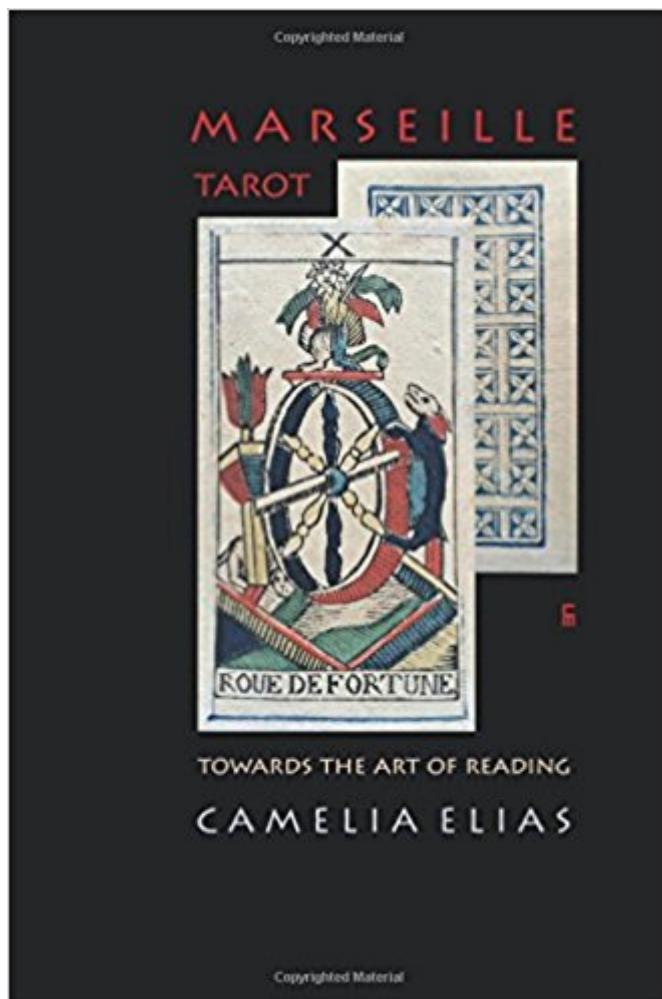


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# MARSEILLE TAROT: TOWARDS THE ART OF READING



## Synopsis

This book aims to cover four basic questions: Why do we read cards? What's so special about the Marseille Tarot? How can the cards uncover our blind spots? What does it mean to live a magical life, when we allow the stories that the cards tell us to offer solutions to our real problems? The book is also the first to introduce the readers to the wonderful and strange cards of Carolus Zoya, a most rare and unseen Tarot de Marseille deck made in Turin at the end of 1700.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Camelia Elias offers an introduction to the Marseille Tarot cards combined with readings of the cards in context. For each description there's an interpretation that combines the cunning-folk method of reading the cards - based on making logical inferences about the meaning of the cards - and the visual argument method, which relies on the subjective and individual art of perceiving. The book also features full-length readings, based on real-life tarot consultations.

In the end, it's all about storytelling, really. I don't mean making up a lie, nor cold reading. You don't memorize and parrot five paragraphs for each card, reading the text out loud as if from a book. You don't look to a bunch of Qabalistic, Astrological (or for that matter, Gastronomic) correspondences to tell you what each card means. No. Rather, you read for the joy and the fascination of watching the story unfold from the visual language set forth before your eyes - as it applies to the Querent's situation. Yes! That's it: you start with looking at what's actually on the cards, and THEN (and only

then) do you add on some common-sense-based functions and keywords that arise naturally from what you see. That's what you'll learn how to do in this book. Make no mistake: this book is a take-no-prisoners, BS-free, down in the trenches guide to reading cards for people. Mercifully absent are the ten-page chapters on how a reader should refuse to answer most of the questions people COME to us to read in the first place. Further, Ms. Elias makes no bones about the fact that she engages in predictive readings. She doesn't drone on about how "we are above such things" as "mere prediction." She also dispenses with the layers of external occult symbolism many divination systems place on top of Tarot cards. Again, this is refreshing. She didn't set off my BS detector once, and that's saying something. I honestly can't tell you the last time I could say that about a "how-to" cartomancy book. Ms. Elias, I applaud your honesty and your bravery in knocking over a few of the PC shibboleths that cripple most cartomantic guidebooks today. After a very entertaining AND educational opening segment showcasing a reading in detail, she sets forth her meanings for the Major Arcana, providing for each an example three-card reading, several keywords that make sense given what you see in the card, and then she follows with "functions," which really help tether each card to relatable examples. For example, two of Justice's functions are to "analyze" and to "measure," while two of her keywords are "fairness" and "discernment." In each case, the keywords and functions have a rational basis in what we can see on the card: e.g. scales to measure, a sword to discern and for analysis along with the scale. When she gets to the Minor Arcana, she uses a modified version of Dawn Jackson's excellent Hedgewtchery cartomantic system. Elias does provide a connection of each suit to an element, which you can always ignore if you want to eliminate more correspondences, but I found that they helped make the assignment of subjects to a suit make more sense. I would have liked more detail on the Minors and especially the lesser court cards, but she does provide a framework for you to flesh out your own meanings based on number+suit along with looking at the flora and shapes/patterns on each card. She concludes with a nice section on reading, showing several spreads and demonstrating why she prefers the Tirage en Ligne for the most part. At times, throughout this section and her example readings for each Major card, I can't quite follow HOW she got to her interpretation, but I consider that a fault in my imaginative/storytelling faculties, and not a weakness in her teaching. At other times, her example readings are so poetic that I, being earthbound, seriously doubt I'll ever be able to reach such results. Yet, again, she provides more than enough material for this rather prosaic student to try her wings.

First of all, this book isn't for everyone. For those looking for clear cut definitions of each card, look

elsewhere. What this book does do, and wonderfully so, is provide an outline for the reader to formulate their own inferences and definitions from the cards. How to read direction, placement of cards and how to generally be a badass reader of the Marseille deck. This book for me was empowering, refreshing, enlightening, and I prize it very much. I highly recommend.

As a novice of Tarot or any sort of divination, I found Camelia Elias' writing style quite captivating. I was expecting a Tarot manual explaining each card. I got so much more. I received a book resembling poetry which guides me to my own answers. Marseille Tarot: Towards The Art of Reading has lead me to begin a remarkable journey confronting my past, present and future. I am a new fan of Camelia Elias. Her words flow off the page. Excellent read.

In-depth analysis of tarot card interpretations- can be applied to all decks

This book is your primer on Marseille Tarot. She writes like the academic she is so at times it is not the easiest of reads but..... it is SO worth it. Great book.

This book is a real refresher of my humble tarot library. No occult & esoteric garbage. Real examples, working rules, nice hints and recommendations.

One of the few books on Marseilles Tarot reading. Camelia writes with some attitude, and not just repeats what you've seen elsewhere.

Great book!

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