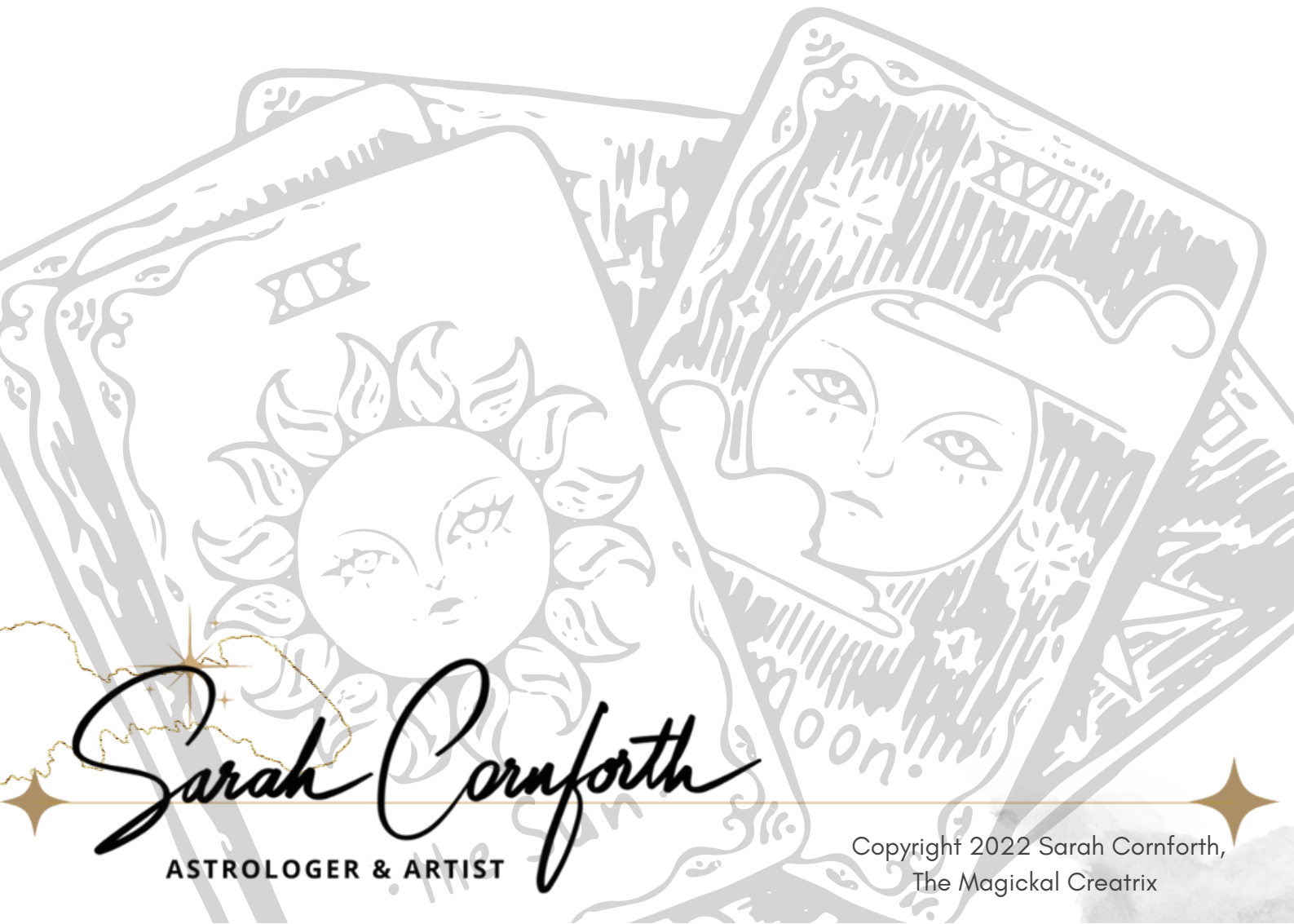




Getting Started with

Tarot/Oracle Card Spreads



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Welcome

to Getting Started with Tarot/Oracle Card Spreads

This guide is here to support you as you explore the amazing magick of tarot and oracle cards using themed spreads for powerful readings.

