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The Wildwood Tarot: Wherein Wisdom Resides



Synopsis

The Wildwood Tarot will take you on a mystical journey for answers . . . Æ Æ Look to the heart of a primeval forest where deep ancestral wisdom lies to help make sense of your world today. Based on seasonal rhythms and ancient festivals, The Wildwood Tarot gift set draws inspiration from pre-Celtic mythology and shamanic mysteries. This stunning new tarot card deck introduces us to classic forest archetypes— including the Green Man and Woman, Archer, and Blasted Oak—and explains how to use them as a meditation system, divinatory oracle, or reference. Will Worthington's powerful pagan images connect us with a long-lost world that can help us make sense of our own. So step back in time and you'll better understand where your life's path may lead. Æ Æ

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Matthews is an award-winning author whose *Pirates* was a New York Times best seller. His *Celtic Warrior Chiefs* was a New York Public Library-recommended title for young people and *Arthur of Albion* won a Gold Medal from NAPPA. Æ Æ Mark Ryan is a theater, film, and TV actor, who is writing the graphic novel *The Pilgrim*. Æ Æ Will Worthington has illustrated the *Green Man Tree Oracle*, *DruidCraft Tarot*, and many other books.

As this deck has been very thoroughly reviewed here, I'll just add some personal reflections. The Good: This is about 99% of the deck. The artwork, the card stock, the box and book...all just as I'd like them to be. The images speak volumes, so I've added photos of all the cards and the

packaging. They feel good in the hand, not overly slippery and more of a matte finish. Will Worthington's artwork, for the most part, is gorgeous and has an active, engaging feel. As a Pagan, I love the Celtic/Shamanic/ancient imagery (which are, as a plus, void of the Christian symbolism of the traditional RWS cards). Sturdy box for storing the cards...lovely...and the book is a wealth of information. The Bad: Actually I don't have anything to put here... There's nothing I've found which would make me say, "I don't like these cards because..." The Questionable: Hmm, a few points here, but these are points that may be "meh" for me and completely great for others. As a Tarot beginner, these decidedly do not follow the RWS symbolism and interpretation (to an extent, anyway), so the book that comes with the cards is not only informative, it's vital to understanding what you're interpreting. This means you can't just go to any "How To" book because the card meanings likely won't match up. I knew this before I bought the deck, so it's not a problem - just means it'll be a bit before I develop my intuitive abilities enough and remember the new meanings to get a good reading. Borderless would also have been great, as the illustrations are amazing, but this is never a deal-breaker for me (I have contemplated taking the scissors to my decks and just cannot do it - sacrilege! hehe). And finally, a few of the cards stop me or make me scratch my head (Nine of Bows - the Wodwose, for example - is just freaky, and I cannot associate "respect" with that card just yet). Overall, I'm pleased with this deck. I was hoping for a more instant connection with it (based on other reviews and seeing the artwork online), but it looks like I'll have to spend some time with it. In general, I like it enough to take the time to work with it and understand what it's showing me, so that says a lot. And even if I never read with this deck, it is a beautiful and well-presented item to add to my growing Tarot collection. I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for an RWS alternative or to those with a Pagan/Celtic worldview who are drawn to this deck.

I just love love LOVE these cards. I love that some people write really in depth technical reviews because I don't know how to. I'm an emotional person and I just emotionally adore these cards. The art is perfect and respectable and photographs great for your fb and Insta Tarot posts! One of the pictures also has Doreen

After having spent some time with these cards, I have to raise my review to higher standards. Never in all my time reading the tarot have I beheld a deck so intricate in its detail, nor so incredibly accurate down to the finest of details. I have since suggested this specific deck to every tarot reader I've met, and will happily continue to do. I will say, the accompanying book is terrible, leaving the reader unsure as to which of the marked paragraphs is the actual meaning of the card. But, perhaps

that's for the best as it allows the reader to learn the cards intuitively.

This is a phenomenal deck. I've used Kris Waldherr's Goddess deck for many years, and I love the rich imagery and goddess mythology of its major arcana, but I'd always wanted to find one with more depth and detail in the minor arcana, as well as one that's more gender-neutral. Most important, I wanted a deck that isn't based on Judeo-Christian symbolism, and I've never really clicked with the imagery of the Native American-based decks I've seen. This one has Celtic/Druidic/pagan/shamanic roots and its artwork calls to mind illustrations in the tradition of British children's fantasy literature—the Narnia Chronicles, Lord of the Rings, Wind in the Willows, Susan Cooper's *The Dark is Rising* series, Lloyd Alexander's *Chronicles of Prydain*, and so on—and every card is gorgeously rendered and distinctly individual. The Wheel of the Year strongly connects the deck to the natural world as well as to astrological charts, and the "wildwood" theme beautifully symbolizes the psychology of the unconscious mind. The accompanying book is invaluable for initiating the reader into the deck's mysteries, as some of the cards aren't readily identifiable with their corresponding cards in decks with more common symbolism (even Goddess has many similarities to Ryder-Waite type decks). Some cards even have meanings that appear to be very different from other decks—for instance, the Five of Vessels is titled "Ecstasy," not at all what one usually associates with the Five of Cups! Until I recalled a line from the final *I Ching* hexagram, "a hidden sadness resides in the heart of true euphoria," which helped integrate the apparently disparate meanings. I've found the court cards most difficult to assimilate, as each is represented by an animal, and cultural conditioning has given us associations with, for example, the eel or the stoat that are quite different from what those animals represent in this deck—so there's a fair amount of unlearning to be done in order to fully appreciate some of the meanings here. But if you're up for that challenge, the rewards are great. Best of all, the more I work with this deck the more I appreciate its remarkable ability to answer "the question behind the question"—that is, to really get to the heart of things; if a question deals with surface matters, the deck seems to simply ignore the surface and cut right to the underlying issues. Don't expect easy answers; do expect deep ones. As others have mentioned, one could wish it had been printed on better-quality paper; and as an editor I read the book with red pen in hand to correct occasional errors, but these are small quibbles with a truly unique and wonderful deck.

— This is a beautiful deck that exceeding my expectations for the price. I always look for a deck

that will suit certain clients so that they may connect to it personally. This definitely fits what I wanted it for in that it has a distinct mood and art. I also like that it comes with a book of great detail about the mythology used in the deck. This helps put a fresh perspective on tarot and I am learning something new to enrich my spiritual understanding. Very happy that I added this deck to my collection. The only thing that isn't awesome is the card stock is a little thin, but for the price is totally expectable.

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