

FREE SPIRIT

April 2024



FEATURES

Animal Connections, Auralite Crystal, Thoughts, Minor Arcana - Cups

PLUS

April Horoscopes & Reader Profiles

Marisa Abela

Telling the story of singer songwriter Amy Winehouse

discover your future, release your past

Editor's letter

Welcome to the April edition! In the Minor Arcana this month, we delve into Cups, covering Ace through to Seven cards. The theme for Cups is love and relationships.

Have you ever gazed at your pet and felt like you understand their thoughts or that they comprehend your mood and needs? If so, you will likely enjoy Vanessa's in-depth exploration of animal communication.

Have you signed up for our Pre-Pay service yet? If not, what are you waiting for? On page 5, we outline all the benefits. You can access all your favourite readers, such as Sandra featured on page 10 - and at our best value price!

Do you sometimes yearn for a quiet mind? We explore how to silence the inner chatter with our article 'Thoughts are just Thoughts.' For additional tranquillity consider exploring the Auralite Crystal.

On the celebrity front, we feature a biopic on Amy Winehouse. Additionally, we delve into more signs and symbols and uncover what our April horoscopes have in store for us. Enjoy!

Charlotte

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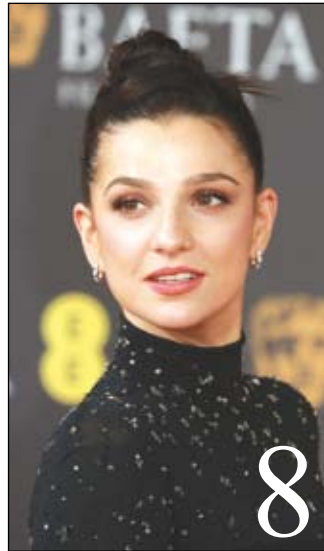
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Aelissa
PIN: 4444

Aelissa is psychic, clairvoyant, clairaudient, clairsentient and a far seer. Aelissa feels that the reasons and causes; behind issues are clearer, timescales are more accessible, and probable outcomes are identified when using Tarot as a reading tool.



Angel
PIN: 1441

Angel has a strong psychic gift; she thinks of herself as a sister of the 'Soul Light', guiding people to connect to their correct spiritual path. Angel will provide inspiration and insights; she believes there are no wrong choices – just lessons to be understood.



Betty
PIN: 3445

Betty is a psychic medium with clairaudient and clairsentient gifts. With inherited gifts, her Spirit awareness came early. Nothing pleases her more than being able to guide clients through their life difficulties and pass on messages from loved ones.



Jasmine
PIN: 5115

Jasmine is a clairsentient, clairvoyant medium; she has worked with her guides for 35+ years. She is a natural healer and has a unique affinity with animals. Jasmine can transfigure Spirit and loves the crystal ball, healing runes and numerology.



Mariah
PIN: 1881

Mariah is a medium, clairvoyant and healer; her style is honest and compassionate. Through Spirit, she will support, empower and illuminate, just as her guides have done for her. Mariah specialises in bringing clarity to situations which may be causing you pain and stress.



Robbie
PIN: 3443

Robbie is a very positive and powerful trance medium, healer and intuit. A natural psychic since childhood, he works with his Samurai guide Yashubi and Archangel Metatron to connect with your guides for whatever particular worry or concern you may have.

All calls are recorded; the caller must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission.

Readings under UK law are deemed to be for entertainment only. Helpline: 0800 156 0580.

AURALITE CRYSTAL

The Auralite crystal is named after the Northern Lights - Aurora Borealis. The stone is actually made up of twenty-three minerals. For many, it is considered an awakening gem best used on the mind and spirit. This unique type of Amethyst is found in the Cave of Wonders in Thunder Bay, Canada.

Health

Many people will turn to Auralite to relieve themselves of headaches, eye strain, and migraines, as well as muscle discomfort. It possesses a powerful ability to reduce stress and tension, thus aiding with conditions that are exacerbated by these effects.

