



Wise Woman's card back

## Tarot For Life

### And the winner is.....

by WebWeaver

Well there it is! Our wonderful new name! I think it's perfect, although we did have quite a few really good entries. Twenty-One to be exact, which made it difficult to choose. Six members entered our contest. Who do we have to thank for this? Seasii, who lives out Alaska way. I'm sure you've seen some of her posts about lovely -26° weather. So if you happen to run into Seasii, make sure you thank her and don't forget to ask her how she likes the Radiant Rider Waite deck. That's the deck she chose as her prize.

### Hey.....

- Don't forget chats every Friday in the Tarot for Life chat room start at 10:00 est.
- Valentines is just around the corner. Remember to send those you love a reminder of how special they are.
- Got a new deck or spread? Come to the forum and share your thoughts.

## An Evening with Flash Silvermoon

by Greyhound

Some of you may not have heard of Flash Silvermoon... she is the force behind a Tarot deck with which I have recently become acquainted. Flash is more than a Tarot deck creator, however... she is a musician, songwriter, animal communicator, gifted psychic and teacher. Flash Silvermoon wrote the Wise Woman's Tarot companion book. In it, her passion for teaching and for her animal friends comes through. The art for the deck itself was painted by Barbara Vogel, and was based on Flash's writing and studies. It was my pleasure to interview her one recent evening and hear more about how her unique deck, the Wise Woman's Tarot came into being. I wish you all could have been on the phone with me, because I had to shorten the interview quite a bit. We talked until we ran out of tape. Flash was a very gracious subject.

do and it was just a natural thing for me. I probably did Psychometry\* a time or two before I did the Tarot. It just really fit. I know people that say you should always be given your first deck. I was given my first deck and used it for several months. Then my book and deck disappeared... never to be seen again. I thought I should wait for a bit, and one day I was walking by a bookstore when I saw Tarot cards in the window. I thought, "Oh, I'm not going to wait for someone to give me another deck". So I bought the deck and took it home and that night someone called and asked "Are you still reading cards?" That was confirmation... I've read solidly ever since. It's always been easy for me.



Photo of Flash Silvermoon

GH: I'm so glad you said that, because a lot of people are told they need to be gifted with a deck...  
 FS: People can get into so many rules... my feeling about magic in general is that if it feels magical to you, then it is! If I tell you... you must wrap your Tarot cards only in white silk... a lot of people have heard that. That's the only way to do it... that's the best. But what if you don't like white silk? Then it's

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If you haven't visited Flash's website ( <http://www.flashsilvermoon.com> ), you really must. There are images of her deck, information about her classes... you can listen to some of her music and even enter her monthly contest to win one of her Wise Woman's Tarot decks.

Greyhound: How did you first start working with the Tarot?

Flash Silvermoon: I was probably about eighteen years old, and I'd always been a little bit different... I'd always known about and been interested in the metaphysical realm. I knew someone who worked with the Tarot and actually let me see what I could

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\*"A method of sensing or 'reading' from physical objects the history of each object"

Wife, Mother, Nurse Practitioner, Camper & Tarot Enthusiast

## Meet Mared Mist

by 78 Degrees

**P**eggy Benyounes, who most of you know as Mared Mist, has been a member of TFL Since September 2002. Mared became one of our volunteer readers in November of that same year. She is 38 years old, born in Illinois, and recently moved to Louisiana from Texas where she lived for 20 years. Mared leads a busy life. She is called Mom by two young children ages 7 and 9, and has been happily married for 16 years. In addition to being mom and wife, Peggy is a nurse practitioner. She has a 27-year-old sister that also enjoys Tarot, and is a member of TFL. In her spare time (my 1st thought was "what spare time") she tends to her cat Charcoal (who thinks he is a human), enjoys reading fiction, watching movies, cooking with her husband and in the spring and summer loves hiking, camping and spending time outdoors.

**78:** I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED YOUR MEMBER NAME "MARED MIST". HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THIS NAME AND WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES IT HOLD FOR YOU?

**MM:** My real name is Margaret, but I grew up as Peggy. When looking for a Tarot name, I wanted something that sounded exotic. I started with a name search on the Internet and found the Scottish version for Margaret was Mared. Then I had a string of thoughts run together...."My name is Margaret and my ancestors are from Scotland....The Scottish version of Margaret is Mared....Scotland is sometimes foggy...Foggy and



Mared at work 2003

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## Secret Santa Party 2003 by Ms. Ritz



"Sleigh bells ring! Are you listening? In the lane snow is glistening. A beautiful sight; we're happy tonight; walking in a winter wonderland." One could

almost hear that being sung in the background at our Secret Santa (SS) Party on Friday, 12/19/03 during chat. If you missed it, you missed one of TFL's annual traditions.

