

13 Magickal Cards

Tarot Insights By JohnnieTwoBrows

Virgo: Attention to Detail

Merry meet! Welcome to the Virgo issue of 13 Magickal Cards.

Warm birthday wishes to all born under the sign of Virgo, the Virgin, especially my beloved “Jennie Sunshine”. [Editor’s Note: Jennie Sunshine has deemed this issue the “Learning to Appreciate the OCD Virgos Around You” issue. “Without us,” she raves, “who would dust? Who would alphabetize? Who would clean out refrigerators? Who would review your term papers?” This went on for several more minutes but I think you get the point. 😊]

As the legendary troubleshooters of the Zodiac, Virgos do their best to make all of us better people, even though the “direct” delivery of our shortcomings may sometimes make us a little uncomfortable. The rest of us know that it’s only because you Virgos are definitely your own worst critics.

In honor of my beloved and Virgos everywhere, I’m reviewing Jennie Sunshine’s first deck, the one she was using when we first met many years ago: The Medieval Scapini Tarot. She said she got that deck because she hated the Rider-Waite and wanted something different.

It’s no surprise that schools and colleges start up again during the cerebral sign of Virgo. It’s not always easy to come back from a vacation, especially if it’s the mental vacation that is the sign of Leo, which is ruled by the bright Sun. The bathing suits, sunscreens, and beach balls get put away and the thinking caps go back on. This is true not only for students, but also those of us out of school. In the business world, things tend to slow down during the

summer and start up with a vengeance after Labor Day.

The Hermit in the Tarot’s Major Arcana represents Virgo, that experienced person who has the knowledge you seek. The Hermit also allows us to look within and see things that we may or may not want to acknowledge.

Virgos have a natural ability to pay attention, and it’s essential for us at this time of year that we take a page out of their books. And I’m not just talking about paying attention in classes or in training...you should be doing that anyway. What I really mean are those small things that often get missed in the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives.

A perfect example of this is our intuition. We hear the voice inside of us and yet we dismiss it. It’s easy to ignore when it tells us things we don’t want to hear, so we choose to not pay attention, oftentimes to our detriment.

It’s even more of a problem when we don’t pay attention to the people in our lives and their needs. As Leo helps us to focus on our own desires, Sun in Virgo emphasizes service to other people. Ask yourself: When was the last time to sat down and really listened to someone close to you? And I’m not just talking about the words, but the meaning behind the words. Were you paying attention, or were you too preoccupied with the manner in which the message was delivered that you missed the point? We’re all guilty of it, folks. With all the technology designed to grasp and hold our attention—especially cell phones and Blackberries—it’s easy to pay attention to it ignore the person you’re “listening” to.

One technique a former supervisor of mine would use is that when she had a meeting with someone in her office, she set her phone to go straight to voice mail, shut the door, and turned away from her keyboard and computer monitor. Whenever I met with her, I felt that my problem or concern was very important to her, which made me want to take problems to her. Not surprisingly, she is a Virgo.

Showing that you're paying attention really does make a difference in the lives of

others. It makes people feel really special, that for even a short time you are spending all of your energy showing interest in them.

Take some time during Virgo Sun to pay attention to others a little more. Then sit back and bask in the results.

I hope to see you across my table soon. Blessed be, J2B



Tarot Deck Review

The Medieval Scapini Tarot

The first time I saw this deck was in a photo that I got in the mail when I was living in France. My "Jennie Sunshine" and I had been friends for some time, and she wrote me tons of letters (yes, paper letters, I know...how quaint!). Anyway, one of them had a photo of Jennie sitting on the floor of her college dorm room, with a scarf on her head, holding a Tarot card up to the camera. It was the Lovers, and the quote on the back said, "Madame Jen sees the future...the Lovers card!" As foolish as it sounds I wasn't really paying attention to the symbolic nature of the card she had drawn. When I asked her about it later, she



smiled and said, "The prediction was right, wasn't it?" [See what I mean about paying attention? I didn't get THAT message for another four months!]

For those of you who like a more Renaissance-style card, this deck is for you. The backs of the cards are simple yet elegant, done entirely in gold. That same gold color is used as the background in all of the Major Arcana cards and the Court Cards of all of the Minor Arcana suits, which takes away a little bit from the artwork in those cards. That's too bad, because the artwork is wonderful.

