

Fradella

ADVENTURE TAROT

Featuring Heroes and Villains
of the iHero™ Universe



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INTRODUCTION

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS! This instruction booklet will give you all the basic tools you'll need to interpret the cards in Fradella Adventure Tarot, featuring the superheroes from the iHero™ Universe.

Why a superhero deck? First and foremost, the answer is that the tarot, in its myriad forms, is about representing our place in the cosmic order through the use of symbolism. That symbolism doesn't do you much good if it feels foreign to you though. Superhero imagery, on the other hand, has become such an integral part of society that it has evolved into the modern mythology—depicting the classic struggles between good and evil.

These characters may not be as familiar to you as others, but you'll find the same iconic imagery in many other tarot decks. In fact, you need not know anything about the iHero™ Universe in order to read and appreciate the cards.

iHero™ approaches superheroes in an innovative, thought-provoking manner. We tell stories about people. They just happen to be people with super powers, or costumes. And that's what you'll find in this deck. People. Just like you.

The tarot is broken up into two sections, the Major Arcana and the Minor Arcana. There are a total of 78 cards in a standard tarot deck.

The Major Arcana consists of 22 cards, numbered 0 (The Fool) through 21 (The World). You'll find nothing like them in your standard deck of playing cards, but there is some truly wondrous imagery to be found there. If you look closely, you can see that the Major Arcana is about a journey that we all take.

The Minor Arcana consists of 56 cards, numbered Ace through 10, and followed by four "court" cards: Page, Knight, Queen, and King. If all this sounds vaguely familiar, it should. The Minor Arcana is the precursor to today's playing cards.

Things have changed some over the years though. The original suits were Swords, Cups, Wands, and Pentacles. They eventually became Spades, Hearts, Clubs, and Diamonds and they've evolved once more in this special deck to Blades, Masks, Staves, and Discs.

On the following pages, you'll find brief descriptions for each of the card's meanings, as well as the names of the characters depicted there. There is also a special section at the end of the booklet on doing a three-card spread.

THE MAJOR ARCANA

0. THE FOOL (ARACHNID)

Beginning a journey, folly, carelessness, running from the things in your past.

I. THE MAGICIAN (PULSAR)

Skill, mastery over the elements, power, the ability to channel energy from a higher source.

II. THE HIGH PRIESTESS (ETHERIA)

Secrets being kept, hidden wisdom or knowledge, silence.

III. THE EMPRESS (AURA)

Fertility, material wealth, can also indicate a bond to nature.

IV. THE EMPEROR (THE MINUTEMAN)

Paternal instinct, protection, strength, a person of nobility or great strength.

V. THE HIEROPHANT
(THE SWAN)

Leader of a community, spiritual or otherwise, may indicate social approval or the need to conform.

VI. THE LOVERS

(LEXICON, JADE TIGER, AND XI WANG-MU)

Attraction, love, harmony of the higher and lower instincts.

VII. THE CHARIOT
(REVENANT)

Control through force or by will alone, maintaining balance between positive and negative forces. May also indicate travel.

VIII. STRENGTH

(IBN AL-JINN AND APEP, THE SERPENT GOD)

A spiritual power, the passive side of strength (control as opposed to force).

IX. THE HERMIT
(PROPHECY)

Wisdom, discretion, getting advice from a respected elder, isolation.

X. THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE
(RUSH)

Luck, success, new conditions, chance.

XI. JUSTICE
(PATRIOT)

Balancing force with wisdom, success in legal endeavors.

XII. THE HANGED MAN
(ECLIPSE)

Waiting, a pause in the action, material concerns will be conquered.

XIII. DEATH
(ALLOY)

Change, transformation, not a card of physical death. Old ways will be put aside in favor of the new.

XIV. TEMPERANCE
(MONARCH)

Self-control, good management, success, adaptation.

XV. THE DEVIL
(FALLOUT AND WINTER)

Bondage to non-spiritual matters, illness, depression, misspent energy.

XVI. THE TOWER
(TOWER OF NEW BABEL)

Disruption, catastrophe, the results of hubris. Getting too big for your britches.

