

TFL Newsletter

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15 Minutes With Rachel Pollack

By 78 Degrees

Rachel Pollack's talents are many. Not only has she written many Tarot related books, which include *78 Degrees of Wisdom*, *The Complete*

Illustrated Guide to Tarot, *The Forest of Souls - A Walk Through the Tarot*. She also has also written the texts for the *Haindl*, *Salvador Dali* and *Vertigo* decks. Ms. Pollack also created *The Shining Tribe Tarot* (formerly *Shining Woman*) deck and book set. Her fiction works include: *A Secret Woman*, 2002; *Burning Sky*, 1998 (a collection of short stories); *Godmother Night*, 1996 (Winner of the 1997 World Fantasy Award) and several comic books, including the *Doom Patrol*. Ms. Pollack's books have been translated into eight languages.

On Friday, October 10, 2003, I had the privilege of obtaining a telephone interview with world-renowned Tarot Master, Rachel Pollack. To say I was nervous when I began the conversation would

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

5	TFL Websites to Visit
6	Getting to Know Blondie
7	Reading For Self & Others
11	Secret Santa
11	Chapter 2 – Tarot Fiction

Name the Newsletter Contest

By WebWeaver

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! We would like to announce the name of our Newsletter ..um ..oh wait ..we don't have one yet ..ah hem! We would like to announce a

Name The Newsletter Contest

As excited as everyone was with our 1st newsletter and now our 2nd, we wanted to have a more exciting name. I'm sure you will agree this is a great newsletter and needs a great name! To make this even more exciting if you submit the winning Newsletter Name by popular vote you get to win something. Yep that's what I said, you WIN something. Now this being a newsletter about Tarot of course we thought the prize should be a Tarot Deck! That deck is going to be the "Radiant Rider Waite". Each of the four (4) runners up will also receive a hand made tarot bag. So now that I have everyone all happy and excited here's the low down.

You must be a member of the MSN Tarot for Life group to submit an entry. Not a member? Why not join? Just hop on over to our forum (<http://groups.msn.com/tarotforlife>) Click on the "Join Now" button on the left side of the screen.

Each member may submit an unlimited number of entries. This means if you have more then one idea for the name, go ahead and send them all in. Ready to submit an entry? Go to the contest page here: <http://www.tarotforlife.com/Oct03Contest.html>

Continued on page 5

be an understatement! However, it didn't take long for me to be totally and completely enthralled with all she had to say and my nerves were forgotten. She is truly a fascinating and diverse woman.

DG: You are a very diverse literary talent that has created fiction, nonfiction and comic books. Which of your creations brings you the most pride and why?

RP: In Tarot world, perhaps the book that has helped the most people all over the world is *78 Degrees of Wisdom*. The novel that stands out in my mind is *Godmother Night*. A fairy tale real to life set in a contemporary setting. It won World Fantasy Award. *Doom Patrol*, was a comic book about a surreal super hero and was dismissed by some. However, I have heard several people say this comic book taught them how to live and showed them what life was about. This, of course, made me very happy.



DG: Let's talk a little bit about *The Shining Tribe*. What inspired you to create it?

RP: At the time I created *The Shining Tribe*, I had been working with the Tarot for many years and felt I wanted to do my own deck. It just seemed like a good thing not to be using other people's creations all the time and try doing my own. I always loved so-called primitive, tribal, and prehistoric art. At the time I was doing a lot of pilgrimage trips to sacred sites where there was primitive art, so that became the inspiration for how my deck would look. I was very happy with the way it turned out. Many people have had a very good reaction to the deck.

DG: I understand that when you initially did the deck, the original title was *The Shining Woman Tarot*, and then it was changed to *The Shining Tribe*. Why was the name changed?

RP: Well, there were actually several reasons. One was we were doing a new edition, and I wanted to make it plain it was not the same deck

just brought out unchanged. I changed four cards completely and altered four more. That is eight, a significant number. I made color changes and other small changes in quite a few more cards. Also, it seemed a lot of people misunderstood the name *Shining Woman*, thinking it was a deck just for women. Actually my concept was that *Shining Woman* was the World card and meant basically the Goddess ... the Divinity. But a lot of people, because of our social structure, interpreted the women in it to mean that no men were allowed. I read some reviews that said there were no men in the deck, which was strange because there were quite a few images of men. I chose *The Shining Tribe* because it created a nice myth from the spirits that gave us the Tarot in the beginning, and the people that use the Tarot, creating a kind of tribal mix. I think that is a nice way to look at it.

DG: Do you have any other literary projects you are working on right now?

RP: I have a book coming out next June from Llewellyn, *The Kabbalah Tree*, which is very exciting. The book is based upon a painting entitled *The Tree of Life* by Hermann Haindl. I am also doing a book on teen Tarot ... *Tarot for Teenagers*, which is a lot of fun. And, I have several fiction projects that are in progress at the moment.

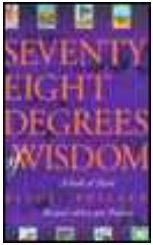
DG: Please tell us a little bit about how you came to the Tarot?

