

The background of the cover is a watercolor illustration. At the top right, a monarch butterfly with orange and black wings is perched on a pink flower. Below it, a red Japanese torii gate stands on a rocky outcrop. To the left of the gate, a bird is shown in flight against a pale yellow sky. In the bottom left corner, there is a small traditional Japanese house with a tiled roof and two lanterns. The overall style is soft and artistic, with a warm color palette of oranges, reds, and yellows.

# TEA LEAF

FORTUNE  
CARDS

**RAE HEPBURN**

*illustrated by Shawna Alexander*

TEA LEAF

FORTUNE CARDS



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## FORTUNE CARDS



**RAE HEPBURN**

*Illustrations by Shawna Alexander*



U.S. GAMES SYSTEMS, INC.  
STAMFORD, CT 06902

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF TEA AND TEA LEAF READING

The drinking of tea and the reading of tea leaves to divine the future are so intertwined that the history of one cannot be told without the other. Tea leaf reading (also called tasseomancy and tasseography, from the French word *tasse*, which means cup) is a type of geomancy. Geomancy is the earliest known form of fortune telling and has been practiced since primitive humans first walked the planet. It is the art of divining the future from natural objects found on earth, such as sticks, sand, pebbles, and sea shells, and the patterns they create under certain conditions, such as being blown by the wind or washed by water.

The facts about the discovery of tea have never been established for certain, but colorful stories describing its origins abound. According to Chinese mythology, *cha*, or tea, was discovered by Shen Nung, the second emperor of China during the legendary era of The Three Emperors. The son of Princess An-teng and a celestial dragon, Shen Nung, also known as the Divine Healer, was reputed to have ruled from 2737 to 2697 BC. Shen Nung, who had the head of an ox and the body of a man, was making his supper one night when the leaves of a tea plant fell into the water he was boiling. Shen Nung saw it as an omen and let the tea leaves boil. They produced a fragrant brew which left Shen Nung exhilarated when he drank it. He was overjoyed with his new discovery and exhorted all his people to drink the new beverage. They were captivated by the taste and tea drinking has flourished ever since.

In the sixth century AD, tea drinking was introduced in Japan by Buddhist monks. Zen myth attributes the origin of tea in China to Boddhidharma, an Indian prince and Buddhist saint who traveled to China in the fifth century AD to spread the doctrines of Gautama Buddha. Boddhidharma resolved to keep vigil in front of a wall for nine years. Unfortunately, he fell asleep during one of his meditations and was so mortified that he plucked out his eyelids and threw them on the ground. They immediately took root and grew into tea plants, the leaves of which, when steeped in hot water, banished sleep.

#### FROM HEALING BREW TO PRICELESS SOCIAL DRINK

It did not take long for the ancient healers to discover the medicinal qualities of tea, to which they attributed extravagant powers. They used it as a healing drink of varying strengths to cure everything from colds to poor eyesight to alcoholism, and pounded it into a paste to cure rheumatism, bronchial conditions, and minor wounds. Taoist priests even used it as an ingredient in their “elixir of immortality.”

Most ancient healers in China were also psychics. These healer-psychics believed that the patterns formed by the tea leaves in the bowl or cup after the patient drank the tea reflected patterns similar to those existing in the astral plane, which predicted the patient’s future and would inform the healer whether the person would live or die. These healers were as adept at reading tea leaves as they were at curing their patients. They zealously guarded their secrets, often only bequeathing them on their deathbeds to a chosen son or daughter.

Reverence for tea and its mystical qualities became so great that tea leaves were used to foretell everything from the success of an emperor’s reign to the outcome of a battle, from the

arrangement of a marriage to the identity of an unborn child. The rudimentary and often idiosyncratic interpretations of tea leaves by those first mystic healers were soon relegated to the past, and tea leaf reading became an art form studied by scholars and psychics alike. As these scholars and psychics practiced the art, they developed the meanings of the various symbols and the methods by which we read tea leaves today.

Over the years, tea became less of a medicine and more of a social drink, and by the Tang dynasty, tea drinking and tea tasting had been raised to an art form. However, it was under the Sung Emperor Kiasung (who reigned from 1101–1124 AD) that tea drinking reached its zenith. He held tournaments at which courtiers vied to identify as many different types of tea as possible with rich prizes being presented to the winner. Tea became more highly prized than land, and generals returning from successful battles would seek their reward in fine tea rather than land.

#### HOW TEA GOT ITS NAME

Tea was first referred to in Chinese legend as *cha*. It was pronounced “*chah*” in Cantonese and “*tay*” in the Amoy dialect. “*Tay*” became the derivative for the English word “tea.” “*Chah*” was the word used in Japan, India, Persia, and Russia. Soldiers returning to England after a tour of duty in India would often refer to tea as “*chah*.” It didn’t take long before *chah* was inducted into English slang as “char,” and millions of English people still refer to tea drinking as “Having a nice cuppa char.”

#### TEA TRAVELS THE WORLD

Tea is believed to have been first cultivated in Szechwan, China, as early as 350 BC. Cultivation then spread along the

Yangtze River Valley all the way to the East China Sea. By the 7th and 8th centuries AD China had become the largest empire on earth, and tea was traded regularly with Turkestan, Mongolia, Persia, Siam, Burma, Tibet, Syria, and Arabia. However, it wasn't until near the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644 AD) that the first sea traders from the West arrived in China.

In 1557, the Portuguese established a depot for trade with China in Macao, where tea became a popular drink of the Portuguese court. Because Portugal had a monopoly on the tea trade with China, Holland opened tea plantations in Java, Indonesia, in 1606, and four years later was importing tea to Europe. Tea drinking had become very fashionable in The Hague by 1640, and by 1650 Peter Stuyvesant had introduced it to North America.

In May 1662, Charles II of England married the Portuguese princess, Catherine de Braganza. She introduced the habit of tea drinking to the English royal court and it immediately became very popular, but supplies were scarce. Portugal had a monopoly with China and the Dutch East India Company had a monopoly with Java. In 1664, the British East India Company, wishing to curry favor with Charles II by giving him a present of tea, could only procure 2lbs. 2oz. for which they had to pay eighty-five shillings, an exorbitant amount of money in those days. It was partly because of this that the British East India Company became determined to break the monopoly Portugal had with China and purchase tea directly from the Chinese.

Although Peter Stuyvesant introduced tea drinking to North America in 1650, it took roughly another hundred years for it to become popular because of the supply and price. England would not allow the American colonies to buy tea directly from China. The British East India Company, which held the

monopoly for the British tea trade, first shipped the tea to London where it was heavily taxed, then it was shipped on to America. The American colonists finally refused to pay these taxes and prohibited three shiploads of taxed tea to unload or leave Boston Harbor. On December 16, 1773, under cover of darkness, some two hundred men, many dressed as Indians, boarded the ships whooping and hollering and destroyed the tea by dumping it in Boston Harbor. This became known as the Boston Tea Party and ignited the series of events that lead to American independence from England.

At first, slow, bulky ships were used for transporting the precious cargo, often taking as long as eighteen months for the journey. The tea usually arrived stale and was frequently damaged. The journeys were hazardous as there was always the threat of pirates and the slow ships could not outrun them. Revolutionary new ships of American design were built at New York shipyards; the *Houqua* in 1844 and the *Rainbow* in 1845. These were fast sailing ships with sleek, fine lines that ushered in the era of the romantic Chinese Tea Clippers. Indeed, the *Rainbow* was so fast that she was first to bring back news to New York of her triumphant arrival in Canton.

England soon built fast clippers of her own and great competition developed between the American and English clippers. The tea clippers would load in Foochow, China, the favorite port for the earliest tea crop, and would race round the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa, back to England with their cargo. The winner would be the one who first hurled sample boxes of tea ashore to waiting clerks on the docks. The clerks would rush samples of the tea to Mincing Lane, London, for auction. Large cash rewards were given to the victorious captain and crew. These races continued from 1859 until 1871, when tea clippers

became obsolete with the advent of steamships and the opening of the Suez Canal.

As tea traveled the world during the ages, the art of telling fortunes by reading tea leaves traveled with it. Today, the reading of tea leaves can be found wherever tea is served: from the Greek Islands, where black-shawled grandmothers regularly divine for their families, to the highlands of Scotland, where the locals read tea leaves at breakfast to foretell what kind of day lies ahead, to the movie stars of Hollywood, who pay astronomical fees for a reading by their favorite tasseographer, as tea leaf readers are known.



## THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEA LEAF FORTUNE CARDS

Many people do not have access to an accomplished seer, but would still like to be able to tell their fortunes by reading tea leaves. Studying and memorizing the symbols can be very time consuming, and it is not always convenient to brew and drink a cup of tea. It was with these people in mind that I developed *Tea Leaf Fortune Cards*.

I was born in the north of England and introduced to the psychic world at a very young age. My father studied Oriental and Indian metaphysical philosophies and imparted his knowledge to me. When I was a child, he sought to expand my consciousness by inventing games based on intuition and playing them with me. One of his favorites was absorbing the energy from another person's aura and interpreting it. He would introduce me to a person I had never met before and whom I knew nothing about. Afterwards he would question me about how I read that person's aura during the first minute of being in his or her company. "Just give me your gut feeling," he would say. "Don't try and intellectualize it; I just want your gut feeling." He believed that the initial intuitive reaction to a person during the first minute of meeting them was the correct assessment of that person. "After that," he would say, "the brain takes over and starts to intellectualize the gut assessment by factoring in all kinds of data such as accent, attractiveness, appearance, all of which have no bearing on how a person is at the core." I have found this piece of advice from my father

has held me in good stead, especially when I am reading for someone for the first time.

I learned tea leaf reading from an aunt. As a child, I was always enthralled when our family would visit her and she would read our tea leaves. She taught me what the symbols meant and how they should be read. I found tea leaf reading to be very accurate and worked hard to sharpen my skills. Fortunately, I was never without friends or relatives to practice on.

A few years ago some friends were eager to learn tea leaf reading but could not find any instruction books on the subject. They asked me to help them by showing them how to read tea leaves and compiling a list of the symbols and their meanings. However, they were daunted when they saw the list of some five hundred symbols they would have to memorize. It was then that I came up with the idea of creating a set of cards based on tea leaf symbols that would make it easy for anyone to read fortunes.

To make a deck of close to six hundred cards, each depicting a symbol and its meaning, would be totally unwieldy and unfeasible. It had to be a manageable number of cards that could be shuffled or mixed easily so that the querist could impart his/her metaphysical energy to them. To make this possible, I concentrated on the symbols that appeared most frequently in readings and eliminated the ones that rarely appeared. I also eliminated any symbol that basically duplicated another symbol's meaning, combining both meanings into one. For example, both *Apple* and *Bottle* mean temptation. *Apple* is usually read as "temptations of the mind and spirit," while *Bottle* is usually read as "being tempted by substances that can alter a person's consciousness." I incorporated both symbols into the *Apple* symbol and gave it the meaning "Temptation will test you." I did this because the apple is

universally synonymous with temptation, and also because temptations of the mind and spirit are more common. Using this method and countless readings of the tea leaf cards, I finally pared the symbols down to 182 cards.

The cards are round to resemble a teacup, and the symbol in the center of the card represents the bottom of the teacup. The Coming Year method of reading the cards follows the Coming Year method of reading actual tea leaves. The twelve Month of the Year cards are arranged in a circle starting with the current month. The circle again is a reminder of the teacup. The twelve Month of the Year cards are each covered with four symbol cards representing the weeks in a month. The cards are read in a clockwise direction with the current month first.

The Coming Week method of reading the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards again closely follows the method for reading tea leaves. Seven cards are chosen indicating the seven sections in the teacup. These cards also represent the seven days of the week.

For the Astral House Pyramid (which divines short term energy), I chose the six subjects that people want to know about most when they are having a reading: love, marriage, success, wealth, happiness and career. I divided the cards into time frames in the shape of a pyramid with two cards representing what will happen within a two time frame (two days, two weeks, two months), three cards representing what will happen within a three time frame (three days, three weeks, three months) and four cards representing what will happen within a four time frame (four days, four weeks, four months).



## TRADITIONAL TEA LEAF READING METHODS

### THE COMING YEAR METHOD

The traditional tea leaf reading method uses loose tea leaves that are brewed in a teapot. The person requesting a reading (querist) is poured a cup of tea. While drinking the tea, the querist concentrates on the events that are happening in his/her life. She also thinks of what she wishes, hopes, or fears will happen. The querist imparts this energy to the tea leaves as she drinks the tea. Tea leaves are considered excellent receptors and conductors of the metaphysical energy that surrounds them.



FIGURE 1 When there is a very small amount of liquid left covering the tea leaves in the bottom of the cup, the querist stops drinking and gently swishes the liquid around in the cup three times in a clockwise direction. This movement allows some of the leaves to cling to the sides of the cup. The querist then hands the cup to the tea leaf reader (seer).

