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Witches Tarot



Synopsis

Here, the Hierophant becomes the High Priest, Wheel of Fortune becomes Wheel of the Year, and Judgement becomes Karma. Based on the traditional Rider-Waite-Smith deck and filled with images that speak to today's magickal practitioner, witchcraft takes center stage in this stunning deck designed by highly respected Witch and Tarot reader Ellen Dugan. Featuring the vibrant artwork of award-winning artist Mark Evans, Witches Tarot is the perfect combination of Tarot and the Craft. In addition to card descriptions and meanings, Dugan's companion guide features spell-enhancing spreads—such as the Triple Goddess Spread, the Four Elements Spread, and the Wheel of the Year Spread—that you can use in both Tarot readings and magickal practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When I first saw the images from the Major Arcana on the Witches Tarot website, I thought I would really love this deck! The deck is nice overall, but certainly did not meet or exceed my expectations. Perhaps my expectations were too high, expecting much more Wiccan/Pagan insights... Once I got through the Companion Book, however, I was able to appreciate the deck for what it was, rather than what I hoped it to be. The way the deck was advertised and marketed made me think it would deviate much more from the RWS tradition than it has. I thought it would be much more 'witchy' and have many more modes of symbolism not usually found amongst RWS-based decks. The claim that it has "instantly recognizable Pagan symbols" is a bit much, however, as most of the symbols aren't particularly Pagan. As far as the Pagan symbolism goes, Dugan & Evans pay much more attention to the plants and sometimes animal 'companions' throughout the deck. The flowers, plants, and trees are more diverse than the RWS standard of lilies and roses and generic non-specific forestry.

Dugan has thoughtfully chosen which plants/herbs/flowers and stones to symbolize or emphasize each card's meanings. In some cards Dugan and Evans use animals/birds/mythical creatures that may deviate or be an addition to the RWS-norm. These, too, are added based on Pagan teachings. The most obvious deviation from the RWS comes from her renaming of the Major Arcana: V - The Hierophant has been named The High Priest (which in some Marseille-style decks, it was previously called), X - The Wheel of Fortune becomes The Wheel of the Year, XV - The Devil is renamed The Shadow Side, and XX - Judgment is called Karma. The High Priest/Hierophant isn't really that much of a stretch and I tend to define the Hierophant as such, personally.

Right off the top of my head I can think of at least three tarot decks that go by the moniker "Witches Tarot", so let me be clear that the one I am reviewing today is the recent Llewellyn release by Ellen Dugan and Mark Evans. Featured on the box is The Moon card from this deck, and a lovely Moon I find her. The set includes a large outer box and a full sized companion book written by Ellen Dugan, as well as an oversized and flimsy white cardboard box which is meant to hold the cards, I suppose. Here I really must chastise Llewellyn for the spectacularly terrible packaging their decks receive, and as someone who buys nearly every new release, I can vouch for the fact that their packaging is only getting worse. In the first place, the boxes of the last several decks I have received from them have fallen apart almost immediately, and in the second place, the inner box meant to hold the cards offers absolutely no protection for the cards. They slip and slide in there, and the box would not hold up to a moth alighting upon it, so it is nearly worthless. They do tend to print a satin tarot bag for each deck they publish lately, so I wonder if they intentionally make the packaging so terrible you feel you have to spend more money on the matching bag. As a collector as well as a reader, this really saddens me. Very few of my decks ever leave my collection, but I would love to have boxes for my precious decks that stand the test of time, not to mention if I do decide to resell a deck at some point it is far less valuable with a box that is destroyed.

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