RP: I was teaching college in a very cold place, Oxford, New York. One of the teachers didn't have a car, and she would do anything for a ride home - it could be 20 degrees below zero sometimes. One day she said if I would give her a ride home, she would read my Tarot cards. Up to that time, I had never seen Tarot cards. I knew them only from T. S. Elliot's *The Waste Land*, which I had studied in college and enjoyed very much. You know it is funny because I realize I remember nothing of the reading at all ..not the slightest thing ..not a word. What I do remember is the cards and being captivated by the mysterious pictures and the text that sort of explained the images, but was just as mystifying.

Continued on Page 3

DG: What deck did she use?

RP: It was the *Rider-Waite-Smith* deck, which was really the only deck available at the time. It would be about another year or so before any other decks would come out. The book was probably *Eden Gray*, which was also one of the only books available at that time.



DG: Many tarot readers use your book *78 Degrees of Wisdom* as a foundation for both learning the tarot and as reference in doing their readings. How long had you been reading Tarot when you wrote the book?

RP: I discovered the Tarot in the spring of 1970 and immediately started reading with it and just exploring. There really wasn't that many books to read about the Tarot, so I did my own connections and things based upon what Waite had written. I did that for a few years and then in 1977 I needed a job. Rather than go for the traditional jobs, I decided to try and teach Tarot. I was living in Amsterdam at the time, and I applied at a center where they taught Yoga, Meditation, and esoteric subjects. I taught there for a year and a half or so. It was at that time I started compiling what I learned about the cards for the sake of the class. I wrote a journal of everything I knew about each card. In essence it was teaching that became the basis for *78 Degrees of Wisdom*. It was published in the first part of 1980. I started writing *Wisdom* about eight years after I started using the Tarot.

DG: If you went back now and rewrote *78 Degrees of Wisdom*, is there anything you would change?

RP: Well, probably I would do a couple of things a bit differently. At that point, the standard for tarot books was to interpret what the cards mean. I didn't question that. I just wanted to interpret them in a much deeper way than was done before. So, I decided to keep that approach. I saw my audience as people who did not know

anything about Tarot, but had a real affinity for this kind of subject. I know I would certainly keep that, but would also do more in the way of exercises for readers to find their own approach to Tarot. I have urged others to work more with the pictures before they actually read the text.

DG: How many copies have been published and been purchased?

RP: It is hard to say. I have not kept track over the years, but I believe it is a large number because it sells consistently and is printed in quite a few languages as well. Every six months, I get a royalty statement, and it does pretty well. There are many copies in German. However, there are no German editions at the moment because of various problems within the publishing field. But when it was available, *Wisdom* sold very well in Germany, Denmark, Spain and Portugal. The book has literally been around the world.

DG: What advice would you give both beginning and seasoned Tarot readers?

RP: For beginning Tarot readers, I would say to start doing it right away and not feel they have to memorize before they begin. They need to know they will grow as they do it. Their first readings might be clumsy and they might feel they are not getting anywhere. In fact, the more they do it and the more they practice the more they will come to start seeing it for themselves and understand their own approach. I would tell them to definitely use the books that appeal to them, but to not be limited to that. As for the seasoned readers, what I would suggest is to always go back to the images and not think you know all there is to know about it. If you consider that at any point, you can always have a fresh approach.

DG: Have you ever had a slump where you didn't feel like studying or even picking up your cards? Maybe the best way to phrase it is "reader's block".

Continued on page 4

RP: Well, I would not call it reader's block. But, yes, there are times perhaps no one called, or I just was not interested in reading for others or myself. Most of the time when things are not happening, I am busy doing other things. There are also times in readings when I feel I have no idea what the cards or a particular card is saying. I know what the symbolism is, but I have no idea how this applies to the person. To me that is always a clue to ask the person what they think is going on in the picture. Usually they will say something that will surprise me, and I find it is different than the traditional approaches, but is really relevant to the issue.

DG: Do you feel learning the images and their meanings are important or should intuition play a larger role?

RP: I think you should do both. I believe some people rely solely on intuition and that works for them because they never really studied anything. Other people ponder the books deeply and that works for them. But, for most people it is a mixture. Most readers need to really look at the pictures and get what it is saying to them personally and also connect with the person they are reading for. At the same time, the more you know, the more opportunity you have to find a meaning that is useful. Ideally, readers would know the symbolism backwards and forwards in every detail and then just kind of forget about it and let that serve intuition rather than control intuition.

DG: Do you follow any rituals before and after you do a reading?

RP: It varies. Usually, I try to set a nice setting for the reading. I will put down a reading cloth. I have this beautiful scarf with astrological images and tarot images that someone gave me. I will spread it out and light some candles to make a sacred space for the reading. As far as actual rituals, the main thing I do is shuffling the cards myself before and after the reading, in a sense to loosen them up and inaugurating the energy of the reading and ending the energy of the reading.

DG: Have you seen any new decks that piqued your interest?

RP: There is a deck from Germany I like very much by Marguerite Peterson. I don't think it is available in this country yet. I like the *Tarot of Prague* (<http://www.tarotofprague.com/home.html>), which is based on images from the City of Prague and the Czech Republic. I recently saw a privately made art deck called the *Mary-el Tarot* (<http://www.mary-el.com/>), which I thought was really stunning. There are always interesting decks that come out.