Inside the guide, we look at choosing a Tarot or Oracle deck, using spreads, journaling, and answering some of the questions you may be asking yourself as you wonder if you are doing it right.

Dive in and enjoy!

Sarah x



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Choosing a Tarot or Oracle Deck

What's the best deck?

I am often asked for recommendations of the best deck for starting with cards, whether it's Oracle or Tarot, and I find this hard to answer because decks are an individual thing. However, I'm going to share some inspiration and guidance with you that I hope will help.

When I first began working with cards, I was given recommendations for 'suitable' beginner decks. Some I still use today, and others have never resonated with me at all.

Yes, there are decks which will make learning the Tarot or getting started with cards easier than others. However, I feel the biggest deciding factor for choosing a deck is the way it makes you feel.

Often the only way to find out how a deck feels is to give it a test drive.....and that's where 'collecting' decks inevitably starts.

I do have a favourite deck author, and you can find out more about her in a recent blog - [The Wild Unknown, My All Time Favourite Tarot Deck Author - Kim Krans](#)

Tarot or Oracle?

This is up to you. All of my spreads work equally with either. If you're new to Tarot, then using spreads will help you learn, especially when working regularly with them.

Using Card Spreads

Tarot can seem confusing and complicated to begin with, and in my experience, practice and frequency are the best ways to make the journey familiar, and from there begin learning and understanding the magick of the Tarot system.

How to Perform a Card Reading Using a Spread

Spreads are actually much easier to use than you might think, and I'm going to show you how simple they can be.

In this section, I will give you some suggestions to get you started. Please explore your own way of doing things, as there is no right or wrong way, only the way that works for you.

Here's a summary of the steps you can take to perform a reading using a spread.

- Grab your chosen Oracle or Tarot card deck
- Shuffle the cards and think about the theme of the spread you are about to use.
- Draw the required number of cards and lay them out in the spread layout of your choice.
- Review the theme for each card position against each card drawn.
- Journal your results to discover your message.
- Create a set of action steps from the reading.
- And don't forget to come back and review your reading later, as there is always more information to learn.

Using Card Spreads

1. Grab your chosen Oracle or Tarot card deck

You can use any deck with a spread. It doesn't have to be a Tarot deck, you can use Oracle cards or affirmation cards too. Allow yourself to explore your deck collection, as it's great fun to do so.

You don't need to be familiar with the deck, as working with a spread will quickly help you connect with a new deck or one you've not used much in the past.

2. Shuffle the cards and think about the theme of the spread you are about to use.

This step is about intention. With the spread design in front of you, contemplate the theme of the spread, its name, and the card position descriptions as you shuffle the cards.

What you are doing is placing your focus on the reading you are about to perform, and your energy and intentions are infused into the cards as you shuffle. This helps with more accurate readings.....you will understand what I mean as you test it out.

3. Draw the required number of cards and lay them out in the spread of your choice.

Each spread has a layout. This is the position the cards are placed on the table (or wherever you are reading your cards). The layouts help with the flow of the reading, and I design layouts in a way that brings related cards together and helps you identify any supporting patterns in the spread.

Using Card Spreads

With practice, you will notice relationships between the cards due to the positions they are found in.

When laying out the cards, place the first card in position one, the second in position two, and so on, until you've laid out the number required for that spread.

4. Review the theme for each position against each card

For each card position, the spread shows a theme for the card you pull. Imagine the theme for the first card in the spread is:

1. *Intuition - This is how to listen to your intuition in the present moment.*

The card you pull is the Two of Swords, which talks about doubt and inner conflict.

I would perhaps interpret this as noticing when doubt and inner conflict arise, preventing me from listening to my intuition. Instead of allowing doubt to be in control, I could encourage my sense of knowing and understanding to be in the driving seat.