Chakras

This crystal is a potent gem to add to a collection, especially for chakra work. Auralite works synergistically with other crystals, particularly those with high vibrations. It is frequently utilised during root chakra work, but this potent gemstone offers benefits across all chakras. It aids in energy balance and prevents entanglement in negative cycles.

Feelings

Individuals who tend to have hot tempers may benefit from carrying Auralite close to them. It has a calming effect and can instil a sense of peace. If you feel like you have emotional baggage that is keeping

you stuck, gradual work with this crystal should help move you in the right direction, especially if the lack of progress in your life is manifesting as physical symptoms of illness.

Auralite crystals are recognised for their unique ability to connect with an individual's soul, forming a special bond characterised by companionship, affection, loyalty, mentorship, and friendship.

Spiritual

Of course, many people enjoy working with crystals to enhance their spiritual connections, and Auralite does not disappoint in this regard. The sedative, meditative state that you can achieve when working with this stone makes connecting to higher dimensions more easily attainable.

Prepare yourself for a powerful experience as your awareness expands. You should feel a surge of energy. Many refer to this crystal as a 'paradigm-shifter' for a reason! However, the most significant benefit is the tranquillity and serenity you may experience after working with Auralite.

Auralite is a mysterious gem, truly unique in its composition - meaning no two stones will ever be the same. Will you add one to your collection?



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- Minutes on your account do not expire.
- You can choose to save your card details for easier transactions.
- Calls can last for any duration, up to a maximum of your pre-paid minutes balance.

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Animal Connections



If you love animals, then you have already got the basis of the means to communicate with them. The high vibrational energy of loving thoughts brings us closer to the energetic level of communicating psychically, or telepathically with any species. Telepathy is derived from two Ancient Greek words: "tele", meaning *distant*, and "pathos", meaning *feeling*. Therefore, when you use telepathic communication, you are **FEELING** at a **DISTANCE**.

It's not necessary to have any special level of psychic skill to do this work, but it's imperative that you are able to quiet the chatter of your human mind and focus entirely on the animal that you wish to communicate with. This takes practice, but it is easily learned, and if you have ever meditated then you already have the toolkit to achieve a quiet mind.

Animals are excellent psychic communicators, as they use energy to communicate with each other every day. Whilst most species have some kind of vocalisation or sound in their language, and of course they use body language to indicate to each other and to us just how they feel and what they might need to happen in that moment, they also commonly use telepathic forms of communication. For example, your dog might give you a look that you know means that it's time to go for a walk! That look is designed to hold your attention long enough to convey the dog's thought to you; no barking or body language is entered into until the dog sees that the penny has dropped, and you have realised what was communicated *by thought alone*.

Energetic Communication

By simply observing your pets or standing at a field gate and watching a herd of animals move around each other over a half hour or so, you will quickly begin to appreciate just how subtle but definite the language of energetic communication is. Animals who live in herds are prey animals, the herd structure keeps them safer and provides a hierarchy where each animal knows its place and who to look to for guidance, protection and even who to push against to gain dominance for themselves. See if you can tell who the "lookout" is, keeping watch so that the other members of the herd may graze

or rest safely. Does this duty change over time? And when another animal took over, what were the subtle signs of the changing of the guard? Did you feel an energetic shift just before there was a change of positioning?



Horses have the ability to hear the beat of our heart at a distance of several metres, and to synchronise their own heartbeat with ours. It's what they do in the herd, so that if one member of the herd becomes aware of a threat to safety, and suddenly has a raised heart rate as the adrenaline kicks in with the "flight" response, they feel the change and react instantaneously and as one to the perceived danger.

Consciously Present

This synchronising of the heartbeat is one reason why people find themselves soothed by being in the presence of a horse. Being consciously **PRESENT** with the horse and allowing that to draw us together as sentient beings in a calm and non-threatening way. Equally, when in

the presence of any animal who is nervous or agitated, if we consciously breathe slowly and deeply, lowering our own respiratory rate and our heartbeat, the animal will respond by calming down and relaxing. This is all a way of communicating that we are not a threat, making it possible to set up trust between us.

