



Leaping
Lizards
Publishing

Hello! Louey and Lydia Here!

Thanks for taking a look at these
sample chapters of Tarot With
'Tude.

Visit us on the web at:

www.LeapingLizardsPublishing.com

And keep an eye on our site and bookstores near you for more
of our fascinating and fun publications to come!

Leaping Yours,

Louey & Lydia

Madame Gorgonzola's



Tarot With 'Tude

By Dean Montalbano

Madame Gorgonzola's

TAROT

With

'Tude

Written By Dean Montalbano
Edited By Rick Perez

A Leaping Lizards Publishing Company Book
www.LeapingLizardsPublishing.com

P.O. Box 690036, Orlando, Florida, 32821

© 2004 Dean Montalbano

This Book is Dedicated to
Gwendolyn Montalbano

Naed sevol Newg

Special thanks to:

L'Shaya Silver – Chirp, SSSSSSSS

John Ekblom for giving Madame face

And of course

Madame Gorgonzola- for her attitude!

Madame Gorgonzola's

TAROT
With
'Tude

Written By Dean A. Montalbano
Commentary By Madame Gorgonzola

Madame Gorgonzola's

**TAROT
With
'Tude**

Written By Dean A. Montalbano
Edited By Rick Perez
Commentary By Madame Gorgonzola

Copyright 2004
Dean Montalbano
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED Leaping Lizards Publishing Company, P.O. Box
690036, Orlando, Florida, 32821

ISBN 1-932086-98-6

All the information in this book should be considered anecdotal. Any concerns regarding legal, emotional, health, psychological or financial related issues should be directed to paid professionals in those respective fields.

About The Cover Artist

John Ekblom is an American Urban Folk artist whose passion for people, art and relationships can be seen in his vividly colored paintings.

His renditions of women depict their color, companionship, and passion but only the way a man can see things. "Over the years, women have been painted in many different ways by many different artists. I think my girls are kind of a mix of every painting of a woman I have seen but much more whimsical, spicy, and unapologetic."

John's art has been featured on TV and in local newspapers and magazines and in private collections in the United States and overseas. Visit John on the Internet at JEKBLOMART.COM



Honky Tonk Women



Nuns



Ladies Lunching



Three Sisters

Table Of Contents

Foreword From Madame Gorgonzola Meet The Original Bad-Ass Tarot Card Reader	12
Introduction By Dean Montalbano	13
Chapter One Just a short introduction about Focus and a Moment With Madame	18
Chapter Two The Beginning and Basics, What To Expect, History Of Tarot, The Psychic Arts, Magazine Exercise, A REALLY BIG SE- CRET, And More	22
Chapter Three All About A System, suit cards, numerology and More	40
Chapter Four Meaning From Nothing, Numerology of the Minor Arcana	56

Chapter 5 Numerology of the Court Cards	66
Chapter 6 Anatomy of a reading, Character Development, Reverse Cards, Paradigms and More, SOWWY Principle and More!	84
Chapter 7 Some procedures and an exercise.	96
Chapter 8 The Major Arcana, The Fools Path.	100
Chapter 9 Lay your cards on the table, Tarot Spreads and More.	122

Chapter 10	148
Tying Up Loose Ends, Exercise to Learn By, A Final Trance, and Madame's Last Word	
Glossary	155
Appendix	159



2008

A Foreword From Madame Gorgonzola

*This book will give you your “B.A.” in Tarot reading, that stands for: **BAD-ASS!!** If you are looking for one of those tarot books that tells you this card means this and that card means that, then toss this gem in the trash and find yourself one of those pieces of crap. Honestly, Madame has **NO IDEA** why there are **SO** many books like **THAT** on the market, but in **THIS** crypt of arcane psychobabble you will find the real deal, the whole enchilada, the **SYSTEM** behind Tarot and how to read the cards like those of us who know how!*

*Being Bad-Ass is not about being **BAD** or making an ass of yourself, it is about attitude, and knowing when and how to throw it around. You can't do that unless you **KNOW** what you are doing! Now, Madame has been reading since she was a little girl, so all of 5 years Ok, give or take 50. If you want to put a voice to the name, imagine a cross between The Old Lady from the Golden Girls and the Russian spy from the old Bullwinkle cartoons, and you can pretty much imagine me sitting there chatting with you right now. By the time you're done, you'll have earned your B.A. degree in Tarot!*

