

**Obsidian Oracle Deck
- Black Edition**

by

Megan Buccere

Guidebook

by

Trish Sullivan

All rights reserved.

All contents, illustrations and design of both the Obsidian Oracle and the accompanying guidebook are protected by copyright.

This deck and booklet, may not be reproduced in any form, either in part, or in its entirety, without prior permission, in writing, from the publisher, writer and artist.

The only exception to this is where a reviewer wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review for inclusion in a blog/article/magazine/e-zine.

Acknowledgements

Thank you so much to the supporters and backers on Kickstarter, who have helped make the Black Edition Obsidian Oracle a reality!

I want to extend a special thank you to Kayti Welsh of the 78 Tarot Project for being a constant inspiration! I could not have created this deck without Kayti's guidance and support.

To Brynn Elizabeth Barrietua and Alex Garant for being the best art friends and support system.

And of course to Trish Sullivan, whose words have brought my paintings to life. Without Trish this deck wouldn't have been possible.

Megan x

Contents

Obsidian Oracle - Black Edition by Megan
Buccere

Introduction to the Obsidian Oracle - Black
Edition by Trish Sullivan

Getting to know your deck
Single Card Draw

Obsidian Oracle Spirit Draw

The Cards

Alstroemeria + Peridot

Axolotl + Marimo Moss

Barn Swallow

Bat + Dolomite

Beetle + Selenite

Birch Forest

Blue Tit + Pink Tourmaline

Bluebird + Helicopter Seed

Bunny + Bubbles

Butterfly + Honeysuckle

Cactus

Canary + Aquamarine

Cat + Moon

Cicada + Blue Apatite

Clear Quartz + Eucalyptus
Crane + Sage
Crane + Stars
Crow + Candle
Cuttlefish + Sand Dollar
Fairy Wren + Smoky Quartz
Frog + Amethyst
Geode + Briar Rose
Hawk + Green Fluorite
Hummingbird + Fog
Leaf Insect
Mockingbird + Sunstone
Mushroom + Acorn
Nasturtium
Obsidian
Owl + Elm
Oyster + Citrine
Pink Coral + Fish
Red Wing Blackbird
Robin + Egg
Salmon + Tangerine Quartz
Scarlet Ibis + Abalone
Skull + Moss
Snail + Bloodroot

Snake + Lemongrass
Spanish Luna + Rose Quartz
Spider Lily + Jasper
Spoonbill + Labradorite
Strata
String of Pearls + Feather
Thrush + Lapis Lazuli
Unicorn Floatie + Macaroons
Universe
Venus Flytrap
White Bat + Larimar Stone
White Peacock + Blue Lace Agate
Woodpecker + Log

Additional Moon Cards

Blood Moon
Blue Moon
Crescent Moon + Venus
Full Moon
New Moon
Super Moon
Waning Crescent Moon
Waning Gibbous Moon
Waxing Crescent Moon
Waxing Gibbous Moon

Obsidian Oracle - Black Edition

by

Megan Buccere

I initially began creating the Obsidian Oracle Deck as a very small project. It was a gift to my artist friends who have helped me on my artistic journey these past few years.

The more I painted and researched, the more I wanted to bring the Obsidian Oracle Deck to even more people.

I felt like the imagery and meanings might speak to a larger group of people, and decided, about half way through painting the cards, that I would produce the deck for everyone who loved it as much as I did.

Thank you so much for taking this journey with me.

Introduction to the Obsidian Oracle – Black Edition

by

Trish Sullivan

When Megan started to create the Obsidian Oracle, it was no surprise I was blown away by the imagery.

The beautiful, natural creatures and tokens taken out of their usual habitat and put against a black, minimalist background asking me to find out more about each element and how they interacted.

When she asked me to work with her on more cards for the Black Edition, I was thrilled.

This deck is a simple, powerful tool, to help you connect to the greater Universe around you and receive messages from Spirit.

