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# The Zombie Tarot: An Oracle Of The Undead With Deck And Instructions



## Synopsis

You've never seen tarot cards quite like these. Imagine the celebrated "Rider Deck" • infused with the horrors of Night of the Living Dead, and the result is The Zombie Tarot" a crazy, campy interpretation of a classic divination system. In this zombified parallel universe, wands become limbs, pentacles are biohazard symbols, and the Major Arcana is full of shambling corpses. Along with the 78-card deck, readers will receive instructions in a 96-page full-color book; its contents explain how to survive the zombie apocalypse and forecast your future using one of three different card layouts. The secrets of The Zombie Tarot await you!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A deck of delightfully funny, stylish and weird tarot cards made to amuse your friends and guide your future." "The Escapist" "For the woman with everything, including a sick sense of humor." "Metro" "The Zombie Tarot is a gorgeous fun for the strong-stomached aspiring occultist in every family." "Wired.com's GeekMom" "Just the sort of thing you'd expect to find on Ozzy Ozbourne's nightstand." "Los Angeles Times" "One of the coolest, most unique tarot decks you can find...We can pretty much guarantee you've never seen a deck like this." "DreadCentral.com"

Paul Kepple is the creator and illustrator of the award-winning Housewives Tarot (Quirk, 2004). Stacey Graham has read tarot cards professionally for more than ten years. She is a writer based

in Washington, D.C.

First, let me start by saying that this item's classification as a "book" is a bit misleading. There is a book, but it's a follow-along book. The primary product here is the cards - so I'll start by reviewing THOSE. Also, I'm "new again" to the world of tarot, after about a ten-year hiatus, so my experience is a bit limited. That being said, I feel that I have adequate experience to rate these cards. The cards themselves have beautiful artwork, but the actual zombie component isn't universal. It's more 50's-style artwork, with some of the characters having a bit of gore. I know others have complained that there wasn't much gore, but personally, I feel that it was done tastefully. If you're a zombie fan, there should be enough of zombie-esque material to add relatability, I suppose would be the right word here, but not so much as to be off-putting to those who AREN'T zombie fans that you might like to do a reading for. There are all the standard major and minor arcana cards - with Pentacles being replaced by Hazards. All other suits remain the same as I've experienced in the past: Wands, Swords, and Cups, as well as easily-identifiable major arcana cards. The order isn't exactly what I'm used to, but since numbering is a VERY minor aspect of the cards, I'll let it slide. The cards themselves are... More art than usability. That's not to say that I haven't used them, or that they can't be used, but they're more intended to be a novelty. Then again, some would argue that tarot cards are a novelty in the first place, and with the age of apps, I might even agree. Still, there's something to be said for feeling the physical presence of the cards, and that is definitely here. The images don't EXACTLY line up with the symbolism seen in other tarot decks I've seen - many of the minor arcana cards feature neither the number nor the suit that it's meant to represent. For someone just learning tarot reading for the first time, I wouldn't necessarily recommend these - they're not going to make it easy on you. These cards were quite roughly cut; even when perfectly aligned, they didn't match up at the edges. Most had rounded corners, some had the corners cut in a straight line, and others had plain perpendicular cuts. Honestly, I found that super disappointing, but not a deal-breaker. I square-cut the corners that hadn't been cut at all to make them a LITTLE less noticeable, but they are definitely not cut evenly. They're also pretty difficult to shuffle, because they are thick and large (4-3/4 inches by 2-3/4 inches) and I have small hands. I wouldn't say they're "unshuffleable", but you will need to experiment with non-standard shuffling methods to find one that works well with these. They don't feel like playing cards (although I suppose you could use them as regular playing cards - just take out the major arcana and page cards and you're good to go). I wasn't looking for playing cards, though, so that's not EXACTLY a negative. One of my least favorite things about this deck, aside from the shoddy cut-job, is that they weren't meant for reversals. The