*Doing readings takes a lot of things, but it especially takes the right attitude, 'TUDE my niece calls it! That I am having lots of and it is not something we can teach, but rather something we have to **TALK** about and you have to explore on your own. Madame Gorgonzola is **NOT** a teacher, so enter Dean Montalbano. Dean is a reader I know quite well in Orlando, Florida, and he does about three thousand readings on a good year. He is also a*

teacher and knows how to share what he knows better than I can and he has more patience.

In this book you'll be learning about Dean's concept of a system of Tarot rather than a procedure. That is to say, rather than learning that "this card means this" and you must do this this way, he's going to teach you a way to interpret any deck. We'll be talking about the principles that Tarot is based on: the principles of the suits, the principles of the numerology of Tarot, and principles of the court cards. We'll be learning how to interpret the meanings based on our own ideals. You'll also be learning the number one secret of the Tarot, and some exercises to help you integrate that secret.

As we explore this amazing world of Tarot and what it can teach us, we will allow it to teach us as well; and in doing so to bring us close to the universal source.

Dean knows his stuff, but he's a bit dry, so I plan to spice it up here and there. (Madame adjusts her panties...) So hold on to your deck, it's going to be a bumpy ride!

Madame G

INTRODUCTION

By Dean Montalbano

Well said, Madame Gorgonzola! This book is a hypnotic learning experience. As some readers may already know, the Holistic Sensory Response audio series is the label that I use to release my hypnosis audio recordings. I believe that any situation in which we are accessing the power of our unconscious mind to gather information, whether it be through a symbol like Tarot, or through palmistry or pendulums, we are using our senses in a holistic way to respond to our environment, in conjunction with our unconscious mind. Because I do have quite an extensive background as a hypnotist, I often use guided imagery, meditations and trances on my tapes and in my seminars and will use them in this text indirectly.

The book that you are about to enjoy is based upon my live, full-day Tarot class, as recorded for Tarot On Tape, and still available for sale through www.hypnodean.com. I will try to keep the tone of this text conversational.

I believe that it is better to teach people things in a rather intensive fashion that allows their unconscious mind to take in all of the knowledge, while their conscious mind is somewhat overwhelmed.

Whether you have experience reading the cards before or have never picked up a deck, this transcript will teach you a very unique system of Tarot. One of the things I'd like you to keep in mind is that I have intentionally kept the tone of this transcript conversational. If occasionally you see me use an awkward turn of phrase in writing, it's simply to give you that feeling of being here.

I do encourage you to share this experience with somebody else. That is, I encourage you to find someone to learn Tarot with you. I believe that Tarot is something that is best learned with another person. Throughout this seminar you are going to be given a number of tools and exercises. I'd like to suggest that although you may want to just read the book the first time through, just to get an overview, there are a number of times where I'm going to ask you to collect or gather things for exercises. I may ask you to do an exercise before you move on. I strongly suggest that the second time you review the book, that you stop when exercises come up. Make sure that you've prepared enough time, and the materials necessary. Do the exercise and actually have the experience that we will talk about.

For those of you who'd like to know a little bit about my background: As far as reading Tarot, I've been reading since I was four years old. I'm a fifth-generation reader; my mother read Tarot, and most of the women on my mother's side have read one thing or another. It may go back more than five generations, but my Great-Great-Grandmother is as far back as we know of. I am the first person in the family to do this sort of thing professionally, and I am the first person in the family to talk about it fairly openly. It is funny to me because a lot of people will ask when I knew you had this "gift"? I'd like to dispel that rumor right now. Reading Tarot or being psychic really isn't a gift. It's perfectly normal. I didn't know that everyone didn't do these things until I went to school and found out that the other kids looked at me strange when I said, "Well, just ask the cards if you don't know." The difference in my family is that it just wasn't considered unusual.