The seer holds the cup in her left hand and drains the remaining water out of the cup so that it flows out over the handle (Fig. 1). The left hand is always used because it is closest to the heart and is ruled by the creative right side of the brain. The seer then covers the top of the cup with a saucer facing upside down (Fig. 2) and quickly turns the cup and



FIGURE 2

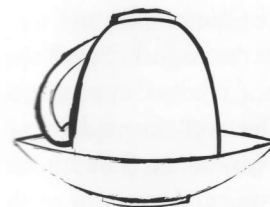


FIGURE 3

the cup three times in a clockwise direction. When the seer feels she has absorbed the energy from the tea leaves, the cup is turned over with the left hand and held that way while the tea leaves are studied.

As the seer studies the tea leaves, she mentally divides the cup into twelve equal imaginary sections, using the handle as a guide (Fig. 4). The twelve sections represent the twelve months of the coming year, and the handle represents the present. Tea leaves are always read in a clockwise direction, so the month immediately to the left of the handle would be the coming month and the month immediately to the right of the handle would be twelve months ahead.

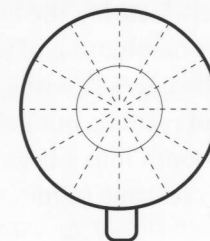


FIGURE 4

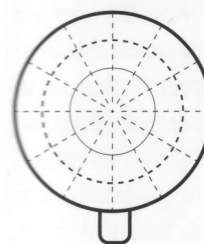


FIGURE 5

Although all seers agree upon dividing the cup into twelve equal sections when they are reading for the coming year, it is important to note that there are differing schools of thought on the next step. Some seers will use another imaginary line to divide the side of the cup in two (Fig. 5). The top portion of the side of the cup represents the beginning of the month, the lower portion of

the side of the cup represents the middle of the month, and the bottom of the cup represents the end of the month. Symbols that are large, dark, and well formed are read as important events that will definitely happen. Smaller, well-formed symbols are read as situations of secondary importance. Symbols that are pale and ill-formed are read as events that may or may not happen, rather like a hope or fear about something that may occur.

Other seers don't do this because they feel that only tea leaves that lie on the bottom of the cup represent events that will definitely happen regardless of how well or ill-formed the symbol is. They read the symbols on the side of the cup as representing the hopes, wishes, and fears of the querist. I use a combination of both methods when I am reading. Knowing the querist's wishes, hopes, and fears is essential to an insightful reading, but I also find it very helpful to further divide the month into a beginning, middle, and end, especially when an exact time frame is needed.

### THE COMING WEEK METHOD

When reading for a querist for the first time or for someone who does not have regular readings, the coming year should always be read before the coming week. It is only when the querist has regular readings that the coming week can be read without reading the coming year first. This approach benefits both the querist and the seer as it gives the seer a chance to assess the long term and short term energy surrounding the querist. The seer is then able to give a more insightful reading.

The Coming Week method is similar to the Coming Year method, but the cup is divided into seven equal parts (Fig. 6). Again the cup is read in a clockwise direction with the next day being directly left of the cup handle and the last day of the week being directly right of the handle. In the Coming Week method, the side and bottom of the cup are never divided into a beginning, middle or end of the day.

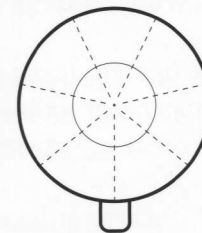


FIGURE 6

The leaves on the bottom of the cup are always read as events that will happen and the leaves on the side of the cup are read as the hopes, wishes and fears of the querist. However, symbols on the side of the cup that are dark and well formed are read as having a good chance of actually taking place while the symbols that are weak and ill-formed usually will probably not take place.

### THE SYMBOLS

Detailed descriptions of the symbols used in traditional tea leaf reading are given in the section on symbols and their meanings (see pages 50–93). The size of a symbol and how well it is formed are very significant. The larger and more well formed a symbol is, the more dominant or important it becomes. A symbol is also affected by the other symbols that are connected to it. A rule of thumb is that any symbol that is touching another symbol, or is within an eighth of an inch of a dominant symbol, is related to that symbol. However, this is not always the case, so seers have to rely on their own judgment when reading a cup. An example would be if the symbol *Fly* is a dominant symbol. Connected to it is the symbol *Dagger*,

close but unconnected is the symbol *Older Man*. There are two ways this can be read:

1. The querist will go through a period of ill-health and will be very worried about his/her health. (Only the symbols *Fly* and *Dagger* are read together here.)
2. The querist will be very worried about an older man who is going through a period of ill-health. (Here the symbols *Fly*, *Dagger*, and *Older Man* are read together.)

This is where the skill and intuition of a seer can be very important in deciding which symbols are connected. Even though they may not appear to be, a gifted seer will intuitively know which symbols connect.

Many times a symbol will be large and extend over a period of months. For example, if an *Angel* symbol extended over three months, it would mean that the querist would have “spiritual guidance and protection from harm” for those three months. However, if a *Horse* symbol extended over three months, it could be read differently depending upon the seer. As *Horse* symbolizes “a short journey,” it would be up to the seer to decide whether to read the symbol as:

1. The querist would go on an important short journey that would take place sometime during the three months.
2. The querist would make many short journeys during the three months.

3. The querist would travel only a short distance but would be away from home for three months.

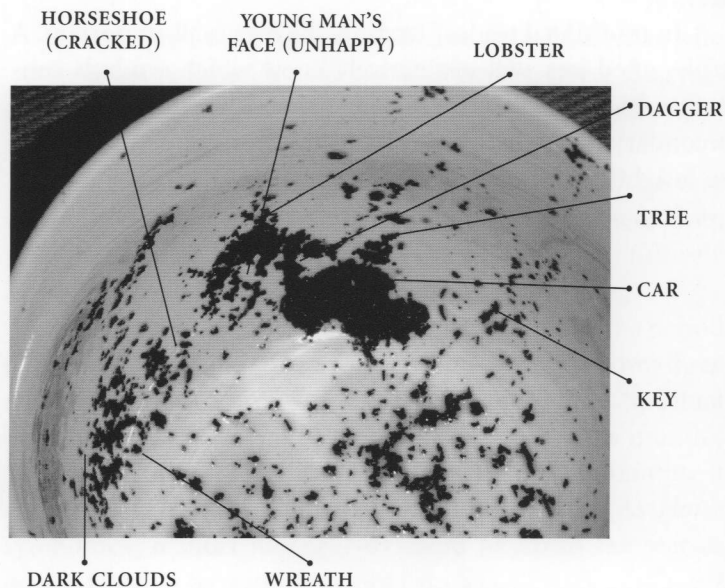
Since there is a great deal of interpretation required and as many as 10 to 30 symbols in an average cup reading, the margin for error is enormous in the hands of an inept or inexperienced seer.

In traditional tea leaf reading, the seer is all-important. A truly gifted seer will instinctively know which symbols connect, which symbols are dominant, and which symbols are secondary. This kind of accomplished seer can give a reading so insightful that it astonishes the querist.



### TEA LEAF CUP READING FOR COMING YEAR

Erik is twenty-four and has a college degree in Business Administration. The advertising firm he worked for recently downsized and Erik was let go. It was devastating for Erik as this was his first real job and he had high hopes. This is Erik's tea leaf fortune for the coming year which was read on January 2nd.



### JANUARY

*Wreath:* Sorrow over a loss.

*Dark Clouds:* Temporary problems.

### FEBRUARY

*Dark Clouds:* Temporary problems. These clouds connect with a cracked horseshoe.

*Horseshoe—Cracked:* A horseshoe is a very lucky symbol, but this one is cracked and that allows the luck to run out.

### MARCH

*Lobster:* Financial pinch. The lobster is connected to a young man's face as well as a dagger.

*Young Man:* The face of an unhappy young man.

*Dagger:* Fears, worries, tense situations. The dagger is connected to a car.

### APRIL

*Car:* The car denotes a journey between 300–1,000 miles. The car is connected to a tree.

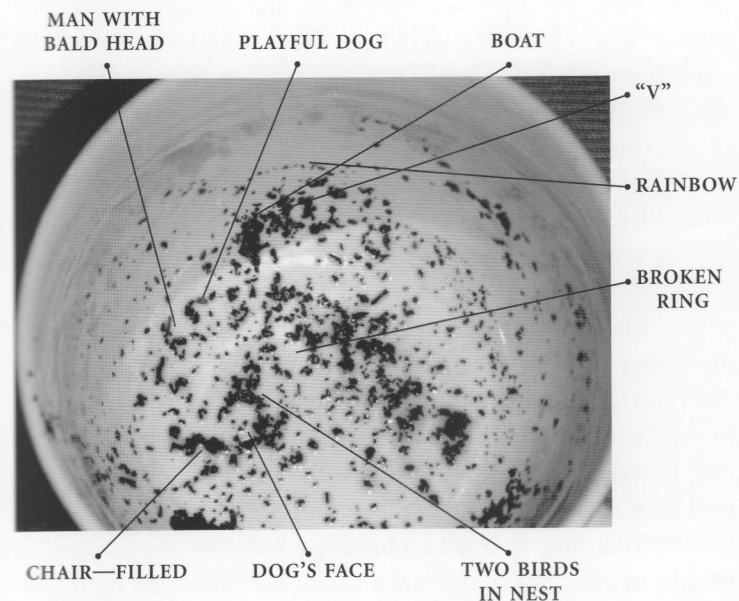
*Tree:* Family matters.

*Key:* Successful outcome to problems.

**READING:** The *wreath* refers to Erik's sorrow over the loss of his job and with it his financial security. The *dark clouds* signify the temporary problems that surround his losing of

his job and they continue all the way through February where they connect with a *cracked horseshoe*. A *horseshoe* is a lucky symbol but a cracked one is the opposite and Erik must feel that his luck has run out. The *lobster* means a financial pinch and the larger the *lobster*, the more serious the financial pinch. This *lobster* starts in March and continues through the middle of April. We can see how unhappy Erik is as he felt it was his face connected to the *lobster's tail*. The lobster is also connected to a *dagger* which tells of Erik's fears, worries and tense interviews as he looks for another job. The *dagger* is connected to a *car* which signifies a journey between 300–1,000 miles.

The larger the car in the cup, the more important the journey. This *car* starts at the end of March and goes through April which means that Erik could take a trip during that time or the trip could be for the whole time. The *car* looks like a beat up VW Bug, again underscoring Erik's financial problems. A *tree* signifying family matters is connected to the *car* and it looks like Erik will be visiting his parents on this trip. The *key* represents a successful outcome to problems, but as this *key* is small and ill-formed it may mean only partial success.



## MAY

*Chair—Filled:* Someone new is entering your life.

*Dog—Close Up:* Pleasure with a friend. Dog connected to birds and nest.

*Birds—Perched:* Waiting for news, package or letter. Birds connected to nest.

*Nest:* Emotionally secure loving family is important to you.



## JUNE

*Man with Bald Head:* Dealings or relationship with man with bald head.

*Playful Dog:* Fun with a friend. Dog connected to man with bald head.

## JULY

*Boat:* Money or property through inheritance, winnings or windfall.

## AUGUST

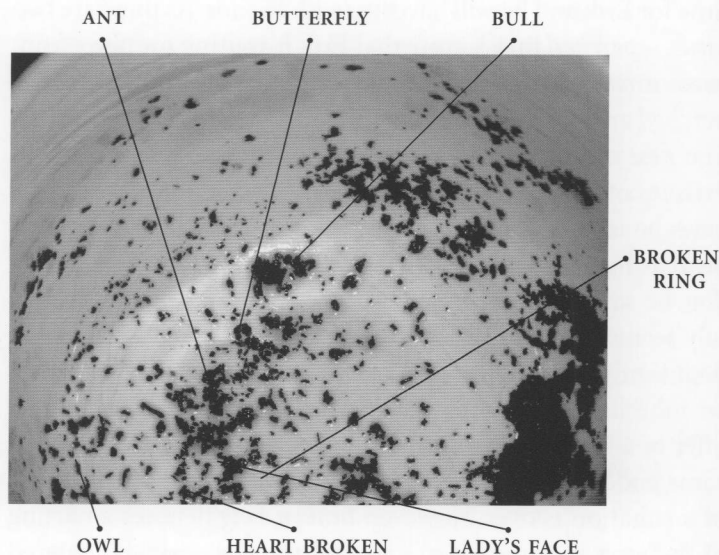
“V”: Victory in some endeavor.

*Rainbow:* The most difficult part of a situation is over.

*Broken Ring:* Parting of the ways either in romance or business.

*READING:* After Erik's trip, his money problems seem to disappear. Since there are no tea leaves indicating a new job, it's likely his parents will be helping him financially while he looks for employment. The *chair—filled* signifies that someone new will enter his life. From the shape of the tea leaves, it is likely a woman with whom he may become romantically involved. As the symbol is small, it means either she will not be that important in his life or the relationship will not last for a long time. The *dog—close up* indicates that May is a relaxing

time for Erik and he will have fun with friends. As there are two *birds—perched* they signify that Erik is waiting for news from two sources which could be about employment. The *birds—perched* are in a *nest* which is connected to the *dog—close up*. The *nest* means that family and friends are very important to Erik. It could also mean that they have some connection to the news he is waiting for. Erik identified the *man with the bald head* as his father and as the symbol also turns into a *playful dog*, he said that he thought of his father as a playful friend. July seems like it is the end of Erik's financial problems as the *boat* signifies that he will receive money or property through an inheritance, winning, or windfall which could mean the offer of a job. August confirms this as “V” indicates victory in some endeavor and the *rainbow* means the most difficult part of a situation is over. However, *broken ring* denotes a parting of the ways in romance so Erik and the new girl who entered his life in May will likely have a parting of the ways in August or September.