XVII. THE STAR

(PERMAFROST)

Hope, unselfishness, a great love will be given and received, good health.

XVIII. THE MOON

(NAIAD AND SPHERE)

Dreams, imagination, psychic ability, foreshadowing. May also indicate bad luck.

XIX. THE SUN

(BEN HOLLIDAY, A.K.A. PULSAR AND THE TWINS)

Happiness, success, a good marriage, happy family—the good life.

XX. JUDGMENT

(THESSALY AND TREY XAVIER)

Work well done, awakening, legal judgments in your favor, achieving a higher state of consciousness.

XXI. THE WORLD

(SOLITAIRE)

Completion, reward, triumph. Could also mean a change in locale.

THE MINOR ARCANA • STAVES

THE STAVES ARE A SUIT OF ENERGY and growth. Nearly all of the cards in this suit speak of life, living, and renewal.

ACE OF STAVES

(LADY LIBERTY)

The beginning of an enterprise, or new birth in the family. Can also indicate the beginning of an adventure.

TWO OF STAVES

(ATMOSFEAR)

Influence over your surroundings, boldness, and courage.

THREE OF STAVES

(JACKDAW)

Help being offered, goals being accomplished.

FOUR OF STAVES

(REDCREST)

Marriage, romance, and harmony, a rest after labor.

FIVE OF STAVES

(JADE TIGER AND CLOUD DRAGON)

Conflict, strife, battle or lawsuit.

SIX OF STAVES
(SCEPTRE)

Returning home from battle, victory after war or conflict.

SEVEN OF STAVES
(FLYTRAP)

Bravery, success against overwhelming odds.

EIGHT OF STAVES
(THE VOID ARMOR)

Incoming messages, things done hastily, or that which is rushed. May also indicate a journey by air.

NINE OF STAVES
(GOLDENROD)

Stalwart defense, a break in the action, time to lick ones wounds.

TEN OF STAVES
(VIRIDIAN)

Trial by fire, unfocused energy, a burden too great.

PAGE OF STAVES
(DESERT FOX)

Courage, enthusiasm, someone who brings news.

KNIGHT OF STAVES
(FAHRENHEIT)

Usually indicates a man who is energetic and forceful.

QUEEN OF STAVES
(LEONARRA)

A woman who is attractive, maternal—fruitful in mind and body.

KING OF STAVES
(ROMANI)

Handsome and passionate man, indicates loyalty and nobility.

THE MINOR ARCANA • MASKS

THE SUIT OF MASKS convey emotions. They are the cards of the heart.

ACE OF MASKS
(APHRODITE)

Beginning of a friendship or love affair.

TWO OF MASKS
(DR. TWILIGHT AND SERENITY)

Baring one's soul to a partner, falling in love.

THREE OF MASKS
(HOURGLASS)

Unity, success, and a balance of forces.

FOUR OF MASKS
(KESTREL)

Dissatisfaction, disappointment and help being offered from the outside.

FIVE OF MASKS
(THE GOTH)

Bereavement, loss, regret, and sadness. Not a happy card.

SIX OF MASKS
(OMEGA SIX MEMORIAL)

Pleasant memories of childhood, meeting old acquaintances, remembrance.

SEVEN OF MASKS
(DREAMWEAVER)

Illusions, dreams, phantoms of one's past. Deception.

EIGHT OF MASKS
(AQUARIUS)

Leaving things behind, turning your back on your past, journeying from place to place.

NINE OF MASKS
(MALIFEROUS)

Material success, sensual pleasure, satisfaction with oneself.

TEN OF MASKS
(LIMELIGHT)

Home and family, lasting happiness and contentment. A card of peace.

PAGE OF MASKS
(WHALESONG)

Melancholy mood, someone who is artistic and passionate.

KNIGHT OF MASKS
(PARAGON)

Romantic figure charging forward, untouchable by the world's ugliness.

QUEEN OF MASKS
(COURTESAN)

Being empowered by your sexuality, someone who is devoted and loyal, a giver.

KING OF MASKS
(SERENGETI)

Passionate, domineering, strength through compassion.