DG: Do you collect decks?

RP: Yes I do. I probably have about four hundred of them. I keep them all over the place! In cabinets, bookshelves, on the floor and on my desk - sort of all over the place.

DG: What about your plans for the future?

RP: I am always writing and have many more ideas than I have time to do them. Mary Greer and I hope to lead a trip next year to Ireland and Great Britain to the sacred sites and do tarot readings and explore their meanings. This would be very exciting, and I am hoping it will happen. In February, I am going to Hong Kong; March I am teaching with Kaitlain Matthews in England - I love her work. I also teach writing that keeps my schedule full with more things than I possibly have time to do, which is better than the alternative, but it still gets crazy.♥

About the Author

Debra purchased her first tarot deck in 1989, played around with the Rider/Waite deck with her neighbors for several months and tucked it away in the bottom drawer, where it stayed for about 10 years. She thought about the deck off and on during that time and sometimes felt the deck was calling to her. Since taking the Barnes & Noble class in August of 2001, the lonely Rider/Waite deck now has about 30 others to keep it company. Since she joined TFL, she feels her connection with the tarot is now a part of her life.



Entries must be received by 12:00 AM MT November 15th, 2003. So don't dawdle get your brain working and head on over to

<http://www.tarotforlife.com/Oct03Contest.html>

All entries will be reviewed by the management of TFL. This auspicious body, will narrow the choice to the top 5. Meaning you won't have to look at hundreds of names to make your choices.

These top five (5) will be posted for any of our members to vote on by November 30th, 2003.

Notification will be sent to anyone who submitted an entry as well as posted on the TFL message board, and anywhere else we can think of.

All members are welcome to place one (1) vote for their favorite Newsletter Name. So, NO ballot stuffing. One, yes One vote for each person.

Voting will close on December 15th, 2003 at 12:00 AM MT Keep your eyes out and make sure you VOTE! This is your newsletter.

Votes will be tabulated and the winner announced at the TFL Secret Santa Party. The name will also appear on the next newsletter with the winners interview. If you come to our party you get the scoop, if not... well then ya' get to "Wait and see."

Remember:

Now - Submit a Newsletter Name

11/30/03 – Vote on a Newsletter Name

Secret Santa Party – Find out the winner.♥

About the Author

WebWeaver who had two decks in and out of boxes and drawers for 18 years finally found a deck and a way to learn at the end of 2002. Thanks to the Internet she found the Spiral Tarot, TFL and the B&N course. She now feels she is on the road to learning the Tarot. Tarot has opened many doors for her and brought new people into her life. She is very grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

TFL Websites to Visit:

◆ The Shining Tribe, the Website for Rachel Pollack: <http://www.rachelpollack.com/>

◆ Sapphire Gardens Robin Duquette (aka Northern Kiara):

http://sapphire_gardens.tripod.com/index.html

◆ Tarot Court Cards

<http://members.cts.com/king/s/saoirse/TarotCourtCards.html>

◆ Alida: <http://www.alidastore.com/indexen.html>

Halloween Websites.

◆ Pumpkin Carving

<http://www.pumpkin-carving.com/>

◆ The History & Customs of Halloween

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/hallowen.htm>

◆ Halloween Carols

<http://www.night.net/halloween/halloween-carols.html-ssi>

◆ The Halloween Magazine Online

<http://www.halloween-magazine.com/>

◆ Halloween Spread

<http://home.earthlink.net/~yvonn/tarot/lay/layween.html>

Support the TFL website by
clicking through to Amazon...



Getting to Know Blondie

By WebWeaver

Blondie has been a member of TFL since June 2002 and continues with us on our life long journey of the Tarot. Blondie has been a volunteer reader since the inception of the program in October of 2002. She is proof we are an international group, if anyone had doubts. She now lives in Holland with her boyfriend. Blondie was born in 1977 in Bethlehem, South Africa and still enjoys visiting her family and friends there at least once a year. She began studying the tarot in August of 2001, when B&N had their 1st Tarot Course.

WebWeaver (WW): How did you find TFL and what keeps you here?

Blondie (B): I was invited when Grey first started the group. I joined because a big part of the JB's Tarot joined here as well. In the beginning there were a lot of double posts, but they've grown to be two separate groups with different ideas and projects. I stayed because it's a nice group, and I enjoy doing the readings.

WW: Have you been a steady student of the Tarot?

B: In the beginning I studied a lot of tarot. Did a lot of exercises, and learned a lot about tarot from books and the Internet. Lately I've spent a bit less time studying tarot because of a new job.

WW: Can you share a story about learning or an ah ha moment?

B: A couple of months ago we decided to get a kitten. Before we went to look at one, I asked the Tarot to give me insight on how it would go. I got the Lovers. At first I thought it meant that we would like one of the kittens. Afterwards when I looked back at what happened and the card. It fit even better than imagined. The two kittens

(<http://www.lindie.cistron.nl/kittens>) left were such good friends, that we decided to take both. The other funny thing was that we later discovered that one kitten has the same starsign as me and the other kitten has the same starsign as my boyfriend. Maybe there is more to the Lovers Card than I first thought. Just shows how much the cards sometimes know ...