## SEPTEMBER

*Broken Ring:* Parting of the ways either in romance or business. Ring connected to lady's face.

*Lady's Face:* Dealings or relationship with a lady. Face connected to a broken heart.

*Broken Heart:* Loss of love, loss of deep affection.

*Owl:* Good advice from a wise person.

## OCTOBER

*Ant:* Work, achievement, success.

## NOVEMBER

*Butterfly:* A change for the better. Socializing. Networking.

## DECEMBER

*Butterfly:* A change for the better. Socializing. Networking.

*Bull:* Do not back down from opposition. Show strength and fortitude.

**READING:** The *broken ring* continues into September and is connected to a *lady's face*, signifying the lady who Erik is romantically involved with. A *broken heart* connects the *lady's face* and indicates that Erik or the lady or both of them will be deeply hurt by the breakup and the loss of love. The *owl* means that someone who Erik respects offers him good advice that will be of great help to him. It could be advice about his love life or his career or both. The *ant* indicates that Erik will work hard, and through hard work he will achieve success. The *butterfly* symbol continues through November and December and suggests a change for the better in Erik's social life. It is also a good time for him to network. In December, the *bull* signifies a person or situation that Erik must not back down from and that it will take great strength and courage to face this person or situation. Fortunately, there are no connecting

symbols and as the *bull* is small and ill-formed, it could turn out to be a minor, isolated incident.

Erik thought his fortune for the coming year was a good one despite its many ups and downs. He was a little apprehensive of the *bull* in December, but felt that, since he had been forewarned, he would be able to deal with the situation correctly.



## DIVINING YOUR FORTUNE USING TEA LEAF FORTUNE CARDS

There are three methods of divining your fortune using the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards:

1. The Coming Year
2. The Coming Week
3. Astral House Pyramid

To heighten your perception and innate psychic ability, concentrate on what is happening in your life as you shuffle or mix the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards. Think of your hopes, your fears, and your wishes. When you read your fortune it may seem that the cards sometimes contradict one another, but this is because our lives are full of contradictions. This is the Yin and Yang (female and male) cosmic principle of the Chinese dualistic philosophy. It means that opposing forces are at work in all aspects of our lives. The Tea Leaf Fortune Cards always reflect the positive and negative energy fields that surround us.

### THE COMING YEAR METHOD

This method should always be used first when you are reading the cards for the first time, as it gives the cards a chance to absorb your long-term energy. Long-term energy changes slowly, so to get the best results it is recommended that you use this method roughly every three months. You are advised

not to use this method more frequently than once a month, for, while long-term energy constantly changes, there still has to be a sufficient time lapse to reflect the changes.

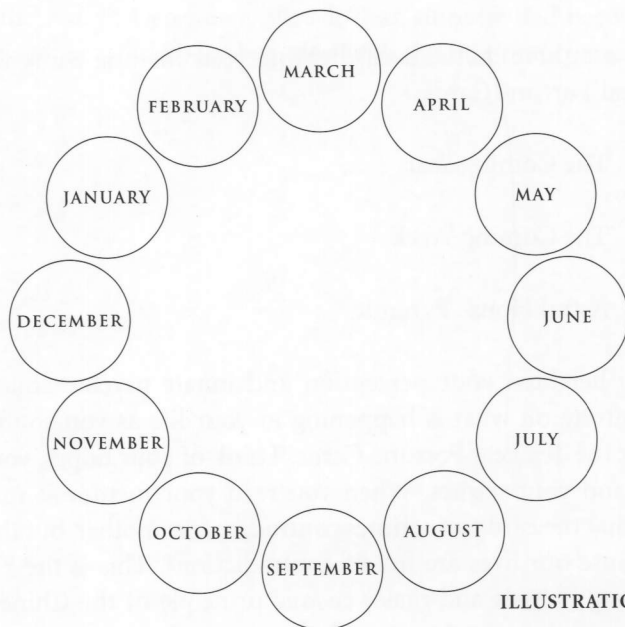


ILLUSTRATION 1

1. Take the twelve Month of the Year cards and lay them in a circle starting with the current month. If the month is September, begin with September even if the date is September 30th. (*Illustration 1.*)
2. Place the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards in the mixing bag and mix them inside the bag with your hands while concentrating on your hopes, fears, and wishes. You may

also mix the cards by laying them face down on a flat surface and swirling them around using both hands.

3. When you feel your energy has been imparted to the cards, place a Tea Leaf Fortune card face down on each Month of the Year card starting with the month that you are currently in (in this case September) and positioning the month of the year cards in rotation and in a clockwise direction. (*Illustration 2.*)

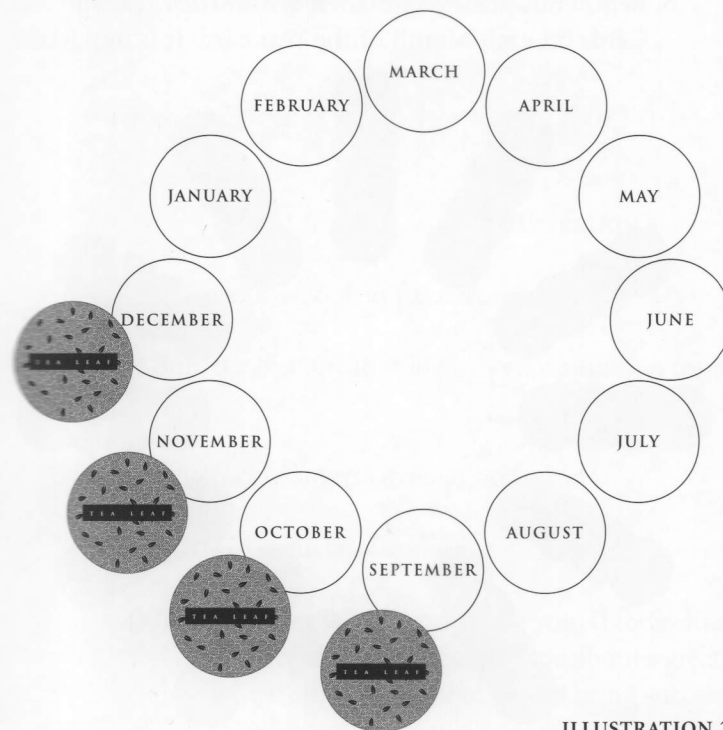


ILLUSTRATION 2

4. When each Month of the Year card is positioned, this is called a set. Leave these cards in place and proceed to Step 5.
5. Mix the rest of the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards again and place another set on the Months of the Year cards beginning with the same month. As in Step 3, the cards should be placed in rotation and in a clockwise direction.
6. Repeat this process until there are four Tea Leaf Fortune Cards on each Month of the Year card. It is important

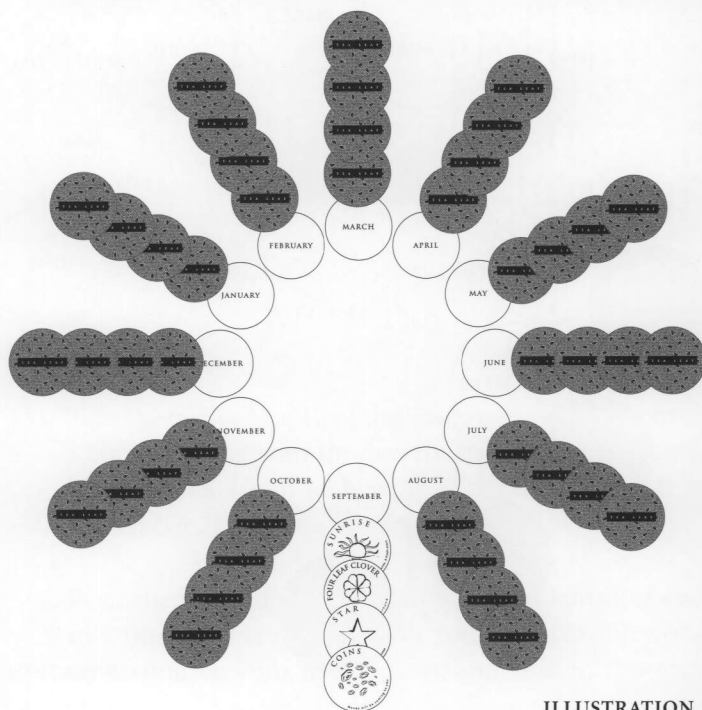


ILLUSTRATION 3

to mix the cards between laying down each set as this increases the amount of energy that is transferred to the cards.

7. Begin telling your fortune by turning over the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards for the first month, in this case September. (*Illustration 3.*) No matter what the date is in the month, the cards represent the coming month (e.g., if it were September 20th the cards would represent September 21st–October 20th). (*Illustration 4.*)



ILLUSTRATION 4

8. Let us take a close look at the first month.

- 1) *Sunrise*: New creative ideas. New ventures. A fresh start.
- 2) *Four-Leaf Clover*: Great, good fortune.
- 3) *Star*: Guaranteed success.
- 4) *Coins*: Money will be coming to you. It looks like the cards are trying to tell you about a great, new opportunity that would bring success and financial reward.



9. Working in a clockwise motion, turn over the cards for one month. After reading the cards, turn over cards for the subsequent months.



ILLUSTRATION 5

10. The Tea Leaf Fortune Cards for the second month are *Axe, Cat, Owl, Key*. (Illustration 5.) It is important to draw connections between the cards whenever possible. These cards should be read as: *"There are forces working against you; someone you think is your friend is two-faced and cannot be trusted. Luckily, on sound advice from another person you respect you are able to successfully deal with the problem."*
11. Continue turning over the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards for a month at a time in a clockwise direction and reading them until every month is turned over. When all the cards are turned over, review your fortune for the full year. It is important to try to recognize cards that connect with one another.

For example, if *"Rooster: An arrogant, boastful person you should not cross"* turns up near *"Dark Man: Dealings or relationship with a man with dark complexion or hair"* then it is likely that the two are related even though they are not side by side, and the person you should not cross is a dark-haired man. The cards connect together the same way as your life

connects together; what you do today influences your life in the months to come.

### SAMPLE READING: THE COMING YEAR

This was a reading given for Barbara on May 15th. At the time of the reading she was thirty-eight, divorced, and her son, Evan, was ten. Barbara lives in Los Angeles and is a sportswear buyer for a large department store. Barbara is gregarious and fun-loving with a demanding job that frequently takes her out of town on buying trips. She would like to be romantically involved, but between her heavy work schedule and taking care of her son she has little time left to date.

Barbara kept notes of what actually happened during that year and found that, while the tea leaf cards were extremely accurate in predicting what would happen, the cards often referred to situations other than what she thought or hoped they would.

#### MAY 16—JUNE 15

*Tower:* Solid foundation. Success with effort.

*Skull:* Hidden secrets can harm you.

*Frying Pan:* Trouble, accusations.

*Cat:* A two-faced friend.

Barbara found that all these cards applied to her work. She felt she had worked very hard at her career and that it was paying off, as she had been very successful (*Tower*). However, not everything ran smoothly. She had felt very strongly about silk crochet sweaters with matching pants and skirts and bought more heavily into that category than she should have without letting her merchandise manager know (*Skull*). These were now ready for delivery and the suppliers were pushing her for the signed orders so they could deliver them. As she was already over-budget she had to get these orders approved by her merchandise manager which led to a fierce argument that almost resulted in Barbara resigning (*Frying Pan*). Barbara was furious with her merchandise manager whom she had always regarded as a friend, but who now seemed to be more her enemy (*Cat*).

#### **JUNE 16 – JULY 15**

*Rat*: Someone is working against you behind your back.

*Lightning*: Control your anger or you will be sorry.

*Horse*: Short journey.

*Dolphin*: Financial gain, usually coming from something you did in the past.

Again all of these cards related to Barbara's work. Barbara felt her merchandise manager was saying negative things about her behind her back (*Rat*). Barbara wanted to confront her but decided to pay attention to the card (*Lightning*) and controlled her anger, and she was glad she did. When Barbara returned from a short buying trip (*Horse*), the silk crochet sweaters and pants were selling very well, giving her excellent sales and profit figures for the quarter (*Dolphin*).

#### **JULY 16 – AUGUST 15**

*Eye*: Psychic ability—trust your intuition.

*Bridge*: Successfully overcoming a problem.

*Dog—Close Up*: Pleasure with a close friend.

*Yoke*: Feeling tied down, frustrated.