Getting to know your deck

When you receive your Obsidian Oracle, you may want to dive in and start reading with it right away - if this is you, head straight on over to the meanings and see how you gel with my reading of these cards.

Or you may want to read with them intuitively, gathering different meanings each time you use these cards for yourself.

You may want to conduct an attunement ritual, getting to know each individual card. You could spend time with your new deck, breathing in its energy and letting it soak up your own, either in general usage, or in contemplation. You could wait until the next full moon and give it a moon bath, or you could give it a sun bath. You can sage the deck as a whole, a few cards at a time, or each card singly. You can interview the deck. Or not.

It is entirely up to **you!**

As you read this guidebook, you'll notice we have "Key points" for each card.

These are specific reading points from the elements found at the very core of the card, and the natural beings represented by the image.

We hope these resonate with you.

We would love to see your images of the deck, your thoughts and feelings on the deck as you use it! Share with us by using the hashtag #obsidianoracle

You can find our pages on Facebook at Megan Buccere Art and Trish Sullivan.

Or on Instagram at @meganbuccere and @trishswritingandcards.

Single Card Draw



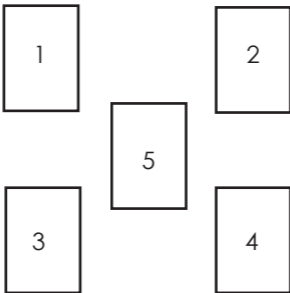
A single card draw is a simple, but powerful way to receive advice from the Universe however busy you are! I recommend these and use them in my own daily practice.

It's an easy way to seek guidance, to ask a question, or to tap into the current energy around you.

Ground yourself, focus and think about a question you need an answer for, or an issue you need help with, while you shuffle your deck.

Then select a card, considering the message that the Obsidian Oracle brings to you.

Obsidian Oracle Spirit Draw



1. What advice does Spirit want to share?
2. How will this advice help me move forward?
3. What do I need to release?
4. Where do I need to apply more focus now?
5. What will be the outcome of this for me?

Alstroemeria + Peridot

Key points: manifestation, prosperity, dedication

Alstroemeria symbolises devotion and friendship, but also wealth and fortune in all walks of life. Like everything worthwhile, it takes work - only with the correct care will this long-lasting Lily shine. Peridot is a protection stone that increases confidence, prosperity and happiness, while helping you release the past.

Now is a time of opportunity for you to succeed, not just financially but in every area of your life. For all your desires to fall into place - family, love, everything coming into balance, while removing any feelings that you may have of guilt and inadequacy. But manifestation takes magic, motivation and movement. Without these, it's impossible to get what you want. So acknowledge this, embrace it, and move toward your ultimate happiness with confidence and drive!

Axolotl + Marimo Moss

Key points: fresh perspective, clearing the way

Axolotls are creatures that procreate without metamorphosis, remaining instead in a larval state. It's a life of challenges - they are more delicate in this form, but they actually live longer.

Those that do change and age live shorter lifespans overall. Marimo moss is an algae that purifies the water in which it dwells, and it is held in high esteem, culturally and spiritually. Often chosen to be given as tokens of love and luck.

Sometimes, the expected course of action is not the best course. This is one of those times. Don't tie yourself down to a tried and tested approach - instead, look at this from a fresh perspective. Consider how you would go about this if you were completely new to it, a child, even. Where would that viewpoint lead you?

Barn Swallow

Key points: protection, community, adaptability

The barn swallow (swallow in Europe) is a migratory bird that has forged an unlikely relationship with humanity. These small birds thrive as cities and towns expand, creating nests under eaves, and attached to buildings. But rather than being seen as a pest, they rid us of insects and are seen as symbols of good fortune. They represent hearth and home, community and adaptability.

You're a master of doing whatever it takes to get you what you need. Of working calmly, happily, with others, being diplomatic in the face of rudeness, of letting change wash over you and going with the flow when you have to. Let that power, flexibility and strength fill you now. You may need to work "on the fly" a bit... but you've done it before, and you can do it again!