5. Journal your results to discover your message.

Now that I have the initial interpretation of the Two of Swords, I can start to journal around this theme. I could expand on this by asking myself 'when does doubt and inner conflict show up in my life and block me from using my intuition?'

Using Card Spreads

6. Create a set of action steps from the reading

Steps 6 and 7 are the ones most people miss out, and in my opinion are the most rewarding. Once you've journaled about each card in the spread, consider what steps you need to take to make the most of the guidance you've just received. This is easier to do when you look at the reading as a whole, and you will notice that the structure of each spread will guide you into action. However, using the example of the Two of Swords, I would perhaps set myself an action step of:

Make a list of steps to take when doubt and inner conflict are present in my life.

7. Don't forget to come back and review your reading a few days later, as there is always more information to be learned.

Sometimes the reading you get doesn't feel relevant at the time. Have you ever experienced that?

Consider that there are many layers to a reading, and we often don't understand the full message until we go away and return to it again. I highly recommend reviewing your reading and journaling notes, perhaps a day, week or a month later, to see if there are any other messages in there for you. You may also notice that some guidance has already come to pass, and this will give you confidence in your future readings.

Journaling

Your Card Readings

How to journal your readings

Journaling your readings is one of the most valuable and rewarding practices you can do when reading your cards, especially when using spreads.

Tarot and Oracle journaling can feel a bit weird at first, especially if journaling isn't something you already do. But I highly recommend allowing yourself the time and space to explore this, as it will make your readings so much more rewarding.

Why keep a readings journal?

Here are a few reasons why I recommend keeping a readings journal.

- To keep a record for future reference
- To review your progress of reading your cards
- To record how you felt during a reading
- To learn more about the deck(s) you are using
- To explore the messages and guidance further
- To help notice patterns or repeat messages
- To grow as a card reader

What can you include in your readings journal?

Here are some suggestions of what you can include in a readings journal. Don't try to use them all, but pick those that feel suitable at the time.

Journaling Your Card Readings

- Description of the card, symbols, artwork or anything you notice when you look at the image.
- Card meaning and notes from the decks guidebook
- Symbols and correspondences
- How you felt about the card
- How the card relates to the others in the spread
- How you can apply the card to your life right now
- Any resistance or blocks to the message in the cards
- Action steps to take based on the cards guidance
- Free writing, allowing whatever comes to you to be written down and reviewed later
- Quotes, lyrics or anything that connects you to the cards
- Doodles or artwork

Types of Card Reading Journal

There are many ways to journal your card readings, and I encourage you to explore as many as possible to find what works best for you.

Take a look at the list below and Google Search some journaling types for inspiration.

- Creative Journal
- Art Journal
- Bullet Journal
- Written Journal
- Journaling with Prompts
- Spreads Journal
- Daily Card Draw Journal
- Electronic/Digital Journal
- Blog Journal
- Journaling Prompts

Wondering if you're doing it right?

Wondering if you're doing it right?

When I first started reading cards, I was obsessed with the 'right' interpretation.

I didn't trust my own instincts and intuition, and because I wasn't a psychic medium, I felt like an inadequate card reader. However, I soon learned that all I had to do was trust myself more.

Let's bust a few myths and give you some card reading confidence!

1. You are free to choose your own deck, it doesn't need to be a gift.

Gone are the days when rare decks are passed down from grandmother, to mother, to daughter, to granddaughter.

Back in the day, a gifted deck was a very magickal and powerful thing, but it's not as practical these days.

Your deck doesn't need to be a gift from someone. You are allowed to choose your own decks, explore multiple decks, buy decks for yourself, ask for decks as gifts from others, and purchase second hand.

All these options and more are allowable, so don't let anyone tell you otherwise! After all, how else can we enjoy the wide variety of stunning decks out there? I don't have the time (or patience) to wait for someone to gift it to me, do you?

Wondering if you're doing it right?

2. You don't need to be a psychic medium to read the cards.

You don't need to get messages from the other side to use your cards. Instead, think of your deck as a tool to converse with your emotional and spiritual self in a way that you wouldn't usually do in your daily life.

