



# HORROR CIRCUS TAROT DECK

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ORIGINAL TEXT

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# HORROR CIRCUS TAROT DECK

Illustrating the Tarot was a decidedly unsettling surprise, because I had never had the thought of making Tarot cards and because my knowledge of esotericism or divination is limited to basic concepts. However, surprise was immediately combined with curiosity, and as always - when faced with a new challenge - I set about 'studying' this unusual, unknown and endless world with the lightness that only a beginner can afford. And before long, I found myself fascinated and above all inspired by the great possibilities that the Tarot offers to the imagination of a visual artist.

I thought I would like to set the Major Arcana in a slightly freak world, in a Circus of Horrors, which rather than frightening would nourish an atmosphere of mystery and decadent poetry. I imagined a place where the Magician is a serial killer, the Emperor is a gorilla and the High Priestess are Siamese sisters, where everything seems innocent yet dangerous and danger is cancelled out by a smile or a verse. With my illustrations, I have tried to give voice to the lyricism of the Tarot and restore the magic of this timeless universe.

*Antonello Silverini*

## Major Arcana and their Divinatory Meanings *by Arthur Edward Waite*

### HOW TO READ TAROT CARDS

Using tarot cards is very easy: ask a question and draw a card. Observe the image and internalise what you see. The more you try it out and practise on a daily basis, the more you will, over time, be able to come to greater depths with ever-improving skills. Tarot cards represent each of us in a unique and essential way since we are different and unequalled beings. Each of us brings together multiple talents, sensitivities and purposes. The effectiveness of the tarot cards depends on who uses them and how. With practice, you will learn to build your own reading style.

### THE TAROT CARD SPREAD

This spread includes five cards. Each card refers to an affirmation (I am, I believe, I do, I give up, I build) that can be effective for the person to assimilate the advice of the cards and convert it into decisive changes and actions in his or her life. Draw 5 cards and arrange them as in the picture on page.

1. I am: this card reflects the person and his/her question.
2. I believe: this card reflects the person's motivations and his or her fixed points.
3. I do: this card reflects the goal and direction of the person's action.
4. I give up: this card reflects something that is weakening the person. It may be an obstacle to be overcome or an attitude that the person is indulging in.
5. I build: this card reflects the purpose for which the person should strive in order to grow in his or her life.







## MAJOR ARCANA

### 0. THE FOOL

Folly, mania, extravagance, intoxication, delirium, frenzy, bewrayment. **Reversed:** Negligence, absence, distribution, carelessness, apathy, nullity, vanity.



### 1. THE MAGICIAN

Skill, diplomacy, address; sickness, pain, loss, disaster, self-confidence, will; the Querent, if male. **Reversed:** Physician, Magus, mental disease, disgrace, disquiet.



### 2. THE HIGH PRIESTESS

Secrets, mystery, the future as yet unrevealed; the woman who interests the Querent, if male; the Querent, if female; silence, tenacity; wisdom, science. **Reversed:** Passion, moral or physical ardour, conceit, surface knowledge.



### 3. THE EMPRESS

Fruitfulness, action, initiative, length of days; the unknown, clandestine, also difficulty, doubt, ignorance. **Reversed:** Light, truth, the unravelling of involved matters, public rejoicings; according to another reading, vacillation.



### 4. THE EMPEROR

Stability, power, protection; a great person; aid, reason, conviction. **Reversed:** Benevolence, compassion, credit; also confusion to enemies, obstruction, immaturity.



### 5. THE HIEROPHANT

Marriage, alliance, captivity, servitude; by another account, mercy and goodness; inspiration; the man to whom the Querent has recourse. **Reversed:** Society, good understanding, concord, over-kindness, weakness.



### 6. THE LOVERS

Attraction, love, beauty, trials overcome. **Reversed:** Failure, foolish designs.



### 7. THE CHARIOT

Succour, providence; also war, triumph, presumption, vengeance, trouble. **Reversed:** Riot, quarrel, dispute, litigation, defeat.



### 8. STRENGTH

Power, energy, action, courage, magnanimity. **Reversed:** Despotism, abuse of power, weakness, discord.



### 9. THE HERMIT

Prudence; also and especially treason, dissimulation, roguery, corruption. **Reversed:** Concealment, disguise, policy, fear, unreasoned caution.





### 10. WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Destiny, fortune, success, luck, happiness. **Reversed:** Increase, abundance, superfluity.



### 11. JUSTICE

Equity, rightness, probity, executive. **Reversed:** Law in all departments, bigotry, bias, excessive severity.



### 12. THE HANGED MAN

Wisdom, circumspection, discernment, trials, sacrifice, intuition, divination, prophecy. **Reversed:** Selfishness, the crowd, body politic.



### 13. DEATH

End, mortality, destruction, corruption. **Reversed:** Inertia, sleep, lethargy, petrification, somnambulism.



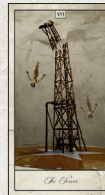
### 14. TEMPERANCE

Economy, moderation, frugality, management, accommodation. **Reversed:** Things connected with churches, religions, sects, the priesthood; also disunion, unfortunate combinations, competing intersects.



### 15. THE DEVIL

Ravage, violence, vehemence, extraordinary efforts, force, fatality; that which is predestined but not for this reason evil. **Reversed:** Evil, fatality, weakness, pettiness, blindness.



### 16. THE TOWER

Misery, distress, indigence, adversity, calamity, disgrace, deception, ruin. **Reversed:** According to one account, the same in a lesser degree; also oppression, imprisonment, tyranny.



### 17. THE STAR

Loss, theft, privation, abandonment; another reading says hope and bright prospects. **Reversed:** Arrogance, haughtiness, impotence.



### 18. THE MOON

Hidden enemies, danger, calumny, darkness, terror, deception, error. **Reversed:** Instability, inconstancy, silence, lesser degrees of deception and error.



### 19. THE SUN

Material happiness, fortunate marriage, contentment. **Reversed:** The same in a lesser sense.