The first two cards related to work. Barbara felt she had trusted her intuition in buying the silk crochet garment so heavily (*Eye*), and by them selling extremely well she had been vindicated, and overcame the problem of being over-budget (*Bridge*). A close friend from New York, Mark, came into town on his way to England (*Dog—Close Up*) and wanted her to join him in London for a week. Barbara had to refuse because it was on short notice and she couldn't take the time away from her son or her job. This left her feeling tied down and frustrated (*Yoke*).

## AUGUST 16 – SEPTEMBER 15

*Mule:* Someone is extremely stubborn and unwilling to change.

*Hills:* Obstacles to overcome.

*Coins:* Money will be coming to you.

*Tankard:* Celebration, fun, enjoyment.

Barbara's son, Evan, usually spent July and August with his father and his father's new wife in Connecticut. This year his wife was pregnant with their first child and the pregnancy was proving a difficult one. David, her ex-husband, asked to cut the visit down to just the last two weeks in August. Evan was bitterly disappointed and felt rejected by the change and stubbornly refused to see his father at all (*Mule*). It took a lot of persuasion on Barbara's part to get Evan to go as she felt it was important for him to retain his relationship with his father (*Hills*). Barbara's job review was excellent, which led to a big bonus for her in December (*Coins*). To help Evan over his disappointment of spending so little time with his father, Barbara took a few days off from work and took Evan on a camping trip to the redwoods of Northern California (*Tankard*).

## SEPTEMBER 16 – OCTOBER 15

*Inkpot:* Problems to be resolved.

*Ram:* A stubborn, aggressive person.

*Wedge:* Someone is trying to come between you and a friend or something you want.

*Table:* Hard work ahead.

Even though she had an excellent job review, things were not going smoothly with Barbara's job. Management decided to cut down on inventory and reduced open-to-buy budgets which made it difficult for Barbara to stock the selection of merchandise she needed for her department (*Inkpot*). She tried to discuss the problem with the vice president of the company, but he stubbornly refused to even consider a compromise (*Ram*). To make matters worse, Barbara's merchandise manager sided completely with the vice president against her (*Wedge*). Barbara was going to have to do a lot of hard work to maintain her financial figures (*Table*).

#### OCTOBER 16 – NOVEMBER 15

*Younger Man:* Dealings or relationship with a younger man.

*Fan:* Romance, celebration, party.

*Dog—Far Away:* A distant friend is thinking of you.

*Mountain Road:* You are on the road to success.

Evan had his eleventh birthday (*Younger Man*) and Barbara threw a large party for him (*Fan*). Her friend, Mark, from New York called (*Dog—Far Away*), and she told him about the problems she was facing at work with the tightened budgets. Mark, who also worked in the garment industry, thought it might be a good idea for her to change jobs. He knew of a company that had an opening and he would discreetly check with some people he knew there (*Mountain Road*).

#### NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 15

*Pin:* New job/career.

*Hat:* You will be playing a different role.

*Firecracker:* Excitement.

*Eagle:* Triumph over troubles, obstacles.

The company Mark talked to was a large specialty store operation based in Columbus, Ohio. Barbara met with them (*Pin*) and they offered her a position (*Hat*). She was very excited about the new situation as it meant more money and also had a much greater potential for advancement (*Firecracker*). There was one problem and that was she would have to relocate to Columbus for a few years. This meant her son, Evan, would be changing schools midyear. However, she rationalized that Evan would be closer to his father and that would make it easier for the two of them to get together. Barbara liked the fact that Columbus was a lot closer to New York, and she would be spending more time in New York on business. This meant she would be able to spend much more time with Mark, and it would give their friendship a chance to turn into a relationship (*Eagle*).

#### DECEMBER 16 – JANUARY 15

*Tree:* Affairs with your family.

*Grapes:* Time to go out and have fun.

*Claw:* Be careful—do not take risks.

*Cracked Cup:* Dissatisfaction with life.



As it was Evan's turn to spend Christmas with his father, Barbara flew with him to Connecticut (*Tree*). Barbara then went to New York and spent Christmas and New Year's with Mark (*Grapes*). Upon picking up Evan to take him home, her ex-husband, David, told her how unhappy Evan was about her new job and having to relocate to Columbus where he didn't know anyone. Evan wanted to stay in Los Angeles where all his friends and his grandparents were. David thought it very bad for Evan to be uprooted at that point. David had also made inquiries about the company and found they ruthlessly fired people who did not make their financial figures, and he strongly advised Barbara against taking the job as he felt there was not a great deal of job security (*Claw*). Barbara was very upset with both David and Evan and her life in general, as it seemed everyone else's needs dictated how she ran her life (*Cracked Cup*).

#### **JANUARY 16 – FEBRUARY 15**

*Owl*: Good advice from a wise person.

*Cup*: You should accept valid criticism.

*Bird—Perched*: Waiting for news, package, letter.

*Needle & Thread*: A sincere wish will be granted.

Barbara discussed the problem with her mother (*Owl*) who made her see that David and Evan were not completely

wrong and that Barbara should accept criticism of her plan (*Cup*). Barbara's mother pointed out that if the Columbus firm were really impressed with her, they would hold the position another few months until the summer. Evan would be changing schools anyway at that time so the relocation would not be such an ordeal. Also, this would give Barbara a chance to weigh the pros and cons of taking such a major step. Barbara reluctantly agreed to do this. When Barbara relayed her decision to the company in Columbus, they were not sure they could hold the position open that long and would get back to her (*Bird—Perched*). Barbara wished that whatever happened, it would be the best for everyone concerned (*Needle & Thread*).

#### **FEBRUARY 16 – MARCH 15**

*Ant*: Work, achievement, success.

*Elephant*: A long journey either physically or mentally will leave you wiser at the end.

*Vine*: You must seek out information that will help you.

*Dragon*: Beware of self-delusion.

Through Barbara's hard work and the sales promotions for January, inventories were low and her financial figures were excellent (*Ant*). She went to the Orient on a buying trip



(*Elephant*) and while there met a girlfriend from New York, also a buyer, who warned her that Mark was very involved with a new girlfriend. Barbara called Mark and found out that it was true (*Vine*). Deeply hurt, she was still wise enough to realize that Mark had always been just a good friend and had never really been romantically interested in her. She had been the one trying to turn their friendship into a romance (*Dragon*).

#### MARCH 16 – APRIL 15

*Bird—Flying*: News is on the way.

*Fair Woman*: Dealings or relationship with a woman with blonde, gray or white hair.

*Key*: Successful outcome to problems.

*Beetle*: Good fortune.

When Barbara arrived home from the Orient, she found a letter from the Columbus firm advising her that they could not hold the position open and were withdrawing their offer (*Bird—Flying*). She was disappointed, but glad a few days later when she found out that her merchandise manager was resigning (*Fair Woman*). At least there would be a successful outcome to the problems at work (*Key*). Barbara couldn't believe her good fortune when she was offered the position of merchandise manager (*Beetle*).

#### APRIL 16 – MAY 15

*Money Path*: A path with money is waiting for you to find it.

*Door*: Opportunities are waiting for you.

*Well*: Family wishes come true.

*Jug*: Lighthearted, carefree time.

The position of merchandise manager carried with it a large increase in salary, bonus, and prestige (*Money Path*). Barbara also felt there were so many new opportunities for her to improve the departments under her control (*Door*). Evan was especially thrilled the way things turned out as he didn't have to relocate and leave his friends (*Well*). For once things seemed to be running smoothly in Barbara's life and it was a lighthearted, carefree time (*Jug*).

#### THE COMING WEEK METHOD

1. Mix all of the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards. While you are doing this, concentrate on what is happening in your life, your wishes, hopes and fears. When you feel you have imparted your energy to the cards, pick a card and lay it face down.
2. Mix the Tea Leaf Fortune cards again. Pick another card and place it beside the first card. Repeat the mixing and

picking of a card until there are seven cards, face down, in a straight line, representing the coming week.

3. Turn over the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards. They will tell you the positive and negative energy surrounding you for the coming week. For example, you might turn over:

- 1) *Mule*: Someone is extremely stubborn and unwilling to change.
- 2) *Whale*: Great worry over nothing.
- 3) *Lion*: Time to act.
- 4) *Bridge*: Successfully overcoming a problem.
- 5) *Pineapple*: Reconciliation.
- 6) *Vase*: Secret admirer.
- 7) *Four-Leaf Clover*: Great, good fortune.

It should be noted that the first card does not apply to the first day of the week and the second card to the second day, etc. The cards apply to the coming week as a whole and should be read that way. It is also important to determine which cards interrelate and to read those cards together. The following is an interpretation of how these cards could connect:

*Pineapple, Mule*: You have become reconciled to the fact that someone in your life is extremely stubborn and unwilling

to change. It is now up to you to figure out how you are going to deal with this problem.

*Lion, Bridge, Four-Leaf Clover, Whale*: There is a problem that is causing you a great deal of worry. You need to address it and you must act now if you want to successfully overcome it. By acting promptly you have the great, good fortune to successfully take care of the problem. Through taking care of the problem promptly, the whole situation turns out to be a great worry over nothing. (The problem could be caused by the person who is extremely stubborn and unwilling to change.)

*Vase*: You have a secret admirer. (This person could be someone who secretly admires the way you dealt with the problem.)

### SAMPLE READING: THE COMING WEEK

Peter is a fifty-two year old lawyer, who lives in New York with his wife, Ellen. They have two children, Caroline, twenty-four, who is working in England, and Sean, twenty-one, who is in college. These are the cards in the order Peter chose them.

*Camel*: Persevere and you will overcome your problems.

*Cane*: Pay attention to your health.

*Tankard*: Celebration, fun, enjoyment.

*Valley:* Deep personal strength and peace that assure success.

*Younger Man:* Dealings or relationship with a younger man.

*Weeping Willow:* Family sorrow.

*Goldfish:* Increase in material wealth or spiritual growth.

Peter kept notes and at the end of the week this was how the symbols connected.

*Younger Man, Camel:* Sean was having a tough time at college and told Peter that he was going to drop out at the end of the semester and get a job. Peter, instead of getting angry, kept calm and talked Sean through his doubts.

*Cane:* Peter was working extremely long hours at the office on a certain case, and he felt the card was a warning to cut back on his hours.

*Weeping Willow:* They were expecting their daughter, Caroline, to come home for Thanksgiving, but she phoned to say that it was impossible due to the pressures of work. On top of that, she would only be able to stay for four days over Christmas instead of the ten days she had planned.

*Goldfish, Tankard:* Peter finally sold a piece of property that he had been trying to sell for a long time. Ellen and he decided to go away for the weekend and celebrate.

*Valley:* Even though things don't always run smoothly for Peter, this card reminded him that he has a deep well of inner strength he can draw from.

### THE ASTRAL HOUSE PYRAMID METHOD

It is important to note that when you use the Astral House Pyramid method for telling your fortune, the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards you choose should be interpreted broadly. For example, *Love* covers all kinds of love and not just the love between sweethearts or spouses. It can cover love between a brother or sister, parent and child, or even the platonic love of a good friend. *Marriage* deals not only with present marriages but also future marriages and any divorces. *Success* covers not only success in both your personal and professional life but also any failures. *Career* encompasses every aspect of your present career and future career. *Wealth* concerns all of your financial dealings, good or bad. *Happiness* deals with every aspect of happiness and unhappiness in your life.

1. Choose the Astral House card that represents an area in your life you wish to know more about. For example, you might choose *Love*.
2. Mix all of the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards, while concentrating on what is happening in your life as well as your

wishes, hopes and fears. Choose two Tea Leaf Fortune Cards and place them face down below the Astral House card.

3. Mix the rest of the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards. Choose three cards and place them face down below the two cards.

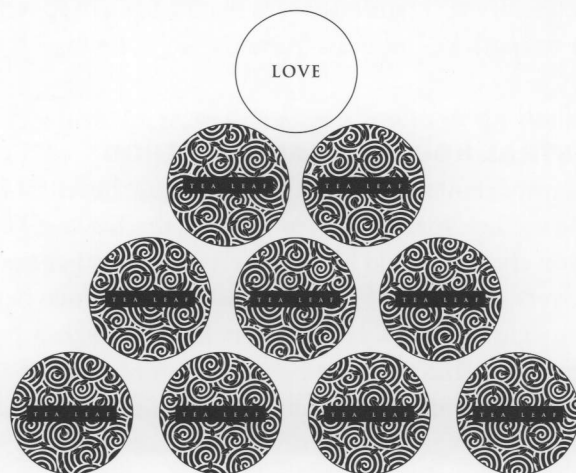


ILLUSTRATION 6

4. Mix the remaining Tea Leaf Fortune Cards. Choose four cards and place them face down below the three cards forming a pyramid. (Illustration 6.)
5. Turn over all the cards and they will reveal the positive and negative energy surrounding you and Love at this point. It is important to remember that the cards represent all kinds of love; parental, filial, etc., and not just love between yourself and a sweetheart or a spouse.