This may feel uncomfortable and 'wrong' at first, but with practice and trust, you will notice how you simply 'know' something to be true, or you 'see' a message in the cards or spread without having to look at the guidebook.

Give your intuition a chance, and it will soon start to play an active part in your readings.

3. There is no right or wrong #fact.

If exactly the same cards were laid out by you and by some one else, they would generate two different readings. This doesn't mean one of them is right and the other is wrong. In fact, they're both right.

There's a lot of information to be gleaned in a reading, and when we read for ourselves, we relate the cards to what is going on right now in our lives. We have insider information that another reader doesn't have, so use this to your advantage. Also, we have a natural resistance to messages we don't want to hear, so be aware of that too.

Wondering if you're doing it right?

Yes, another reader may notice a message that you don't, but that doesn't mean you've done anything wrong. Perhaps the message isn't a priority for you right now, or you have some resistance to it. Also, remember what I said about returning to a reading days or weeks later. Well, another reason for doing this is that we often observe something later that we perhaps didn't appreciate at the time of the reading. This also doesn't mean the reading was wrong, it simply means the focus at the time was elsewhere.

Trust the cards, trust yourself, and the rest will grow.

4. You are not a fraud for using the guidebook with your deck.

These days, there are so many decks out there, all with different themes, purposes, meanings, and guidebooks are an integral part of working with a deck. It doesn't matter if the deck you are using is Oracle or Tarot, there is a lot to gain from using the book.

The author has written the guidebook and often gives insight into the purpose they had for the deck during its creation. This information is valuable when learning to connect with your cards.

And although I believe you are not a fraud for using your guidebooks, I also believe that we should be careful not to rely on guidebooks too much either, otherwise we limit the intuitive guidance in the reading.

Use the guidebook to support your reading, learn about the cards, the deck, the author and the theme, and add a bit of your own personal intuition in there too!

Wondering if you're doing it right?

5. The guide book isn't the only way to read the cards

For some decks, I love the guidebooks, and for others, the words in the book simply don't resonate with me. But I love the deck images, so I still use the cards for readings, but in a more intuitive way.

If you pull a card and don't resonate with the message in the guidebook, that's okay. The author wrote the book from one person's perspective, but how you interpret the deck can be unique. Perhaps you see something in the image that gives you a particular message, or maybe it's a feeling. All of this is absolutely awesome. In fact, I encourage you to embrace going in your own direction, as it will do wonders for trusting your own instincts and intuition.

6. The cards don't tell you how things 'will' turn out.

I want to address this one in terms of challenging or negative cards, as it's easy to get worried when a card comes out, which seems all doom and gloom. This message isn't telling you exactly what will happen to you. Remember, we all have free will and other factors that influence us all the time. If there is a message or guidance in a reading you don't like the look of, don't worry, the outcome isn't set in stone. In fact, now that you've had a heads up about a potential situation, you have more power and control than ever before.

If a card worries you, journal it through and create a set of action steps to avoid the potential outcome. Trust that you will make good choices and decisions in your life, and allow yourself the freedom to explore life and all its ups and downs.



I'm Sarah Cornforth, Head Geek
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By day, I'm an Astrologer and
Artist and in my spare time I'm a
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mushroom hunter.

I love using Tarot & Oracle
cards alongside astrology to
explore the hidden depths of
who I am and where I'm going.

Where to find me



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Favourite Decks

Most beautiful Tarot

- Oak, Ash & Thorn by Three
Trees Tarot

Most used Tarot

- Dreams of Gaia Tarot by
Ravynne Phelan

Most unusual Tarot

- The Tarot of Many Doors by
Felix Kawitzky

Most entertaining Tarot

- Zombie Tarot by P Kepple &
Stacey Grapham

Most used Oracle

- The Wild Unknown Alchemy
by Kim Krans

Most unusual Oracle

- Mystic Martian Oracle by Lisa
Porter