I used to wonder how a SS could work in chat. Believe me when I say that, not only does it work, it's a marvelous way to enjoy the season of giving with people you have never met and share the one passion we all have in common and that is the love of tarot.

We had 18 TFL members sign up for the gift exchange. Two were from Canada, one from Australia, one from the Netherlands, and the rest from all over the USA. The SS wish list displayed everyone's desire to increase their collection of different tarot decks.

Our SS coordinator was none other than Greyhound's husband, Ruben "El Magnifico." Thank you Ruben for the great job and for playing such a fabulous Santa! Greyhound saved the chat if anyone would like to check it out. Just email Greyhound at [greyhound@tarotforlife.com](mailto:greyhound@tarotforlife.com)

Because we knew some that came to the SS party were in different time zones and sacrificed sleep to be there, we allowed them to be the first to open their gifts that arrived by mail. Each person described the package, wrapping, and contents. The only "torture" we experienced was caused by the slow pokes that don't want to just tear into the package. A good time was had by all. Don't miss the next one!

*F reams & S parties*

## Catdoc's Majors

by Ms. Ritz

**D**id you know catdoc has finished creating her majors? This is actually a follow up to our first newsletter issued in July 2003 and the interview I did with catdoc. If you're new and missed that issue, click on the following link: <http://www.tarotforlife.com/Newsletter/TFLNewsletter1.pdf>

TFL started a create-your-own-tarot-deck project the first week of September 2002. Anyone who wished to participate signed up for the project and started with the Fool. Artists were encouraged to use any medium they wished like watercolor, pens/pencils, acrylics, pastels, rubber stamps, crayons and even collages. Each artist has his or her own page at TFL.

Catdoc not only created each card of the majors using cats as her theme throughout, but has also created a superb description to go with each. She completed her majors early January 2004. If you haven't seen them, you must click on this site: <http://www.tarotforlife.com/DPCatdoc.html>

We at TFL hope with all our hearts that Catdoc gets to publish her beautiful creation. There are several of us that are just dying to be the first to buy her deck...me included! Congratulations catdoc for being one of the first to complete her majors! We can't wait until you complete the minors.

Congratulations are also in order for Deb aka 78Degrees. For Deb has also completed her majors on this project. If anyone out there is interested in creating your own deck, it's not too late to start. This project is open ended and we would be happy to display your work.



The World

## Fante\* Di Spade Rx

by Dan Pelletier

Pssst, over here in the darkened doorway...act innocent.

You want a "Golden Tarot"? My sources tell me February. Yes, it's been pushed back again.

You no doubt have heard, that Felis Arca has been re-named. It will be released as the "Medieval Cat Tarot." When?

Well now, you know those huge multi-billion dollar businesses that care oh-so-much about you personally? As usual, they have it wrong. "Enchanted Forest", "Celestial Tarot", and "Medieval Cat Tarot" will not be out in March. My sources (of course they are close to the top) tell me that the release dates will be announced in June.

Slated for a March release and still on schedule is the release of Robert M. Place's new "Buddha Tarot" from Llewellyn.

The "Enochian Skrying Tarot", also from Llewellyn is supposed to have been released this month – but has anybody seen one? It just came out...

Lo Scarabeo Pagan Tarot and Druid Tarot are scheduled to be available for April.

Shhhh...here comes somebody – act innocent.

You know the folks of Baba Studios? Alexandr Ukolov and Karen Mahony? The creators of "The Tarot of Prague"? They are hard at work again. They are busy creating the "Baroque Bohemian Cats Tarot". But that's not all. They are also creating a deck based on the works of a Czech artist by the name of Zdenek Mezl, who in Karen's words is, "an artist here who has a very distinctive style and uses woodblocks - of lace-like fineness." Truly wonderful stuff.

Want a peek? Let me open my coat here...

Ooops, here's my bus...see you later...

\*Knave [This is said to be the card of rumor]

Don't forget your  
Deck and Book  
Check out  
<http://www.tarotforlife.com/FirstDeck.html>  
For some good 1st deck info



"The Chariot from the Baroque Bohemian Cats' Tarot"

"Scans provided courtesy of  
The Tarot Garden" [http://  
www.tarotgarden.com](http://www.tarotgarden.com)



"The World from an as-yet untitled  
tarot based on the work of  
Zdenek Mezl"

### BARNES & NOBLE UNIVERSITY-TAROT FOR BEGINNERS CLASS by 78 Degrees

B&N University has announced it will be offering TAROT FOR BEGINNERS again. The class, which is free, will begin February 2, 2004 and continue until March 8, 2004. The course was created by Joan Bunning author of the book TAROT FOR BEGINNERS.