Everyone is born with the ability to throw a ball as long as you have all your parts. Everyone can learn to throw a ball better. Everyone can be taught skills and they can practice over and over again, to learn how to throw that ball in a way that it will be more accurate. But not everyone will become a professional ball-

player. It is exactly the same with the psychic arts. Everybody is psychic. As long as you came with the wiring, as long as you came with all the parts of your mind intact, you're psychic.

There are people who believe that psychic ability, or intuition if you want to call it that, is simply a survival mechanism. It was a way for us to find food when we had to hunt. That does explain why some professional psychics have had the experience that when they're hungry or a little tired they tend to be better at reading. In those times, the survival mechanism kicks in.

So... everyone is psychic; everyone can learn to be more psychic. You can improve your abilities, you can learn how to be more aware of your intuition. Using a tool like Tarot is a valuable way to do that. Tarot in and of itself is not necessarily a psychic medium, but the process of reading Tarot certainly becomes a psychic process as you do it.

Everyone is psychic, everyone can learn to be more psychic; but not everyone will be a professional Tarot card reader or a professional psychic. For that reason I encourage you to think about that right now. Think about where are you in the scheme of things right now. If you're just picking up a deck for the first time, or if you've had a deck for a long time but you really don't feel like you're able to read without your little book; or if you don't feel like you're really comfortable reading yet, obviously you should not feel the need to go run out and start reading for other people. It's not fair to yourself. It is not fair to those for whom you might do a reading.

For those of you who are ready to do readings I would like to briefly give you this word of warning now—and it will be repeated later on:

- **Above all else, you should Do No Harm.**

Tarot is not an exact science, and in the beginning it could be easy to misinterpret something.

Moments With Madame

He has a good point. If people come to you wanting you to run their lives and make all their choices for them, feel free to slap them once upside the head, and send them on their way. No matter how "Psychic" you are, nor how adept you become at Tarot, your job is NOT to run their lives. If that's what THEY want you to do.... Tough Rock-o's



Madame G

Chapter One

Focus Of Your Readings

I strongly encourage you to focus your readings on what people should do, or what obstacles they should be aware of, rather than on predictions of the future. We'll be talking about time and the nature of the "future" a little bit later on, and I think you'll come to understand why.

My background is not only as a reader for friends and family; I'm also a professional psychic. I do readings at some establishments in and around the Orlando area, and have an office where I see my private clientele. I'm also a hypnotherapist. I work as a professional hypnotist, and have an extensive line of hypnosis CD's that are available through my website, <http://www.hypnodean.com> and through Amazon.com. These recordings are on a variety of subjects and I tend to eat, sleep, live and breathe hypnosis. (*Gratuitous plug I suppose we'll allow him to get away with... Madame G*)

You will find that very often I'll be asking you to think about something or remember a time, or to focus your mind in such a way that the process is in fact quite hypnotic, with the intention of teaching you some things on an unconscious level—so that you'll be able to make use of the information; and also with the intention of getting beyond your own internal blockages. Even that last paragraph was written in an intentionally convoluted way to get the conscious mind overloaded for a moment. Overload is an easy way to trance. (*That and a good stiff shot before bed! Madame G*)

One of the number one things to keep in mind when learning Tarot is you've got to ignore your own hang ups. You've got to be willing to set aside your disbelief, to set aside your own insecurities, and to accept the fact that you can do this stuff. That's one of the most important things to do and I'll try and give you that experience at some point.

Moments With Madame

Ok, so, one has to rather wonder how we GET these insecurities to begin with. Sometimes, we must think to ourselves, JUST GET OVER IT! If you did not think it was possible for YOU to do this Hocus Pocus F####ing Magic stuff, (hereinafter referred to as HPFM.) then why would you have picked up this book!

Madame G

Chapter Two

The Beginning and Basics

I'd like you to ask yourself some questions.... Where did you start in Tarot? Do you have your deck yet? If not, I'd suggest you go purchase or make a deck. For the time being you could play- practice with a regular deck of cards, but I don't recommend that.