6. The Tea Leaf Fortune Cards in the second line of the pyramid represent what will happen within a two; two days, two weeks, or two months. In this case the cards are *Flute: Disappointment in a friend or lover*; and *Knot: Unsuccessful plans*. Here, the unsuccessful plans would seem to be connected to the disappointment in a lover.
7. The Tea Leaf Fortune Cards in the third line of the pyramid show what will happen within a three. It could be three days, three weeks, or three months. Here the cards are *Butterfly: A change for the better*; *Bird—Flying: News is on the way*; and *Mice: Discord among friends or family*. Here, the three cards could be connected or unconnected. It would be up to the person whose fortune was being read to decide.
8. The Tea Leaf Cards in the fourth line of the pyramid represent what will happen within a four. It could be four days, four weeks, or four months. The cards shown are *Ear: Good news*; *Chair—Filled: Someone new is entering your life*; *Windchimes: Peace and harmony*; and *Heart: Love, deep affection, caring*. Here, all four cards would seem to be connected to a new love entering the querist's life.

### SAMPLE READING: THE ASTRAL HOUSE PYRAMID

June is twenty-seven and a computer programmer who lives in San Francisco. For the last nine months she has been



dating Steven, who is also a computer programmer and works for the same firm as June. June is very much in love with Steven and wanted to know if they would get married. She chose *Marriage* for her Astral House card. These are the Tea Leaf Fortune Cards she chose.

#### **WITHIN TWO DAYS—TWO WEEKS—TWO MONTHS**

*Diamond:* Giving or receiving a precious gift.

*Ladder:* Climbing toward success.

June was thrilled when she turned over these cards, for they gave every indication that Steven and she would soon become engaged.

#### **WITHIN THREE DAYS—THREE WEEKS—THREE MONTHS**

*Desk:* Pay attention to your work.

*Tiger:* Doing something risky. Taking a chance.

*Wishbone:* A wish is granted.

June felt these cards further confirmed that Steven and she would get married. Her wish would be granted. While June wanted to get married, she had to agree that it was doing something risky and definitely taking a chance. She also felt that the admonishment to pay more attention to

her work was a very timely reminder as she had to admit she had been neglecting it of late.

#### **WITHIN FOUR DAYS—FOUR WEEKS—FOUR MONTHS**

*Ring:* A marriage will take place, either romantic or business.

*Torch:* Spiritual development, great enlightenment, awareness, understanding.

*Fox:* Shrewdness and resourcefulness especially in business.

*Dog—Barking:* Advice from a friend.

When June saw the ring card she felt it was the final confirmation she needed that Steven and she would be married. She felt it would be a good marriage because they complemented each other. She was spiritually aware, while Steven was very shrewd in business, and so they would each bring something to the marriage that the other person did not have. June laughed when she saw the *Dog—Barking card*. "I know when I get married I will be getting lots of advice from all of my friends."



## TEA LEAF SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS

**ANGEL:** *Spiritual guidance. Protection from harm.* A bright light surrounds an angel as she hovers in a darkened sky. Her hair is wreathed with flowers and lilies cascade around her. In her right hand she holds a lighted candle. Lucky is the person who chooses this symbol. The angel means that you will be protected from harm during the time frame in which the angel card appears. The lighted candle indicates that you will be shown the way through spiritual guidance, and the garland of lilies shows spiritual love and understanding.

**ANT:** *Work, achievement, success.* An industrious ant carries a leaf as large as itself. It looks neither left nor right, completely absorbed in its task of carrying the leaf as quickly as possible to its nest. The ant signifies that you will have achievements and success but you will have to work hard for them. If you are not prepared to exert the necessary effort then achievements and success will not be forthcoming.

**APPLE:** *Temptation will test you.* An apple hangs ripe and sweet from the bough of a tree, tempting passersby to pick it. Wrapped around the bough, all but hidden by the leaves, is a snake guarding the apple. This symbol forewarns the querist to beware. You will be tempted to do something against your better judgment or something you know is wrong. You think that no one will know or find out. The snake is a warning that this will not be the case.

**ARCHWAY:** *New opportunities, possibilities, and paths opening up.* Climbing roses twine around an archway set in an old brick wall. A path invites you through the archway to admire the beautiful garden that lies beyond it. This symbol indicates that there are new opportunities awaiting you. However, you must not be afraid to take a new direction and pass through the archway, as this is the only way the opportunities will be revealed.

**ARROW:** *You are on the right path regarding some aspect of your life.* An arrow flies upward through the air toward a distant target. The sun is shining and the sky is cloudless. The arrow indicates that you are on the right path regarding some aspect of your life, but it does not specify which one. As there are many different aspects to a person's life, you will have to decide exactly what the card means. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal which aspect it is.)

**AXE:** *Forces working against you.* A hand brandishes a deadly axe, its blade sharp and shining. It is impossible to tell if the hand holding the axe belongs to a man or a woman or when and where the axe will strike. The axe is a warning to be very careful as there is danger in the air and there is no telling from which direction it will come. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the danger.)

**BAG:** *Something important, such as a new job or a raise.* A soft leather bag sits atop a table. The bag is obviously full but it is tightly closed with a drawstring so it is impossible to see what it holds. The table symbol represents hard



work and the contents of the bag represent your reward, which could be in the form of financial gain, increased power, or advancement.

**BARREL:** *You feel something is lacking in your life; perhaps love, money, or goals.* An empty barrel lies discarded on the ground under a tree. Dead leaves from the tree cover the ground around the barrel. The empty barrel indicates that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of your life. This could be something you are in denial about as you cannot or do not want to change your life at the moment. It is important that you examine the various aspects of your life and take steps to improve the area you consider lacking. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal which aspect.)

**BASKET:** *Recognition. Reward for merit.* A straw basket is set down on a kitchen table. It is filled with fruit, bread, and flowers; all riches harvested from the good earth and human labor. The kitchen table represents your hard work and the basket heaped with plenty signifies that your efforts will be recognized and rewarded.

**BAT:** *Take care—enemies are working against you.* A bat flies out of its cave under the cover of darkness, hunting for prey. The querist should beware. The bat is warning you to take extra care in what you say and do. Enemies are hiding in the dark, ready to strike at the first opportunity.

**BEAR:** *Danger, especially in money matters.* A bear unexpectedly looms out of the forest, his terrifying roar shattering the peace of the surrounding countryside. The bear

forewarns you of danger and that you should be especially prudent in money matters wherever possible. However, sometimes the loss of money will be beyond your control such as urgent plumbing repairs for your home, or your car suddenly breaking down and needing costly repairs or some other unforeseen expense of this nature.

**BEE TLE:** *Good fortune.* The largest of beetles, the Goliath beetle, advances along a sun-drenched, golden path. The markings of the beetle seem to match the pattern of the cobblestones. This symbol indicates that good fortune will smile upon you during the time frame in which the beetle appears. (Check connecting cards to see if the good fortune is general or related to something specific.)

**BELL:** *Announcement.* A bell tolls high up in an old stone tower, alerting the people below to gather round to hear some news. The bell indicates that you will soon hear news that will affect your life. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the news will be positive or negative. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the announcement.)

**BIRD—FLYING:** *News is on the way.* A bird is in full flight against a backdrop of the world. The bird is traveling quickly, seemingly covering the world with a few beats of his wings. This symbol indicates that the querist will soon be receiving news, or a package, or a letter. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the news will be good or bad. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the news.)

**BIRD—PERCHED:** *Waiting for news, package, letter.* A bird is perched on a budding tree that is just beginning to blossom. The bird's legs firmly grip the branch, and its head is cocked to one side showing it is waiting or looking for something. This symbol indicates that the querist is waiting for news, or a package, or a letter, but it does not indicate whether the news will be good or bad.

**BOAT:** *Money or property through an inheritance, winnings, or windfall.* A boat is sailing through calm waters. The sun shines down on it from an unbroken blue sky. All is serene and tranquil. This symbol indicates that the querist will receive property, money, or goods through an inheritance, windfall or winnings.

**BOOT:** *Increase your efforts if you want to achieve your goals.* A sturdy leather boot stands waiting for someone to wear it. The boot is boldly patterned and there is no telling whether it belongs to a man or a woman. The boot is warning you that although you might have lofty goals, it will take much more effort on your part before they are achieved.

**BOUQUET:** *Compliments from an admirer.* An elegant vase holds a beautiful bouquet of flowers. This card signifies that the querist will receive compliments from an admirer. Although the compliments could very well be of a romantic nature, the querist should not automatically think of that as the only possibility. This symbol means compliments from any source. They could include compliments from a boss for a job well done; a parent complimenting a child, or compliments from a friend.

**BOW:** *You are highly thought of.* A red satin bow adorns someone's hair. This card signifies that you are highly thought of and admired, but the card does not reveal whether the admirer is male or female. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**BOWL:** *Plenty of material things.* A beautifully patterned bowl is filled with every type of luscious, ripe fruit. This symbol indicates that you will enjoy plenty of material things. However, you should pay heed not to place too much value on material things, for like fruit, which can soon rot and has to be thrown away, material possessions can soon lose their luster and appeal.

**BOX:** *You will receive a gift.* An exquisitely ornate, lacquered box stands in front of you. It is securely locked in order to keep its contents a mystery. This symbol indicates that you will soon receive a gift but does not reveal what the gift will be or who it is from. This symbol can also mean that you will receive a spiritual gift. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**BREAD:** *Period of prosperity and abundance.* A freshly baked loaf of bread sits on a kitchen table next to a sack of flour. The sack of flour is so full it spills its contents onto the table. The kitchen table represents your hard work, and the loaf of bread and sack of flour represent the fruit of your labors. This symbol indicates that you will enjoy a period of prosperity and plenty, which will be centered around the home.

**BRIDGE:** *Successfully overcoming a problem.* A bridge spans a ravine between two high cliffs. A bubbling stream rushes in the canyon below. The sun is shining and the sky is a cloudless blue. The bridge signifies that a problem that has been bothering you will be successfully overcome.

**BROKEN BRIDGE:** *Unsuccessful outcome to a problem.* A raging river swirls around the columns of a broken bridge. The sky is gray and filled with storm clouds. Rain falls heavily on the broken bridge. This card denotes that there will be an unsuccessful outcome to a problem that has been troubling you. (Check connecting cards to see if they indicate an alternative solution to the problem.)

**BROKEN RING:** *Parting of the ways in either romance or business.* A badly tarnished golden ring lies broken in three pieces on top of a heap of dead flowers and leaves. This card signifies there will soon be a parting of the ways in either romance or business for the querist. The dead flowers and leaves symbolize the death of dreams and hopes associated with the relationship. The broken ring symbolizes the breaking of the bonds that once encircled the people involved.

**BROKEN WISHBONE:** *Wish will not be granted.* A large, broken wishbone looms before the querist. This symbol brings unpleasant news as it indicates that a wish very dear to the querist's heart will not be granted.

**BROOM:** *New home. New attitude.* A broom stands beside a pile of dead leaves. A pretty cottage surrounded by flowers

can be seen in the background. This card represents a sweeping out of the old and going forward with the new. For the querist it can mean a new home, a new position at work, or a new mental attitude toward the things around you.

**BULL:** *Do not back down from opposition. Show strength and fortitude.* A bull stands beneath a tree. Its head is lowered, showing it is ready to charge. The bull represents a situation or person that you must not back down from. It will require all of your strength and fortitude to face this person or situation, but it is imperative that you do not back down. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal information about the person or situation.)

**BUTTERFLY:** *A change for the better.* A magnificently colored butterfly rests momentarily on a flower. The sun is shining and the sky is blue. The butterfly flies from blossom to blossom, no longer a lowly caterpillar crawling around. It has emerged from its chrysalis to live a dazzling life of exquisite beauty. This symbol indicates that you will soon experience a change for the better. But is it really for the better? It may seem so at the time but it will be up to you to decide at a later time.

**CAMEL:** *Persevere and you will overcome problems.* A camel, burdened with a heavy load, slowly trudges across the hot desert sand with no relief from the burning sun. However, the camel keeps its head up high and carries on, determined to reach the oasis and the rest that awaits it there. The camel indicates that you may feel laden with

problems, but if you persevere in the face of adversity, the problems will be overcome.

**CANDLE:** *You will be shown the way.* A lighted candle glows in the darkness. A garland of lilies surrounds it. The lilies represent spiritual love, while the lighted candle assures you that you will be shown the way. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal further information.)

**CANE:** *Pay attention to your health.* A weary traveler rests beneath a tree, which is shedding leaves. The traveler holds his cane in front of him as if attempting to rise. This card reminds you to pay attention to your health. It could be that you are attempting to do too much or that you have taken on too much responsibility. The card advises you to slow down.

**CARRIAGE:** *A journey, either physical or mental.* A closed carriage travels along a country road. Flowers and trees border the road. It is impossible to see the occupants of the carriage. This symbol indicates you will take a journey either physically or mentally. If the journey is on a mental plane then you will view things differently at the end of it.

**CARROT:** *Opportunity or windfall.* A freshly picked carrot lies in a field of carrots, with the sun glinting off the green leafy tops. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card. It represents an opportunity or windfall that will be given to you with little or no effort on your part.

**CASKET:** *Someone going out of your life or the end of a situation.* A closed casket lies in an open grave. Flowers surround the grave but the top of the casket is bare. The casket indicates that an ending will occur within the time frame indicated. It could mean that someone prominent in your life will no longer be there or the end of a romantic relationship. It could also mean the end of a business relationship or situation.

