

A FREE GIFT FROM CALYPSO STAR

The Tarot Starter Kit

Ask a better question. Read the cards you draw. Keep it by your deck.

*Eleven spreads you will actually use, the one skill that changes everything,
how to read a card you do not know, cleansing and storing your deck, and
a page to do your first reading. Print it, fold it, keep it.*

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The one skill that changes everything

Most people read tarot wrong before they draw a single card - they ask the wrong question.

A weak question asks the cards to predict: “Will I be happy?” “Is he the one?” The cards cannot predict, and a yes/no future you cannot act on is just anxiety with prettier paper.

A strong question asks the cards to show: “What do I need to see about this offer?” “What is blocking me from leaving?” Now the cards have something to reflect - and you have something to do with the answer.

WEAK

“Will I find love?”

STRONG

“What am I bringing into my next relationship?”

WEAK

“Will the business work?”

STRONG

“What is the real risk I am not naming here?”

Before you shuffle, spend ten seconds on the question. The reading is only ever as good as the question you bring it.

Shuffle, cut, draw

There is no wrong way. There is only the way that lets you stop thinking.

Shuffle until the cards feel mixed and your mind feels quieter. Some people shuffle for a count of three or seven; some shuffle until it just feels done. Both are right.

Cut the deck into three piles with your left hand, stack them back in any order, and draw from the top - or fan them and pull the cards that call you. The method matters less than the moment you stop second-guessing it.

Lay them left to right. Read them as one sentence, not as separate words. The story is in the relationship between the cards, not in any card alone.

Read it: *If you keep redrawing because you did not like the first card, that first card is the reading.*

Spreads you will actually use

Start with the first one. Add the others when a question needs them.

1. Past / Present / Future (3 cards)

Past: what led you here - the root, not the blame. **Present:** where you actually are right now; name it honestly even if it stings. **Future:** where this heads if nothing changes - a trajectory, not a fate.

Read it: *if the future card feels off, that is the point - it shows you what to shift now.*

2. Yes / No (1 card)

Ask one specific question - not “will I be happy?” but “should I take the offer?” **Upright** = yes. **Reversed** = no. **Neutral card** (Hanged Man, 2 or 4 of Swords) = not yet; rephrase and ask again tomorrow.

Read it: *tarot is bad at timing and good at naming what you already know.*

3. Mind / Body / Spirit (3 cards)

Mind: what is occupying your head. **Body:** what your body is asking for - rest, movement, food, touch. **Spirit:** what your spirit needs, and usually the card people skip.

Read it: *if one card is wildly out of balance with the other two, that is where your attention goes.*

4. The Crossroads (5 cards, for a hard either / or)

1 Situation: the real thing, stripped of the story you tell about it. **2 Challenge:** what makes it hard - usually internal, not external. **3 Path A:** one option and where it leads. **4 Path B:** the other option and where it leads. **5 The way through:** the thread that resolves the false either / or.

Read it: card 5 rarely picks A or B. It usually names the third thing you have not let yourself see.

5. The Weekly Check-In (3 cards)

Focus: what to lean into this week. **Release:** what to set down - a habit, a worry, a grip. **Receive:** what is trying to reach you if you stop clenching.

Read it: do this one Sunday morning. It takes ninety seconds and resets the whole week.

6. Under the Surface (4 cards)

1 The question: the thing you said you are asking about. **2 Under it:** the real question underneath that one. **3 What you avoid:** the card you do not want to look at - look at it. **4 The next step:** one small move, not a five-year plan.

Read it: this spread is uncomfortable on purpose. That is how you know it is working.

Five more, for when the question gets specific

These are the ones you reach for once the basics feel easy.

7. The Mirror (5 cards, for one relationship)

You: what you bring into this. **Them:** what they bring. **The dynamic:** what happens between you, separate from either of you. **What it brings out:** the part of you this connection activates. **Where it heads:** the direction if nothing changes.

Read it: card 3 is the real reading. People are not their dynamic; the dynamic is its own thing.

8. Stay or Go (5 cards, the hard one)

Truth of staying: what staying actually costs and gives. **Truth of going:** what leaving actually costs and gives. **What you fear:** the fear driving the whole question. **What you lose:** something real you give up either way. **What you gain:** something real that opens either way.

Read it: this spread will not pick for you. It clears the fog so you can.

