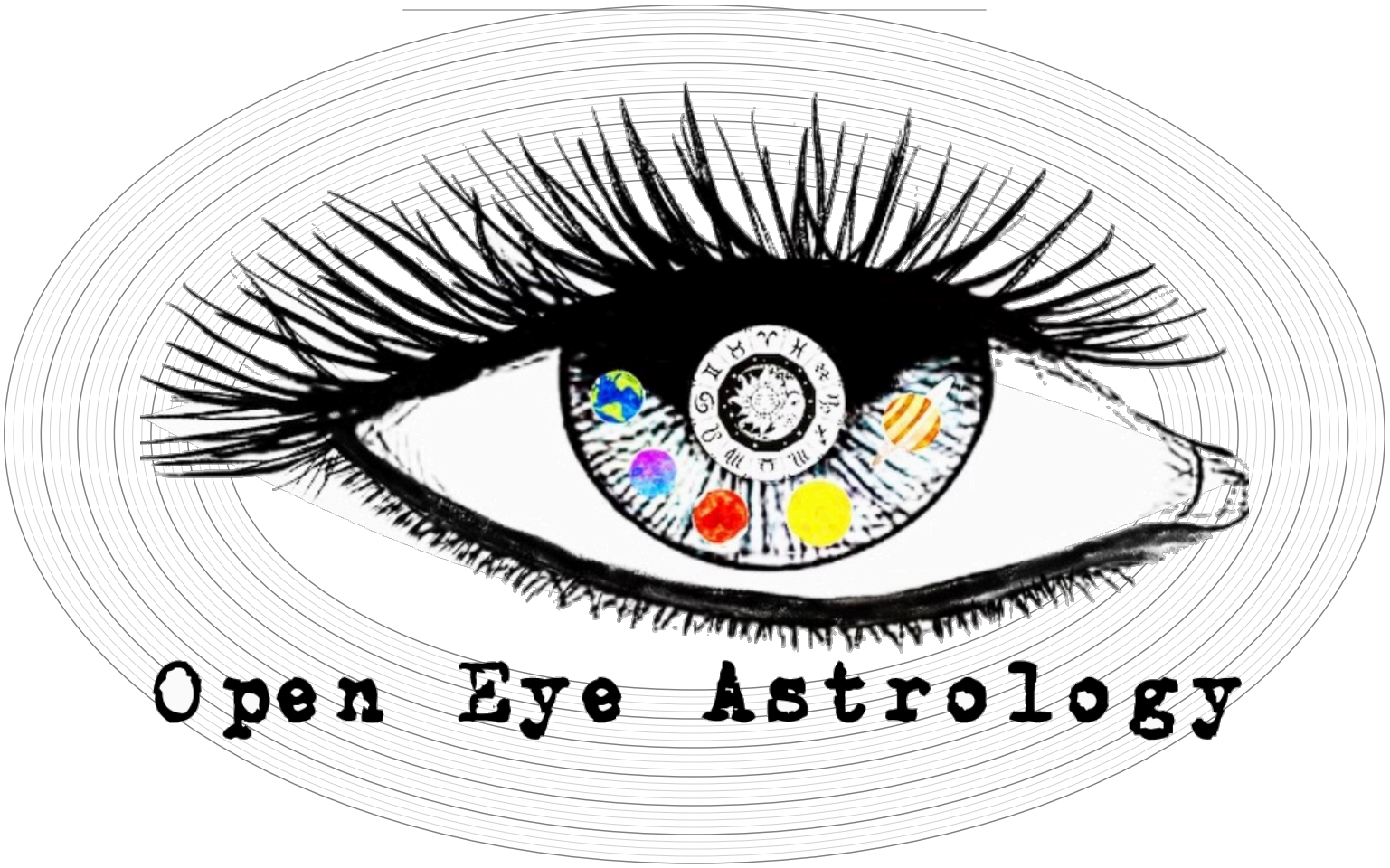
THE OPEN EYE

TAROT GUIDE



Read the cards. Follow the story.

René Meagher

A PERSONAL GUIDE TO ALL 78 CARDS

A Different Way to Look at Things

You do not need to believe in astrology or tarot to get something from them.

I do not see the stars as a set of orders or the cards as a fixed future. We still have to make our own choices.