**CAT:** *A two-faced friend.* A seemingly benign cat sits on the stone floor enjoying the late afternoon sun. An image of a snarling cat ready to pounce on its prey appears over the shoulder of the benign cat, revealing its true nature. This card is a warning to be careful of the people you regard as friends. One of these people is two-faced and cannot be trusted.

**CATERPILLAR:** *Things will not always be this way. A change is coming.* A caterpillar is eating on a young, green, leafy plant. It will spend its days eating and resting, preparing for the day when it will become a beautiful butterfly. This symbol indicates that a great change will take place in the querist's life, and once it does, things will never be the same. However, the symbol does not indicate whether it is a change for the better or worse. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the change.)

**CHAIN:** *Chain of events that will affect your life.* A chain, thick and strong, stretches across the world, binding people and events together. This symbol indicates that a chain of events will affect your life, directly or indirectly.

**CHAIR—EMPTY:** *Someone is leaving your life.* An empty chair sits in an empty room. This symbol indicates that someone significant will be leaving (or has just left) your life. It does not indicate if the person is male or female or whether it will be for the better or worse. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal this information.)

**CHAIR—FILLED:** *Someone new is entering your life.* A person sits on a chair in front of the querist. It is impossible to tell whether it is a man or a woman because of the angle. The back of the chair is decorated with irises meaning that this person has an important message for the querist. This symbol signifies that someone new will enter (or has just entered) your life but does not indicate whether it will be a man or a woman or whether it will be for the better or worse. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal this information.)

**CLAW:** *Be careful—do not take risks.* A large claw, suspended from a sky that is filled with thunder clouds, appears in front of the querist. This card is a warning for you to take extra care during the time frame indicated and under no circumstances should you take any kind of risk.

**CLOUDS:** *Temporary problems.* Black thunder clouds fill the sky, but the sun peeks out from behind one of the clouds. This symbol is a positive one as it shows you that your problems are just temporary and the sun will soon be shining again.

**CLUB:** *Someone will try to make you do something against your will.* A large, vicious club is silhouetted against a sky filled with thunder clouds. This symbol is a warning that someone will try to persuade you to do something against your better judgment. In extreme cases, you could be either coerced or blackmailed into doing something against your will.

**COBWEB:** *Protected from negative forces beyond your control.* A cobweb is spun between two beautiful flowers. The morning sun shines brightly, reflecting some drops of dew caught on the web. Lucky is the querist who selects this card, for you are protected against negative energy forces beyond your control for the duration of the time frame in which the card appears.

**COINS:** *Money will be coming to you.* Giant golden coins appear to be falling from a cloudless sky onto a bed of flowers. Good fortune is in store for the querist who chooses this card as it signifies that money will be forthcoming.

**CRACKED CUP:** *Dissatisfaction with life.* A broken cup lies on a narrow country road where someone has thrown it away. Spilled liquid is on the ground around it. The narrow country road signifies life, and the discarded cracked cup indicates that you are dissatisfied with some aspect of your life.

**CRIB:** *Birth or conception of a child or enterprise.* A newborn baby lies in a beautiful wicker crib. The crib is decorated with lace and garlanded with flowers. This card



card signifies the birth or conception of a child for the querist or someone close to the querist. The card can also represent the start of an enterprise or undertaking for the querist or someone close to the querist.

**CROWN:** *Honor and respect will come to you.* A golden crown encrusted with jewels appears in front of the querist. This symbol indicates that you will soon receive the honor and respect that has been due you for some time.

**CUP:** *You should accept valid criticism.* A cup sits on a kitchen table. In the background is a teapot. The teapot represents friendship. This card advises the querist not to become upset when someone offers you valid criticism. The card also advises you to accept constructive criticism and, whenever possible, make use of it.

**DAGGER:** *Fear, worries, tense situations.* A hand holding a dagger appears from a cloud filled sky. Rain lashes across the dagger. There is no telling when or where the dagger will strike. This card forewarns the querist of a period filled with fears and worries and tense situations. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the tense situations.)

**DARK MAN:** *Dealings or relationship with a man with dark complexion or hair.* A man with dark hair and dark complexion is shown. His face is inscrutable. You will have dealings or a relationship with a man with dark complexion or hair. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the man is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will

be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of this man.)

**DARK WOMAN:** *Dealings or relationship with a woman with dark complexion or hair.* A woman with dark hair and dark complexion is shown. Her face is inscrutable. You will have dealings or a relationship with a woman with dark complexion or hair. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the woman is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of this woman.)

**DESK:** *Pay attention to your work.* A beautifully carved, ornate desk signifies the querist's career. However, the top of the desk is strewn with unfinished work. This symbol is a warning to you to pay more attention to your work or you may be called upon to pay a high price for neglecting it.

**DIAMOND:** *You will be receiving or giving a precious gift.* A large, multi-faceted diamond glitters brilliantly. It is surrounded by roses and lilies. Roses indicate romance while lilies denote spiritual love. The diamond symbol represents how precious the gift is, but it is not the cost of the gift that is important as it could cost very little or nothing at all. The gift is precious because of what it means to the giver or the receiver.

**DOG:** *Protection from a powerful friend.* A powerfully built dog stands guard, ready to take action against any enemies. This card signifies that the querist is protected by

a powerful friend. The powerful friend could be a relative, business partner or social acquaintance. The powerful friend could also be someone you have dealings with for legal or financial matters.

DOGS: *Getting together with friends.* Two dogs are shown having fun together. This card indicates that you will be getting together with friends to have a good time. The friends could be either male or female.

DOG—BARKING: *Advice from a friend.* A dog is barking, an earnest expression on its face, trying to attract the attention of the querist. The querist should pay heed. This card signifies that a friend or relative will give you some advice. It is important that you pay attention to what the person has to say and do not dismiss it as being of no consequence.

DOG—CLOSE UP: *Pleasure with a close friend.* This card shows a dog with a playful expression on its face. This symbol indicates that you will have pleasure with a close friend or relative. It does not indicate whether the friend is male or female.

DOG—FAR AWAY: *A distant friend is thinking of you.* A dog stands against a distant background with wistful expression on its face. This symbol indicates that a friend or relative who lives some distance from you is thinking of you. It can also mean that a friend or relative who has become spiritually distant is thinking of you and would like to reach out and bridge the gap.

DOLPHIN: *Financial gain, usually coming from something you did in the past.* A dolphin leaps out of the sea in a graceful arc. The sun glistens off the dolphin as it somersaults. This card signifies that there is financial gain coming to the querist. The financial gain will usually emanate from something you did in the past such as the buying of property or an investment or from a project started some time ago.

DOOR: *Opportunities are waiting for you.* A heavy, ornate door is set deep in a brick wall. This symbol indicates that there are opportunities waiting. However, these opportunities will not present themselves without you taking the first step. You must not be afraid to open the door and go through it to see what lies on the other side.

DRAGON: *Beware of self-delusion.* A fire-breathing dragon, all puffed up with its own self-importance, appears in front of the querist. However, the dragon looks a little nonsensical, more like a caricature of a dragon than the real thing. This symbol indicates that you should beware of deluding yourself with regard to certain situations. You should face the truth, however painful, and act accordingly.

EAGLE: *Triumph over troubles, obstacles.* The king of birds is unafraid to face a challenge or confront its enemies. This card indicates that the spirit of the eagle is guiding you and that you will ultimately triumph over the troubles and obstacles you are now facing.

EAR: *Good news.* The ear signifies that the querist will soon hear good news. It also instructs the querist to let go of negative attitudes and look on the bright side of things rather than the dark side.

EGG: *Success assured with good plans and hard work.* A golden egg lies in a nest on the fork of a tree branch. The egg denotes that success is assured but only if you plan properly and work hard. Just as an egg can topple from the nest and break, so can success evade you without the proper planning and work.

ELEPHANT: *A long journey, either physical or mental, will leave you wiser at the end.* A wise, old elephant rests by a watering hole. This symbol indicates that you will take either a long physical or spiritual journey from where you are at the moment. Information that you are given or find out on this journey will alter your view of life forever.

EYE: *Psychic ability—trust your intuition.* An eye, all seeing and all knowing, stares back at the querist. This card tells you that you have psychic ability and should trust your intuition. You should also be advised that the times you go against your intuition are the times when you will make your biggest mistakes.

FAIR MAN: *Dealings or relationship with a man with blonde, gray, or white hair.* A fair man with a fair complexion is shown. His face is inscrutable. You will have dealings or a relationship with a man with a fair complexion and blond, gray or white hair. However, the symbol does not indicate

whether the man is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see what they reveal.)

FAIR WOMAN: *Dealings or relationship with a woman with blonde, gray, or white hair.* A fair woman with a fair complexion is shown. Her face is inscrutable. You will have dealings or a relationship with a woman with fair complexion and blonde, gray, or white hair. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the woman is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see what they reveal about the woman.)

FAN: *Romance, celebration, party.* An exquisitely painted fan is fully extended, showing all of its beautiful design. This symbol is a festive one indicating that you will soon have something to celebrate, or will be having fun at a party. It is also a romance card and could indicate that you are now, or about to become, romantically involved with someone.

FEATHER: *Someone you know is undependable and insincere.* A feather, blown by the wind, comes to rest on the ground next to some dying lilies. The feather, tossed by the wind, represents the changeable nature of man, and the dying lilies signify the loss of spiritual love. This card forewarns you to be careful about whom you trust. Someone you know will turn out to be undependable or insincere.

FINGER: *Warning you of a problem either now or in the near future.* A hand rises in front of the querist. The right

finger is extended in a warning. This card indicates that a problem faces (or will soon face) the querist that must be dealt with. The problem could have to do with health, finances or relationships. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal nature of the warning.)

FIRE: *Strong emotion. Passionate love or hate.* A fire rages out of control beneath a cloud-filled sky. You are warned that either passionate love or hate can become all-consuming if it is allowed to rage out of control. You should try to keep your feelings in check to avoid this from happening.

FIRECRACKER: *Excitement.* A firecracker explodes in a brilliant shower of colors above the querist. This card denotes that exciting situations or events are in store for the querist.

FLAG: *Do not be tempted to lower your standards.* A flag flies at the top of a mast, proud and majestic, a symbol of integrity and honor. You will find yourself in a situation where you will be tempted to lower your high standards. This symbol is a warning that you should not resort to expedient means, but to always live by the high standards that have served you in the past.

FLOWERS: *Happiness.* A songbird rests on the branch of a tree covered with newly-bloomed white flowers. The songbird is young and carefree. This card indicates a period of carefree happiness for the querist during the time frame shown.

FLUTE: *Disappointment in a friend or lover.* A silent flute lies next to a vase of dying roses. The beauty of the flowers and music has passed. This card indicates that the querist will be bitterly disappointed in a trusted friend or lover.

FLY: *A period of ill health. Depression.* A fly drinks from a glass of stale, spilled wine. Pieces of moldy bread and cheese lie around the glass. This card is a warning that you could face a period of ill health either physically or mentally. It could be that you are not paying sufficient attention to your health. This symbol cautions you to re-evaluate your lifestyle.

FOREST: *Muddled, unclear thinking.* A forest, thick and dark, blocks the querist's path. No path is shown through the dense foliage. You wonder how you will ever get through. This symbol indicates that you are trying to muddle through some problem or situation without really thinking it out or planning ahead.

FOUR-LEAF CLOVER: *Great, good fortune.* A four-leaf clover turns its fresh green face toward the querist. Rare indeed is a four-leaf clover and lucky is the querist who finds one. Great, good fortune will be yours during the time frame indicated.

FOX: *Shrewdness and resourcefulness, especially in business.* A red fox, partially hidden by bushes, scans the countryside. The fox is a cunning, daring hunter knowing when to take chances and when to lie low. This symbol indicates that the querist will be inspired with the shrewdness and resourcefulness of the fox during the time frame shown.

**FRYING PAN:** *Trouble, accusations.* A frying pan is set low on a hot fire. The fire is so hot that the meat cooking in the pan spits, hisses, and burns. This card forewarns of trouble ahead. You should take extra care to guard yourself against any accusations that could be leveled at you.

**FUNNEL:** *Period of frustration. Lessons to be learned.* A funnel, heaped with grain, stands in the neck of a large, stone bottle. It will take a long time to fill the bottle as only a small amount can go through the funnel at any one time. The farmer has many bottles to fill and is impatient with the amount of time it is taking. This symbol indicates that you will go through a period where you will be frustrated because events move slowly, but at the end of this period you will find you have learned a valuable lesson which you would not have learned had events moved faster.

**GAVEL:** *Involvement with the law.* A gavel rests in the hand of a judge. This symbol indicates that the querist will have some involvement with the law during the time frame indicated. (Check connecting cards to see if the nature of this involvement is revealed.)

**GOLDFISH:** *Increase in material wealth or spiritual growth.* An exquisite goldfish swims in clear, blue water tinted gold by the sun. Its long fins and tail undulate slowly as it swims around the pond. This card signifies that the querist will either have an increase in material wealth or will experience spiritual growth during the time frame indicated.