Every card in this deck has the title in a Renaissance-style font across the bottom of the card, except for the four Aces, which

have no description. The Majors also have a Roman numeral at the top, separated by a gold border.

This deck retains much of the standard Rider-Waite imagery, especially on the Major Arcana cards. The Moon, for example, has the wolf, dog, and crab on it, but the crab is much larger than the other two in this set. Cancers, whose sign is ruled by the Moon, will be in favor of that. Also, a wizard is on top of one of the towers, while a telescope pointed at the Moon is on the other. To me it is a reference to the power of the Moon in magickal work, and the Moon's importance and effects on the Earth.

The Death card is quite chilling, with the skeletal Grim Reaper occupying almost the entire card, standing upon the heads and body parts of his victims. The eyes of the heads are still open, and the only other living creature is a bird diving toward the human remains. It definitely has more of an edge to it than many of its counterparts in other decks.

The Minor Arcana have less Rider-Waite imagery overall than the Majors do. The Nine of Wands, for example, has ships with nine men laying side by side on the card, in addition to the nine wands. While some of the men are drinking, it would be difficult to relate that image to many of the standard meanings normally attributed to this card (persistence, defensiveness, tension, etc.)

At first glance, the Six of Coins does not appear to retain a lot of the standard imagery, with a spearman standing on two of the six coins. But if you look closely at each of the coins, you can see the "having/not having" meaning of the card quite clearly.

The Queen of Cups is clearly a homage to Botticelli's painting "The Birth of Venus", as the Queen is standing on a seashell on the

surface of the sea. The Queen's hands are also in approximately the same position as Venus in the painting. In this card, the Queen is holding a large, aqua-colored cup.

My favorite card in this deck is the Five of Coins. Each of the coins has an image that fits the "anything that can go wrong will go wrong" meaning of the card. What I liked even more about it is that four of the five coins had a natural disaster caused by one of the four elements: a volcano (fire), an earthquake (earth), gale winds (air), and a tidal wave (water). The fifth coin in the center of the card shows a Bull (Taurus) pulling a cart with a symbol of Mars on it, next to a Scorpion (Scorpio). To me, the picture is an allusion to the determination, patience, and willpower shared by these two signs to overcome adversity.

Normally, older-style artwork isn't my cup of tea but I was strangely drawn to this deck. Jennie Sunshine has others now but I asked if I could borrow it for a while. It's definitely intriguing.

I highly recommend it for those of you who have some experience with the Tarot and enjoy Renaissance artwork. And because some of the imagery is difficult to see except when the card is examined closely, I'd recommend it to Virgos as well.

13 Magickal Moons has a copy of the The Medieval Scapini Tarot in stock right now. Pick it up, or if someone else has already bought it, ask the ladies at 13 Magickal Moons to order you another one.

Next month's review: The Lover's Tarot

Shameless Marketing: How Many Decks?

A lot of you wonder how many Tarot decks I actually own. Good question, isn't it? I buy new decks on a pretty regular basis.

Well, here's your chance to answer it. Give me your best guess of the amount of decks I will own on **September 30, 2007**. I'll give the closest guess to the actual number **\$15 off a Tarot party** (party must be at least two hours), and the second closest guess **\$10 off any Tarot reading of \$20 or more** during any session I am reading at 13 Magickal Moons (phone readings are not eligible.)

Submit your guess to hierophant@cox.net no later than September 30. Good luck!

Limited Edition Spread

From now through the end of September, I'll be doing a **Planetary Spread**, which has no less than 15 cards and will cost **\$30**. Each card describes an area of your life based on the planet the position represents; the Sun, for example, represents your will, vitality, and "masculine" principles, while the Moon represents emotions and "feminine" principles and energy.

Upcoming Dates

I'll be reading Tarot for the following dates for the remainder of Virgo and Libra at 13 Magickal Moons. All of these dates are tentative. Readings are done on a first come, first served basis; when I arrive at the store I start a list, and you may sign up at that time. I do not take appointments, so please do not call 13 Magickal Moons asking for one. Please check www.13magickalmoons.com for an up-to-date reading schedule.

Saturday, September 22	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, September 26	6:00-9:00pm (Mabon Ritual)
Saturday, October 6	11:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday, October 10	6:00-9:00pm
Saturday, October 20	11:30am-5:30pm