Despite being by nature predators, cats and dogs have become domesticated and now rely on us their owners to provide food, water, shelter, and care. So, it is always beneficial to them to be able to tell us how they are feeling and allow us to make any changes to the routine that might be necessary.

The basic tools to open up the possibility to communicate with an animal are, therefore, a quiet mind, a calm approach, and a willingness to listen. You also need to be able to focus wholly on the animal in question, so if you aren't actually present with them, you will need a photo to work from.

It's very important to respect the animal's desire to communicate or not! You might not like to be roused from a lovely sleep by someone eager to chatter away, and so it is with animals. If you're working from a distance, please always **ASK!** It can be useful to get the owner of the animal to let you know when they are quiet and not being fed or exercised in order that you don't find yourself struggling to get through to the animal whilst they are distracted in some way.

Calming your Mind

Once you have identified your subject, spend a few moments calming your mind and letting your thoughts slow down. Take some deep breaths, and feel the energy flowing up through your feet, and out through the crown of your head as you breathe **IN**, then flowing in through the crown of the head and out through your feet as you breathe **OUT**. Once you are calm and grounded you are ready to begin.

Focus on the animal, either next to you or in the photograph, and feel the connection between your own mind and their mind strengthen.

Ask permission to see and feel what they wish to convey to you.

Then simply *allow* yourself to **FEEL** whatever comes. You may see images, hear words (not always full sentences), be aware of a smell, or just **KNOW** something they are saying to you.

You can ask them specific questions such as do they like their food, are they happy in their home, have they got any discomfort anywhere etc. *It is really important to note that nobody other than a vet may diagnose illness in*



an animal and if you are in any way concerned you must always consult your vet. However, a communicated discomfort may give guidance as to where to investigate further if needed.

Most animals are delighted when they see that someone is listening to them, and they will become chatty and engaged with the process. You might find that you doubt yourself, but even if you don't get it right first time it doesn't matter because the animals are always patient, and they will show things in a different way to help us understand something. Just **ASK**. If you're puzzled by something you hear, ask them to explain it in a different way or give you more information to help you understand better.

Breaking Connection

After some time, you may feel the animal becoming tired or just breaking the connection, and at this point you should thank them for communicating with you and begin to bring your own thoughts back to the space and time of the present. Have a stretch, a glass of water, and note down any impressions you had, any words or images that came to you, and your own thoughts about the connection you have made. Keeping a journal is useful and it gives you something to measure your progress with over time.

It's worth mentioning that animals who have passed into Spirit are just as able to communicate with us and this brings great comfort and reassurance to their owners.

Communicating with animals and offering healing to them and their owners or carers is something that I have always found to be rewarding, and an absolute privilege. I hope that you will find as much joy as I have in communicating with our animal friends!



Written by **Vanessa, PIN: 3900**





BACK
TO
BLACK

Back to Black will undoubtedly resonate with you because it is, of course, the title of Amy Winehouse's single and studio album. Now, her life story has been adapted into a biopic film released in UK cinemas on the 12th of April.

The film aims to depict the highs and lows of her life but, more importantly, to capture what made her so unique. It chronicles her early career as a British singer-songwriter and jazz musician in North London, leading up to her rapid worldwide success, known for songs like "You Know I'm No Good" and "Rehab".

Amy

Amy Winehouse passed away in 2011, and an Oscar-winning documentary "Amy" was released in 2016. However, it wasn't until 2018 that Amy's estate gave permission for a full biopic film about her life and career. It has taken until 2023 to fully prepare the film for cinema audiences.

Amy's father, Mitch Winehouse, strongly criticised the documentary, expressing his concerns about being portrayed negatively. He felt that the piece depicted him in a harsh light by showing his insistence on Amy's performances and his opposition to her going to rehab.

Therefore, there is anticipation regarding how Sam Taylor-Johnson (Director) will address Mitch's role in Amy's life in the Back to Black film and how much of her drug-fuelled latter years will be portrayed.