back is not a mirror image, and the guide book has no information about the reverse meaning of the cards. I prefer reading with reversals, since that's how I originally learned, but there's definitely no reason you CAN'T do reversals with these - as long as you don't mind that you'll know the card is reversed before you flip it. It's a bummer, and I think it's an oversight by the artist and author, but like the corner thing, not a deal breaker for me. Now, onto that guidebook. It's basically useless. My girlfriend thoroughly enjoyed looking through it and reading the mini-story as it unfolds, because these cards were designed to tell one very particular story. As I said previously, they really were meant to be more of a novelty, but you don't HAVE to use them that way. The guidebook is humorous, but some of the descriptions are vastly different from the descriptions I'm used to. Since tarot cards basically have a standard meaning, I think this is an oversight too - I don't think that the makers of this deck actually knew much about tarot cards. I plan to use a different set of definitions for these cards, and keeping the book for what it is: A mini zombie story told through tarot-like imagery. Again, I repeat that this is "tarot-like;" most of the art has nothing to do with the card itself. Disappointing, but not a deal breaker. There are "ads" for zombie weapons, tools, and "pet zombies" at the end of the book - totally useless, but worth a little chuckle. At the beginning of the guidebook, there's a backstory (amusing), a brief overview of the cards' meaning according to suit/rank (a bit more accurate than the detailed descriptions throughout the book), and some spreads (one standard, and four that the author totally made up - I mean, for real, "the broken heart", "the eyeball", "the gravestone", and "the severed head" ... No joke, these are the names of the spreads.) The one standard spread is called "the beginner" in this book, the classic three-card spread that I've NEVER heard called "the beginner". If you don't mind the fact that the information in this card is... Not great... It is a cute take on the subject. And yes, I'm well aware that "cute" and "zombies" usually have no business together, but in this case, they sort of do. This isn't gruesome gore - it's total kitsch that pokes fun at itself, pokes fun at zombies, and also pokes fun at tarot reading. I'm a bit cheeky myself, so I don't mind, but as I stated... I'm not going to be "using" the guidebook. I have an affinity for nice boxes, and the box that these cards come in is definitely nice. Maybe even the strong suit (no pun intended) of the entire set. When the lid is removed, the box resembles a box of ammo. There are also amusing bits of text on the box, such as: "IN THE EVENT OF A ZOMBIE ATTACK: Get to a secure location, open this box, and consult the Zombie Tarot. This fully functional 78-card tarot deck offers valuable advice on life, love, family, friendship, automatic firearms, premature burials, cannibalistic children, and more. The enclosed instruction book shows how to interpret all 78 cards and provides helpful tips on giving a reading." Of course, my definition of "helpful" and THEIR definition of helpful seem to vary, but I basically expected that when I added

this to my cart. All in all, I don't regret this purchase, and I have started to use them. They're a bit clunky, and I'm still learning my way around them a bit, but they're not bad (for what they are). If you're looking for a deck that will give accurate interpretations through the guidebook, look elsewhere - there are a number of tarot decks that do a much better job. But, if you're a zombie fan and a tarot fan and want a kitschy way to combine the two (for whatever reason - I'm not 100% sure why they called to me as hard as they did), this is the only deck I've seen that does that. Just be aware that this deck does NOT take itself seriously, and you probably shouldn't either. Or, just look up the card descriptions somewhere else, ignore the backs of the cards, fix the corners yourself, and enjoy. I'll probably be getting a "real" deck again when I have a bit of extra money, at which point these may become a framed collage on the wall. Until then, though, these will do.

Giggle. Snort. Roll on the floor laughing. Guaranteed you will do one or all of these if you get this deck! What a complete package! I gotta say, I just got these cards today, and I can't stop looking at them. I have been thru this deck three times, the third time literally with a magnifying glass...the authors have made the words "attention to detail" their mission statement. Campy, hilarious, sick in a good way, and slightly disturbing- I haven't tried reading with them yet, I have been having too much fun looking at the cards, reading the not so little and not so white book included in the sturdy cardboard box, reading the BOX, reading the fine print on the cards...Wow, I can't put these guys down! My favorite card is the...no, wait, it's the..., no I can't decide! I love em all. The very first card you see when you open the box is the Fool...boy, is that appropriate! All I can say is if you love campy humour, zombies, and BOB's and survivalist stuff, oh, and Tarot, then get these cards! They come in a 3x4x6 very sturdy cardboard box with a lift off top, great for storage-the box has litho type designs all over it, when lifting the top off, it looks as if you are lifting the lid on a box of hollow point ammo. First up is the LWB, not so little, and not white! It's called The Mystical Prediction Oracle Instruction Booklet, complete with the mystical Zombie Swami head. The book is written in a hilarious style, double entendres abound, and oh, actual layouts and card meanings included. Be sure to read to the very last page, where you will find old fashioned ads for self defence lessons and Zom-B-Gone. The cards are quite thick and stiff with a cardboard feel, measuring 2.75" x 4.75". The whole stack of 78 cards is 1&5/8ths thick, a handful to shuffle if you have small hands. The artwork is done in a campy, 50's bomb shelter vs Mad Men vs B grade horror flicks style . All the standard cards are there, from the Fool to the World, and Minor Arcana are the (un)usual Cups (braaaaiiiinnnsss), Wands (leg bones disconnected to the...), Swords (and axes, Uzis, shotguns, meat cleavers...) and (bio)Hazards (everyone needs their very own Pet Zombie, huh?) I

must say, if I have to be really picky, the one thing that would have been the absolute icing on the birthday cake (see the 4 of Wands)would have been a scraggly, black, Zombie kittie on the Queen of Wands card. sigh.

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