Bat + Dolomite

Key points: transition, awareness and intuition

Bats are often feared as “creatures of the night” but they’re beautiful, gentle animals that shouldn’t scare anyone.

They are creatures of awareness and intuition, symbols of relying on more than your senses, and harbingers of change and transition.

Dolomite is a spiritual stone, helping balance emotions and bring serenity as it promotes and enhances self-confidence.

Change is coming, but there is no reason to panic.

Transition brings some turmoil, and yes, a few issues you thought were long gone may rear their head again but stay calm. Don’t give into emotional outbursts (either from yourself or others!) and focus on where you’re going, not where you’ve been. Trust your instincts to see you through this and to bring you to a happier place!

Beetle + Selenite

Key points: clarity, turning impurity into purity

Beetles are much misunderstood creatures, often killed and feared rather than left to live their lives. Capable of turning detritus into nourishment, they are symbols of transformation, creativity and visualisation. Selenite is one of only a few stones that never requires cleansing, instead cleansing itself. It represents spiritual purity and pure light, but is fragile and vulnerable to water.

Now is not a time for snap decisions – not everything is as simple as it appears. Consider any potential judgements and beliefs you are bringing to this situation. How you are possibly fuelling the fires.

Release yourself from limits you've set yourself, and everyone else, and look with new eyes. Free of prejudice, free of expectations, meditate on what you can bring, refreshed, renewed and with a pure vision.

Birch Forest

Key points: beginnings, regeneration, potential

Birch is known as a "pioneer" species - in any de-forestation event, the birch is one of the first trees to regrow on a patch of land, and it can completely re-colonise a forest.

The colour of birch forests, the way the trees capture light, seems magical and pure, and since ancient times, wood from birch trees has been used to protect. To drive out old spirits, and to signify the start of something new.

What was old is young again, life bringing you a chance to start a new journey, to forge a better future for yourself and those you love. Don't let fear hold you back, the Universe is guiding you, gently whispering to you that this is your time. That you are safe on this path.

But you are the one who has to take that first step into the forest.

Blue Tit + Pink Tourmaline

Key points: hope, happiness, joy, love

A blue tit in flight is the herald of wonderful things coming - peace, love and harmony winging their way to you in a tiny, colourful package. This small bird, a colourful, positive beacon who never strays far from home is considered a good omen, for sailors and landlubbers alike.

Pink Tourmaline is a delicate shamanic stone that packs a punch in terms of love, healing, attracting positive energy, and relieving worries and stress.

Give yourself permission to tear down the walls and let joy and tranquillity into your life. Hope that you'd started to lose sight of is now back in view. Storms of despair are passing, blowing themselves out. Energy and happiness returning to light up your life, so trust it, feel your confidence soar, and don't let anyone, or anything, get you down!

Bluebird + Helicopter Seed

Key points: pleasure, vitality, beauty, gratitude

The bluebird is a powerful messenger from Spirit, believed to represent guides who are watching over you. Vibrant creatures in a world of drab browns and greys, they seem designed to catch your eye, to bring some colour and light to your day.

Helicopter seeds are creative energy given speed and motion, harnessing the air to travel far and wide in a beautiful vortex.

The trials of life can bring you down, but they don't need to. Flip the script and try to make the day work for you, instead.

Take some time to consider the blessings of the world, the beauty of nature and life itself, the advantages that you have, even at difficult times.

Trust that even these have their purpose and use gratitude to bring positivity and energy to you as you walk your path.

Bunny + Bubbles

Key points: time pressures, make the most of life

Rabbits are abundant, vibrant creatures, associated with fertility and longevity. But their colonies and numbers are a defence mechanism, rather than a choice. As a prey animal, the only way their species survives is to make the most of the time they have and to breed voraciously. Bubbles have a similarly transient, temporary "life". We marvel in their beauty, in the rainbows they contain, watching and wondering how far they will travel before something destroys them.