Joani Cunningham will be the instructor for this session. Joani shares knowledge gained from seven years of Tarot reading and four years of teaching others through her website, [http://  
www.queenofpentacles.com](http://www.queenofpentacles.com)

Quite a few of our members have signed up for this session, and we will be discussing the lessons on our message board. If you would like to join us, check out this link, [http://  
www.barnesandnobleuniversity.com/](http://www.barnesandnobleuniversity.com/). The class can be found under the Life Improvement section.

This class is a great way to meet people, sharpen your tarot skills and have fun while learning. Sign up soon as the class begins on February 2, 2004.

## Chapter 3 – Tarot Fiction

by Greyhound

Card drawn: Seeker of Swords (Melanippe) from the Wise Woman's Tarot

Devin found the hut along the road and handed over the scarf to the man and was provided a sturdy steed, just as the wise woman had promised. He thought of finding shelter for the night, but as the horse was fresh, he rode on. His thoughts turned back to Adara... he wondered if he'd ever see her again. Leaving her at school without so much as a word was one of the hardest things he'd ever done. Even though they just met this term, he felt he'd found a kindred. A tear fell unbidden down his cheek and he quickly wiped it away. Dwelling on the past was fruitless... a lesson he wished his father had learned. His father sunk further and further into depression as the days passed and the only twinkle in his eye was when telling a story about Devin's mother. He thought again about Adara and forgave his father's flaws just a little...



huge black panther. It raised its head and hissed at the remaining thieves, glaring at them with its golden eyes. The other men scattered and began edging toward their ponies. The leader reached for his knife and found his arm in the mouth of the big cat. He let the knife drop. The cat leaped between Devin, with sword still drawn, and the men, growling until they scurried off into the night. As quickly as the big cat made an appearance, it strode purposefully off into the woods again, leaving Devin alone at the fire.

Devin shook his head in wonderment. Had he imagined the whole thing? Could the madness in his family strike the young, he wondered? Before he had a chance to collect his thoughts, he heard a horse's hooves and wondered if the men were returning. He hid himself in the brush, just to be safe. Into the clearing... no, perhaps he was still imagining things... it couldn't be...

Devin reached for the sword that hung at his side, patting it to reassure himself of its presence. He'd brandished it briefly as soon as he was out of the sight of the wise woman's cottage. It did require a bit of strength to swing, but it was well balanced and the blade was flawless. The engravings on the flat of the blade were strange and not in any language he knew. Devin remembered that between the city he'd left and the next town was a place he might camp and water the horse and set his intention to get there before stopping for the night.

Adara knew her mare was rested from her earlier gallop, so she flew down the road hoping to catch Devin before full dark. As she approached the oft-used camp, she saw signs of a lit campfire and slowed down. She heard the sounds of laughter and several men in that direction. Oh, dear... she thought to herself... I hope Devin's not with them. Knowing her mare's hoof beats would be detected, and particularly since her mare couldn't sound like a carthorse if she tried, Adara tied her in a secluded spot and crept quietly toward the fire. Carefully looking through the branches, she saw Devin... the fire highlighted a hard line around his mouth and he didn't look happy. The men seemed to be talking among themselves about something important. All at once, they approached Devin and pointed at his sword. "Tis a toll road, I say!" shouted one. "And that's just the payment we had in mind" said another, jabbing his companion in the ribs. The group began to advance on Devin... he backed up, pulling the sword with a fluid motion and for an instant, the band of marauders hesitated. However, they must have reasoned that the odds still favored them, because two broke off and began to flank Devin from the sides.

Suddenly, from the brush, a black blur leapt at the leader of the group, snarling and pinning him to the ground. On his chest was a

Adara dismounted near the fire and saw the other horse tied across the clearing. She led her mare over and fastened her nearby. She saw a shadow step into the light and it was Devin... finally! "Adara, what on earth?" "Devin, I had to come... I'm sorry, I should have told you..." "Told me what?" he asked. "I can't answer everything now", Adara whispered. "You have to trust me. I know what you're trying to do. I can help..." her voice trailed off weakly. She hoped she didn't sound as frightened as she felt. What if he didn't allow her to come? She had to convince him!

"Adara, how can you possibly know what I'm seeking?"

"I know you travel to the high mountain to meet with the Priestess", Adara said stubbornly. Devin shook his head. She was a strange girl, this one. Always knowing things before he said them...

