



DORETTE AMELL
Artist and Aesthetic Daredevil

Creator and Reader
of
THE MAINE ORACLE
A Divination System

207-839-8436
www.doretteamell@gmail.com

The Maine Oracle is on Facebook
[@themaineoracleontrack](https://www.facebook.com/themaineoracleontrack)

The Maine Oracle
A Divination System
Created, Designed and Manufactured
in The Great State of Maine



What is The Maine Oracle?

My name is Dorette Amell, I am an artist and have designed and illustrated The Maine Oracle. For lo these many years I have been fascinated by the insights that can be gleaned through the use of divination cards. There are many decks to choose from, and just as many schools of thought regarding the interpretation of the imagery used in the decks. I have considered producing a deck of cards using my own work for quite a while. In January I began production on The Maine Oracle.

I was interested in providing a deck that could be used immediately by persons with little or no experience using more traditional systems, such as the Tarot.

I wrote the prompts or descriptions on the face of the cards to guide the novice reader, while knowing that a more experienced reader would find the prompts a point of departure, bringing to bear nuance and context beyond my descriptions. The beginner will definitely hone their intuitive skills with continued practice and focused questions.

I live in Maine. Many of my cards do reference my environment and the kinds of things that come to mind in general when thinking about Maine, for example; Lobsters, Lighthouses, Pine Trees and "You can't get there from here".

While putting this deck together, my focus has been on concepts and imagery useful to the overall philosophy of the deck. Images were selected because they resonate with me as being descriptive of universal situations and considerations. I am not fitting the content around any preconceived notions of what might be described as the "Maine Experience". I haven't designed a Blueberry Card for example, but there is a Lobster Card based on the Lobsters' behavior in captivity. When I found myself trying to force meaning on an image I had to move on.

The Maine Oracle is a divination system downloaded in the Great State of Maine. The Maine State motto is "Dirigo" and the Latin translates into "I Lead". It is my entirely humble wish that The Maine Oracle will lead users into discovering a better understanding of themselves while navigating life's challenges and victories. Enjoy the deck!

How to Use The Maine Oracle Deck

The Only Rule

These cards are meant to help, not to hinder. Good intentions are of paramount importance.

When to Read the Cards?

I ask for guidance during the day. I have asked for cards that will give me an overview of the previous day. Frequently I ask "What should I focus on for the remainder of this day" in the mid afternoon.

Shuffle the cards and draw a card at random during the day when you require a shot of insight into a situation. Think carefully of the way you frame your inquiry. The quality of your question is very important.

When I ask a frivolous question, the cards have a knack of putting me back on track, or utterly confusing me. I have heard this phenomenon described as "cosmic override."

Suggestions for Your Inquiries

What is the atmosphere around this situation? What do I need to know about this situation? What is my Guidance for the day? What do I need to be aware of regarding my situation? These are questions that will prove useful. The more precise the question, the more information you'll receive from The Oracle. Often it is helpful to write down your question.

Suggestions for Practice

You will learn a lot about the cards if you ask them to describe a person or thing; a movie or a song for instance, a celebrated person, living or not. If the answer doesn't make sense, do a Google search... you may be surprised. Have fun. Recently while shuffling I asked The Oracle for one card to describe an egg. I drew the Poison card, and was baffled until I remembered becoming a bit ill after using unwashed eggs from a Farmers' Market. Eggs are things to be handled with care, and can be quite toxic given certain circumstances. The Poison card made perfect sense upon reflection.

This morning I asked "What should I focus on today?" using a simple one card draw, I shuffled the deck and I pulled the "Honey" card at random, from the center of the deck. I believe that I was being directed to work on this guide, my "product" but then again this could be a reminder to be sweet (my grandmother always said that you will win more folks over with honey than vinegar). Perhaps I need to focus a bit more on the sweetness of life, as I was feeling a bit crabby and blue. I will try to bear all of this in mind today. I will keep the "Honey" card in a place where I will see it throughout this day.

You will find your way.

Here is a favorite quote from the poet e.e. cummings

"Always the beautiful answer who asks a more beautiful question."

A Useful Spread

Shuffle the cards while asking for your particular guidance. Gather the cards and cut the deck into three stacks, face down and left to right. If reading for another take the cards and place the cards in front of you in the same order as your questioner cuts the deck. In other words, their Left Stack is placed to your left and so on...

The Left Stack is the Influence of the Past

The Middle Stack is the Present Situation

The Right Stack is the evolving or Future Situation

Turn over the top card in each stack. Begin your reading. Consider each card carefully. Each stack contains additional information about the top card, turn over several cards from each stack if you need a bit more clarity regarding the top card. The closer the stack cards are to the top cards, the stronger the influence. It helps to think of your reading as a little story.

I will illustrate the idea further with another, simpler reading.

Another Useful and Simple Spread

Here is a simple Three Card reading. I asked The Oracle to describe The Four Tops song "I Can't Help Myself"

Written by Edward Holland/Lamont Dozier/Brian Holland

Sugar pie, honey bunch
You know that I love you
I can't help myself
I love you and nobody else
In and out my life
You come and you go
Leaving just your picture behind
And I've kissed it a thousand times
When you snap your finger or wink your eye
I come a runnin' to you
I'm tied to your apron strings
And there's nothing that I can do
Can't help myself
No, I can't help myself
'Cause sugar pie, honey bunch
I'm weaker than a man should be
I can't help myself
I'm a fool in love, you see
I want to tell you I don't love you
Tell you that we're through and I try
But every time I see your face
I get all choked up inside...

Continued

"I Can't Help Myself"

A Three Card Reading Continued

I shuffled the deck three times, each time pulling one card from the top of the deck. I asked The Oracle each time to describe the song.

First Draw The Yellow Light Card
Second Draw The Snip Card
Third Draw The Highway Card

The singer of this song may wish to slow down, he is obsessing over a woman who doesn't appear to return his affections. It is also worth noting that Yellow Lights blink on and off... she winks her eye, and he comes running.

She comes and goes as she pleases. He says that he is tied to her apron strings. However he may want to cut the ties that bind with the scissors in The Snip Card, he has a history of throwing caution to the wind where she is concerned. Evidently he can't help himself. He gets "all choked up inside" again something is cut off, his voice or resolve.

He may wish to move on, but it would seem that his love interest will keep calling the shots, once again going back and forth along The Highway, sadly, leaving just her picture behind. He knows that he's just a "Fool in Love, you see". I could go on, but you get the idea.

Going Forward

I will be publishing a book about The Maine Oracle. I will also be designing alternative versions of the deck, for example larger cards, as well as cards printed in different colors and formats. I welcome any input or questions from those of you who would care to contact me. Everyday The Oracle teaches me something new.

I can be reached via email at doretteamell@gmail.com and I will happily answer your questions and keep you in the loop regarding new developments, with a solemn promise not to share your information.

Blessings!
Dorette Amell
Gorham, Maine
December 16, 2019

The Maine Oracle is printed in Maine by Edison Press.