Life is short, so you'd better make the most of it! There are risks and challenges aplenty, but do you really want to hide away, living in fear of them? Or do you want to live life to its very limit?

Create memories that are full of wonder and beauty, rather than regrets...

Butterfly + Honeysuckle

Key points: twists and turns, following your path

Blue morphos are beautiful, blue butterflies, with a dull underside, so when they fly, they seem to appear and disappear. They are symbols of freedom, change and going with the flow. The honeysuckle is a twisting vine, with super sweet flowers, and has long represented following your own path, come what may.

Life is a winding pathway, full of beginnings and endings, as you search for self-knowledge. But even when you're alone, when you feel lost, know that this is where you're supposed to be, that you're supported by the Universe.

Embrace your journey, its complexity, emotion, even the trials you face.

Understand that you need the lows to fully appreciate the highs. You can't, and shouldn't, try to control everything.

Cactus

Key points: boundaries, protection, resilience

'Cactus' stems from a Latin word taken from ancient Greek to describe a spiny plant whose identity was uncertain. These spiky plants do not look particularly welcoming, but can be stunning when their time to bloom comes. They grow and thrive in areas where many other plants could not hope to survive.

You don't always need to be there for other people - there's nothing wrong with putting yourself and your own needs first!

Don't let yourself sink into feelings of resentment, of offence, when you're letting other people take what you freely give, with no return.

Instead, make sure you set clear boundaries you're comfortable with...learn how freeing it can be to say "no", politely of course!

Canary + Aquamarine

Key points: emotional balance, light, energy

The bright yellow canary carries the energy of the Sun, revitalising the world and reflecting joy and light to those nearby. But it has a sad history with humans - these songbirds caged and taken into mines to warn of lethal fumes. Aquamarine is a stone of purity, a protection stone that evokes feelings of calm, cleansing waters, inspiring faith, honesty and truth.

Even when you feel smothered by the darkness, when you feel you may succumb to it, you have embers of warmth and light burning within you. Fan the flames, let your hope and confidence soar. Act with enthusiasm, truth and energy. Don't ever be afraid to shine! Just remember to keep balance...temper your fire with water, and take care not to burn out!

Cat + Moon

Key points: mystery, intuition, rejuvenation

Despite being domesticated for centuries, cats remain mysterious to us - they are creatures of duality, gentle, but sometimes cruel.

Patient, yet curious and unpredictable.

Mythically living nine lives, their timelessness only adds more mystery to their personality.

The moon casts deceptive shadows, requiring intuition to determine truth. The crescent moon represents feminine, creative energy and acts as a conduit for new ideas.

Listen to your intuition - there is more going on than you realise, and it may be worth doing some research, to find out more.

You don't need to rush in - instead, try to work out the motives of all the players, check your facts, and carefully lay the groundwork for an unexpected plan of action.

.

Cicada + Blue Apatite

Key points: rebirth, transformation, breaking free

Cicadas can live up to seventeen years, dwelling underground most of their life. Due to the way they shed their skin and are “born” from the ground, they represent immortality and rebirth in cultures around the globe. Blue apatite is a powerful psychic and spiritual stone with cleansing power, used to clear confusion and negativity and to boost personal growth and knowledge.

Release yourself from the mistakes of your past, and stop using them to beat yourself up, mentally and spiritually. You're human, and we learn more from mistakes than we do from successes.

Use your past to educate you, then let it go... freeing yourself to move on, refreshed and reborn, living as a better person from now on.

Clear Quartz + Eucalyptus

Key points: clarity, healing, cleaning house

Clear quartz is a cleansing stone, promoting clarity and purity, while helping to heal physical and psychic issues. It is a powerful amplifier, boosting energy and intent, and can be used to manifest goals and dreams. Eucalyptus is an ancient plant that exists across hundreds of species. The oil of the eucalyptus is a powerful disinfectant, and eucalyptus itself is burned to dispel negative energies.