Moments With Madame

*Regular playing cards are as blunt as Madame....
So if you want to get told off "in spades" as it
were... feel free to adapt this system to using play-
ing cards for doing readings. To avoid crying, I
suggest not...*

Madame G

If you don't have your Tarot deck, I suggest you go to a metaphysical shop or bookstore that has a large selection of metaphysical things to choose from including Tarot cards. Look at the cover art of the decks, or if you have somebody you know who has lots of decks and they don't mind showing you, go look through those and see what kind of artwork you like for NOW. You can change later on. I would also suggest that whatever deck you decide to use, that you also purchase a traditional Rider-Waite Tarot deck. (*Ugly as it is!* - Madame G) Although that deck is not my favorite, and I do not use it for reading with clients, I do feel that the Rider Waite deck has most of the symbolism intact. That deck has most of the information that was originally intended to be on the card still there. Many of the decks out there lack much in the artwork, and they lack a lot in the symbolism. Often that is simply because the artist who did the deck did not know or understand what the card was supposed to symbolize, or they put symbols in that were exclusively their own, not necessarily universal symbols.

You'll learn about my style in this book and my style is that there aren't a lot of rules. Every book you read will contradict the other. One will tell you that you should only cut with your left hand, not with your right hand; you should never let anyone touch your cards, always touch your cards; store them in a silk-wrapped box, put them only in a silk handkerchief. (*Bull Sh## to all of THAT! Madame G*)

Indeed, any of those things that you feel comfortable with, by all means do them. On the other hand, please, remember not to get so bogged down in the "rules" —even the things that I will teach you here— that you have a hard time doing what you're doing. If you're causing yourself stress or discomfort because you're so bound up in the idea of, "Oh, did I do that wrong?" then obviously you're not going to do as well as you could otherwise.

Moments With Madame

Get comfy with the ideas of being psychic boobalah!! You already ARE and as you learn this stuff you will become more so.

Madame G

What To Expect

So as we venture into this world of Tarot, I challenge you to ask yourself, "What are your own personal fears, worries or insecurities about learning to read Tarot?" At the same time, ask yourself, "What could it be that will help me overcome those insecurities?" Because certainly as you are the expert on you and will become the expert on the way you read Tarot, you are also the expert on how to overcome your own personal issues.

Throughout this transcript, I'll be giving you a number of 'learning bonuses.' That is, ways to practice and to learn how to do Tarot that takes the stress off of you. I really suggest that you do them. Keep a little notebook, write them down when they come up, and be ready to put those into practice because they are how you will get better—without having to worry about telling someone the wrong thing.

There are many schools of thought and there is room for everyone. So feel free to pick and choose, and to integrate what you learn here. After a little bit of introduction and history about Tarot, I'll be offering you a guided meditation that will open you up to the learning process.

I'll try and give you pop quizzes throughout, or set that up for yourself and review a little bit of what we've talked about so far; and talk about the court cards in some degree of detail. I'm also going to go through a discussion of your paradigms and how your beliefs and paradigms will affect your readings. They will affect not only what you get, the information that comes in, but how you think of that. I'll try and teach you one of the number one qualities for a good Tarot reader, and that is impartiality: to remove yourself and your beliefs from the content and just let the information come through. We'll be talking about how to use a book as a substitute Tarot deck. We'll be discussing affirmations and agreements that you should make with your own cards. The latter half of this book will be discussing the "Major Arcana," which are the picture cards such as: the "Magician" and the "Fool."

We'll be talking about how to use Tarot for intentions. Intentions are basically what people in religious groups would call prayer, people in metaphysics would call magic, and New Age people would perhaps call "wishing". (*That's HPFM! Madame G*) Intentions are when you gather together an idea or something that you really want, and you set it up in such a way that you send that energy forth to try and make it happen. There is a way you

can use the symbols of Tarot to help you do that.

We'll be discussing what is known as the Fool's Path. We'll discuss some things to be warned about if you're doing readings as to how people may react to them. For instance: although the Death card has nothing to do with physical death of the body, if it comes up in a reading you'd better be prepared to help your client deal with seeing that image. Otherwise, get a deck that calls the Death card something different. We'll be talking about a way to allow your deck to teach you how to read.

