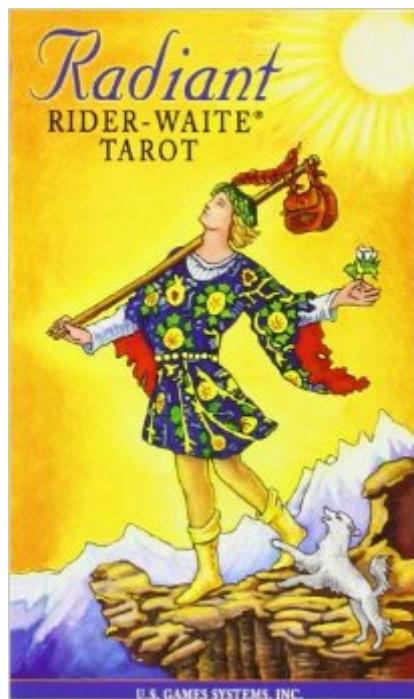


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Radiant Rider-Waite Tarot



Synopsis

A vibrant recolored version of the original Rider-Waite Tarot deck. This fully illustrated 78-card deck gives a new radiance and depth to the most cherished, popular tarot deck in the world. Includes booklet.

Book Information

Cards

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Customer Reviews

I just received my copy of this deck, and so far I really enjoy it. I've been reading tarot for nearly 8 years now, beginning with the Rider-Waite deck. I've always appreciated the symbolism of "the old standby" deck, and the drawings were nicely done, but the flat coloring was a little hard on the eyes. It was fine on symbolic levels, but the harsh colors left something to be desired. I'm very happy with this rendition. From what I can tell, every bit of the standard symbolism is in place, and the new coloring job is wonderful. While not photo-realistic by any stretch (nor should it be, in my opinion), the images now have shading, depth, and subtlety to the palette. This makes reading the cards a more enjoyable experience overall. Also, the back of the cards is nice in an understated sort of way: small yellow stars on a navy background. This is much better than my original Waite deck, with a rather horrible blue and black pinstripe-plaid motif against a white background. It looked rather akin to a really bad tablecloth at an Italian restaurant. The new star field, if a bit new-age-trendy, is much easier on the eyes. Its subtlety insures that the face-down deck won't distract from the spread you're reading. From a readability standpoint, it's roughly the same as standard Waite, since all of the symbolism is identical. For experienced readers, you'll feel right at home. Newcomers will pick it up in no time, though I'd advise getting a second book to teach you the standard meanings until you

get on your feet. The accompanying book isn't bad, but is a quick-and-dirty version and hardly exhaustive. The 5-star review is basing this deck on what it's supposed to be: a rendition of a classic. As such, it serves its purpose admirably. However, the Waite deck is not my favorite set of symbolism, and thus would get a 4-star rating in a general review. You could do a lot worse (trust me, I have). One last note: Like other reviewers, I did notice an odd smell to the cards. Working in the print industry (as a designer), I was able to identify it. The smell isn't just residual odor from the manufacturing process or the wrapping; it's the cardstock coating itself, the stuff that makes the cards shiny and durable. Also, my deck arrived when the outdoor temperature was about 90 degrees, and the cards were slightly sticky due to the coating. Not nearly enough to damage the cards, it just felt like some of them were vacuum-sealed to each other, and gave a little resistance the very first time I shuffled. After that, it was perfectly fine. If the aroma distracts, just let it air out. You may want to try laying all of the cards out, flat, for a few days, rather than keeping them in their box, pressed against each other so the coating can never air out properly. To me, this isn't a big enough gripe to detract from the deck at all. Overall, a good buy. If you have the Rider-Waite deck and are perfectly satisfied, you could safely pass this by. But if you're looking for a good rendition of the classic with a bit more "life" to the cards, whether you're new to tarot or looking to branch out, I haven't seen a better version.

I have always loved the Rider Waite Tarot; it was my first tarot deck that I have ever owned. But the colors of the original were always so boring. Then Came the Universal Waite that had nice colors, but they just seemed so soft to me. Then finally the Radiant Rider Waite comes along, with the classic images that we all know and love, and finally you see things in a whole new way. Much Brighter, and yes you can say a little more Radiant. This deck will be around for a long time. I love it and use it frequently. The deck is standard Tarot size, same size as the Universal and regular Rider Waite. The Back of the cards is a very nice Night Sky Blue filled with yellow stars. The colors of the images are not really radiant, in the harsh sense of the word, but more vibrant. If you look close, you can tell that the original images have been retouched, as many facial features have a slight difference. The deck shuffles well, a little slippery, and the corners are smooth. The card stock is flexible, but made to last; this deck will last many usages. There is one minor setback. The smell of the cards, at times is overwhelming. I have tried everything to get that factory smell out of them. I have spoken to a few others who own the deck and they have the same problem. Hopefully after many usages this weird aroma will leave. But beside that the deck is really good, it is defiantly my favorite of all the Rider Waite Clones. I recommend it to all beginners and advanced tarot readers or

collectors. Nice deck for those who are just starting out. The images on this deck are familiar and comforting. Plus almost all books dealing with learning Tarot use Pamela Smith's images. So this deck would make a great gift for yourself or for your loved ones.

I ordered this deck because of the immensely positive reviews. One of the few negative comments was by Wren: "I was terribly disappointed in this deck. Yes, the colors are vibrant. Yes, the symbolism is identical to the classic Rider-Waite. But the images themselves possess none of the artistry of the original. They are poorly executed copies. The faces of the people and archetypes in particular are dull, expressionless, lifeless. Consequently I couldn't connect with the cards at all." I know the original Rider-Waite images quite well because the "original Waite cards" by US Games Systems (1971) was one of my very first tarot decks and I've been using it for more than 30 years. Having received the Radiant deck and looked through it card by card, I find myself agreeing with Wren's opinion. The cards are very well made and easy to handle. The colors are vibrant. The problem is the faces. They look plastic and non-human, kind of like creepy faces of manikins or the creatures that took over human bodies in the movie Invasion of the Body Snatchers. Just look at the Page of Swords who looks like he's wearing a nylon stocking over his head the way band robbers do in some B-rated movies. In addition, the eyes are oddly drawn so that some figures look like they have a paranoid stare, and the devil looks cross-eyed. The subtlety and detail of Colman-Smith's original drawings has been sacrificed for vivid color. The nude figures, for example, have had their genitals obliterated. The 5 of Pentacles is particularly distorted. With the new coloring, the destitute individuals look like they are wearing gaily colored designer clothes and the scene of desolation outside the church looks like a cheerful setting in which to freeze and starve to death. I have a set of just black and white cards of the Waite-Smith deck, and they are much more human, appealing, and symbolically appropriate. In summary, I like the vivid colors and the good quality of the stock, but the humanoid appearance of the figures and the symbolic distortions are rather unsettling. To get around this problem, I've taken to reading this deck with my glasses off so I can't see the fine details of the cards. This forces me to fill in the images from my memory and imagination. For someone new to this deck, these issues may not be a problem because they don't have the originals to compare it with. For someone who has used the original deck for many years, the images in this deck are likely to be disturbing distortions of the original. For a more colorful version of the Waite-Smith deck, I much prefer the Universal Waite Tarot Deck and Book Set, which has been one of my favorites for many years. Addendum: After playing with the deck for several days, I find that it is growing on me. The vivid colors bring out some of the details that are not so easy to see in the original deck. The

card stock is quite good and should stand up to repeated use. The faces still bother me but I am learning to ignore them.

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