Stars

Our cover star - Marisa Abela, plays the starring role; her notable performances include Yasmin Kara-Hanani in HBO's Industry, along with appearances in COBRA, Rogue Agent, and She is Love.

Jack O'Connell, from Netflix's Lady Chatterley's Lover and Skins will star as Winehouse's infamous husband, Blake Fielder-Civil, to whom she was married from 2007 to 2009.

London

Those familiar with London may recognise many of the locations in the film, from Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club where Amy sang live as she was beginning to hone her sound, to the outside of her flat in Camden Town, and in and around Primrose Hill, and even London Zoo!

Trailer

You can see the trailer from Studio Canal below:

<https://tinyurl.com/b2bfilm>

*Film Poster courtesy of StudioCanal



Amy Winehouse in 2007

signs & symbols

Circles, Spheres & Spirals

For centuries, symbols and shapes have been used to illustrate and communicate meaning. Today, we explore circles, spheres, and spirals. You might be surprised by how many of them are instantly recognisable to you, but are you aware of their symbolic importance?



• The humble **CIRCLE** represents eternity as it has no beginning or end. To some, it represents God; to others, Earth and even the cycle of life. One example of the circle in daily life is, of course, the wedding ring, symbolising a pledge of love, protection, and infinity.

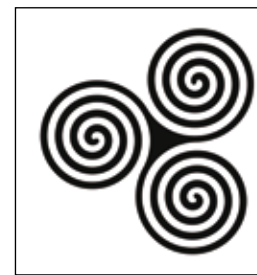
• **CONCENTRIC CIRCLES** often signify the order of creation. Sometimes, they represent water. In Zen Buddhist interpretation, the circles symbolise steps on a journey towards inner perfection. However, for the Italian poet Dante, he described the nine layers of categories of sinners.

< • The Taoist religion has a symbol called **SHOU**, which represents longevity. In China, there are several symbols based on the circle that signify different things: Good Fortune, Prosperity, and Happiness.

• > One of the most instantly recognisable symbols is, of course, **T'AI CHI**, widely associated with the balance of Yin and Yang - the symbol of life and the resolution of opposites.

• Many people believe that the **SPHERE** symbolises heaven or a spiritual universe. Referring to the thoughts of poet Dante, concentric spheres represent the universe with Earth at the centre.

• The predominant sentiment associated with the **SPIRAL** appears to be one of energy and life's rhythm. However, for some, this perception varies. For instance, Polynesians view it as a symbol of immortality, while for the Mayans, it signifies the start of a new cycle (Winter Solstice). However, a **DOUBLE SPIRAL** can be similar in meaning to yin and yang, representing opposites such as death and birth, male and female.



< • You may think that a **TRIPLE SPIRAL** is related to the sentiments behind a single spiral and double spiral. However, it is more commonly associated with a Celtic solar symbol - the Triskele, which essentially represents the Holy Trinity. For many neo-pagans, it symbolises the Triple Goddess.

• > Since the Stone Age, the spiral has been a fertility icon. The **MOTHER EARTH** fertility symbol is typically depicted as a female with a spiral stomach and often includes cycles of the moon or other fertility symbols like the helical horn.



It's difficult to talk about circles without mentioning Stonehenge. While it is not a drawing, it is clear that the circle was important to prehistoric Britain. Of course, to this day, it is unclear whether Stonehenge was meant as a place of worship and whether the circle represented an astronomical clock, Earth Mother, or Sun God.

Reader Profile

Sandra
PIN: 2662



Sandra is a natural Psychic, Clairvoyant and Medium. She connects with Spirit to get messages through thoughts, feelings and visions.

Gifted from childhood, Sandra has always been aware of her ability to see Spirit and pick up on events before they occurred. Now during readings, she works on client's voice vibrations, which assists with the connection to Spirit, gaining clarity on all sorts of matters.

Sandra's work has taken her all over the world, largely due to her work in the media on many well-known TV shows, like: America's Got Talent, The Jonathan Ross Show and Loose Lips to name a few. As well as writing for newspapers, such as The Sun and magazines. Sandra has also had her own radio shows; she was even in a Andrex TV advert campaign. Along the way, she has met many like-minded people, which have added to her rich experiences.