They finally sat down close to the fire for warmth. Devin noted that Adara clearly hadn't come directly from school... she was packed for a journey and had weapons and protective gear. Compared to him, with his school clothes and a valise (not at all good for rough travel), he realized he hadn't prepared very well. Devin didn't know what her motive was right now, although he trusted her and always had. He just knew there was a lot more to this story than he knew at present. They talked guardedly until late and finally rolled up on their respective bedrolls, he with the sword close by and she with her hand on her bow, facing outward lest the band of thieves return, sleeping fitfully until just before the sun rose.

They dressed hurriedly in the dim morning light and ate a bit of hard-tack and drank some spring water before mounting up. During the day, they said little, but covered many miles. Before they knew it, they were scaling the tough, rocky trail that led to the caves. Devin had heard tell of the temple in the caves... By afternoon they had reached

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not magical to you is it? It becomes more personal and one size fits all rarely fits many. There are different rules... supposed to do it this way, that way. I don't go for that. In my class, I try to keep words like always and never out of my vocabulary.

GH: Before you created the Wise Woman's Tarot, did you have a deck that you favored at that time?

FS: Well, I started like many, with the Rider Waite... or should I say the Pamela Coleman Smith Rider Waite... I worked with Crowley a bit... a couple others. For years I used and taught the Rider Waite Tarot. Really, I never intended to make my own deck. My students kept egging me on, saying "We like the way you teach... we learn... why don't you write a book with these techniques?" I said I would... I began and I started one little page. My original intention was a good how-to for the Rider Waite. I wrote this one little page... Native Americans would call it being coyoted... being tricked into something you didn't intend to do. There was one little page called "visions for a new deck". It was only going to be a page or two. [Laughs] That turned a five-year project into a twenty-five year project. It did take me a good twenty-five years... from the time I decided to do a book to the time I came out with the Wise Woman's Tarot. It was a huge project... My intention was not to throw the baby out with the bathwater. Sometimes people that create decks get an idea in their heads... they want to do Egyptian, Native American, the something Tarot... the Tarot of Chinese Vegetables... some idea of what a deck is going to be. Everything gets geared around that viewpoint. I knew that there was ancient lore that was so deep and so important, that before I started changing things around, I wanted to know it inside and out. I took a lot of time and I did make a lot of changes... very radical ones. It was with love and reverence for the Tarot and not arbitrary or to prove a point.

GH: Could you explain for our readers that have never seen your book, your position on reversed cards?

FS: Ironically, I started doing reversals... like many people, I bought a beginners' book and it had reversals in it. I could read them upside down, inside out and every which way. One day it just occurred to me that I didn't want to do that anymore. A woman that came close to being a teacher for me, a ninety plus year old woman in New York called Rev. Phylliss Woodbury, she said, "Yes dear, that's correct... one doesn't really need to use them at all. After all, when you reverse a picture, it's something negative isn't it?" Afterward, I reflected on magical practices and Voodoo, when you reverse the picture of something or someone... you mean them harm. So, I was already thinking I shouldn't do this, but that gave me a feeling of, "Yeah... you don't need to go there". And if you learn to read the cards in context, with all the things around it, you know everything you need to know. You've learned by observing how it functions within the reading... look to what surrounds it... and that will help you understand the A to Z of what that card can mean. And of course, let your intuition guide you... and I think it's enough. As a matter of fact, I tell my students the only rule I have is not to use reversals. If you've got your heart set

on doing it... who am I to say? But that is pretty much the only rule I ask my students to follow. The main one is free will. You don't have any business touching any of this stuff if you don't believe in that.

GH: I found the stories about your animals fascinating. How did you first discover your abilities as an animal communicator?