WW: You are a volunteer reader here at TFL, why do you volunteer?

B: I like being able to give people insight into their problems. It's a great way to practice and learn more about the cards.

WW: Do you have any pre-reading ritual?

B: Not really a ritual, but I sometimes light some candles and incense.

WW: Why do you think this helps?

B: It somehow helps me to concentrate.

WW: What advise would you give to someone who was thinking about being a volunteer reader in our readers group?

B: It's not always easy, and sometimes the readings don't make sense to you at all, but that's because it's not your life. Sometimes you don't get any feedback, so you will have to get used to not knowing if the reading was any good. That's why I really appreciate the feedback that I do get.

WW: What card do you relate to the most closely or that you have to see before you buy a deck?

B: The Moon. I always thought it was coincidence, until I found out that the Moon is assigned to Pisces. Which happens to be my starsign. Since then I've done some extra reading on this card, and I always have to see it before buying a deck.

Some Additional Information: Blondie is a Computer Programmer and spends most of

Continued on Page 7

her time behind a PC. Although she would love to spend all day with her cards, she does enjoy her work. Power Yoga and running are other areas of interest to her. JB's Tarot for Beginners, another group on MSN, is lucky to call her Assistant Manager. Another group in the several tarot groups she belongs to is Comparative Tarot on Yahoo.

Favorite Deck: Arcus Arcanum - The first time I saw this deck for real, the pictures seemed to come alive. It was love at first sight. I use this deck for personal readings only.

Working Deck: Hanson Roberts - I use this deck when reading for others. I think it's because the symbolism is similar to the RWS, but the images are friendlier and dreamier. For my dailies I use a different deck every month. At the moment I'm using my Halloween deck for the 1st time. It arrived too late for Halloween last year.

Number of Decks Owned: 115

Favorite Book is William Shakespeare – The Complete Works: I just love the “old English” My favorite sonnet is number CXIII.

Favorite Tarot Book is Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom: I use for insight into the cards. I don't really have a favorite. There are certain books I use more than others. *Romancing the Tarot* and *Power Tarot* for spreads are two additional books.

Fire, Wands or Swords? Wands: I guess it's because I first learned it that way, and because I can't see how swords could be fire.

Strength 8 or 11? 8: I got used to it in that position. Also the sign above the woman's head is an 8 turned sideways. I think that makes the connection stronger.

RWS, TdM, or Thoth? RWS: In the TdM I don't like the pips, and I haven't started liking the Thoth yet.♥ *Editor's Note: Check out Blondie's Tarot Site. (<http://www.lindie.cistron.nl/tarot>)*

Reading for Self and Others

By Kiara Duquette

Reading for Self – My Practice

My daily card draws have evolved from a one-card draw from when I first began to study the tarot 6 year ago, to a current three card draw that I leave out on my bedroom dresser on a silk reading cloth. This is a location where I can easily see them, as I get ready to start my day and then also to reflect upon before retiring in the evening. The deck I use for this is “the Enchanted Tarot”. It was my very first tarot deck and is my favorite for personal readings as well as this three-card draw.

Sometimes the three cards all play out in the same day and all relate to one event or aspect of my life that day. They often appear to be an unfolding of one energy or theme. Other times, the cards might take a day or two to manifest their particular energies and the cards may each represent a different aspect or event. This is more apt to be the case when life is a bit hectic. Other times the first card drawn comes up as a challenge or problem card and the other two following it suggest a resolution and sometimes a probable outcome. I draw a new set of three cards when I feel that the energies of the cards have dissipated so the set might be left out for one to several days. There have been many times when card three in the sequence will return as card one in the very next three-card draw. This indicates to me that a particular energy is still hanging around and having some influence in my life and basically “it's not through with me yet!”

For more formal and topic specific readings I like to use the Morgan Greer, Robin Wood, or Osho Zen deck. A favorite place to do readings is at my kitchen table. The kitchen feels warm and often appears to be the heart of the house; a perfect place for the energies of a Tarot reading to be welcomed. Occasionally I will do a reading on my bed in the evening just before going to sleep

Continued on Page 8

because that is where I am at the moment and it feels comfortable and right. But I always put the cards on a reading cloth where ever I am.

Favorite Spreads:

The Problem Solver: When I have a particular small “now” problem that I’d like insight into, I do a very simple three-card spread.

Draw three cards at random and lay them out in a row left to right.

Card 1 represents the problem or the energy that is fueling the problem.

Card 2 represents the way through the problem.

Card 3 represents the probable outcome.

There are several situations when this reading is appropriate. Some of them are:

1. When you feel like “something” is amiss in a situation, but you can’t put your finger on it.
2. You think you know what the problem is but it is something else entirely.
3. It can confirm for you what the problem area is when you already had some idea to begin with.

The Choice Spread: I use this spread when I must make a decision between choices, options or paths. This reading reveals the negative effects or challenges, the positives, and the probable outcome.

For each choice, option, or path, three cards are drawn

Card 1- The negative effects or challenges of this option.

Card 2 - The positives of this option.

Card 3 - The probable outcome.

My 10 Card Celtic Cross can be seen at this link. It is actually a work sheet that you can print out for your own use:

http://sapphire_gardens.tripod.com/wsc10.htm

Open Reading: I lay out three cards in a row and then begin the reading based on those three cards.

