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Mage Keys To The Supernal Tarot Major*OP (Mage The Awakening)



Synopsis

The Major Arcana Each key, each trump, is a step along the path of the mage. From the dangerous ignorance of the Fool to the completion of the World, each card holds a secret. Seek Justice, pursue Strength, trick the Devil, and defy Death • the cards will show you the way. A Chronicle Book for Mage: The Awakening • Storytelling the journey through the Tarot as a Mage chronicle • 22 different cabals, legacies, Artifacts, and other ready-made story materials, each one tied to one of the Major Arcana • Advice on cartomancy, story seeds for every Tarot card, and more

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a collection of things inspired by the Major Arcana of the Tarot. It ranges over pretty much every type of Storyteller device in Mage. There are Artifacts, grimoires, Legacies, each with an example character, individual characters and whole cabals, and magical creatures and locations. There are 22 cards of the Major Arcana, but there are more than 22 items. Tarot cards have an opposite meaning if they are reversed in a reading, and for each item there is a reversed version. In my view, many of the reversed versions can be used in a game that uses the standard versions too. Each of the Legacies, for example, has a decidedly altruistic standard version, which makes for nasty Left-Handed reversed versions, and those Left-Handed versions are usually mentioned as corrupted versions of the intentions of the Legacy founder. After the opening fiction, the book begins with a short description of the boringly mundane origin of the Tarot deck in the real world, and

describes one of the simpler ways of doing a reading with the Tarot. Then it gets into the storytelling aspects. It talks about the Tarot journey. It also describes ways to use a Tarot reading (of sorts) to get inspiration for a character or a story, and how the Awakened can use Cartomancy, or card divination. There is a chapter on the 58 minor cards of the Tarot. Each entry is given a description of the reading meaning, the reversed meaning, and an adventure seed. The seeds for the Ace through Ten cards are individual, but the entries for the four face cards of a suite describe linked story elements. The book includes full colour renditions of each of the 22 Major Arcana, and the artwork is very good (and far above the usual quality of Mage).

Since Mage was released a few years back many fans have been clamoring for a book that covers the tarot in relation to the new aspects of the mage game. A similar treatment was done with the now defunct Mage the Ascencion back in the day. Finally, White Wolf has deigned to answer the call of its fans. Overall this book is a great addition to the mage game line. It introduces the tarot into the mage cosmology, how to use the tarot in mage, sample legacies, merits & story hooks involving the tarot. However, this is NOT a Tarot deck for the new Mage the Awakening game, this is a GAME supplement BOOK only. Most of the book is devoted to the major arcana (or trumps) with an appendix detailing the 4 suits (minor arcana) only covering a few pages. This book is well done, however, an important aspect is missing, a corresponding deck of cards. This book would have been better as large sized full color softcover packaged with a Mage Tarot Deck. Also, I would have liked if the individual cards were in individual color plates rather than just the inside covers (which is why I give it 3 out of 5). Content is great, production value is not up to White Wolf standards. It has been recently announced on the White Wolf Live Journal that a tarot deck is being developed. Finally, White Wolf has listened to the clamor that fans have been raising about a tarot deck. Finally!!! Another disappointment with this book is that the author has decided to give us a history of the tarot. Why is this necessary? There are scores of books out there that give more in-depth historical analysis of the tarot than this book ever could. Similarly, McFarland decides to tell the reader about doing spreads (the Celtic cross to be precise).

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