Spiritual occurrences have been aplenty for Sandra, often guiding her through life, especially when decisions needed to be made. Her reading style is direct, relaying messages from Spirit as they are given to her. Her psychic gifts are an excellent tool for gaining answers, in particular situations that are troubling her callers. Sandra's readings are given in earnest; with over thirty years' experience, you can rely on her ability to tune in and offer excellent spiritual counsel.

Above all Sandra enjoys her work, offering guidance and passing on messages, when people need support the most. She feels blessed that she has these gifts and is able to share them in many different ways.

Testimonials:

Thank you so much Sandra for assisting me to connect with my beloved partner. You gave so much detail around things that only I would have known. You are really gifted and I am very much looking forward to speaking with you again. Love and best wishes to you x.

Krish

Just to let you know how rejuvenated I am after my reading with Sandra... She connected with my father who has passed and was so insightful with what's going on in my life. Great reading and thank you.

Peter

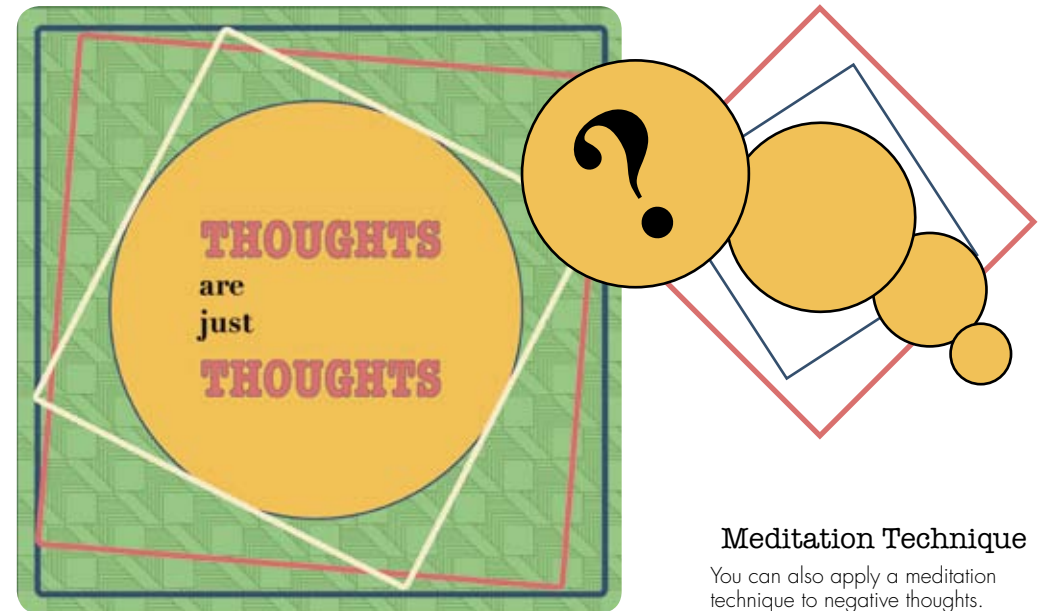
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Have you ever taken the time to figure out how many thoughts you have in a day? I'm guessing the count would be quite high. On some days, especially when busy or focused on work or an activity, your thoughts may be less intrusive. However, during moments of solitude and quiet, these thoughts might become more intrusive and unwelcome.

It is undeniable that our minds are constantly active, and the thoughts we have throughout the day can be random, peculiar, or even bizarre - similar to how our dreams can be during night time.



Noisy Thoughts

Just because a thought crosses your mind does not make it a fact or deserving of extra attention. When feeling low, experiencing depression, or heightened anxiety levels, it becomes challenging to silence these noisy thoughts. We tend to give them more attention as they align with our current mood. Unfortunately, negative thoughts often trigger a cycle leading to more negativity and consequently worsening our mood.

Very often, our thoughts are biased, unhelpful, and even wrong. It's important for good mental health that we learn to distinguish truth from thought and determine what does and does not deserve our attention.