**GONG:** *An exciting event.* A man, stripped to the waist, beats a heavy, brass striker against a large, ornate gong. Something noteworthy is about to happen. This symbol foretells of an exciting event in store for you. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the event.)

**GRAPES:** *Time to go out and have fun.* A large bunch of succulent, ripe purple grapes hang from a vine, just waiting to be picked. This symbol advises you that you need a break from everyday routine. It is time to go out and have some fun.

**GRASSHOPPER:** *Situations in the balance that require careful handling.* A grasshopper rests on a stalk of grass that looks too frail to carry its weight, but the grasshopper is perfectly balanced until it moves. When it does move, it will have to move with great care or risk falling off. This symbol advises the querist that there are situations in the balance that require extremely delicate handling. It also advises the querist to seek professional advice wherever possible before attempting to resolve these issues.

**HAMMOCK:** *Taking a vacation, physically or mentally.* A hammock is slung between two flowering trees. The sun shines from a cloudless blue sky. This symbol indicates that you will be taking a vacation, either physically or mentally, away from the pressures and stress of everyday life.

**HAND:** *In need of help, assistance, and guidance.* An outstretched hand is raised to the sky. It is impossible to tell whether the hand belongs to a male or female. This



symbol signifies that you need help in some aspect of your life. Unfortunately, the symbol does not reveal if help will be given. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**HANDSHAKE:** *A meeting with a stranger could be important.* Two hands clasp together in a handshake. One hand is outstretched from the sky while the other hand is outstretched from the earth. This card signifies that during the given time frame you will meet a stranger who could prove to be very important in your life. However, the card does not indicate whether the meeting is for the better or worse.

**HARP:** *Great happiness.* Angelic fingers pluck at a golden harp. A mythical fish adorns the harp listening to the celestial music. Lucky is the querist who picks this card. You will know great happiness; the kind of inner happiness that comes from spiritual love and contentment with life and fellow man.

**HAT:** *You will be playing a different role.* A hat is silhouetted against the sun rising over the ocean. The ocean represents the cradle of all creation, while the sunrise indicates new starts and fresh ideas. The hat signifies that you will be soon playing a different role in your life. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal any further information.)

**HAYSTACK:** *Karma—you will reap what you have sown.* A newly-stacked haystack sits in a field of freshly mown hay. The sky is blue but dotted with a few white clouds that could turn into thunderclouds. The haystack represents

the karma that you will reap. If you have sown good karma in the past, then good is what you will reap. If the karma was bad, then bad karma will return to haunt you.

**HEART:** *Love, deep affection, and caring.* A beautiful heart is encircled with newly-bloomed red roses. This card of caring indicates that you will either feel love or deep affection for someone or that someone will have feelings of love or deep affection for you.

**HILLS:** *Obstacles to overcome.* A series of hills rise in front of the querist. None of them are impossible to climb; they just make the terrain harder to traverse. These hills indicate problems that you will have to face. None of the problems are insurmountable, but they will make your life's journey more difficult. However, just as it is easier to see the surrounding landscape from the top of a hill so, too, will you find it easier to view your life after solving these problems.

**HORSE:** *Short journey.* A prancing horse beckons you to mount it. This card signifies that you will take a short journey during the time frame indicated. However, the card does not indicate whether the journey is for business or pleasure. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the journey.)

**HORSESHOE:** *Good luck.* A gleaming horseshoe appears before the querist. Flowers tumble from the sky around it. Fortunate indeed is the querist who chooses this card as it indicates that good luck will shower down on you during the time frame shown.

**INKPOT:** *Problems to be resolved.* An overturned inkpot lies on a desk. A quill pen lies beside it in a pool of spilled ink. This card indicates that there are problems you are not willing to face. The card advises you to resolve these problems (or begin resolving them) during the time frame indicated.

**JUG:** *Lighthearted, carefree time.* A pewter jug adorned with flowers and grapes invites you to drink the refreshing liquid it holds. This symbol indicates that there is a lighthearted, carefree time ahead for you.

**KANGAROO:** *Unsettled times. Need to plan ahead.* A kangaroo hops around, jumping from one direction to another with no apparent plan in mind. This card is warning you to stop trying to run in too many directions at once as it is depleting you mentally, physically, and financially. You should take the time to make sound plans for the future, then follow them.

**KEY:** *Successful outcome to your problems.* An ornate key gleams in the brilliant sun. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card as it signifies that there will be a successful outcome to the problems you are now facing.

**KITE:** *Vacation.* A brightly-colored kite in the shape of a goldfish flies high in a cloudless sky. The goldfish symbolizes an increase in material wealth or spiritual growth. This card signifies that you will take a vacation. The card does not specify what kind of vacation; it could be a vacation to an island paradise or a break from the chores of everyday

life. It could also mean a mental vacation in which you relax from the pressures that surround you.

**KNOT:** *Unsuccessful plans.* A piece of heavy rope lies tangled and knotted on the ground. This card signifies that plans laid out by the querist will be unsuccessful.

**LADDER:** *Climbing toward success.* A ladder firmly planted in the ground stretches all the way to the sky. Even though the sun is shining, the sky is dotted with small white clouds. This card shows that you are climbing toward success in some aspect of your life, but the clouds symbolize temporary problems that you will have to overcome first.

**LEG:** *Stepping into a new experience.* A leg is firmly planted on the ground. Even though the leg is well formed and muscular, there is no way of telling if the leg belongs to a man or a woman. This card indicates that you will be stepping into a new experience during the time frame shown. (Check connecting cards to see if they elaborate further on what the experience will be.)

**LIGHTNING:** *Control your anger or you will be sorry.* A bolt of lightning thunders down from a storm-filled sky. This card warns you not to let your anger get out of control. If you lash out in a moment of anger, you will have many hours of regret.

**LILY:** *Spiritual love.* A beautiful white lily fills the querist's heart and mind with spiritual love, divine and pure. Now is the time for you to share this love with your fellow man.

LION: *Time to act.* A lion, lord of the jungle, king of the beasts, strides purposefully through the savannah, prepared to meet and vanquish whatever crosses its path. It fears no one, man or beast. Follow the lion's example, and overcome indecision. It is time to act or face the consequences for being tentative.

LOBSTER: *Financial pinch.* A lobster waits for an unwary victim, ready to attack with its incredibly strong claws. This card advises you to be especially responsible in dealing with your finances during the time frame shown. Failure to do so could result in a severe financial pinch.

MAN: *Dealings or relationship with a man.* A man is shown. His face is inscrutable. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with a man during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the man is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the man.)

MICE: *Discord among friends or family.* Three mice are shown going in different directions. Mice are a symbol of poverty, and in this instance represent poverty of kindness and understanding. This card denotes discord among you and your friends or family. You should examine carefully the reasons behind the disagreements and try to see things through the other person's eyes. This is a time to be diplomatic. If you are not, you may find yourself spiritually poorer due to a lack of understanding.

MONEY PATH: *A path with money is waiting for you to find it.* A curving path filled with gold coins lies hidden somewhere. It gives no clue as to its whereabouts; it is up to you to find it. This card advises you that there is a path filled with money just waiting for you to discover it. Unfortunately, the path will never show itself; you must find a way to access it, or the golden coins on the path will always elude you.

MOON: *Changes in your life.* A full moon lights up the night sky. Just as the full moon changes into the new moon, so must you be prepared for changes in your life. However, this symbol does not indicate whether the changes will be beneficial or detrimental. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal any further information.)

MOUNTAIN: *Major challenge to overcome.* A mountain, bleak and forbidding, rises directly in the querist's path. It offers no easy way around it or over it. There are suggestions of possible routes on the mountainside, but no single one is clearly the right one. This symbol indicates there is a major challenge you must face and deal with. It would be futile to try to avoid it or go around it. As no single way to deal with the problem has been indicated, you must be very careful of the path you choose, making sure it is the right one.

MOUNTAIN ROAD: *You are on the road to success.* A narrow road snakes around a forbidding mountain. It is full of tight corners and hazardous curves which must be navigated with the utmost care. This symbol indicates that you are on the road to success, but success is only assured if you

follow the road extremely carefully at all times. You cannot veer off in different directions and still expect to succeed.

**MULE:** *Someone is extremely stubborn and unwilling to change.* A man is tugging at a mule that is facing in the opposite direction. The mule refuses to turn around and follow the man. A battle of wills has developed in which neither the man nor the mule is willing to give way. This card signifies that you are being stubborn and rigid in your views or someone you know is stubborn and unwilling to change.

**NEEDLE & THREAD:** *A sincere wish will be granted.* A silken thread slots through the eye of a small needle. It is important that the needle is threaded because only then will a wish be granted. This symbol indicates that a truly sincere wish, dear to the querist's heart, will be granted.

**NEST:** *An emotionally secure, loving family is important to you.* A nest full of eggs sits securely in the fork of a tree. The nest is hidden from view by the leaves on the tree making it safe from predators who would steal the eggs. This card signifies that it is important for you to be part of a supportive, loving family.

**OLDER MAN:** *Dealings or relationship with an older man.* An older man is shown. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with an older man during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the older man is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic,

financial, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the older man.)

**OLDER WOMAN:** *Dealings or relationship with an older woman.* An older woman is shown. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with an older woman during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the older woman is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, financial, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the older woman.)

**OWL:** *Good advice from a wise person.* An owl sits on a tree branch, silhouetted against a full moon. Its wise eyes observe everything that is happening around it. This card advises you to take note of some good advice that will be given to you by someone you respect and who is well-informed. This advice can only help you.

**PAIL:** *Time to get out of a situation.* A pail has tipped over and lies in a puddle of spilled water on the stone floor. This card signifies that it is time for you to bail out of a situation you are in. The situation could be a romantic involvement, or a business or financial situation. This symbol also indicates that there could be legal implications. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more about the situation.)

**PARROT:** *Someone will gossip about all your secrets.* A gaudy parrot is perched on a tree branch, squawking loudly for everyone to hear. This symbol is warning you to

guard your tongue, otherwise someone else will be gossiping about things you would rather keep secret.

PEACOCK: *Beware of great pride.* A vain peacock struts along, his tail feathers spread out, displayed for all the world to see. This card not only forewarns you against self-aggrandizement but also against glorifying your accomplishments. You should also beware of others who puff themselves up with self-importance.

PIG: *Beware of greed.* A pig, round and fat, pokes its nose out of the underbrush as it looks for more food to become even fatter. This card advises the querist not to become too greedy. The card also forewarns you to beware of other people who could harm you with their greed.

PIN: *New job/career.* A silver pin lies on a purple velvet cushion. The head and stem of the pin are beautifully decorated. This symbol has two meanings. One is that you will soon have a new job or career. The other meaning is that the job or career you already have will soon take a new direction.

PINEAPPLE: *Reconciliation.* A ripe, juicy pineapple stands on a kitchen table. This card represents the two meanings of reconciliation. On the one hand, the pineapple indicates that you will be reconciled with family, friends, or loved ones after a separation or argument. On the other hand, the pineapple represents that you will become reconciled to accepting a disagreeable situation in your life as something that cannot be changed at the moment.

PURSE: *Pay attention to your finances.* A leather purse lies open, spilling gold coins onto a table. This card is warning you to pay attention to your finances. It could be that you are spending too much money unwisely, or that you should be checking your investments more carefully.

QUILL: *Get back to the basics.* A sturdy quill lies neglected on a desk. This symbol is a warning for you to pay more attention to the basics you built your life upon. They are the foundation of your life and will stand you in good stead when flights of fancy have turned sour.

RABBIT: *Too much concern with sexual matters.* A buck rabbit waits in a field for the unwary doe to cross its path. The buck has sex on its mind and is oblivious to other things happening around it. This card advises the querist not to be so preoccupied with sexual matters. Moderation in all things is a good axiom to live by.

RAINBOW: *The most difficult part of a situation is over.* A glorious rainbow stretches from one end of a cloudless sky to the other. This symbol signifies that you have dealt with the most difficult part of a situation and that things will be much easier in the future. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more about the situation.)

RAM: *A stubborn, aggressive person.* A ram appears with its massive horns curling around its head. The ram is guarding its territory, prepared to do battle with anyone or anything that gets in its way. This card indicates that either the querist is being stubborn and aggressive, or that the querist will



have dealings with a person who is stubborn and aggressive. Either way, the querist should take care and consider diplomacy as the best course of action.

**RAT:** *Someone working against you behind your back.* A sharp-eyed rat peers from its hiding place in the grass. It observes everything the querist does and looks for a chance to use it to its own advantage. This card is a warning that someone is working against you behind your back. It also advises you to be careful in what you do and say as it could be used against you. Do not accuse anyone of being the rat unless you are absolutely sure, otherwise this accusation could come back to haunt you.

**RING:** *A marriage will take place either romantic or business.* A shining golden ring is surrounded with lilies and roses indicating both spiritual and romantic love. This symbol signifies that you (or someone close to you) will soon enter into a marriage. The marriage could either be a romantic union between two lovers, or a business union for financial gain. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**ROOSTER:** *An arrogant, boastful person you should not cross.* A rooster crows in the first light of the morning, awakening the farmer and his family. The cock is puffed up with its own sense of importance. It preens its brightly colored feathers and crows again. This symbol indicates that you will have dealings with an arrogant, boastful person and advises you to play the diplomat and not cross this person or you will regret it.