Toward the end of the book I'll be discussing some Tarot spreads, the formations of cards that you lay down on the table to actually do a reading. I'll offer you my own version of the Celtic Cross spread, I'll offer you a spread that I've made up that I call the Elemental Star spread, and also a dynamic spread called the Twelve-House spread that I originally learned from Suzanne LaCour. Suzanne should have her own Wicca Text book published by Leaping Lizards Publishing soon, and she and I will be releasing a collaborative book on the Druid Tree Alphabet called Ogham.

We'll be talking about how to phrase a question properly, privacy, ethics, disclaimers, and give you an idea about how to make up your own spreads. I also encourage you, when everything is said and done, to sit down and let me know what you thought of this book, because your feedback will help change future publications of it; and also please keep in mind this seminar is available live in your area.

A History Of Tarot

Let's talk briefly about a potential history of Tarot. By the way, it is pronounced: Tah Row' (rhymes with Sparrow but with the emphasis on the SECOND syllable.) There are people who will pronounce it Ta' -row, and that's acceptable. Tah' Rot is defi-

nitely not right.

Moments With Madame

By the way, it is pronounced gor-GONE-solah, I am NOT named after a cheese smart A##. Remember, All history is a pack of lies! Especially when I am discussing my age Libeshins!

Madame G

No one knows exactly what the history of Tarot is. No one knows for sure whether Tarot cards were the precursor to our modern-day playing cards or if it was the other way around. There seems to be more evidence to support that Tarot cards came first, and were typically used for games. Somewhere along the line, the process of cartomancy, became popular. Mathematically, a Tarot deck has many more cards than a regular deck- it has seventy-eight cards- perhaps too many for playing card games.

As you consider the Tarot deck and all of its many nuances, you'll realize that the artwork in a typical Tarot deck is much more dynamic than a regular deck of cards. That's one of the reasons I don't recommend reading with a regular deck of cards, because there's very little subtlety there. Playing cards will tend to be very blunt if you read with them, and will tend to give information that lacks any nuances or subtlety.

There's some anecdotal evidence to support that years ago in temples, that it was usual for there to be huge tapestries or massive murals painted on walls that were meant to represent milestones. They were meant to represent situations from people's lives or problems that people might deal with. They were meant to represent the various rites of passage that people go through in

life. It was believed that these same images were used to see if a student had progressed. When a student of the temple could walk up to the picture and describe it and talk about what it meant, then he was ready to proceed to the next set of lessons. The images that were hidden in that tapestry, the pictures, the symbols occasionally repeated. When they reappeared in his life in the future, or when he saw them in another tapestry, they had meaning and they related to the tapestry before it. They related to those situations of the past, present and future as well.

As time wore on, it became impractical for people to have these tapestries, these murals. One certainly can't carry a tapestry around in one's pocket. So those images were made diminutive: similar images, similar symbols- but smaller. What you hold in your hand, when you hold a Tarot deck, is not simply a bunch of pieces of paper; it is a bunch of symbols. There's a difference between a symbol and a picture. When we look at a circle we see only a circle. But, if you ask what that circle means, what it could represent; it could be so many things. A circle could be a womb, a prison, a target, a hole, a tunnel or the circle of life. They are images that represent ideas, ideals, trends, tides and paths through life in most amazing dynamic ways. Tarot is definitely one of the psychic arts.

Moments With Madame

I often think getting myself out of bed and into my pantyhose is a psychic art in and of itself, but then again I seldom wear the damned things. Why hide natural beauty I always say. I earned each varicose vein I might as well display them with pride!

Madame G.

The Psychic Arts

In New Age beliefs there are what we call “-ologies” and – “mancies.” The –ologies, such as: astrology, numerology and graphology, are the sciences. They examine the trends and the tides of the world and the universe. Then there are the mancies: cartomancy, geomancy, chiromancy; those are all the psychic arts and they’re based on intuition.

Tarot combines both of these because so much of Tarot is based on astrology and Numerology. The symbolism of the cards combines both worlds in a way that you will not find in any other form of reading.

Moments With Madame

HPFM alert..... Trance approaching. Tell the kids to leave you the heck alone, turn off the phone, and use the “john” before you try this out!