9. The Year Ahead (4 cards, by season)

Spring: what to plant - a beginning to invest in. **Summer:** what to tend - where your energy goes. **Fall:** what to harvest - what ripens if you stayed with it. **Winter:** what to rest through - what needs stillness, not action.

Read it: do this on your birthday or new year. One card per season, not per month - the year is not twelve predictions.

10. The Creative Block (4 cards)

The block: name it - usually it is not what you think. **Its real root:** the fear or belief underneath the block. **What unlocks it:** an input, a rest, a permission, a change of scene. **The first move:** one small action today, not a master plan.

Read it: *blocks are almost never about discipline. They are about what you have not let yourself admit.*

11. Closure (4 cards, when something has ended)

What ended: name the ending plainly, without the story. **What you are still holding:** the unfinished thread, the thing unsaid. **What to release:** what was never yours to carry out of the room. **What remains:** what is yours and stays - often more than you think.

Read it: *closure is not about the other person. It is about what you take forward.*

Eleven spreads. You will use three of them ninety percent of the time. The rest are for the day the question demands them.

When you draw a card you do not know

Do not reach for the book. Reach for the picture first.

Look at the card for thirty seconds before you read anything. Name what you see: who is in it, what are they doing, what is the mood, what stands out. The image is the meaning; the keywords are a shortcut to it.

Then name the suit's element and let it season what you saw:

Cups	Water - feeling, relationship, the heart
Swords	Air - thought, conflict, the sharp and true
Pentacles	Earth - body, money, work, the concrete
Wands	Fire - will, desire, action, the spark

Upright, the card's energy flows. Reversed, it is blocked, delayed, or turned inward - not broken, just tangled.

Major arcana quick-key

0 Fool - a leap

1 Magician - you have what you need

2 High Priestess - trust the not-knowing

3 Empress - nurture

4 Emperor - structure

5 Hierophant - the old way

6 Lovers - choose with the whole of you

7 Chariot - align and move

8 Strength - soft power

9 Hermit - go inward

10 Wheel - it turns

11 Justice - the truth you earned

12 Hanged Man - hang, then see

13 Death - it ends, let it

14 Temperance - mix patiently

15 Devil - the chain you chose

16 Tower - the false falls

17 Star - hope returns

18 Moon - the unclear

19 Sun - clarity, warmth

20 Judgement - the call

21 World - it is complete

Cleansing & storing your deck

Cleansing is not mystic dust. It is a reset - of the cards and of you.

When to cleanse

A brand-new deck, after a heavy reading, after someone else handled it and you felt off, or whenever the deck feels stale and you feel cluttered. You do not need a ritual every time.

How - pick one, not all

- Knock** tap the deck three times to clear the last reading
- Smoke** pass the cards through incense, sage, or palo santo
- Sound** a bell, singing bowl, or clap near the deck
- Moonlight** leave it out overnight under a full moon
- Breath & intent** hold it, breathe, set what you want from the next reading

The function is to bring your attention back. A deck you cleared is really a mind you cleared.

Storing

A cloth bag or a box, out of direct sun and damp. That is it. Letting others read with your deck is fine if you are comfortable with it - it is a tool, not a relic, unless you decide it is.

"You must be gifted your first deck."

This is a modern superstition, not a rule. Most readers today buy their own first deck - and choosing it yourself often means it fits you better than a gift would. The cards do not know who paid for them. Buy the one that calls you.

Your first reading

Print this page. Do it now, with whatever deck you have.

Pick one thing you are genuinely sitting with. Write the strong version of the question - the one that asks the cards to show, not to predict.

MY QUESTION

Choose a spread above (Past / Present / Future is a fine first one). Shuffle, draw, lay them out, and write what each card shows you - not what a book says, what YOU see.

CARD 1

CARD 2

CARD 3

Now read the three as one sentence. What is the story they tell together?

THE STORY

One small move I will actually make this week:

Three honest rules

- 1 The cards show the question more than the answer.
- 2 You decide. The deck reflects.
- 3 A reading you do not act on was just card tricks.

If this little kit helped you sit down and actually read - that is the whole point of it. It is yours, free, to keep.

If you ever want to go further, I make hand-drawn tarot and oracle decks and the guidebooks that walk with them. No pressure - the kit is the gift. The decks are there if and when.

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- Calypso