It's time to clean house. Rid yourself of anything that doesn't work for you anymore, that doesn't add to your life and your happiness. Take some time to consider the anchors that weigh you down and sap your strength.

Decide what is truly necessary to your life, then indulge in some emotional (and physical) de-cluttering.

Crane + Sage

Key points: healing, medicine, spiritual growth

Many species of crane need space and dwell within the wetlands. They create nests in shallower areas, and form territories over which they become very protective, despite being social creatures. It is a symbol of family, of good tidings - elements of life that may not always be easy but are always worth it. Sage is a highly respected plant that has long been used for healing, used for cleansing and smudging, in potions, rituals and teas.

A time of medicine and healing is approaching. Opportunities for spiritual and mental growth are coming, introspection and reflection opening the way for you to heal from old wounds. It will not always be easy, but it will be worth it - you will feel so much better.

Crane + Stars

Key points: shine your light, dance and live life

Many cranes mate for life, so they choose an elaborate, beautiful dance, giving it their all, to impress their partner forever. There is no shyness, no fear. They cannot risk losing their chance by holding back. Stars symbolise light in the darkness, bringing inspiration, hope and creative brilliance. Clouds sometimes hide them away, but nothing can stop them from shining.

Make the most of your skills, your body, your mind and your life! This is not a time to hide away, letting modesty (real, or false) throw a cloak over your achievements.

Don't be afraid to have pride in your abilities. Share your accomplishments, show them, and shine like the stars in the sky above. Celebrate yourself!

Crow + Candle

Key points: respecting truth, ritual and power

While crows are often feared as harbingers of death, the crow's symbolism is to escort souls to the underworld. It is a powerful totem of magic and mystery, to be respected.

Candles represent light, life and truth. Seen as a small, flickering light in the darkness, keeping hope alive, it can be much more, capable of sparking a conflagration, and shouldn't be used unwisely.

Open your mind to the power of magic and mystery within life, and yourself. Don't ignore the potential of tradition, but instead, pay it the respect it deserves and needs.

Understand the power and influence of belief, ritual and symbols, even if you do not follow their path.

Embrace and explore their truth and origins, tapping into the strength that can be underestimated and underappreciated.

Cuttlefish + Sand Dollar

Key points: reclaiming power, overcoming issues

Soft-bodied, nutritious cuttlefish are highly sought after prey, so can't linger. They learn, and move quickly. They know when to stand out but spend the majority of life staying hidden, and are symbols of intelligence and manoeuvrability. The sand dollar is a flat creature, related to the sea urchin that can, and does move quickly, and as such is a symbol of transformation and creativity.

You're never without options, even though you may feel stuck and isolated right now. Stop for a few minutes, open your mind and think of all the possible ways through your current situation.

Carefully consider how trapped you really are...is it just your mind telling yourself you can't change this? Reclaim your power, because you can move mountains if you need to!

Fairy Wren + Smoky Quartz

Key points: put yourself first, self-care and self-love

The bright blue fairy wren is one of Australia's most vibrant birds, but colour brings increased danger, making them easier prey. They don't let this stop them, however, instead living in a state of heightened awareness, constantly considering options, and giving themselves the best chance possible for success by being promiscuous. Smoky quartz is a protection stone, dispelling negativity and fear, while promoting relaxation and security.

You deserve your own time, your own pleasure and joy. There are times when you need to put yourself first, rather than wearing loyalty as a badge that weighs you down. Or your nurturing energy is spent on everyone else and you end up burning out! If others can't see and accept that, maybe they shouldn't be in your life.

Frog + Amethyst

Key points: evolution, metamorphosis, rebirth

Frogs undergo massive changes within their lifecycle, from tadpole to adult frog, but it has to be done. The more superior tadpoles will even use their siblings as food as required, no sentimentality holding them back as they jump off into a new existence.

