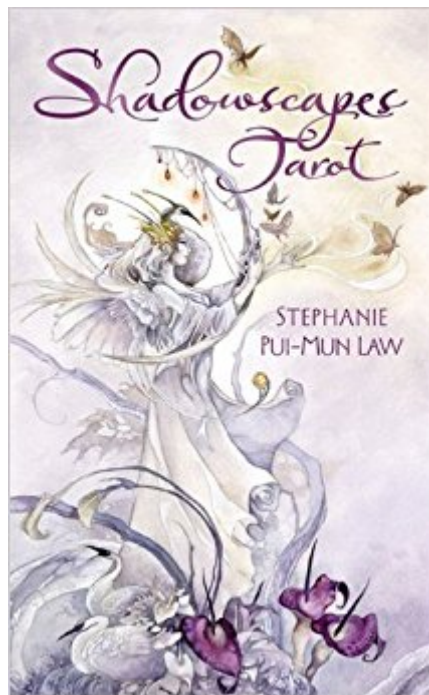


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Shadowscales Tarot Deck



Synopsis

Find your inspiration as you leap into a fantastical world of floating mermaids and dancing fairies with this mystical deck based on the Rider-Waite system. Stephanie Pui-Mun Law's exquisite watercolor artwork blends Asian, Celtic, and fantasy themes inspired by fairy tales, myths, and folklore from cultures worldwide. Also included with this enchanting tarot deck is a pocket-sized booklet with snapshot interpretations of the cards' symbolic meanings by the artist and unique spreads by award-winning tarot expert Barbara Moore. ã ã

Book Information

Cards: 64 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 281 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Stephanie Pui-Mun Law (Oakland, California) is a professional artist whose fantasy illustrations have been commissioned by various game and book publishers. Author and illustrator for the book *Dreamscapes*, her work also regularly appears in the magazines *Realms of Fantasy*, *Cricket*, and *Cicada*. Visit her online at www.shadowscapes.com. In the early 1990s, at a party, someone put a tarot deck in Barbara's hands; she's held on tightly ever since. Tarot provides just enough structure so that we don't get lost as we explore the mysteries, plumb our dark corners, and locate our North Stars. Barbara has been reading and writing for as long as she can remember. She's published a number of books on tarot, including *Tarot for Beginners*, *Tarot Spreads*, *The Steampunk Tarot*, *The Gilded Tarot*, *The Mystic Dreamer Tarot*, and *Tarot of the Hidden Realm*. Writing is solitary work and is relieved by teaching tarot at conferences around the world. Barbara also loves working directly with clients, helping them uncover guidance and insight in the cards. Connect with Barbara online at www.tarotshaman.com.~

The deck is definitely more beautiful in person. The card stock seems very sturdy. The names of the cards are the same as the standard Rider Waite deck making it easy to understand. The booklet along with the deck is easy to understand. The cards have a lot of emotion in the pictures and can easily be interpreted. As for the delivery, everything was up to my expectation and even better. The package arrived earlier than expected and everything is in good shape.

Art Impressions: I am saddened that this deck did not live up to my hopes and it pains me to leave less than a stellar review for them, because she obviously put a lot of work into them. This is a truly talented artist and I enjoy her books, however I don't think her beautiful paintings translate well to this small size, and also the need to have recognizable iconography to make reading go smoothly in tarot. I think the paintings in their original size make for much better "tarot-inspired" artwork, than actual tarot cards. You can not appreciate the detail she put into the paintings, because you literally can not see much of it. I am very new to tarot, so maybe I am under a false impression, but I feel that the cards should have bolder icons and references, and each card should be distinct from the rest on initial glance. Many of these cards look similar, and even with long term use, I suspect I would still have to look at the name of the card to know which one it is. (And the names are very small as well) I can't feel a connection to the cards because I can not make out the details or get any emotion from the scenes at this size. I think this artist could make a truly amazing deck if she thought and worked smaller, instead of making a large detailed painting and shrinking it to size. If you visit her tarot website, she shows zoomed in details of the paintings. Those zoomed in versions (or that general size of the characters and elements) would make for much better cards. I will be first in line if she releases a new card deck with this in mind.

Item Quality Impressions: I would have liked to get the larger guide book that comes with these cards, but unfortunately even after I read reviews and knew I had to select a different item to receive the complete set, by the time I checked out I had forgotten to switch them out. I am considering returning this to purchase the full set, but if I will not be using them, I am not sure it is worth the cost. (In fact, if this deck had a free return, I might have just returned it for refund and left it at that.) The cards are thin as others describe, like an inexpensive business card. The pamphlet gives basic interpretation keywords for each card. The quality of the box matches. If I keep the cards, I may make a collage to hang up on my wall since I find the color palettes pleasing, or use them for some other purpose. (UPDATE: I did wind up returning this deck.)

Compared To Other Decks: I also own the Good Tarot, which are higher card and packaging quality (and larger) and the Green Witch Tarot, which are the same size as these but thicker card stock. While that deck is also chock full of detail, I feel it does a better job with making

distinguishable symbols in the scenes, and each card being noticeably different from the rest. UPDATE: Since I returned this deck, I acquired the Wild Unknown tarot and the Wildwood tarot, and both have a much better production quality in cardstock, boxes, and default included guide books, and both resonate more with me.

I haven't had a chance to really use or connect with this deck yet, but the imagery is beautiful. The card stock feels quite cheap which is why I took a star off. The box is rather cheap and poorly designed as well. You do get a little pocket guide which was a great addition. While this deck is based off rws, it doesn't follow that exactly and does not use reversals. I'd probably recommend this to an advanced or intermediate user since the symbolism isn't as strong as comparable decks, and many of the images look very similar upon first glance. I got this on sale for \$13, but honestly I don't think I would've paid any more for it. I do like that the pips all have their own details as well, rather than the generic look some decks have.

Was just going over the Shadowscapes deck, very inventive imagery and a markedly unique style, some of the cards are just astonishingly beautiful interpretive renderings. I got a recommendation for this deck from a tarot page writer whose judgment I trust and she was so right. Only drawback for me is, I need good light to take shots of them with my ipad, each card, so I can explore the more complex stuff. Even for largish cards, these little jewels can be hard to see in detail. Something to keep in mind if you also are middle aged or more. The cards themselves are large, firm cardstock, with a pleasant gloss to them. A nice job all around.

These cards are stunning! The images are breathtaking, and the stories told within them are cohesive and deep. The book is quite lightweight, and that's fantastic! Rather than give a long-winded explanation for each card, the book gives us keywords and thoughts, which are more than adequate for intermediate and even beginner users of the cards. I look forward to developing a relationship with them!

I like the art, but working with these cards is a bit difficult because (1) they're smaller than the typical full-size tarot decks and (2) the art, while beautiful and evocative, is hard to make out clearly at the usual tarot-reading distances. Part of the problem is color contrast makes it hard to make out what you're seeing at any distance other than up-close.

This deck is stunning but this is not the best deal! The artwork is simply stunning. I deck that draws you into study the colors and symbols in every card. I love this deck! I rated at 4 stars because I saw that the 'book' includes the deck for only a few dollars more. The 'deck' does not include the book. I would have bought the Book and gotten the deck included had I known. It is not listed clearly/

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