Mindfulness Technique

Mindfulness techniques that we practice can help us strengthen our ability to separate bad from good thoughts and discern what to listen to.

Imagine being on a journey where you need to board a moving vehicle to reach your destination, such as a taxi, bus, or train. Picture one of your recurring thoughts, like "No one likes me," "I can't do anything right," or "I wish I was more like...". If this thought is displayed as an advertisement on the vehicle, would you still choose to embark on that journey? Hopefully not! Allow that negative thought to pass by and opt for a better vehicle. Just like choosing not to dwell on negative thoughts, acknowledge them briefly and then let them go without giving them power or assuming they are true just because you had the thought. Think of your thoughts as vehicles - you have the choice to either engage with them or let them pass by while waiting for the next one.

Meditation Technique

You can also apply a meditation technique to negative thoughts. Find somewhere where you can sit uninterrupted, then choose a focus - this could be something visible, such as a painting (if indoors), or a tree/plant (if outside), or even a particular sound. While concentrating on your chosen focus point, your attention will likely be diverted by various thoughts. When you first begin this exercise, you may feel overwhelmed by the influx of thoughts. However, over time, this should diminish. Some thoughts may be more challenging to move past due to the emotions they trigger in us. Nevertheless, persist in returning to your focus and allow the thought to pass. In just a few minutes, you might find yourself needing to refocus multiple times - this is normal. Each instance of distraction and subsequent return of thoughts presents an opportunity to practice refocusing and releasing the thought. Keep at it; in time, this exercise will become a valuable grounding technique for navigating periods of negative self-talk.

THE MINOR ARCANA CUPS



So, we turn our attention to Cups, which correspond to Hearts. Therefore, you won't be surprised to learn that Cups are associated with love and emotions. Cups cover not only romantic love but also relationships between family members, friends, and even colleagues. Additionally, Cups are concerned with fertility and creativity; they are ruled by the astrological signs Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces as well as the water element.



THE ACE OF CUPS

The Ace of Cups is one of the cards that everyone wants to receive, it signifies new beginnings and fresh starts. This card can represent a loving relationship, a spiritual interest, or an exciting activity. It may also indicate a birth, whether it be the arrival of a child or the beginning of a new project. Whatever this card symbolises for you, it serves as a highly positive indication that you are entering into a joyful and pleasurable phase in your life, one that you will fondly remember and appreciate in the future.

If you have been facing challenges recently, rest assured that things will soon improve. If you've met someone new who interests you, go ahead and pursue the connection; they might turn out to be significant! However, if any of your relationships are experiencing conflicts, now is the time to work on resolving them. Do not let pride get in the way; apologise where necessary - it will benefit you in the long term. Lastly, embrace the gratitude evoked by this card - your cup is overflowing with positivity!

TWO OF CUPS

The predominant sentiment of this card is 'togetherness', symbolising cooperation, partnerships, and understanding. It signifies a contractual agreement between two individuals, whether in a business context or a personal relationship where both parties share common perspectives and objectives.

If other cards in the spread indicate that this card pertains to a relationship, it can be interpreted as a positive indication that you are prepared to overlook differences and concentrate on shared interests. Beyond romantic implications, this card typically suggests entering into an agreement such as forming a business partnership, buying property, starting a new job, or dealing with financial matters. It represents a collaborative effort where all involved parties acknowledge the mutual benefits.

The Two of Cups inspires optimism that you have embarked on a promising journey; however, it advises against complacency and assuming that everything will unfold flawlessly.



THREE OF CUPS

If you draw the Three of Cups, you are likely feeling celebratory. Perhaps you are emerging from a challenging life phase or have successfully accomplished something at home or work. You might simply be enjoying life to the fullest, especially revelling in your relationships.

This card often signifies upcoming festivities, typically depicted as a group raising their glasses in celebration. The party could be for various occasions such as an engagement, marriage, birth, christening, business launch, or housewarming. A party doesn't necessarily have to be grand; it could be a casual BBQ with some bubbly but will involve your closest loved ones who share in your joy and achievements.