Madame G

I would invite you at this point to simply take a deep breath and look down at your palms, or if you have your deck, to look down at your deck; or as you read this for the first time imagine what it will be like to do those things later when you have recorded these words, and read these words the way you will record them later, with a one second full pause between EACH WORD, and remember a time: remember a time in your life when you were about to learn something new, preferably one of the first times; maybe as a child, going to school, and trying to look up at the board and those letters were so complicated back then; it was hard to tell a letter ‘b’ from a letter ‘p’. It was difficult to tell if an ‘m’ was a ‘w’ upside-down, or perhaps it was a ‘3’ on its side. And as you take a deep breath, I would encourage you to think back to that time and how the mind was able to set aside things it was or was

not sure of for just long enough to allow you to listen, to understand, to be and to become one with that subject long enough to allow your unconscious mind to learn what it was that was there to learn; to be attentive to what one needs to be attentive to; and at the same time to allow your unconscious mind the opportunity, the awareness, and the ability to simply do what it does in learning. And I invite you to put that, and all of the carefree qualities of expression as a child, into your deck now, or into the way you think about all decks, as you use them in the future. And I encourage you to slowly take a breath or two and allow your mind to reorient to this book that you're reading right now, for I'm going to ask you to prepare a few materials for the beginning of this next lesson. If you wish to just read this straight through the first time, by all means I encourage you to do that. However, if you want to learn right off the bat, assemble these materials first and then move on.

Moments With Madame

Go do the following.... Madame predicts that you will be GLAD if you do!

Madame G

What I'd like you to do is to get a bunch of pictures from magazines, off the internet, (*Clean ones! This is a family book.... Well, sort of! Madame G*) photographs of people you don't know. I'd like you to have at least two or three pictures of people, and then about ten pictures of places, scenes or images. Even if you've already done this exercise in the classroom with me, or while listening to the CD version of this material, I still encourage you to do it at this time.

Ready To Begin

One of the things I want you to know about Tarot is that it's really not that hard to learn. It's actually a very simple process, and there are some basic principles that you need to understand. Once you understand those, and once you have gotten some confidence and some experience, Tarot is relatively easy to learn. It's relatively easy to do.

I'd like to give you a little warm-up exercise. It doesn't have a lot to do with reading Tarot directly; but it's an exercise for your imagination.

I've asked you to get those pictures together and if you haven't done that yet, what I would suggest is you play along in your brain and imagine that you have some pictures torn out of magazines or old photographs, preferably of people and places you're not that familiar with. I'd like you to either lay them out in front of you or in a stack, so that the first picture you look at is of a person. Then, a couple of pictures of either places or objects or things; then another picture of a person; and then a few more pictures of places or objects or things.

What I'd like you to do is to go back to a time when you've told a story. It could be a time that you've told a story to a child; it could be a time when you were trying to get someone to go to sleep and you were reading them a faerie-tale. I'd like you to go back in your mind to a time perhaps when you were telling someone a story about something that happened to you; or you were trying to use a story to illustrate a point, to make sense out of something. Then, I want you, with that in mind, to start to make up a story about those pictures that you're looking at. I'd like you to look at the picture of the person that's there and ask yourself some questions, and answer them—out loud—as I talk about them.

For instance, you know by looking at it if the person is male or female. In looking at the picture, do you consider them “typical” male or female? In other words do you consider that if it’s a male, are they masculine, or are they not. Are they intellectual, or are they artistic as opposed to being the typical butch, athletic type?

If it’s a female, is she flighty? Is she genteel? Is she someone who is artistic and creative or is she something of a tomboy?

Forget what you know about the person in the picture if they’re someone famous, for instance. Forget that they are who they are, and imagine just looking at them right now. What kind of qualities would you assign to that person, as you look at the picture.

I’d like you to ask yourself, aside from the obvious, what you think that person does for a living? What do you think are their hobbies, their interests outside of work? What do you think that person has for a dream? What is their dream in life, their life’s goal, their life’s ambition? If you were to guess where that person is in their life right now, where would you say it is? Where do you think they are right at this moment? Make up a story about that picture you’re looking at.

