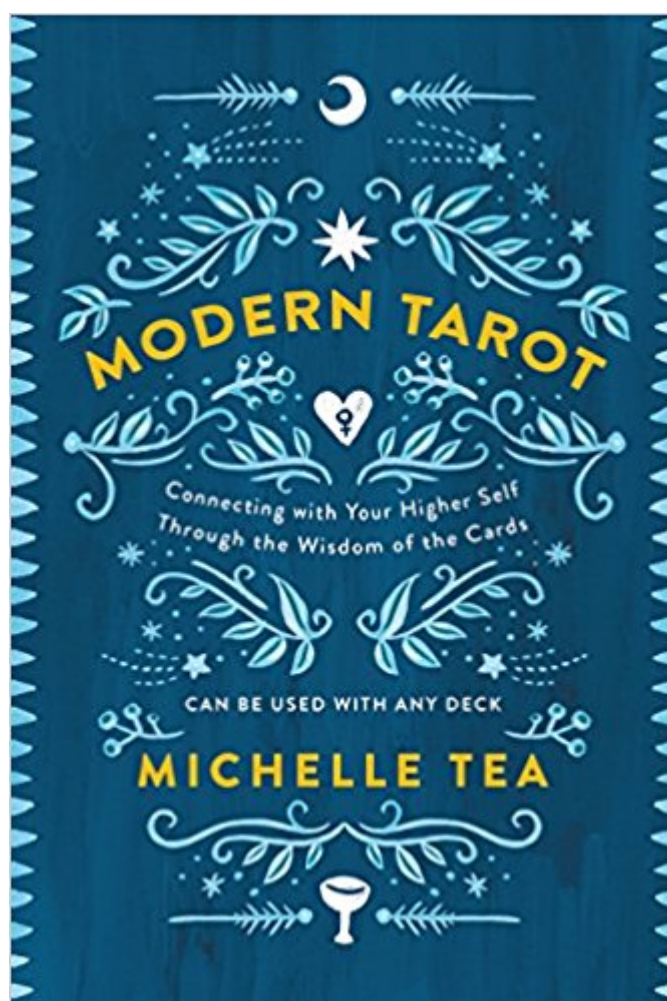


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# Modern Tarot: Connecting With Your Higher Self Through The Wisdom Of The Cards



## Synopsis

Beloved literary iconoclast Michelle Tea reinvents tarot for a new generation in this guide to using the Tarot as a twenty-first-century tool for connecting with our higher selves.Â Â Long before Michelle Tea was winning awards for her poignant memoirs, she was a scrappy misfit on the streets of San Francisco, supporting herself by giving eerily prescient tarot readings. As her reputation as a writer grew, she stopped publicly reading the Tarot, though she never stopped doing it privately. Based on over twenty-five years of experience and a deep and abiding love of the cards, *Modern Tarot* brings the full force of Tea's unique insight, inviting pop sensibility, and wicked humor to bear on the tradition of the Tarot in a fascinating journey through the cards that teaches us how to use this tradition for radical self-growth.Â Â Whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool seeker or a digital-age skeptic or a little of both the power of tarot is open to you. *Modern Tarot* doesn't require you to believe in the supernatural or to focus narrowly on using the tarot as a divination tool. Instead, it offers fiercely insightful descriptions of each of the seventy-eight cards in the tarot system (each one fully illustrated by Amanda Verwey) and specially designed rituals to guide readers on a path toward transformative personal growth.Â Â Grounded in Tea's decades of tarot wisdom and personal experience, this is a guide that beginners will fall in love with and experienced readers will learn from anew. With her trademark one-of-a-kind insight and wit, Tea shows how tarot offers moments of deep, authentic connection during a time when "connection" is ubiquitous but rarely delves beneath the surface and how the affirming and personal nature of the Tarot offers a spiritual experience that is gentle, individual, and aspirational.

## Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: HarperElixir (June 13, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062682407

ISBN-13: 978-0062682406

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #20,518 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Divination > Tarot #36 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

## Customer Reviews

Beloved literary iconoclast Michelle Tea reinvents tarot for a new generation in this guide to using the Tarot as a twenty-first-century tool for connecting with our higher selves. Long before Michelle Tea was winning awards for her poignant memoirs, she was a scrappy misfit on the streets of San Francisco, supporting herself by giving eerily prescient tarot readings. As her reputation as a writer grew, she stopped publicly reading the Tarot, though she never stopped doing it privately. Based on over twenty-five years of experience and a deep and abiding love of the cards, *Modern Tarot* brings the full force of Tea's unique insight, inviting pop sensibility, and wicked humor to bear on the tradition of the Tarot in a fascinating journey through the cards that teaches how to use this tradition for radical self-growth. Whether you're a dyed-in-the-wool seeker or a digital-age skeptic or a little of both the power of tarot is open to you. *Modern Tarot* doesn't require you to believe in the supernatural or to focus narrowly on using tarot as a divination tool. Instead, it offers fiercely insightful descriptions of each of the seventy-eight cards in the tarot system (each one fully illustrated by Amanda Verwey) and specially designed rituals to guide readers on a path toward transformative personal growth. Grounded in Tea's decades of tarot wisdom and personal experience, this is a guide that beginners will fall in love with and experienced readers will learn from anew. With her trademark one-of-a-kind insight and wit, Tea shows how tarot offers moments of deep, authentic connection during a time when "connection" is ubiquitous but rarely delves beneath the surface and how the affirming and personal nature of the Tarot offers a spiritual experience that is gentle, individual, and aspirational.

