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SAMPLE

Made in China

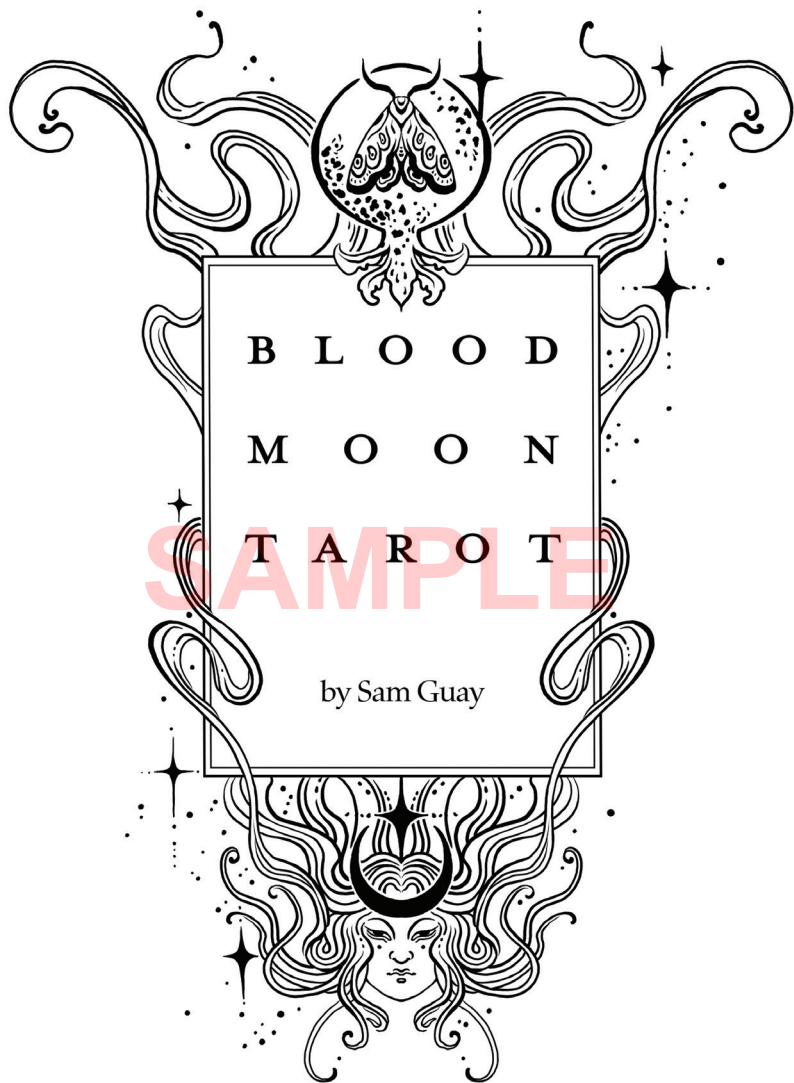


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B L O O D

M O O N

T A R O T

by Sam Guay



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As most tarot-makers, I have immense gratitude for Pamela Colman Smith's iconic illustrations. Even though I often departed from both the imagery and meanings, the Waite-Smith deck is the foundation on which my own deck was made. I also owe a great debt to Rachel Pollack's *Tarot Wisdom* as well as Thirteen's tarot observations from the Aeclectic Tarot website. These two taught my teenage self how to read tarot and introduced me to the narrative of The Fool's Journey.



IX

INTROSPECTION • SOLITUDE • OBSERVATION

THE HERMIT

The Hermit finds their wisdom in journeying—both inside and out. The observation of the world outside reflects the introspection of the inner world. There is magic to be found in the solitude of winter, the vastness of night, and the wandering stars. When a meteorite falls to the Earth, completing its pilgrimage through the void, the Hermit will be found there collecting its precious knowledge.

In this card, a strange meteorite crashes to Earth after a long descent through the unknown, bringing with it a glow of wisdom for those who seek it out. I love the imagery of a meteor arriving from the void and lighting up in the atmosphere like the Hermit's curious lantern. The Hermit sits upon the meteorite, eyes aglow like stars as they wander the universe within themselves, just as the meteorite wandered the universe above. Some scientists speculate that the discovery of meteorites rich with iron led to an Iron Age for the indigenous peoples of Greenland, a perfect example of meteorites bringing gifts and knowledge from the void.

THIS CARD ASKS

What solitary journeys have you been on lately? Do you value solitude? What gifts could a period of solitude and contemplation bring you? What does your inner landscape look like? To whom or where do you go when you need advice and wisdom? When did you last take a step back to observe yourself and the world around you instead of taking action within it?





 THE WHEEL 

The Wheel spins above us in an endless dance. It leads the stars and seasons through the steps, spinning and spinning and spinning. All that comes up will come down, and up again. All mountains will wash into sand, melt into magma, and form new stone that will lift into mountains once again. The naked trees will effloresce, draping themselves in green gowns and delicious jewels. And, they will shed their finery and go naked again into the winter months.

The Wheel is a constant change that we can rely on. When you take action, there will be a reaction. The wheel or circle has been an important symbol in many cultures throughout the world. As creatures that experience time linearly, that sometimes feel like we're hurtling in a straight line toward our physical undoing, it's a gift to find loops and circles both in our internal patterns and the natural world around us. It's reassuring. We are pattern seekers, and the circle calls to us again and again.

THIS CARD ASKS

Do you struggle against change, or do you follow the steps of the dance and find your place within the complex tapestry of mystery and magic? Do you wait for the world to whisper its secrets to you, or do you create your own meaning? Both are valid ways to experience the world. What needs to be revisited? What patterns are you finding in your life?



 JUSTICE 

How we judge the world around us begins with how we judge ourselves. Sometimes, we're like flighty songbirds: we lack discipline, we don't take responsibility for our actions, and we think we can do no wrong. Other times, we're the vulture and the eagle: we're quick to judge ourselves, and picking away at our own hearts can lead to frustration, despair and self-loathing. Justice balances the weight of these examinations, using the sword to clip the wings of unnecessary thoughts.

Justice is about fairness, balance and truth—and getting what's fair doesn't always mean you'll get what you want. I focused on the internal aspect of this card: being fair and balanced with yourself. The inspiration for this image came from an Egyptian myth and from a dream. In the myth, your heart is weighed on a scale against the weight of a feather in the afterlife.

THIS CARD ASKS

What is the state of my heart and my head? Are they working in harmony? Where do I lack discipline? Where am I too critical? What do I consider to be fair? How do my inner judgments affect my judgments of the outside world? How do I bring balance into my environment? What are the hard truths of the situation I am facing? Am I only accepting the truths that I want to hear?

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