THE MINOR ARCANA • BLADES

THE SUIT OF BLADES is the suit of action, of conflict, and to some extent—danger.

ACE OF BLADES (WIDOWMAKER)

Conquest, championship, beginning of troubles.

TWO OF BLADES (BAO CHOU)

A balance of forces and being blind to forces beyond you.

THREE OF BLADES (THE TRIBUNAL)

Heartbreak, separation, possibility of political strife or upheaval.

FOUR OF BLADES (JYNX)

Rest after battle, wounded but alive.

FIVE OF BLADES (STORMGATE)

Dishonor, failure, conquest of others.

SIX OF BLADES (THE GONDOLIER)

A new start, journey by water, protection from someone else.

SEVEN OF BLADES (A BURGLAR)

Theft, espionage, unwise decisions.

EIGHT OF BLADES (FASCINATION)

Stagnation, fear, temporary illness, inaction for fear of being hurt.

NINE OF BLADES (SLEEPLESS KNIGHT AND FREEDOM)

Sleeplessness, regret, haunted by the past.

TEN OF BLADES (A VODOO DOLL)

Pain, misery, loss, tears, heartache. This is not a card of violent death.

PAGE OF BLADES (EL MATADOR)

An energetic and possibly foolhardy younger person who acts on impulse.

KNIGHT OF BLADES
(DUNERIDER)

Dashing, domineering, aggressive, but of a pure heart. His intentions are honorable.

QUEEN OF BLADES
(ODYSSEY)

Firm but gentle person, quick-witted and keen. Could also indicate mourning.

KING OF BLADES
(GLACIALRIFT)

Indicates a great man, determined in his friendship and enmity.

MINOR ARCANA • DISCS

DISCS ARE THE SUIT of currency—trade and barter. They represent material wealth.

ACE OF DISCS
(NANNY)

The beginning of a material undertaking or prosperity.

TWO OF DISCS
(DRAGONFLY)

The ability to juggle two situations at once, multi-tasking.

THREE OF DISCS
(THE CRAFTSMAN)

Skill and craftsmanship, a pride in one's work.

FOUR OF DISCS
(TANTRUM)

Selfishness, greed, pettiness or a miserly nature.

FIVE OF DISCS
(CERULEAN)

Unemployment, destitution, possible illness. May indicate despair.

SIX OF DISCS
(TROUBLESEEKER)

Generosity, charity, getting what you deserve.

SEVEN OF DISCS
(CHIMAERA)

A necessary pause in a process or undertaking, waiting for results.

EIGHT OF DISCS
(OLYMPIAN)

Handiwork, skill in the arts, profit from an undertaking.

NINE OF DISCS
(DRAGON QUEEN)

Inheritance, love of gardens, a green thumb, material well-being.

TEN OF DISCS
(SANCTUARY)

Riches, wealth, acquisition of a home or property.

PAGE OF DISCS
(CRYPTIC)

Scholar with a respect for new ideas, or new ways of thought.

KNIGHT OF DISCS
(TEMPER)

Man of upright nature, responsible and strong.

QUEEN OF DISCS
(SPIRITQUEEN)

Someone who is earth-bound and honest, also trustworthy.

KING OF DISCS
(GOLEM)

Steadfast, analytical, stable, and secure.
Card of the "businessman."

HOW TO READ THE TAROT

BEYOND THE KEYWORDS that are given for each card, it's important to remember that the tarot (Fradella Adventure or otherwise) is a collection of symbols, which are left open to interpretation from the reader. You may see something in a card that would cause you to read it in a different manner than this booklet indicates—and that's fine! Allow yourself to be open to the messages that the cards are trying to tell you.

It's no coincidence that the Major Arcana are numbered in Keys (Key 0 being The Fool, Key 1 being The Magician, etc.) as these cards are supposed to help you unlock the secrets hidden in your own subconscious mind.

The best way to read the cards is by instinct, and to assume that nothing is an accident. Everything you see, from the pose of the heroes to the color of the flowers is symbolic. Use any or all of the imagery when doing a reading. Remember that other esoteric disciplines, such as numerology, work hand in hand with the tarot as well.