Lastly, the Three of Cups can bring relief. If you've been anxiously awaiting certain results, that knot in your stomach should soon dissipate...



FOUR OF CUPS

Are you feeling flat, as if nothing exciting ever happens? Often, the Four of Cups appears when we are a little bored and a feeling of discontentment has come over us. Even though you don't like this feeling, you can't seem to summon the energy to see anything through and find a way to shake off this despair.



If you are exiting a very busy period - you may need some rest and recuperation. If you have been running on all cylinders, it is natural to feel a sense of anti-climax once things have ended.

If this phase is a result of being badly let down by someone you trusted, then don't be afraid to seek help to alleviate any depression and stress. Take heed in the fact that we all go through these greyer phases of life, but in time your head will be turned once more with something exciting on the horizon.

FIVE OF CUPS

It can be very hard to see, but I like to think that the Five of Cups is more about hope than grief. Getting this card probably means that you have been zeroing in on something that you have lost; times feel bleak, and you may be full of regret. But, in these situations and what this card reminds us is that we must remember what we still have from any given situation.

Of course, this card takes on a new meaning if you draw it following a bereavement. You will likely feel inconsolable during the mourning period and for some time to come. But again, The Five of Cups will remind us that while the person is no longer with us, nothing can take away the memories you have and the shared moments and love that you experienced.

The ending of a relationship, even if it was your choice, can also cause a period of grieving, particularly for the life you planned together. This card reminds us to remember why we made this decision in the first place, and in time you will be able to look back and see what you gained from the decision.



SIX OF CUPS

Do you tend to look back at your past with 'rose-tinted glasses'? Do you find yourself reminiscing more about the past than thinking about the present/future? When we think about our past, it is easy to only remember the good bits and filter out elements that don't serve our narrative. If that is the case, then the Six of Cups is a reminder that we shouldn't let the power of the past colour our future. It's time to consider what you are finding so difficult about the present that you'd prefer to go back in time.



Another meaning for this card is that something or someone from your past will re-enter your life. This does not mean they or it will become a permanent fixture, but you will learn something and generally gain from the experience. If you have a loved but forgotten talent or hobby - now may also be the time to reengage.

SEVEN OF CUPS

When you draw the Seven of Cups, chances are you are in a period of choices. You have more than one opportunity open to you; now is the time to decide what is doomed to failure, what could be more trouble than it's worth, and which is highly favourable and will lead to success, bringing you happiness and contentment along the way.

You will still have to work hard and put in the effort to realise your dreams. It is easy to pick something that looks simple or perhaps the most lucrative, but instead, you should carefully weigh your options and choose the best thing for you.

If these choices relate to romantic relationships, then now more than ever you must balance your options carefully. Don't be drawn in based just on looks, charm, and money - think long term about whether you have matching morals and life goals.



Astrology

With our expert:

Chrystalyte

Welcome to Free Spirit's in-depth horoscopes for April 2024



Aries

An Aries total solar eclipse marks the start of a powerful new cycle, beyond just turning a page – more akin to actually starting an entire new book! This brings a sense of freedom and greater independence, both welcome and daunting in turns. It's 'early days' around the perimeter, so try to give any situation time to evolve. Your ruling planet, Mars, in watery Pisces, helps wash away old energy with new tides, making for quite an emotional backdrop. Remember: being more connected with feelings helps the soul be better embodied.



Taurus

Links with outer planets Neptune and Pluto to Venus in April's first week suggest that solutions to problems that have affected you quite deeply will soon be at hand. What you value and how valued you feel are both central to how well you function and how you feel you're making progress in life. There's support at both levels! There's also an alignment with Mercury, planet of thought and communication, around the 19th, which suggests pleasing invitations and liaisons. Where giver or receiver, things look set to pick up well!



Gemini

Whilst Mercury remains retrograde for much of April, a few issues may still feel sticky. But it's surprising how much good can come of revisiting old ground, too. In other words, not all delays will be a problem and you might appreciate a few connections with the past coming to life again. The Sun and Mercury align on the 11th, adding light to a conversation or situation that maybe felt stuck or uncertain. A similar connection with Venus on the 19th points to a relationship taking off or moving forward.