FS: I've always been an animal lover... and I've been a professional psychic for close to thirty-five years. During those times, I've been called upon to find missing animals... missing people too, but missing animals a lot. That's the very hardest thing I do. It is just very hard, but immensely rewarding... when someone has lost a dear, dear familiar... that's just horrible. And if you can help get people and their animals together, it's such a great feeling. My first experiences with combining animals and mysticism or psychic studies in that way... having animals all my life... living with them, loving them. They start teaching me. One of my very special critters... his name is Bear; there's a picture of him in my book. It was my relationship with him that brought me into animal communication. He was a huge teacher! After I found him, I was playing at the first women's spirituality conference in the south. I was teaching with Z. Budapest and Fiona Morgan... with a few other women, and also doing a concert there. He had been abandoned in the park in New Orleans where I was. Within a couple months of having him, I knew how sensitive he was... I had a client in my office that was an incest survivor. She was having a very hard time processing things. It was one of her first places of working on this. She started just crying and crying, and he got up into her lap (he was a big boy) and started pressing himself up against her heart. A little bit later she left and he had a heart attack. I had to rush him to the animal emergency. He was almost two and they told me he might not live past three. I was devastated and I knew I had to change those odds. I found this woman who became my mentor... Kay Cornish-Mann. We worked together, probably about six years before we ever met. This was totally on the phone. Through her teaching me to let the animals teach me, that's sort of how it started. And that dog, who wasn't supposed to go beyond three? He lived until he was about twelve or thirteen. Basically, it's about listening. People tell me all the time, saying, "I talk to him all the time! I'm always talking!" But they don't listen. That's the main thing... just the listening part. Just the same as when you're working with people. In some ways, animals are easier. They don't try to hide things... Occasionally some of my animals can be very stoic though... and some of them are tattle tales and really want everyone to know. Just like people, the animals are all different. But for the most part, they're easier to read, except when



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they're your own, that gets tough. The hardest is reading for your own, at least it is for me. What Kay taught me, is that the difference between me and somebody else is that I expect to hear from them...

GH: I liked the subliminal symbolism in the borders of your deck. It's something that I haven't seen done anywhere else. Where did that idea come from?

FS: That was actually the idea of my publisher, Tara Allen, to put those in. She actually ferreted out an image from within each one, and we'd talk about and decide what colors to use. That was her idea and it was very, very late in the game, right before we went to press.

GH: I really liked that... so many decks are rehashed and redone...

FS: Let me tell you about my process of getting the images... I didn't just say to myself, "Let's see, we want Native Americans for the Queen of Pentacles and we want a Celtic maiden for swords..." I immersed myself in years of study and mythology from around the world. I just sort of let it sink in. I'm a double Pisces, so I wanted to get there in an intuitive manner. I was full of the information and I let it bubble up. Let's see... who's going to be the 7 of Pentacles and Chicomecoatl came to mind... and as I actually wrote and explored using that Latin deity, it turned out that her ritual for the corn maiden actually took place in seven steps. That was not me trying to put it together... that was something coming to me. As I fleshed it out, not only was it a good idea, it was a great idea. That's how they all kind of took their place...

GH: Is there any one particular thing that the Tarot has taught you that has meant the most to you personally?

FS: Gosh... so much... I suppose one thing it shows me is that you can ask one question... you can have an agenda, but often Tarot will tell you not what you want to know, but what you NEED to know.

GH: I wondered if, because your deck was such a departure from the traditional Tarot, if you were nervous about how your deck would be received?

FS: Rightly or wrongly, no. I was not nervous. I had a contribution to make. I did thorough, good work. It's not that it's not for men, and it's not that it's against men. I've been accused of that... some reviews have criticized me for having so many female images. It seemed unfair, when people would critique me that way. One woman actually said the only person that could get anything out of my Lovers card, was a poly-amorous lesbian. I thought, "Geez! This person doesn't get it at all..." Now, I am a lesbian and I'm very happy to create something that gay people can relate to, because that's been left out. But I was deliberately showing, in my Lovers card the three that are sort of in the background? That's not about a threesome... that's about a time in the dawn of humanity, where we could come in and out of form. When we were not necessarily always in a body, and not necessarily out of a body... and it's showing that swirling ability to come in and out of form. During that part of our evolution, in my

opinion, we were more like a single-sexed being. Beyond gender... It was not black and white. The three represented that kind of flow. Below, I'm showing a couple... more like the materialization of what we think of as the Lovers. I intentionally made it so that it could look like two women, it could look like a man and a woman, and it could basically look however you wanted them to look. Hopefully people can see what I'm doing as an evolution. As I've worked with Tarot, I've become aware of it as an evolutionary tool. It was not intended to be rigid.

I had to ask myself, what was different about my deck? I used Rider Waite forever and ever, I used Crowley, and I used the Dakini Oracle. I stayed away from getting to into the other female oriented decks, because I wanted this to be fresh. I didn't want to be influenced that way. So, how did my deck make me feel different? I'd say my access to ancestral energy would be one, past life information would be another. It just took me deeper in every way. For a long time, the deck existed as photos of the paintings... I really did need to use them before I wrote the book. I needed to flesh out the experience of using the deck. I used them for a long time before they became available to the general public. I use them for everybody and anybody any more. Everybody has accepted them very nicely.

GH: If you had to describe your music, could it be categorized? I'm not sure it fits a single classification...