If the Querent (or myself as the Seeker) feels satisfied with what those cards reveal in regards to their question or concern and need for insight, the reading concludes. If the Querent needs more information, or something “deeper” I lay out another row of three cards. I will go yet another row of three if the Querent feels the need, which makes the spread a 3 x 3 card-spread totaling 9 cards. If the spread goes this far then the matter is something quite complex and significant and “runs deep” meaning the Querent is engaged in a life lesson important for the soul.

My Tarot Philosophy:

I view the tarot as one way among many, and when used properly, a very effective tool for self and other awareness. When tarot readings are incorporated with other forms of information and insight gathering, one can feel a healthy sense of completeness and peace with each reading given.

I don’t ask the Tarot yes or no questions as I feel that this limits what the Tarot has to offer and what I really need to know. I also stay away from asking time specifics of the Tarot. It is my belief that it is the ego that needs to know black and white, yes or no, and the exact moment in which something may occur. The secure and wise self knows that these things are not important and that there is much more to be aware of that resides between yes and no and time specifics.

I also do not view the cards upside down, commonly known as reversals. If one happens to turn up in a reading that way, I turn it upright. As an artist, I do not feel comfortable viewing a work of art upside down, and each Tarot card seems like a small masterpiece to me. (Seeing an upside down card makes me want to stand on my head!) My feeling is that there is an infinite variety of meaning in the cards in the upright positions and I have found that when a challenge or difficulty arises in a card, I am able to intuitively sense it and read the card as such.

For instance, the Sun known for its illuminating energies, can also cause sun burn, or one can

Continued on Page 9

“wear rose colored glasses” viewing a situation with out seeing its darker and harmful effects. In reading the cards I can sense the full spectrum of meaning in each, from its most negative and shadowy energies to its most positive and bright and in a reading, a point in that spectrum speaks out and is read.

I do feel it is important then to know the challenge in each tarot card, even those cards that appear positive. In cards that appear most negative, one must recognize the value in life challenges, which encourage growth, resilience, and strength. This would be the finding of a golden treasure in the dark and frightening places of experiences. Most people find that the facing of fears and overcoming of challenges to have much value in the end.

There are now many good books currently available that deal with tarot reversals, which any reader can learn something beneficial from whether or not they view some cards upside down (as in reversals) or not.

Reading for Others:

(Note: I refer to the person I am reading for using both terms Querent and Seeker interchangeably.)

I am very flexible and relaxed when it comes to reading for others. I feel out the Querent to decide what deck and spread would be most appropriate and I briefly go over my code of ethics before I read for someone that I have not read for before. I also tell them that the Death card represents “transition” or “ending” and may not specifically represent the physical death of a person.

I also tell them that they don't have to tell me what their question or concern is and that they can keep it to themselves if they like. I find that many Querents do not feel completely comfortable open up at first and like this option of keeping a concern that is deep and sensitive to them selves. Other times they want a reading to focus on a certain aspect of their life such as work or family and will state the focus. My feeling is that the

cards are going to reveal the deep things in some way in any event, so there is really no need for me to know all the details up front.

I invite the Querent to actively participate in the reading by speaking about any card that catches their attention I position myself and the cards so we can both easily view them. I am able to slip into “that quiet space” with out the extras of candles, incense, or music but I do like it quiet in the room with out TV or loud noises. The simple act of shuffling and touching the cards and then seeing the images quiets, clears, and centers me.

I shuffle the deck first to charge them for a new reading and then I give the deck to the Querent who then shuffles the deck and selects cards for the reading. I tell them they may fan the cards face down in front of them to select them that way or just draw them off the top of the stack, which ever they feel like.

When reading for others I have noted that I feel lightly tingly, energized and focused. It feels like starting out a small adventure, a guided walking with the seeker. I begin each reading knowing that what the cards present will not be sugar coated and that the Querent will absorb only what they can know at the time.

I lay all the cards out in spread positions face up so we can see them all at once. (This procedure applies to readings other than the open reading, which is described previously in this article.) There is usually several minutes of quiet while we look the cards over and then I begin the reading. Sometime during or at the end of the reading the Querent will often comment on a particular card or two that catches and holds their attention through out the reading. This is very telling and lets me know where the real importance for them lies that may even be different than the stated focus of the reading.

With difficult and challenging cards I have learned to use language that invites the Querent to make their own value judgments in terms of positive or negative, about a situation, aspect, or

For Self and Others – Continued from Page 9

energy. For instance, the Three of Swords, which traditionally represents betrayal, I would say, “There is some emotionally difficulty here, manifesting as feelings of deep hurt.” I do this with out initially pointing out who or what is the cause of this emotional pain or what the nature of the pain is, because the Querent will often voice it first if I allow the space for them to do so. This keeps the Querent from being put on the defensive and therefore blocking off what the tarot has to say to them.

When all the cards have been reviewed I go over the big picture of the reading, noting suit presence and picking out card pairs and patterns. We briefly review the strong points of the reading and the problem areas that need tweaking and work. I end each reading by reinforcing the positive guidance the reading offers. When the reading concludes I collect the cards and make sure all of them are upright and I shuffle the deck myself to clear them of the reading energies.