**ROSE:** *Romance is in the air.* An exquisite red rose opens its petals to the sky. The rose is a vision of beauty for all mankind to enjoy. This card signifies that there is romance in the air around you and that you should open yourself up to the romance and enjoy it.

**SCALES:** *Keep your life in balance.* A pair of perfectly balanced scales serves as a warning that your life is out of balance. If you wish to experience true satisfaction in your life then you must analyze your lifestyle and do whatever is necessary to restore a proper balance.

**SCISSORS:** *Disappointment in some affair.* A pair of open scissors lie discarded on a table. The heavily carved silver handles are badly tarnished from lack of use and care. This card signifies that you will be disappointed in some affair. However, the card does not reveal whether it will be in business or a matter of the heart. (Check connecting cards to see what they reveal.)

**SEAHORSE:** *Family matters.* A seahorse floats in calm, warm waters. Even though this seahorse is male, it carries eggs from the female in its abdominal pouch where they will remain until they hatch. This card signifies that you will feel weighted down by family matters during the time frame shown. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the family matters.)

**SHARK:** *Take care or there will be a loss of material wealth.* A shark prowls the deep sea looking for victims. This symbol cautions you to pay extreme care to your finances. It will

take great skill on your part to navigate the financial waters without incurring monetary loss or falling prey to a shark.

**SHIELD:** *You need to defend yourself.* A shield appears in front of the querist. The shield has withstood the onslaught of many battles and now stands ready to do battle on behalf of the querist. This symbol signifies that you will need to defend yourself during the time frame shown. It also advises you to graciously accept any help that is offered.

**SKULL:** *Hidden secrets can harm you.* A nightmarish skull leers tauntingly at the querist. The skull knows secrets the querist does not want revealed. This symbol advises you to take care. Secrets may be revealed that could be very harmful to you. (Check connecting cards to see if they indicate the nature of the secrets or who will reveal them.)

**SPEAR:** *Heartache over what you no longer have.* A spear lies deeply embedded in a heart. Blood seeps from the wound. This symbol indicates that you will suffer great heartache pining over what you have lost or no longer have. It could be a love affair, a business opportunity, or a financial opportunity. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**STAFF:** *You will be taken care of in difficult times.* A gnarled and worn staff is within reach. The staff is worn from its constant use by an unseen shepherd in taking care of his flock, guarding them from danger. This card signifies that the unseen shepherd will be watching over you and will guide you through difficult and dangerous times.

**STAR:** *Guaranteed success.* A brilliant star glows in the heavens, outshining all others around it. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card, for you are guaranteed success in some endeavor. It could be an affair of the heart, a business opportunity, or a financial situation. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the success.)

**STORK:** *News of a birth or a new business opportunity.* A stork is perched on a new nest it is building. The stork takes great care as it inserts each stick into the nest, making sure it is in just the right place to make the nest as stable and secure as possible. This card signifies that you will have news of a birth or a new business opportunity. If the news does not involve you personally, then it will involve someone close to you.

**SUN:** *Happiness and well-being.* A golden sun shines down from a cloudless sky. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card as the sun will be shining on you, filling you with happiness and a sense of well-being.

**SUNRISE:** *New creative ideas. New ventures. A fresh start.* A golden sun rises up. It seems as though it is rising from the ocean, the cradle of all creation. The sun illuminates the world, bringing fresh new light to it. This card shows that you will be filled with creative, new ideas. New ventures and fresh starts are also indicated.

**TABLE:** *Hard work ahead.* An ornately carved table stands in front of the querist. A great deal of time and hard work went into the making of that table. This card indicates that

there is much hard work ahead of you in some aspect of your life. This is not a time for you to relax and take it easy.

**TANKARD:** *Celebration, fun, enjoyment.* A silver tankard awaits the querist. All the querist has to do is pick it up and join in the fun. This symbol indicates that it is time for you to enjoy yourself. The symbol also indicates that there could be a good cause for celebration.

**TARGET:** *A goal-oriented person.* An arrow pierces the bullseye of a target. This symbol indicates either that you are a goal-oriented person who has definite objectives you wish to attain, or that you will have dealings with a person who is goal-oriented and who has certain targets in mind.

**TEAPOT:** *Deep friendship with someone of the same sex.* A teapot, decorated with fruit and flowers, is filled to the brim with hot tea. A swirl of steam escapes from the teapot's spout. The teapot indicates sharing and giving. This card signifies that you either enjoy or will enjoy a deep friendship with someone of the same sex.

**TEARDROPS:** *Great personal sorrow.* Large teardrops fall from a sorrowful eye. It is impossible to tell if the eye belongs to a man or a woman. Unlucky is the querist who chooses this card for it signifies great personal sorrow. The eye also indicates that perhaps the sorrow could have been avoided if only you had trusted your intuition.

**TENT:** *Temporary situation.* A tent is pitched in the desert as night falls. By tomorrow morning it will be gone.

This card indicates that certain situations you are now experiencing are only temporary and that they will soon pass. These situations could be good or bad for you but the card does not reveal this, only that they are temporary situations which will soon pass.

**THRONE:** *Position of authority.* A magnificently carved, gilded throne rests on a pedestal high above the ground. The only way the querist can reach it is by ascending a set of stairs. This card denotes that you are now occupying or soon will be occupying a position of authority.

**TIGER:** *Doing something risky. Taking a chance.* A hand, which signifies the querist, fondles a tiger in an effort to become its friend. The tiger is of two minds. Even though it likes being fondled, it is still contemplating attacking the querist. The querist who chooses this card should beware. It denotes that you are either involved in something risky or are contemplating taking a chance in some affair that could be risky.

**TORCH:** *Spiritual development, enlightenment, awareness, and understanding.* A torch blazes against the night sky, illuminating everything and making it clear. So will everything become clear to the querist. You will experience great enlightenment, spiritual awareness, and understanding.

**TORTOISE:** *Slowly but surely getting ahead.* A tortoise slowly wends its way across the grass to its nest. There are many obstacles to be crossed and, to the onlooker, it

appears as if the tortoise will never get there. However, the tortoise finds a way around all of the obstacles and finally reaches its goal. This card advises you against becoming discouraged when you do not quickly reach a goal. Even though it may seem to you that you are not making progress, the opposite is true.

**TOWER:** *Solid foundation. Success with effort.* A magnificent tower rises up in front of the querist. This tower is built on a solid foundation and will last when others have fallen. This card advises you that success rarely comes without great effort and should always be built on a solid foundation. Success that appears overnight generally departs the same way.

**TREE:** *Affairs with your family.* A tree stands proud and strong; its roots solidly embedded in the ground. Its branches are strong and intertwined and covered with leaves. This symbol denotes that you will be involved in affairs with your family. However, the card does not reveal the nature of the affairs.

**TULIP:** *Great passion.* A beautiful tulip appears in front of the querist. Its petals are tinged with various shades of red and yellow. This symbol indicates that you will feel great passion during the time frame shown. It could be passionate love, passionate hate, or a passionate zeal for some cause. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal more information.)

**TURKEY:** *Someone is behaving stupidly.* A turkey struts across the farmyard unaware that it is regarded as a stupid animal. This card signifies that either the querist is behaving stupidly or someone the querist has dealings with is behaving foolishly. Either way, it is the querist who will be affected by the stupidity.

**UNICORN:** *Use your intuition to make beneficial changes.* A beautiful white unicorn with a shining golden horn in the middle of its forehead prances in front of the querist. This symbol advises you to put your psychic powers to work. All of us are psychic to some degree, but if you do not use your psychic powers they fall to waste. This card urges you to follow your intuition in making changes that will prove beneficial.

**"V":** *Victory in some endeavor.* A large "V" stands victorious in front of the querist. This card signifies that you will find yourself victorious in some endeavor. The victory will be especially gratifying to you as you will have overcome all the obstacles placed in your path. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the endeavor.)

**VALLEY:** *Deep personal strength and peace that assure success.* A lush green valley opens in front of the querist. A red sun shines down on the valley from a cloudless sky. A stream flows through the valley indicating that your soul will be nourished with the strength, peace and introspection that you need to assure success.

**VASE:** *Secret admirer.* An intricately ornamented vase contains many different patterns worked into one design; not all of them immediately apparent. This card advises you that you have a secret admirer, a person whose identity is not easily discernible. You will have to give a great deal of thought before you can correctly identify who the admirer is. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal any information about the admirer's identity.)

**VINE:** *Seek out information that will help you.* A green vine grows in tangled circles. Its leaves are green and full and it is just beginning to blossom. This card indicates that there is information that would be of great help to you, but you must seek it out. This information will not be revealed to you without great effort on your part.

**VULTURE:** *Depression, anxiety.* Worry that someone is against you. A vulture stands on a craggy ledge surveying the scene below, waiting for an animal to die so that it may scavenge on the carcass. This card indicates that you may be going through a period of anxiety or depression, or you could be worried that people are waiting for you to make a misstep so that they can glory in your misfortune.

**WALL:** *Misunderstanding.* A wall, tall and forbidding, cuts the landscape in two. There is no visible way around the wall. You will either have to scale the wall or breach it if you want to get to the other side. This card shows that there is a misunderstanding between you and another person or persons. It will be up to you to take the first steps toward reconciliation.

**WEDGE:** *Someone is trying to come between you and a friend or something you want.* A large wedge appears before the querist. It is thick and heavy at one end, yet narrow and penetrating at the other. This symbol indicates that there are disturbing forces at work in your life. Someone is intent on coming between you and a friend or something that you want. The something you want could be an intangible such as happiness or peace of mind.

**WEeping WILLOW:** *Family sorrow.* A weeping willow mourns. Its leaves reach the ground and its branches seem overcome by the weight of them. This card signifies that there will be a time of family sorrow for the querist. The sorrow could be over family members but it could also be over a number of other matters pertaining to the family such as business, financial, legal, or medical.

**WELL:** *Family wishes come true.* An old stone well lies hidden deep in the forest. It is rarely found and only by those truly in need. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card. It signifies that something you wish for will come true, but on one condition. It will only come true if what you wish for will be of benefit to the entire family.

**WHALE:** *Great worry over nothing.* A whale surfaces from the ocean, scaring the querist with its size and fierce looks. The whale, however, pays no attention to the querist and swims calmly away. This card shows that you will be faced with certain situations that will cause you a great deal of anxiety. As time passes, however, the situations will



disappear and you will realize that the anxious times were over conjectured fears.

**WHEEL:** *Indecisiveness. Allowing your life to ramble aimlessly.* Like this wheel, your life has no set course, nor is it attached to anything. This card warns you that it is time to take charge of your life and give it direction and purpose. This could apply to one aspect of your life or it could apply to all aspects of your life.

**WINDCHIMES:** *Peace and harmony.* A set of wind-chimes sways in a gentle breeze, chiming melodiously. Even though it is night and leaves are falling from the tree on which it hangs, the chimes signal peace. So, too, will you find peace and harmony amid discord.

**WISHBONE:** *A wish is granted.* A large wishbone appears in front of the querist. Lucky is the querist who chooses this card. It signifies that a wish very dear to your heart will be granted.

**WOMAN:** *Dealings or relationship with a woman.* A woman is shown. Her face is inscrutable. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with a woman during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the woman is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal the nature of the woman.)

**WREATH:** *Sorrow over a loss.* A wreath of lilies and white and red roses hangs against a cloudy sky. A purple ribbon adorns the wreath. This card signifies that you will suffer great sorrow over a loss. It could be the loss of a relative or friend or the loss of a business situation. It could also be a loss in a financial or legal matter.

**YOKE:** *Feeling tied down, or frustrated.* A heavy, large yoke, worn and weathered from years of use appears in front of the querist. This card signifies that you feel tied down and frustrated in some aspect of your life and wish to break free. Do not rely on someone else to set you free. Unfortunately, no one can give you the freedom you desire but yourself. (Check connecting cards to see if they reveal which aspect.)

**YOUNGER MAN:** *Dealings or relationship with a younger man.* A younger man is shown. His face is inscrutable. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with a younger man during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the younger man is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature.

**YOUNGER WOMAN:** *Dealings or relationship with a younger woman.* A younger woman is shown. Her face is inscrutable. This card indicates that you will have important dealings or a relationship with a younger woman during the time frame indicated. However, the symbol does not indicate whether the younger woman is a friend or foe, or whether the relationship will be of a romantic, business, or social nature.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**RAE HEPBURN**, a British-born fashion designer, has been studying ancient systems including tea leaf reading since she was a child, when her father began teaching tasseomancy, a skill that was passed down from generation to generation in her family. *Tea Leaf Fortune Cards* is her first book. She currently lives in Eureka, California.

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**SHAWNA ALEXANDER** studied art and design at the prestigious Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles. Always interested in ceramics, she started her own design studio for ceramics and ceramic tiles upon graduation. Now, she is the owner of a highly successful designer tile business. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.



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