Michelle Tea is the author of ten books of memoir, fiction, and poetry, including the award-winning *Valencia* (now a film) and the speculative memoir *Black Wave*. She is the editor of the Sister Spit imprint of City Lights Publishers and of the Amethyst Editions imprint of The Feminist Press. She lives in Los Angeles, CA.

I am having so much fun with this book. Some of the personal writing that relates Tarot and the authors life-events do not make much sense to me, as this is such a subjective topic. But the rituals for each card are super interesting and fun. I have clients that actually find performing ritual helps them a lot, and aligns them to the workings of the world; a lot like religious ritual helps folks. This

book is fun, informative and when you pull a card out of the deck you have to option of reading the description but to also " BE " the card by putting it to practice. Great buy. Can be used with any deck.

This book is an absolute must-have...I have been reading tarot for a long time, but the modern spin on the traditional narrative really helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the cards. Also, I love Michelle Tea's respectful yet fun approach to the tarot! The book itself is super enjoyable to read cover-to-cover, but I find myself referring back to it all the time. As a practicing witch, I really like the spells included for each card, which inspire and motivate the reader to connect with the energy of the cards in a new way. This is a great book.

Absolutely love this book! I have been learning tarot for over a year and this book has propelled my learning forward in great leaps! She is real and funny and I just love her writing style as well as the content. Would absolutely recommend this book for any tarot reader new or intermediate level. It might be a bit redundant if you are a seasoned reader but since I am not that, you could love it!

Great job personalizing these cards. I really enjoyed reading this and it did help me understand the cards better. It was also interesting to see the world through Michelle's eyes. She lives a colorful life and she is inspiring as well.

My daughter will love it

I'm so glad I bought this book. As I age it's harder to memorize, and absorbing the meanings of each tarot card has been difficult. This is fun and well written, with a touch of memoir to give examples and a touch of witchiness, with playful spells at the end of each card's description to "either bring the energy of that card into your life or get rid of it."I'll quote an early description that convinced me "Ah, I can remember these!" Michelle Tea writes, "The swords are brainy, mental, quick, tactless, painful and are ruled by the element Air. They're like that brilliant professor you had in grad school, the very one you hoped to be critiqued by, who stepped into your studio wearing an impeccable, avant-garde outfit only he could carry off and proceeded to rip your work to shreds. The worst part - he was right."The descriptions can be used with any deck, but she uses the illustrations on the Rider-Waite, which most other decks start from. There are no lay-outs, just the meaning of each card and encouragement to come up with your own story as you study what comes together,

intuition often giving surprisingly true results. Tea often assumes you might choose one card from the deck for work on yourself.

Solid modern day interpretations, easy relate to on most levels, BUT, I don't really think the author needed to qualify nearly every card meaning with stories of her sexual and political escapades though. I'm not offended by her personal junk, but since we're not BFF's I really don't need or care to know how many people she's slept with, how much she's drank or who she votes for... it has nothing to do with the Tarot and more to do with self aggrandizing. It's a tarot book, not an autobiography.

I have to agree with the reviewer Eliza...there is not much here that's all that fresh, new, relevant or enlightening about the Tarot. Last year's "Creative Tarot" by Jessa Crispin is much more insightful, intelligent and witty, and it does a much better job of modernizing the Tarot. It's just a much more sophisticated and engaging read from which I, a seasoned Tarot reader and researcher, actually learned. I too found the sentence in regard to the Magician (not the Fool, as Eliza thought) "Purity, with its connotations of sexual innocence or virtue, is sort of a gross word, especially when it's connected to the color white, so let's replace it with the word singularity"....What the heck indeed. This is an absurd statement from start to finish. First of all, Tea is the one pushing the "sexual innocence or virtue" connotation of the word "purity" here (which of course means many things), which has nothing to do with the Magician. And calling the word "gross" strikes me as kind of narrow-minded and just silly. However she continues to talk about the red flowers in the card as symbolizing experience...so why not simply replace "purity", if you must, with "INexperience"? Not only would that be more logical and consistent, but in choosing "singularity" (for some reason), she implies that singularity and experience are mutually exclusive, which they are not. And what is her beef with the color white, especially when applied to "purity"..? Seems a perfectly fitting and inoffensive correspondence to me...purity/white = inexperience, blank slate, clean page, fresh start, unsullied, etc...nothing new here. Or gross. I frequently found myself wondering just what she was trying to say, not only in the case of the "Purity is a gross word", but the overall writing style struck me as pretty amateurish. I got frustrated with a lot of run-on sentences with poor grammar and punctuation that technically rendered them meaningless, mostly because of the excessive misuse of commas. Why are so many writers so comma-happy lately?! I also found a lot of the writing to be a bit too casual and familiar, at times feeling as though I was reading an email to her girlfriend. Though this is called "Modern Tarot" I cannot stand that colloquial, urban, slangy style of writing

NONfiction that seems to be permeating the literary world as more and more people who don't really know how to write (or talk) somehow get published, and by people who don't know how to edit. It's hard to take a book like this seriously when the author employs a little too much casual profanity, (petty-a\*\* deities, stepping in dog s\*\*\*, etc), kind of childish-sounding sarcasm, and what the heck is "bitch's intuition"? Is that some hip, defiant way of saying "women's intuition"? No thank you. No thank you at all, Michelle Tea. All-in-all, especially when compared to the recent and somewhat similar "Creative Tarot", this book just seems like it tries way too hard. And kinda fails hard, for me anyway, and I have read MANY Tarot books. I know this might seem easy to say, but I honestly truly feel like I could write a better book about Tarot.

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