FS: It's high energy, it's eclectic, it's intense... it's very bluesy. There's a Spanish guitar played on my keyboard, by the way. You can be in a cantina in some border town and it's a totally Latin music sound, but I'd never refer to myself as a Latin artist at all. It's very flavorful and it comes from different places, probably different lifetimes. People want to put you in a box and assume, wrongly in my case, because I'm a teacher a psychic and a healer, that I'm going to be playing very ethereal music. Some of it is, but a lot of it isn't. I like variety... I really do.



*the Blues Sister: Denise Burnsed, Flash Silvermoon and Omi Aladora*

GH: So tell me a little about your current projects?

FS: I have two books that are finished (or so I think). One is called "Planetary Playbook". It's an astrology book. I started realizing that different signs had different needs, so I began writing a book that would give people access to visualizations and meditations for the different signs... then I made it bigger and did a whole portion on astrology as well. The other one that I'll probably be doing a little editing and revising on is called "Temple of Isis". That's a channeled writing of my past life as a priestess in the temple of Isis. That was captivating, writing it... It's chock full of lessons, but it's teaching that comes in an exciting way. Very transporting. When I was writing it, I noticed that whatever the theme was would play out in my day. There was one day, I remember, where everything was going so beautifully in my life that I didn't want to write a word, because there was interplay between

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what I was writing and experiencing. I didn't want to write myself into a crisis.

GH: I know that you teach Tarot... Is there something you feel would be an important message for new students to Tarot to hear?

FS: A couple of things... One is that I really do discourage new readers from reading for themselves too much. If it's a hot issue, let someone else do it. If it's an emergency, of course it's OK. If it's about self-exploration, that's a good time to read for yourself, but if it's a really hot issue, leave it alone. Usually what you get is your panic about your emotions surrounding that issue. Then, "Oh, let me read it again because I'm sure I wasn't thinking right." Correct! You weren't! Then you get even further away from the truth because you have anxiety about the emotions from the first reading and so on and so on. You can end up with 'the Tarot cards out the window' phenomena... "Damn cards! I'm throwing them away!" People can avoid a lot of heartache if they leave the tough stuff for the experts... not even

the experts, just someone else. Someone not you...

Probably the most important thing above all else, and it doesn't just go for Tarot. If it feels right, it's right. If it feels wrong, it's wrong. I know that sounds really simplistic, but women more than anything, need to become their first place of reference regarding information. Everybody in this culture is taught to look elsewhere. Women are taught in all situations to devalue themselves. One of the most important things I stress with everybody is when you get that first hit of information... keep it! It's the best news you've got. Very, very first thing (and not your intellectual response to the very first thing)... If I can teach you anything, it's that the first hit's the right one. That first piece of information is right. You don't have to worry about trusting this one, that one, the other one... trust yourself.



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misty...I just added Mist to the end (to give it that Arthurian touch) and viola...I had my very own mysterious name."

**78:** HOW DID YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE TAROT BEGIN?

**MM:** Around 1990, I bought a Rider Waite deck and several used books about Tarot. Honestly, I cannot recall what sparked my interest. I may have stumbled across the subject in a bookstore. I had to go to several bookstores before I found one that sold Tarot decks. I found myself immersed in the books and cards but felt totally confused. Gareth Knight's book used a meditating approach where you visualized the card and asked the card what it had to teach you. This was difficult for me to do and I felt lost. I went back to the bookstore in search of a more "basic" book, and I found EASY TAROT GUIDE by Marcia Masino. This book has become my favorite book for beginners.

Not long after, I did my first reading for a long time friend. The reading was a general reading using the Celtic Cross. The cards told us of a new job, and a move with a new house in the near future. I can still remember the goose bumps that came up on my arms when my friend confirmed her husband has been looking for a new job. Within the next year they moved to Colorado. I was quite shaken by the honesty of the cards and I put them away for a while.

Throughout the next several years I would pull out the cards and pose questions and ask for guidance. Each time, the cards provided valuable information and uncanny accuracy regarding the situation. I also read cards for my family. My husband was a little skittish whenever I pulled the cards out, so I found myself reading the cards when he was not at home.

In June 2002, my sister told me about the Barnes and Noble on-line class Tarot for Beginners. My interest was re-ignited and I bought the book LEARNING THE TAROT by Joan Bunning. It was after this class I finally started grasping how to read with my cards.

**78:** WHICH DECK DID YOU START WITH?

**MM:** The Rider Waite deck, which I do not use any more because I did not care for the coloring. I bought the Universal Waite deck and enjoy the pastel coloring and finer detail Hanson created. I still use my Universal Waite deck.

