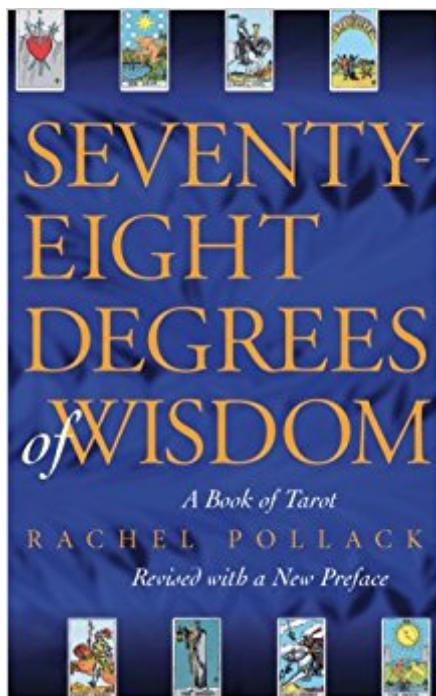


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Seventy-Eight Degrees Of Wisdom: A Book Of Tarot



Synopsis

A top tarotist's secrets to personal growth, one card at a time. The two volumes of *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom* have inspired a whole generation of tarot students. It has often been described by readers, booksellers, and teachers as the "Bible of tarot readers." It is also often cited as one of the landmark books in modern tarot, and it helped to launch the "Tarot Renaissance" of the 1980s. The two texts—one for The Major Arcana and one for The Minor Arcana—appear together in this volume, which is a reissue of the 1998 edition first published by Thorsons. *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom* draws on mythology and esoteric traditions and delves deeply into the symbolism and ideas of each card. It also gives the cards a modern psychological slant based on the pictures rather than a system of occult symbolism. This endlessly useful reference tool provides a concise history of tarot, introduces common spreads, and is a clear and readable book for both the beginning and advanced tarot student.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

‘Rachel Pollack’s *Seventy Eight Degrees of Wisdom* is on my ‘Top Ten’ list of all time Tarot greats! You can’t do better than this for discovering how Tarot symbols offer insights into the meaning of daily events and guidance through life’s quandaries. This classic book will never outgrow its usefulness.’ Mary K. Greer bestselling author of *Tarot For Yourself: A Workbook For Personal Transformation* and *Women of the Golden Dawn* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Rachel Pollack is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on the modern interpretation of the tarot. She is a member of the American Tarot Association, the International Tarot Society, and the Tarot Guild of Australia, and has taught at the famed Omega Institute for the past 15 years. She is an award-winning fiction writer and has also written 12 books on the tarot. She lives in New York.

This is THE Tarot book for the advanced practitioner! With the Rider/Waite deck as a foundation, Pollack explains each card's symbolic meanings, using the artwork in the R/W cards as well as comparisons with other well known decks. She follows the Major Arcana cards as if they tell a story of their own, leading the reader on a journey into the deep self. Ideal for meditation, but also useful in divination.

Could be better organized, a bit verbose by today's standards. Lots of helpful info, but also a certain amount of outdated psychobabble. Worth reading, nevertheless, for the beginner/intermediate level tarot enthusiast. The author is definitely well-versed in this subject and corollaries, and makes connections and ties things together that I would have missed on my own.

This book is a must-have for any Tarot reader, it is a classic and really enhances your skills. the first time i read it, i couldn't drop it from my hand until the last page.. it could be a bit wordy in some places because it gives too much details, but it is all for the best. i love this book, and i keep resorting to it all the time. plus it is one of those learning books which u can read over and over, and you keep relearning from it every time. Love it!!

First book I read on Tarot, and it has a lot of information. I really enjoyed having all this history and information on the cards from the original Rider-Waite Tarot deck. I recommend for anyone looking for extensive information on the Tarot cards meanings.

I am learning Tarot and purchased this book to go along with Arthur Waite's "Pictorial Key to the Tarot." Good thing that I did because Mr. Waite, in my opinion, does not know how to simplify a sentence. Then there are the words he used in 1910. Ms. Pollack is clear and to the point. She is organized. She gives lots of background for the Major and Minor Arcana. Eventually she discloses why Tarot readings work. (synchronicity) One still needs to do some memorizing and perhaps more reading. However, I think it would be prudent for anyone serious about Tarot reading to consider this as a necessary part of background preparation for readings. One also learns a great deal

concerning spirituality and morality. Your learning and Tarot skills are not developed by the time you finish reading this. You then begin to memorize and work with spreads. You will probably refer back to this book in the future. I hate reading but found it difficult to put this down. Check out Wikipedia regarding what she's accomplished so far in her life. Clearly she is an amazing person.

Unfortunately, I have to side with bad reviews which are surprisingly very few. I wasn't impressed by this book at all. She gives detailed descriptions of what you see on the card, like "there is water flowing under his thrown" but is very vague at explaining HOW to interpret it in a reading. Lots of references to different cultures/religions/eras makes it hard to get through. If you want to read this book to get a different prospective on Tarot it might be informational but it's not very handy when you just want a quick reference on a card meaning.

You can buy a hundred books for Tarot, but if you really want to grow your skills as a reader, you'll have to buy this one, it's just a must have instrument for every Tarot enthusiast. Using a classic RWS system, Rachel Pollak explores the deepest meaning of every card, she knows how to tell stories, that's why this book is so readable, soooooo insightfull. She also does a good job explaining how to interpret and connect the spread together. My absolutely favourite.

I am not sure why this is considered the 'bible' for Tarot. It is useful only if you remember that it represents the author's opinions. There are interesting correlations that seem to coalesce neatly into reasonable explanations and paradigms, but again, much is based on the author's partial view of reality. If you come from a different culture and ethnic background, your views are likely to be completely different. So... no.... this is not a universally applicable interpretation of this Tarot deck. It is one woman's view that has been clearly shaped by her ethnic identity.

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