Libra

There are times when it's perfectly okay to take a few short cuts and you can get away with them. April may well be one of those times, partly thanks to an eclipsed Sun, which means that attention is elsewhere than usual for a while. Ironically, though, this could also put you in the spotlight in an unexpected way, so be prepared for interesting developments! Neptune's alignment with Venus suggests a stronger spiritual connection and a more intimate relationship development, both of which could help you turn a corner very soon.



Scorpio

Scorpio is a sign linked with the power of elimination – something you tend to understand in an instinctive way. It's a good idea to allow yourself room to say no to a few things early on this month, so you can clear space for better options later. Do trust those instincts, and avoid accepting anything that feels half-baked or plain unsuitable. A favourable alignment between Venus and Pluto on the 6th suggests an early taste of what's going to be better for you, with a reminder of your truest value.



Sagittarius

Between the Aries solar eclipse and the alignment of Jupiter with Uranus on April 21st there's the decided feel of something big coming! But it really does have a rather unexpected quality about it, so it's not as though you can prepare for it. The good news is you don't really need to. Whatever is on the way, it's bringing you a breath of fresh air and all you'll have to do is be willing to take it in. In other words, you benefit from going with the natural flow.



Cancer

The April 8th eclipse in Aries may feel significant for how it signals what's possible and not possible – at least for the time being. Cancer and Aries are both what's described as 'cardinal' in their astrological nature, which marks you out as leaders and pioneers. Sometimes you may be pleased about taking up those positions; at other times less so. The key to a smooth path is to work out where you stand on this and act accordingly. The Scorpio full Moon on the 23rd could help with creative inspiration.



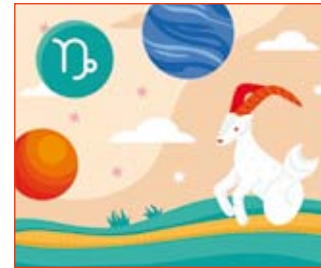
Leo

The nature of April's solar eclipse means the face of the Sun appears temporarily hidden from view. All we can see is the Sun's corona, the remotest part of its atmosphere, which we might not normally notice due to its brightness. As the Sun is Leo's natural ruler, this symbolism suggests something special coming to the fore, whether something you realise about yourself, deep down, or being able to show others what you're truly capable of. You can put a lot behind you as you push yourself to new limits!



Virgo

Mercury retrograde until April 25th might clog the works in some areas, yet you're likely to be able to put a few things straight in your life before too long, thanks to changes occurring in the coming weeks. A situation you thought was hopeless could suddenly seem viable again. You may also feel it's time to see a matter with different eyes and say no to what doesn't suit you. Virgo is often the first to accept responsibilities, but do yourself a favour and say no to one or two.



Capricorn

Hopefully, you are by now so used to nothing being static, for too long, that it feels natural when the sands shift around you – which they may do just a little bit further in the first half of April. But no worry, as this is likely true for a few other people around you as well. With Saturn closely aligned with Mars, April 10th could feel like something's finally where it ought to be, at last. It could also signal it's time to bury the hatchet over a past disagreement.



Aquarius

Sometimes luck is just naturally on your side, which seems to be the case in the first two weeks of April, even if just in small ways. You should find you can make solid progress with plans from around the 19th, when Uranus and Mars make a helpful connection along the cosmic pathways. What you may finally receive is some solid manpower from an unexpected source. Jupiter's alignment with Uranus on the 21st can only add something good to the party. Be ready to put out the flags and celebrate!



Pisces

Since Venus, the Moon and Neptune are closely linked in early April you can expect a special and cosy time, with magical and intimate opportunities on offer. It is up to you to make the most of any encounter, of course. Pisces is renowned for seeing what they want to see and ignoring dangers, so it's also simply wise to have your wits about you. But this need for vigilance should neither undermine nor devalue genuine connections. Mars and Neptune's powerful connection could help calm a storm near month's end.



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