**78:** HOW MANY DECKS DO YOU HAVE AND WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVORITE?

**MM:** I am now the proud owner of 22 decks. I cannot say which is my favorite. I feel most comfortable with the Universal Waite, but I also love reading with the Celtic Dragon. I sometimes get confused with the reversal of wands and swords, but I get wonderful images and feelings from the cards. The Hanson Roberts deck is the easiest deck for me to read with because I have worked with this deck the most. I find it easier to read the court cards on the Hanson Roberts deck as compared to the Rider deck.



Justice from the Celtic Dragon Tarot

**78:** YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF TFL SINCE 2002. HOW DID YOU FIND TFL AND HOW DO YOU FIND IT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TAROT GROUPS?

**MM:** The first MSN Groups I belonged to were InnerGatherings

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*(Meet Mared Mist Continued from page 7)*

and TarotRUs. The managers of these groups were also in the B&N class and they had chat every week. Each week we would discuss a group of cards, for instance, the Pages or the threes. We would lay the cards out and discuss what we saw in each and point out similarities and differences. I learned so much. We would know the subject one week in advance and the manager would expect us to prepare for the discussion. I think Greyhound was a member, or I saw her name on the B&N board. I enjoy TFL because you could find someone in the chat room almost every night. TFL was also appealing because some members were creating their own decks and I enjoy looking at their work.

**78:** YOU HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE TFL VOLUNTEER READER'S GROUP SINCE NOVEMBER 2002. HOW HAS THIS CHANGED YOU AS A READER?

**MM:** I absolutely love being a volunteer reader at TFL. In doing readings for others I have learned so much. Now I am more relaxed and I feel more comfortable during a reading. Since volunteering as a reader for TFL I believe I have grown as a person as well. It has given me insight into life and the paths we walk. Tarot has made me a better person by making me examine myself and how I interact and respond to others. We do not live our lives in an isolated bubble; we affect and are affected by others on a daily basis.

**FAVORITES...**

**Books**

- The Silver Crown by Rober C. O'Brien (childhood)
- The Greyking—Dark Rising series by Susan Cooper (adolescent)
- The Dark Tower series by Stephen King
- The Sword, The Ring and The Chalice series by Deborah Chester

**MOVIE**

- Identity

**ICE CREAM**

- Blue Belle Mint Chocolate Chip

**Color**

- Red

**78:** DO YOU SHARE THE FACT THAT YOU READ TAROT CARDS WITH EVERYONE, AND WHAT INITIAL REACTION DO YOU RECEIVE?

**MM:** I have told only a few friends and co-workers about my Tarot cards. There has only been one negative response from a co-worker who felt the Tarot was "evil". The others are intrigued and have asked for readings. I try not to talk about Tarot at work. I live in the South and I am afraid it would offend co-workers. Also, I am hesitant because I do not want anything to diminish my "professional image".

**78:** IF YOU WERE A TAROT CARD, WHICH CARD WOULD YOU BE?

**MM:** Strength. I have always been attracted to this card and after buying TAROT FOR YOURSELF by Mary Greer, I know why. My personality and soul cards are Strength. It indicates my aspiration and lessons to be learned, and illustrates the qualities that will assist me in life. Mary Greer says the Strength card highlights courage and self-esteem. During my childhood and young adult years, I struggled with trusting my lurking doubts of not being good enough. My lessons in this lifetime are to be brave and realize I am strong, smart and qualified!!!! The emotions and images of this card are my mantra.

**78:** IF I WERE TO GIVE YOU \$300, WITH THE STIPULATION YOU HAD TO SPEND IT ON TAROT RELATED ITEMS, WHAT WOULD YOU BUY?

**MM:** My first purchase would be 78 DEGREES OF WISDOM then, I would love to buy one or two collectors decks---including Tarot Ambre.

*(Tarot Fiction Continued from page 4)*

a plateau where there was ample place to rest the horses. "After this we go on foot," Adara stated. He followed Adara's example, unsaddling his horse and hobbling him near a grassy area. "We will likely be gone all night", she added.

The trail was rougher, and was much too narrow for the horses, so Devin was glad to have left them behind. Devin noticed occasional rivulets of water coming down the hill as they climbed. They stopped to drink at them often, huffing and panting as the elevation increased. Just as the sun began its descent into the faraway mountains, they reached the pinnacle of their climb. The door of the temple lay just a few yards away. Devin ran toward the door... "Wait!" cried Adara. "You must not!" Devin continued toward the door as if he had not heard... Adara ran to catch up. Fool! she said to herself. He'll get us both killed... From within she heard a voice bellow, "What man dares to enter my holy place?" She reached up her hand and caught the deadly arrow just before it reached Devin's

chest. "You'll bow and show proper courtesy, if you've got a brain in your head," Adara whispered ferociously. They both dropped to their knees almost simultaneously. "Forgive my insolence, Your Highness", said Adara with her head still bowed. "We would not have violated the sanctity of your temple without just cause and it is I that brought this man into your midst."

