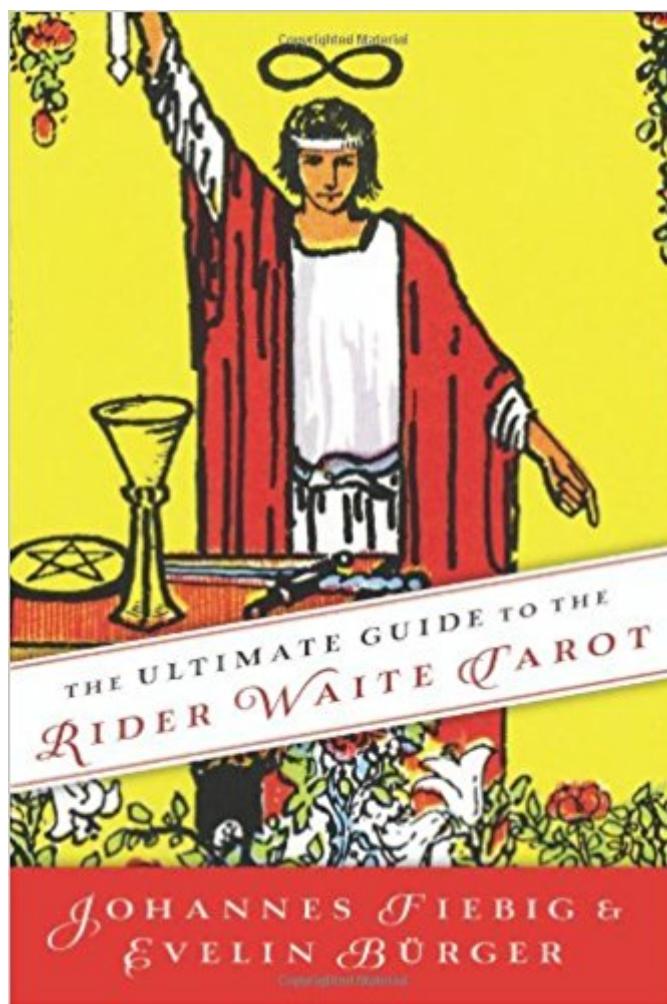


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# The Ultimate Guide To The Rider Waite Tarot



## Synopsis

Discover everything you ever wanted to know about the world's most popular tarot deck. The Ultimate Guide to the Rider Waite Tarot details the ten most important symbols on each and every card in the deck complete with hundreds of illustrations for easy use. In addition to an explanation of the symbols, each card is given a brief interpretation by topic: Primary meaning, Prognosis or tendency, Spiritual meaning, Love and relationship meaning, Daily meaning, Success and happiness meaning. Writing in a convenient format designed for quick reference, European tarot authorities Johannes Fiebig and Evelin Bäfger also provide tips, hints, facts, and lore to improve your reading right away. Within these pages, you will find the top ten most important: Ways of using a single card, Tips and rules for interpretation, Facts about the tarot, Interpretations for each suit, Spread layout techniques.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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Johannes Fiebig (Klein, Germany) has been involved in writing and publishing since 1984. His fields

of interest include the use of tarot and other symbolic languages as psychological tools. Evelin Burger (Klein, Germany) founded the German occult publishing company Konigsfurt Verlag in 1989 with Johannes Fiebig. Her areas of interest include intuitive use of the tarot, yoga, garden, art, and dance.~