I like that both can make us stop and look again. A pattern you have lived with for years may look different when you finally have words or an image for it.

Astrology gives us one way to talk about personality and the patterns we return to. It can help you notice yourself, but it does not excuse a choice or decide who you must become.

Tarot works differently for me. I let the cards arrive and speak from what I see. One image leads to the next until something begins to take shape that I could not have planned beforehand.

I cannot prove why a particular card comes up. What I can tell you is that when I speak from the cards, the connection is there. A reading can touch a part of life neither of us expected to visit.

You can come in skeptical. You can leave with your own opinion about why it worked. All I ask is that you stay curious while we look at what is in front of us.

Sometimes a different perspective is enough to make you see what was already there.

A Note from René

I do not begin with a script or a list of questions. I begin with a deck and whoever is sitting across from me.

Once I start speaking, I usually keep going. I do not pause to arrange the cards into a neat answer. One card gives me a feeling, the next changes it, and the story finds its own way forward.

I would rather know nothing about you first. A name, a history, or a hint about what you want to hear can shape what I expect to see. I want to be surprised by the cards too.

I have had complete strangers leave my table speechless or in tears. I do not say that because I knew their future. Something in the reading named a part of their life I had no way of knowing beforehand, and they felt it.

I never know which turn a reading will take. That is my favourite part. The thing neither of us expected is often the thing that stays with us.

How I Read the Cards

There is no single right way to read tarot. This is mine.

I almost always start with a general reading. I do not sort the cards into love, work, or one problem before they have had a chance to speak. Once I begin talking, I follow whatever keeps coming forward. Sometimes it feels as though the universe is saying, “Look here. This matters right now.”

I usually let the person requesting the reading shuffle first. It gives them time with the deck and a chance to put their own energy into it. Then I take it back and shuffle. Cards fly out, and I read them in the order they arrive.

I do not ask the person to tell me where it connects. I speak from the cards, and it always connects. Sometimes a card makes sense to me immediately. Sometimes the next one explains it. I keep going until the story has said what it came to say.

Reading Cards Together

Every new card adds information. It may support the first meaning, explain it, challenge it, or move the story in a different direction.

A lot of Cups may bring feelings, attachment, memory, or care to the front. Wands can add desire and action. Swords may show thoughts, decisions, communication, or conflict. Pentacles can show the practical weight of money, health, work, time, and home. These are starting points, not boxes.

The order matters. Death followed by The Star can describe hope after an ending. The Star followed by Death can show someone trying to hold onto hope while knowing that something still has to change. The same two cards create a different movement when their order changes.

Notice which card changes the direction. The Queen of Cups alone may be a caring, emotionally aware person. Add the Ten of Wands and that care begins to look heavy. Add the Six of Pentacles and the imbalance becomes clearer: one person may be giving more than they can keep giving.

Contradictions are useful. The Sun beside The Moon can show that one part of the situation is clear while another remains uncertain. I would not choose one card and ignore the other. I would ask what is known, what is only felt, and what still needs to be checked.

A hopeful card does not erase harm, and a difficult card does not cancel every good thing. I keep both parts of the story open until the spread shows how they belong together.

A Complete General Reading

This is how I would connect a general reading when five cards fly out without assigned positions.

The cards are the Queen of Cups, Ten of Wands, Six of Pentacles, The Emperor, and The Star.

The Queen of Cups opens the reading with someone caring, emotionally aware, and sensitive to what other people need. On her own, she could be a person, the reader, or the emotional tone of the situation. I do not decide which one yet.

The Ten of Wands changes her. Now the caring looks heavy. Someone may be holding the feelings, work, and responsibilities of more than one person. The Six of Pentacles explains the pressure further. Giving and receiving are out of balance, or help comes with terms that need to be examined.

The Emperor becomes the turning point. This story needs a boundary, a plan, or a clearer division of responsibility. The card is not asking the person to stop caring. It is asking them to give that care a structure so it does not keep draining them.

The Star shows where the story can go if that change is made. There is room for relief, hope, and a return to the person's own centre. It does not promise that everything fixes itself. It shows that healing becomes more possible when the burden is named and the imbalance begins to change.