Amethyst is a balancing, protective stone, lending creative, calm energy to heal and purify.

Don't be afraid of the gap between reality and your dreams, instead dump the emotional baggage and jump.

Don't get resentful that life is not as you currently want. Instead, make the changes you need to in order to make it exactly that. No matter how long this journey is, no matter how hard - you are protected on this evolutionary, healing path you travel... this is not just a time of release, but of transformation!

Geode + Briar Rose

Key points: healing from within, self-reliance

As a rock that contains many crystals within the hollows of itself, a geode connects you to the power inside yourself. Representing the healing you hold within, they promote harmony and spirituality.

The briar rose is one of the most voracious species of roses, with all the beauty of its kind. But in addition, notably producing red rose hips, long used as a health and beauty supplement.

It can be easier to hope for an external saviour, for someone to come in and rescue you, than to trust yourself. But you are a creature of infinite healing and absolute power, if only you choose to unleash it. Believe in yourself. Give yourself permission to heal, and release the pain of your past. Don't indulge in temporary fixes, but instead, take real, tangible steps to improve your life. Permanently.

Hawk + Green Fluorite

Key points: personal power, details, authority

The majestic hawk soars across the skies, far away from petty matters, seeing how the land truly lies. Nothing is too small, every detail seen and fully understood before this bird swoops into action.

Green fluorite is a stabilising stone with a clarifying influence, both in terms of clearing aura and promoting clarity of mind. It is a great aid to concentration and decision making.

Don't doubt yourself at this stage, especially because of the "help" and opinions given by other people. All that noise can muddy the situation and prevent you from seeing things clearly. So remind yourself that you have a unique perspective on this, that there's no need for uncertainty.

It's time to put your plans into action, ensuring that you've done all the research first of course!

Hummingbird + Fog

Key points: childlike clarity, understanding

Hummingbirds are joyful, playful souls that dart decisively, their small size helping them navigate areas where others may fail. Their wings are so unique that they are the most manoeuvrable birds in the world, able, even, to fly backwards and hover for long periods. Fog comes when air temperatures fall, formed by vapour condensing into water droplets that then remain suspended in the air.

Sometimes going back is the only way to move forward. Consider how “past you” would have dealt with this. Before disillusionment and disappointment set in. Ask yourself if repeating patterns are weighing you down, if lingering hurt is obscuring the way forward. Let hummingbird love and energy break the pattern, open your heart and help you through this.

Leaf Insect

Key points: illusion, deception, truth will out

Leaf insects are masters of camouflage, keeping their flat bodies motionless as much as possible, but sometimes swaying in the breeze to add to the illusion. Some look like dead or dying leaves, others bearing blotches, spotty areas or even mimicking fungus growing, suggesting they're not even appealing, healthy leaves an animal may want to snack on. But their lies can backfire, the deception so good that other leaf insects sometimes try to nibble on them.

Deception itself is deceptive - people lying to each other and themselves, thinking they'll never get caught out.

But the truth has a habit of finding its way out of the darkness, and suddenly the bad is made worse.

So take some time to examine your motives - are you being completely honest with yourself?

Mockingbird + Sunstone

Key points: being true to yourself, self-awareness

Mockingbirds are known for their songs, often different in autumn than in spring. Some species mimic the song of other birds, which is how they earned their name. While females don't sing as well as the males, mockingbirds as a species sing throughout the day and night. Sunstone is a stone of warmth and joy. As a stone that carries light energy within, it enhances self-confidence and awareness of your true nature.

The more time you spend with friends and family, the more you pick up their characteristics, and sometimes their judgements.

But you are so much more! You are the sum of all your parts, all your experiences, a magnetic, beautiful, unique being of light and love. Get to know yourself, and appreciate just how great you are!