There are so many problems with this book that it is hard to know where to begin. Flip to almost any page and you will find material that has you scratching your head in disbelief. It is hard not to think the authors made up many of these meanings off the top of their heads. That would be perfectly okay if they marketed the book as "our take" on the Rider Waite Tarot. But, the "Ultimate Guide"? No way. A few random examples: for the Six of Cups, the authors insist that there are two ways to see the young girl's face. First of all, they call her the "little woman," when most people agree this card depicts two children. But anyhoo...the authors insist there are two ways to interpret the girl's face. One is the obvious (and only) way: the flesh-toned portion of her head that faces the boy is her face. The authors claim that the yellow portion of her head-- which is obviously her blonde hair peeking out of her hood or shawl-- is an alternate view of her face which looks away from the boy and represents her saying "No" or setting limits. Oh, brother. Look at the card for yourself and you'll burst out laughing that they could actually think this. For the Four of Wands, they make a big deal out of the fact that the two figures are very small in comparison with the four wands, and that this could mean that "something is keeping you small, you fall short, you are getting lost in the crowd." What rot! The figures are in the BACKGROUND, the wands are in the FOREGROUND, hence the difference in height. Sheesh. And what is the meaning they give this card as a card for the day? "Your current issues demand a lot of effort. This means putting down more inner roots in order to scale greater heights in your outward life." Huh? What are inner roots? And what does this have to do with the festive, celebratory image on the card? I could go on and on, and it would be funny except for the fact that this book could be seriously misleading to a beginner. For someone more experienced, some of their "insights" might add a new perspective to your take on the cards, but as a primary source? Absolutely not. In an "Ultimate Guide," I expected to read what the creators of the RWS deck themselves actually had in mind in their choices of colors, images, and symbols, not these authors' wacky, idiosyncratic flights of fancy. I'm actually rather angry that I paid good money for this book which I will never, ever use.

First, let me say that the title "The Ultimate Guide..." is pretentious. I give this book a three star rating because I find it useful on two fronts: 1) the writers choose what they call the ten most

important symbols for each card in the RWS deck and then give a short blurb about each symbol they choose. This helps me to think about each symbol, but frankly, the blurbs do not have enough supporting scholarship, for instance, in The Fool Card, they state that his yellow boots are the sixth most important symbol and write, "The Fool goes his way with great self-confidence; every step is taken consciously." Well, they have already told us that yellow means "consciousness, joie-de-vivre; envy, mental dissonance ('shriillness')." I am always suspicious when someone presents a kind of catalog for symbols. I would associate joie-de-vivre with the Fool, but not consciousness. He is apparently headed over the cliff, unless the dog can get his attention. As the writers point out, his arms are outspread, and his sleeves flap open, almost like wings. Perhaps he is completely aware of his surroundings and only steps to the cliff edge to enjoy the view, but I do not believe the images in the card support this. Then, the flower in his left hand, symbolizing the fleeting nature of his existence (should he step over the cliff) is not even chosen as one of the ten most important symbols in itself. It is sandwiched with the sun and dog because all three are white. I think the rose is more significant (on its own) than a few others these writers have chosen. Which brings me to 2) this book is valuable in that it gives me a lot to disagree with, and disagreement means thinking about things - what the writers say, what I believe, and pursuing the argument, for it is the discourse that ultimately brings understanding. I am glad I purchased this book, but let's be honest: it is a quick reference to the cards of this deck, not the ultimate guide. It is better than a white guide book, but less than many of the other Tarot books on the market.

Excellent for beginners, but more of a guide for interpretation than an interpretation itself. If you aren't prepared to do some thinking and soul-searching, you may not be all that interested in tarot cards after all, so I would consider most of the complaints about this product to be misunderstanding. All in all an excellent guide that can help you learn to interpret what the tarot has to say to YOU.

As soon as I read a card interpretation that mentioned Harry Potter I felt like this was not the book I was looking for.

Great book! Easy to read, easy to interpret, great for beginners. Currently using with clients in a therapeutic setting, it's a great way to help them open up!

I was very disappointed with the content of this book. The tiny booklet that came with my deck

seemed better thought out and more helpful. I don't know much about Tarot, but this does not seem like the "Ultimate Guide" in any way.

I like the orientation of the authors on doing a reading, that the cards are mirrors for one's psyche/life, and detachment, discernment is important. The book gives top 10 rules for interpretation, and the rest is up to us. I love the break-down of each card by its parts, their symbolism and meaning. Very much like studying art history. It allows the reader to learn, understand, and perceive so much about RW Tarot. I use my tarot books as a reference and thought-provokers. I tend to not take the interpretations of the authors at face value. I trust my intuition first and use the reference book as additional information.

Beautiful color illustrations printed on good quality glossy paper. Includes individual symbolism annotations for each card, along with a brief historical reference, and well explained indications. A must have!!!

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