Put together, I might say: "I feel like you have been the person holding a lot, emotionally and practically. You care deeply, but somewhere along the way, caring became carrying. The give and take does not feel even. The cards are asking for a real boundary or a clearer plan, because you cannot keep being the structure for everyone. If you make that change, I see you getting some of yourself back."

That is the full story: the first card introduces the person or energy, the next card shows the problem, the third explains the pattern, the fourth changes the direction, and the last card shows where that change may lead. Another spread may move differently, but every card should have a reason for being part of the same reading.

0 — The Fool



New beginnings / Freedom / Trust / Adventure

On its own

The Fool is the first card of the Major Arcana, and it feels like standing on the edge of something new. There is freedom and excitement in that moment, but you cannot know the whole path from where you are standing. It could be a trip, an opportunity, a relationship, or a change in how you see yourself. I read this card as permission to begin with an open mind, not permission to ignore what you already know. Go for it, but take yourself with you. In the picture, the traveller is looking up while a small dog stays close and a drop is near. That mix of hope and risk is why I never call a fresh start good or bad before seeing what follows.

What may be underneath

Wanting certainty before you begin is understandable. It can also keep you in a life you have already outgrown. What would you try if you did not need to know the ending first? You do not have to stop feeling afraid. You only have to decide whether fear gets to make the choice. Sometimes the wish to begin again is about joy; sometimes it is about needing distance from an old pain. Those can look alike at first.

0 — The Fool

How I read it

I would notice where someone is beginning again. It may be an opportunity, a change in identity, or the first step out of a familiar situation. The excitement matters, and so does what the person has learned from earlier risks. Preparation can support the leap without taking the life out of it. I would name the opening, then watch for a card that shows what they are moving toward and what they are leaving behind.

The harder side

This can show recklessness, poor preparation, avoiding responsibility, chasing excitement, or trusting blindly because you do not want to face the risks. If the rest of the reading shows a pattern of unfinished commitments, the leap may be another way of avoiding a difficult ending.

With other cards

Beside The Magician, the leap becomes something the person can make with tools already in hand. The Emperor asks for a plan before moving. If The Devil follows instead, I would listen for the difference between freedom and running from what feels hard. I would tell the story as a beginning that needs a reason and a direction. The next card helps me hear whether the person is walking toward a life they want or simply away from one they cannot face.

1 — The Magician



Action / Skill / Focus / Personal power

On its own

The Magician has every tool within reach, but nothing happens until those tools are used. You may already know more than you give yourself credit for. When The Magician appears, it is time to focus your effort and take action. Your ideas need direction. Bring your intention, words, choices, and effort together. This is how an idea becomes something real. The table holds the symbols of all four suits. The point is not that everything comes easily; it is that enough may already be present to make a start.

What may be underneath

The deeper lesson is self-belief. Sometimes you are not missing ability; you are waiting for permission, perfect confidence, or proof that you will succeed. What changes when you stop waiting to feel ready and use what you already have? Real personal power is not controlling every outcome. It is knowing that your actions still matter. A person may keep collecting advice because using what they know would make the choice real. Knowing and doing are two different moments in this card.

1 — The Magician

How I read it

This card brings the story from possibility into action. I look at the skills and resources already within reach, then at the gap between what someone says they want and what they are doing. Confidence may follow the first honest effort rather than arrive before it. I would look for a skill, a contact, or an opportunity the person has been overlooking, then see whether the surrounding cards support using it now.

The harder side

Watch for manipulation, empty promises, scattered effort, unused talent, self-doubt, or creating the image of confidence without doing the work behind it. Confidence can become a performance when the person wants to appear capable more than they want to learn what they do not know.

With other cards

The High Priestess beside The Magician slows the hands long enough to hear an instinct. Seven of Cups could scatter the effort among too many ideas; The Emperor gives one idea a structure. The question becomes what the person will actually do with their ability. The next card shows what happens once the tools are picked up.

The story continues.

When I was learning tarot, I filled a notebook with notes on every card. It helped me find my own way of understanding the deck. This guide grew from those pages because I wanted to share what I learned and show you how I let the cards tell a story.

This is only a small part of the book. In the full guide, I go through all 78 cards, how I read each one, and how their meanings change when they appear together. Keep these pages beside your deck and see what you notice for yourself.

THE COMPLETE 177-PAGE GUIDE

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