I get the most satisfaction from Tarot when I am teaching others to read for themselves. When I do a reading for someone and they show a keen interest and natural intuitive ability with the cards, I will follow this through and encourage them to learn to read for themselves.

The Tarot for me feels like “a waking dream”. Working with these symbols makes one pay attention to the colorful details, events, and arrangements of life and to realize that even we, as we are, each and every one of us, is a symbol in the dream of the universe.

Kiara Duquette

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About the Author:

Kiara Duquette is a Tarot enthusiast and instructor currently teaching a Tarot for Beginners course at the Netscape Learning Center.

She is a life long learner with a love for exploring through mindful and loving participation, observance, art, and the written word. She is self-taught with special interests in psychology, symbolism, and spirituality. Kiara happily resides in Vermont with her husband where she enjoys gardening, guitar playing, skiing, yoga, art, reading, writing, and web design, and is employed as an administrative assistant in special education.

Sapphire Gardens:

http://sapphire_gardens.tripod.com/

Tarot Course at Netscape Learning Center:

<http://learningcenter.netscape.com/courses/overview.jsp?courseId=2302>



Secret Santa

By Greyhound

Last year here at Tarot for Life, we held a “Secret Santa” gift exchange during the holidays. The gift exchange dollar limit was \$20 ... Last year PrincessLuna facilitated, so that I could participate as well. The event culminated in a Secret Santa Party, which was held around Christmas. We all met online and opened our presents together. Our Santas revealed their identities at the party .. Some of us created a new email address through which we could torture ... I mean tease our respective recipients with cards, games, holiday-related web sites and find out if our items had arrived safely. It was a hoot! I think PrincessLuna may like to get involved in the exchange as a participant this year, so I’ve already persuaded GolferBoy to play Santa. There will be a sign up list at the Tarot for Life Community (<http://groups.msn.com/TarotForLife/secretsantasignup.msnw>), and you may post your wish lists here (<http://groups.msn.com/TarotForLife/secretsantawishlist.msnw>). (Please keep in mind the dollar limit when you submit your wish list items.) There will be a deadline for getting your real name and addresses to GolferBoy, and the Secret Santa Party date will be announced sometime in the near future. I’m looking forward to this year’s festivities and can’t wait to start shopping!♥

About the Author: *Greyhound has been reading Tarot for about 2 ½ years. Greyhound feels her natural tendency is to approach life very analytically. The study of Tarot has helped her to bring more balance and intuition to her life. She considers herself a student of the Tarot, rather than a teacher and feels confident that anyone can learn to read the Tarot if they want to badly enough.*



Chapter 2 – Tarot Fiction

By Greyhound

Card drawn: Queen of Wands from the Spiral Tarot

Adara ran from the boarding house to her mare tied outside. The Moon was full as she spurred her down the path, but she and the mare knew this path well. She shot off a supplication to the gods to keep Devin at the wise woman’s house long enough for her to catch up. She berated herself for not having revealed her secret sooner ... With luck on her side and her mare rested, she should be able to travel much faster than Devin.

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Devin continued down the road in silence. He hoped Maupin was right, that the wise woman could assist him in his quest. He knew it was probably a hopeless one, but he also knew how much he’d regret not trying ... If only he knew the full extent of what must be done.

Devin thought back to the carefree days of his youth ...the joy and pleasantness of that time. His mother was a great beauty and full of life. Her sparkling laughter and vivacious spirit was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her death giving birth to his younger brother was a terrible blow. Even more so to his father ... But this quest was not about her, it was about him, and what would surely happen if he didn’t find a way to end the terrible cycle. All the men in the royal family either died or lost their minds upon reaching their fortieth year. Those that died appeared to have done so in great pain and torment ...those that lived ...well ...they could never speak with any rationality about what happened to them. At best those that lived were never more than vegetables afterward. Devin knew his father’s time was coming and coming quickly. His father had accepted his fate, and was planning on handing over his kingdom to Devin when his birthday

Continued on Page 11

came ... The problem was greater than his family though. His kin were becoming fewer ... adopted sons suffered the same fate as natural ones and not many were willing to take the risk of dying or madness so young.

Devin had believed for years that a curse was what held his family and his kingdom captive. This story was told and retold in hushed whispers and dark rooms around the castle, but no one in Devin's family appeared to take the story seriously. His great-great-grandfather had roused the ire of an evil sorceress many, many years ago. She was quite taken with him, but he did not return her affections. She became obsessed .. with her magics she appeared to him as different women, all beautiful and charming, but Devin's ancestor always saw the hard core underneath and was not enticed by her. She held out hope until he had met and married Devin's great-great-grandmother, and on their wedding day the Sorceress had declared that he would not live to see his grandchildren grow up, nor would any male of the family enjoy such a pleasure. No one gave it any thought until Devin's great-great-grandfather had died on the evening of his fortieth birthday. The Sorceress was never found. Of course, everyone thought surely she must have died a long time ago ...

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The carriage jerked to a stop in front of a small cottage in the wood. From the outside it looked surprisingly cheery and warm, although Devin wasn't sure what he expected. He got out, gathering his valise and paying the driver. A slight drizzle began to fall as he approached the cottage door. Before he could knock, the door opened and a voice called out "Come in and have some tea, young one!"