The High Priestess was once completely human, but over the years of service to the goddess, she became a higher being. She glowed with an otherworldly light and her presence electrified the very air around her. "I come in the name of Odissa, the Cailleach of the forest below. I am both her emissary and her daughter," Adara stated humbly. Devin gasped at this new information... The High Priestess, now seemingly placated said "You may approach me... Odissa has told me of your coming." As they came near, the High Priestess took Adara by the chin and looked at her through narrowed eyes. "You do have your mother's look about you", she said. "Pray, continue..." "I beg you to hear the plight of my friend Devin, Highness," Adara said. "The quest

*(Tarot Fiction Continued from page 8)*

is his... I am only his companion." The High Priestess turned her steely gaze toward Devin.

Devin felt the power of her gaze and stammered out the words at first, but before long the story and its import took over and he spilled the plight of his family, his father and of his people. A long silence followed. The High Priestess looked Devin over as if sizing him up. "Please," Devin implored her, "how can I save my father?" "Devin, son of King Fairlane, she said, "it is simpler than you know, but at the same time, not so simple." She continued, "No one has ever stood with your father or your father's father or his father before him. All cower in fright when the dreaded night comes. The King suffers this burden alone in each generation. And none of your ancestors have ever asked for help. Have you ever asked yourself why?" she inquired. "You, oh foolish son of the King, who does not ask what cannot be done, but believes all things are possible... your destiny is to stand with your father on that dread night. Come, we have preparations to make."

To Be Continued

### Article Links...

Tarot for Life web site:

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

Tarot for Life Forum:

<http://groups.msn.com/TarotForLife>

Flash Silvermoons web site:

<http://www.flashsilvermoon.com>

Past TFL Newsletters:

<http://www.tarotforlife.com/newsletter01.html>

Tarot Garden web site:

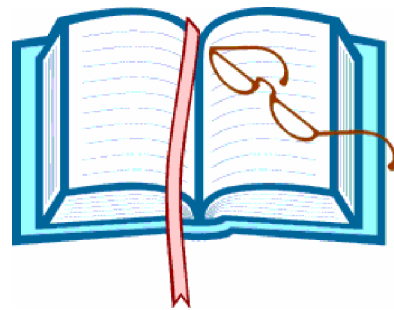
<http://www.tarotgarden.com/>

B&N University:

<http://www.barnesandnobleuniversity.com/>

Joani Cunningham's site:

<http://www.queenofpentacles.com/>



### Tarot Links

<http://home.att.net/~jwricklef/>

KnightHawk's Tarot Website (check out the Tarot games and humor)

<http://www.alleged.org.uk/pdc/tarot/>  
Really cute virtual tarot deck.

<http://www.tarottotes.com/item.asp?iid=42>  
Tarot in the Movies (& Tarot bag store)

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/tarot/index.htm>  
P.K.T. Online

### Just for Fun...

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/valentn.htm>  
Valentines Days History and Customs

<http://www.bry-backmanor.org/holidayfun/valentine.html>  
Valentines Clipart, Icons and more

<http://wilstar.com/holidays/patrick.htm>  
Customs and Traditions of St. Patrick's Day

<http://fp.enter.net/~rburk/stpatricksday/stpatrick'sdayrecipes.htm>  
St. Patrick's Day Recipes

## Meet the Authors

*Greyhound began reading Tarot in Oct. of 2000. 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.*



*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.*



Dan Pelletier is the co-owner of The Tarot Garden. An accomplished tarot reader with over thirty years of experience, Dan has also contributed to such publications as Aeclectic Tarot and Body Mind Spirit



*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.*



*Ms Ritz seriously started to study tarot when she joined TFL a year ago. She feels her interest in tarot is inherited from her maternal grandmother but didn't buy her first deck or take her first tarot class until 1995 when she lived in Colorado. Ritz feels that she has a gift from her grandmother that she hopes to develop into its full potential by continuing to study, practice, and share with her fellow TFL members.*





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Our mission at Tarot for Life is to help seekers learn to read for themselves, provide a forum to encourage developing Tarot artists and share the love and study of Tarot with others.

We also have a vision to showcase the work of new Tarot artists, and promote creativity, free-thinking and a loving environment for discussion.

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