

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAROT DECK

Every tarot deck comes with seventy-eight cards, each of which holds a special meaning. When that card is placed upside down, or reversed, the meaning changes. You can generally think of a reversed card as having the “opposite” meaning of when it is upright, though there are special exceptions to this rule. Every meaning, upright and reversed, is covered in this guide.

The first twenty-two cards in a deck are called the Major Arcana. They represent significant events in your life with a lasting impact. These cards also speak of a journey of sorts as you read them in order. The cards are numbered zero to XXI, starting with the Fool, who is filled with limitless possibilities. The Fool’s journey will see them gather strength and fortune, face justice, and overcome change. And after many hardships and enriching experiences, they shall be granted the enlightenment of the World. You may notice similarities between this journey and Max’s adventure as he struggles to stop the Sanderson Sisters’ nefarious plans.

The remaining fifty-six cards make up the Minor Arcana, which describes everyday situations and people



in your life. The cards are divided into four suits: Candles, Pumpkins, Lightning, and Potions. (For the tarot-initiated among you, you may know them as the traditional Wands, Coins, Swords, and Cups. This deck takes those ideas and adds a *Hocus Pocus*-flavored twist.) The Minor Arcana cards are numbered I through X, with four additional court cards characterized by a Page, Knight, Queen, and King.

The Suit of Potions represents emotions, relationships, and imagination. The members of its court are creative and harmonious. It corresponds with the element water.

The Suit of Pumpkins represents finance, earthly materials, and laborious pursuits. The members of its court are hardworking and reliable. It corresponds with the element earth.

The Suit of Lightning represents conflict, power, and judgment. The members of its court are powerful and keen. It corresponds with the element wind.

The Suit of Candles represents adventure, creativity, and inspiration. The members of its court are courageous and passionate. It corresponds with the element fire.

Although many cards are represented by the women and men of *Hocus Pocus*, these cards are not limited to the gender binary. You may find that the Queen of Cups reminds you of your father, or that the Emperor is reminiscent of a nonbinary friend. Though the card descriptions may be traditionally masculine or feminine, they can be interpreted freely across many different gender expressions. The cards are here to fit your personal journey, whatever that may be.