He had to duck his head to enter, but was able to stand straight once inside. The woman laughed a hearty chortle and remarked that she didn't have tall visitors very often. She motioned to a table already set for three and lifted the heavy water pot off the stove, deftly filling the waiting teapot.

"Why have you set three places?" asked Devin. "You brought no one with you?" asked the wise woman. "Should I have?" asked Devin, slightly confused. "No matter" said the woman ... "She'll be along shortly, I expect." Trust that girl to be late to her own funeral ... she muttered under her breath. The wise woman was younger than Devin anticipated ... she was about his father's age and attractive, with long blondish hair and pale blue eyes. She had a generous figure and a ready laugh. She grinned at his discomfort and said, "I'm not what you expected, am I?"

"Since time we have, young one ... let us see what the cards will say." She didn't wait for a response before bringing out a small bag. She shuffled and shuffled, moving her lips in apparent prayer, then suddenly stopped and set the deck down. "Cut the deck, son. We will then see how to proceed." The deck looked just like those used in court to play a card game. Devin had heard about the cards having other, more mysterious uses ... As she laid out the cards, a feeling of energy crackling surrounded him. He leaned in closer. Her eyes intently focused on the cards as she began to speak. Her voice sounded like it was coming from far away. "The Fool", she said, "You are beginning a journey that you have no idea how to begin." "In fact" she continued ... "You have no idea how to accomplish your goal, do you?" She went on ... "The Knight of Swords ... I see you wish to rescue your family from the curse upon it. Take action rather than stand idly by." "But", as she laid the 7 of Swords, "you are surrounded by deceit". The Queen of Wands was the next, "You will have help from a female companion and the Chariot shows that you are more powerful than you know." "The Fool is not wise, but he has great faith that he can do much. Now I want you to choose one more card, young one ..." The wise woman spread out the cards on the table and gestured for him to pick one. He chose and turned over the High Priestess. "You will meet a priestess to help you on your journey, son ... seek her wisdom first ..." and with that the wise woman gathered up her cards into a neat stack and said "Now ... time for some tea." As they sipped tea

Continued on Page 13

and chatted, the wise woman asked how Devin planned to travel. He realized that he hadn't thought that far ahead. The wise woman removed her scarf and handed it to Devin. "Give this to the man further along the road", she said. "He owes me a favor and will know it is I doing the asking. He'll provide a decent horse for you." Devin thanked her and finished his tea. Getting up to leave, she said "Not quite yet, young one. I have gifts for you, but I must ask something in return." Devin nodded his head, wondering what he'd just agreed to. "First, a lock of your hair, child." He bent his head to her waiting scissors ... Then she wrapped the lock of hair in a red thread and set it upon her mantle. She went to her closet and pulled out a long, thin bundle wrapped in an oilcloth. "This sword was crafted from the finest steel and the oldest magics ..." she said. "It is reputed to have the power to kill utterly, an evil force. But take much care, when you use it, child ... wield it wrongly and its force will turn upon you. Wield it rightly and you will succeed." She reached into her pocket and pulled out an unusual looking stone. "This will help you know whom you can trust" and she pressed the stone into his hand. "Try it with me now, son ... you must learn how it feels. Hold the stone in your left hand ... now think of someone you trust ..."

Devin pressed tightly onto the stone and thought of Maupin, whose company he had just left. The stone warmed and felt suddenly hot ... he opened his hand and saw that the stone was lit from within, shining brightly. "Now, someone you know to be untrustworthy ..." Devin saw the stone turn from brilliant to black in an instant and felt the coldness immediately penetrate his skin. "I don't know how to thank you", Devin was overwhelmed by her gifts. "Oh, you'll pay me back, young one", her bright laughter filled the room. "Come see me after all is said and done", she said. "Now you'd best get walking ... dark is falling ..." Devin took up his coat and bag and ducked back out the door into the drizzling rain.

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Adara reached the cottage in the woods, burst

breathlessly into the kitchen and cried, "Is all lost? Have I missed him entirely?" "My dear, all is not lost. As usual, I've fixed things. He travels on foot and we have time. Sit and have tea with me, darling." Adara sat down in her favorite chair and absently stirred honey into her tea. She was young, about eighteen, and a redhead with flashing green eyes. She did everything with enthusiasm and passion and frequently second-guessed her instincts. "Was I wrong not to tell him the truth, Mother?" she asked. "No child, he would have been frightened and not accepted your help. Worry not, you will find him soon. Place this lock of hair in this locket and always wear it. If you are separated, you will always know in what direction he lies ..." "He will no doubt be surprised at your presence and your special abilities, dear, but keep our relationship a secret ... he's off to find a Priestess to guide him to his next step. You know the holy place he must journey to ... to see She who Knows ... Guard him well, my dear ..." "I will, mother" "This quest of his benefits both our families, though he does not know it yet ... Don't forget to pack your bow, dear ..." "Mother!" Adara rolled her eyes in protest, but her mother was right ... she was about to walk out without it. She gathered up her things (bow included) and hugged the wise woman, her mother tightly. "Pray we succeed, mother!" she said as she strode purposefully out into the rain. I'll be doing more than that, child ... the wise woman thought to herself.♥