I’d like you to begin your story with: “Once upon a time there was a man” (or woman,) and a little description of them; who they are, what they’re like, all those things that you guessed out of thin air.

Then go on to the next picture, and I have no idea what you could be looking at. It could be a picture of a train or a scene, but what I’d like you to do is to imagine using that element in the story. You could use it in a very direct way. For argument’s sake, let’s say it’s a picture of a countryside with a train track and a train. Well, you could say that, “Bob Smith, who was a very intelligent man, although somewhat slight of stature, whose dream was to go off and conquer the world, decided one day to jump on a train and take a trip.”

I'd like you to make at least five or six statements about that picture, about the train-track picture or whatever your second picture is. Add to the story.

For instance, he was going on a train-trip, add to your story and say to yourself, "well, where was he going and/or what did he expect to accomplish there?" This is important; with that train trip in mind, let's ask yourself, what was his purpose in going in the first place or what motivated him to finally take that leap?

Your next picture should also be a picture of a scene or an image rather than a person. To that I'd like you to pretend that that picture represents the next step of the story, which is usually an obstacle. Every story has characters. It has a setting. That's what we have; we have characters and a setting. Now it's time for a conflict, some kind of obstacle to come into this story.

So using the next picture it could be something silly: a picture of a birthday cake. What's his obstacle? How could a birthday cake be an obstacle? Well it could be an obstacle if he feels like he's getting older with time slipping away.

Perhaps the candle flames on the birthday cake candle make you think of a fire that erupted in the train.

It could be that the candles represent a spark, that makes him realize that what he was trying to do isn't going to work the way he wanted it to. Whatever you like.

Make up that part of the story, if you haven't been doing this along so far, stop reading! Go through this process and tell the story.

Moments With Madame

This book won't do you a lot of good if you just read it. This might seem a little silly but it's very important to the process of reading Tarot. So, STOP READING already and DO IT! Don't make Madame turn this book around and take you home!

Madame G

You should have another picture of a person; if you have another picture of a scene you could add that into the story as a little bit more about the motivation or what's going on in the story. Eventually you'll get to another person. That person is going to intervene in the story some way. Look at the second person. Who are they? What's their name? Make one up based on what they look like. From there, state some ideas about what their hobbies are, what their likes and their fears are. State what their number one talent is, and how could they use their number one talent to help the hero or the heroine of your story?

So: Sam Smith, this slight, gangly man heads off on a train adventure; he's faced with this disaster of feeling like he's getting older, feeling like he can't do any more. The next thing we find in our story is this picture of a basketball-player. Even I would say that probably basketball is his number-one talent, but he could have another one. Maybe he has kind eyes. Maybe his number one talent is counseling people. However, we'll say that his number one talent is basketball.

So, with that in mind, how could that be useful? In the storytelling I find often it's useful to chunk up or down; that is, get more abstract or more specific. With a basketball-player: is his real talent that he can play basketball, or is it power. It could be organization of muscle, organization of thinking, or, to get more detailed: to dribble, or to hold the ball? Then, ask yourself how

those could be useful to the hero of our story? Is it through being able to manipulate his world? Is it our hero showing that he still has strength even at his age?

The next picture I'd like you to apply to an idea of some kind of a realization or a turning-point in the story. Sometimes, when we do this exercise in class, it gets funny. Perhaps it's a picture of a Scottish castle, and our gentleman finally has this realization that he can be strong even at his age as he travels across country; and suddenly he's magically transported to a leprechaun village. That's silly, but it's fine for this exercise. What could that mean if it were a metaphor?

All faerie-tales are metaphors for real life. When we tell stories about girls being held prisoner in castles, we're talking about people being held back in their life in general. So what could being transported to a leprechaun's castle mean, what could it represent? (*That you're smoking something questionable in your pipe! Madame G*) It could mean or represent a lot of things to me, but what I'm curious is what would it suggest to you? Is it fantasy; is it being drawn into a magical world where anything is possible but, like a leprechaun's gold might fade if you don't make it real in the "real world"? Or does it represent a fantasy on his part? You're the one telling the story here. I'm just trying to give you ideas.