Before each reading, you'll want to shuffle the cards thoroughly while concentrating on your question, or the question of your subject. When you cut the deck you can flip one half so

that when dealt, half the cards will appear upside down, or what we call in a reversed position. Reversed cards are interpreted the same way as other cards, but the meaning of the card may be the opposite, or diminished. Only you and your instincts can say for sure.

Remember that the tarot is not an exact science. Then again, neither is life. The situations that you see in the cards are representations of the forces currently in motion. It's not a guarantee. Be sure to read them with an eye toward all possible outcomes.

Let's do a sample reading with a simple Past/Present/Future spread and see how it works. This is a simple three-card spread, laid out left to right. I'm just looking for a general reading right now, so I'll shuffle the cards (inverting half of them every time) and then deal three off the top.

Here's what I ended up with: Eight of Staves, Two of Masks, and Two of Blades.

The Eight of Staves in the past position would indicate that I have recently received a letter, or message from someone. Looking to the next card, the Two of Masks, I'd assume that it was someone who was close to me. (A friend, as opposed to a business associate.) That fits in with what I know to be true, so I move forward with the reading.

The Two of Masks in the present position would indicate that I'm presently involved with someone, or about to embark on a romantic venture. That also holds true, though it could also be a renewed friendship, or a similar emotional venture.

The Two of Blades in the future position calls for caution. There are obviously forces at work here that I can't foresee (the blindfold), and the defensive posture of the woman on the card (Bao Chou) is another good sign to tread lightly.

On the whole, I'd say that this is a situation where I should move slowly if I want it to work out. Otherwise, I may end up on the business end of those pointy things in her hands! That is...emotionally speaking, of course!

Let's go ahead and shuffle the cards again, remembering to flip half the deck each time. This time, however, when I shuffle, I'll be concentrating on the current situation of a close friend. She recently started talking again with an old high school sweetheart and they're considering starting things up again, though they now lives several states apart.

With that in mind, I lay out three cards from the top of the deck. Here's what they are: Six of Masks, Eight of Blades, and Strength.

The first card, the one in the past position, is the Six of Masks, reversed. This is a card of nostalgia, of fond memories of the past, but the reversed position of the card gives me the feeling that they're bittersweet memories. I don't know enough about their past to say with any authority, but it's the feeling I get, and I have learned to trust my instincts.

The second card, showing us the present, is also reversed. This time it's the Eight of Blades, not the happiest of cards even in the best of circumstances. The card indicates a fear of motion, which would certainly be true in this case, and shows us that the restraint being exercised may be from outside forces. Unlike the Two of Blades where we also saw a figure blindfolded, Fascination here is bound against her will. It could be interpreted that my friend's job doesn't allow her the time to go on a trip, or it could very well be that her own doubt is immobilizing her.

The third and final card, is Strength, and is also shown in the reversed position. Right away, having three cards in the reversed position would make me leery. Had someone asked me a yes or no question here, my answer would undoubtedly be "no!"

The Strength card isn't a card of force. It's a card of willpower, and confidence. Looking

at the reading as a whole, I'm afraid that these two people may allow their fears and insecurities to rule the day. Does this mean that they won't get together, or live happily ever after? Not at all, but I'd counsel my friend to honestly decide what she wants, and then pursue it. The reversed Strength card tells me that indecision may make their decision for them (inaction is an action!), and that all she may need is the courage to take a chance.

Obviously, learning to read the tarot will take some practice. You'll also have to learn to trust your own instincts, especially when reading for others. The most important thing to remember is that the tarot is a series of signposts on your journey. You can change direction at any time.

Your destiny is in your hands!

FRADELLA ADVENTURE TAROT was created by Frank Fradella and illustrated by JP Dupras, with special thanks to Katrina Hutchins for her early contributions.

Stories about these characters are available in print anthologies from Gold Rush Games (www.goldrushgames.com). You can also visit iHero Entertainment (www.ihero.net) for new stories, updates, and interviews with the creators.

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