Word Puzzle Solution from July Issue

A R C A N A M I N O R + H S +
 N G N I K S + + S + D + T W +
 K E C N A R E P M E T N G O +
 W N E E C A U L V O A + N R T
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 H I G H + + + + + R + + I O
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The Ultimate Halloween Word Search



batwings
blackcat
bones
broom
caldron
coffin
costumes
creepy
crypt
dracula
frighten
frogeyes
ghosts
ghoul
goblins
grave
groans
halloween
haunted
hoot
howl
jackolantern
lizardfeet
moans
monster
moon
mummy
night
owl
potions
pumpkin
scary
screech
skeleton
spider
spirits
spooky
tombstone
trick or treat
vampire
webs
werewolf
witch
zombie

y f t i s p i d e r c r y p t m
i k r g h o u l h b t h g i n u
n s p o o k y s s t i r i p s m
h n g b g n i k p m u p n o o m
c a g l w e r e w o l f o t x y
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z s t s o h g d h e r r h o w l
t p g t o m b s t o n e v a r g

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Tarot for Life:

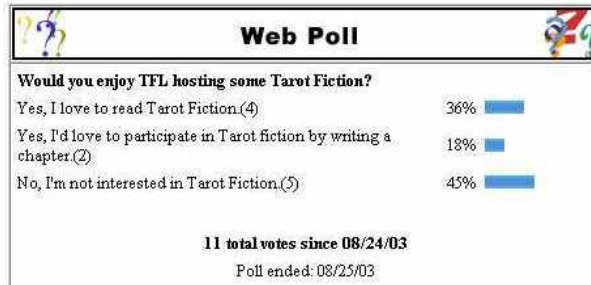
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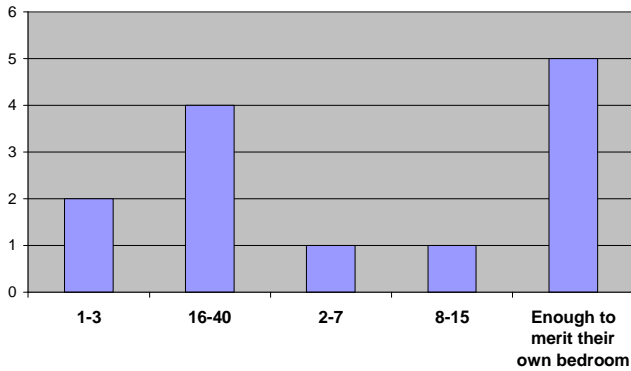
Results of the Poll on Tarot Fiction:



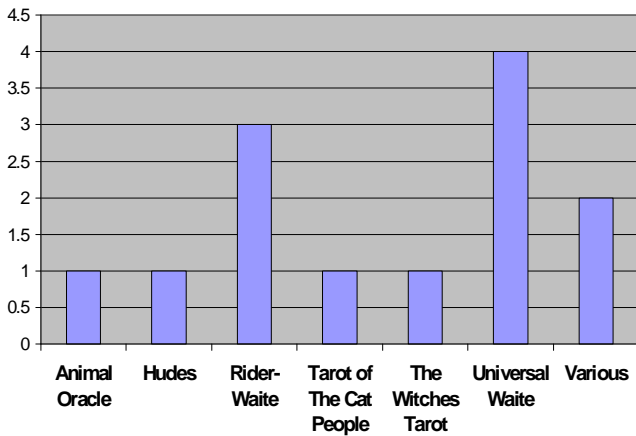
Note: Tarot fiction is not something the membership apparently wishes to participate in currently, however, we may continue the story begun last newsletter as a regular newsletter column.

July Issue Poll Results

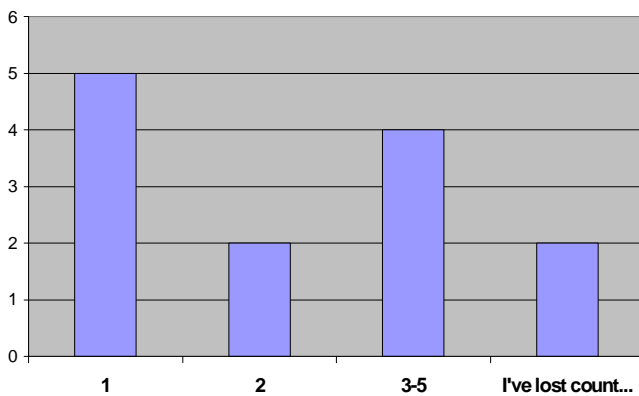
How many decks live at your house?



Which one gets to come out and play the most?



How many pieces of furniture are devoted to holding them?



What do you feed them?

- crystals
- ambrosia and nectar
- Fairy Dust
- clean T-shirts & comfortable undies
- imagination (2)
- Our thoughts
- A few hopes, all my dreams and just a smidge of troubles
- LOVE
- love and awe
- Incense, a little sandalwood oil and lots of love
- love, curiosity, enthusiasm, and fairy dust
- dark chocolate, steak, cashews, giggles and hugs, critter fur, kid fingerprints, good music