The last picture will be the resolution; what's the ending to this story? I'd like you to phrase the outcome of our story not in a, "And this happened and he lived happily ever after" way, but rather a, "He did this thing that he needed to do." Let the last picture represent something he needed to do or to come to terms with. Make that the ending of your story. That that's how he'll live happily ever after, by doing that thing, having that education, having an experience, or something represented by that last picture.

Telling stories is a great way to get an idea of how active your imagination is. The more you do it, the better you'll get. What I'd like you to do at this point is to take those same pictures and rearrange them so that the second person becomes a character of the story; the character of your first story becomes the helper or the teacher; now tell a totally different story about those same pictures. In other words, that person who was the helper is now a different person with a different name. But ask yourself all the same questions, and do that.

Moments With Madame

Alrighty kiddies, there is an impending moment of melodrama about to ensue, so if you haven't done all of this stuff, at least go back and re-read it and PRE-TEND that you're doing it... Humor him!

Madame G

Usually in my classes I force people to do this exercise before we get to this moment, this point, where I tell you a secret. So if you haven't done it in real life at least do it in your mind before you read the secret that I'm about to tell you. It is an important secret, but I think it's equally as important for it to have impact, that you at least have reviewed this experience of telling these stories.

A REALLY BIG SECRET

A lot of people think they can't read Tarot. You could argue that it's like somebody who can't ride a bicycle; it's not that they can't do it, it's that they haven't learned yet. By the time a person learns how to ride a bicycle, they've already learned all of the skills they need in order to ride that bicycle. In other words they've learned balance, they know how to move their legs, they have eyes, they know how to use their hands. People generally don't learn how to ride a bicycle before they've learned to

walk. Learning to walk is much more complicated. There are a lot more motor skills involved. Well it's the same thing with Tarot.

I learned Tarot when I was four, so I didn't have all the little obstacles in my brain that said I couldn't do this thing—at this point in your life you have all the skills you need to learn Tarot. Somewhere in your past experience they are there. Those skills are not many. It requires an ability to listen to yourself; an ability to tell stories. Basically what you just did—here's the secret: If you did what you were told to do in that exercise, you've just read Tarot. So congratulations. You can read Tarot. You've already done it.

Moments With Madame

Well, there you have it, you already are an expert, throw this book in the crapper and be done with it! Yeah, Ok..... So it IS as simple as telling stories- I know that, but Madame would prefer if we kept that a bit secretive for now. Make it harder on yourself... pound your fists and wring your hands...

Madame G

Every time in your life that you have looked at a photograph or a picture of somebody, seen them on television or seen them only in one meeting and immediately made decisions about who they were, what they were or what was going on, you read Tarot. Any time you looked at a painting or a movie and made a decision about other things that were going on in that scene or what they meant, you read Tarot. Any time you've looked at a picture in a magazine of a woman crying, or a man crying, or someone in some poor situation and you went there and you thought, "What must that be like?" you read Tarot. You thought about it in terms of yourself and you imagined what it was like for them to be going through that... you read Tarot. If you've ever looked over a

countryside or a picture or seen a scene, or had a dream of a castle or a house, and wondered and thought and imagined what would it be like to live there and what kind of things might go on there—you've read Tarot. I know you might not believe that yet, but at least trust me in this when I say that anyone who can tell a story can read Tarot because all Tarot is, is looking at a set of pictures that are printed on the cards, plugging them into the parts of the story, and telling the story that's there.

Moments With Madame

Now, sweethearts, I would caution you to do this little game of his with Nice pictures from Nice magazines, lest your practice stories take on a bit of a randy note... But, get into practice of telling stories, I told plenty to my third husband, and you will get better at all this. Dean may take this stuff very seriously, but I say have some FUN! A little Spice and vinegar makes a tastier dish....

Madame G

So Order Already!!!

Go to:

www.LeapingLizardsPublishing.com

Or Mail a Money Order for
\$15.95

(\$16.99 With Florida State Sales
Tax if shipping to Florida Ad-
dress)

To:

Leaping Lizards Publishing Company

Po Box 690036

Orlando, Florida, 32821

Write a Post Card to Louey and Lydia,
and take \$5.00 off this order! (mail or-
ders only)