Mushroom + Acorn

Key points: looking beneath the surface, tapping into your potential

Mushrooms have the power to reclaim that which has died, making it new again. Used in medicine, food, spiritual and shamanic practices, it represents growth, prosperity and rebirth. The acorn is a symbol of potential and strength, respected in Nordic and Celtic cultures as a representation of fertility, even immortality.

Consider the overlooked, even ignored elements of what lies right in front of you. What seeds you have sown, perhaps even without realising, that are growing, developing beneath the surface, so far unseen. There is power, potential and miracles of life around you. Yes, these can grow without you, but if you pour your persistence, your determination and care into this, how much more could you achieve?

Nasturtium

Key points: victory, overcoming challenges, resilience

The nasturtium is a bright flower symbolising victory and conquest. While different colours can have different meanings, these are all elements of what is required to overcome. Red represents passion and courage, orange depicts belief and creativity and yellow illustrates a capacity for optimism.

In this world, we often feel a need for understanding, tolerance and healing. The desire to keep the peace, rather than ruffle feathers.

But we all have our line in the sand, the point when we need to stand our ground. When your time comes, soon, know the battle you choose to fight is just. Know that you will be victorious, but it will not be easy. You will need determination, optimism and a willingness to sacrifice in order to succeed and overcome your challenges.

Obsidian

Key points: reflection, insight, acceptance

Obsidian can act as a shield against negativity, but also as a mirror letting you see your inner self clearly.

It is often used as a stone to comfort and protect from anxiety and fear, and can aid in recovery from addiction, as it balances and clarifies. It can promote self-acceptance, the energy of obsidian reminding us that we are all creatures of light and dark, sun and shadow. This stone can help release anger that is directed within.

It's all about attitude - consider what you are putting out into the world? What are you receiving back?

It is time to do some shadow work, to consider what elements of yourself and what patterns of your behaviour you're willing to accept, rather than condemning yourself for being a creature of both strengths and flaws.

Owl + Elm

Key points: magic, mystery, secret, acceptance

The owl is a symbol of the night, the moon and the secrets they hold. It is a creature of wisdom and intuition, relying on more than the usual senses in order to succeed.

The Elm tree has strong links to transition and death. There is also strong feminine energy within this tree, beloved of Earth goddesses - a durable, pliant wood, it is often connected to creativity.

The world is full of magic - multitudes of secrets and mysteries that we cannot understand, nor ever hope to. Because we're not meant to, and the world would be very boring if we did! Instead, accept the chance to learn - embrace the oddities and enigmas of life, keeping an open mind to the guidance of the Universe - the signs and messages being sent your way.

Oyster + Citrine

Key points: overcoming obstacles, success

Oysters are shelled molluscs that convert dirt into riches by turning grit into a gorgeous pearl. But this irritating process takes years, as the oyster continually adds layers of nacre to cover a grain of sand or other foreign substance.

It's not done to create beauty, either, but with the intent of self-protection.

Citrine is a stone of abundance, completion, and manifestation that aids productivity and brings joy.

Even niggles can become less irritating with a change of attitude.

Consider what has happened to you in the past - each trial bringing you strength and experience.

No, it wasn't fun, but it didn't destroy you, and this won't either. Nothing can! This is just one more step on your path to joy, and it will be done soon enough.

Pink Coral + Fish

Key points: positivity, visualisation, gratitude

Pink coral is a powerful stone that is often used as an aid for visualisation and meditation. It is also a symbol of turning negativity to positivity, of creativity and understanding becoming unlocked.

A fish is a universal sign of change, of perpetual motion, and of transformation - a world in which challenges can be overcome just by action and drive.

You need to look at this differently. Better times are coming, but you have to keep positivity in your heart.

Don't pay lip service to the idea of change, hoping for things to improve so that THEN you can be happy. It doesn't work that way - flip the script and start within, don't wait for it to come to you.

Consider your blessings, and make room in your life for even more!

Red Wing Blackbird

Key points: strength, courage, unity

Red wing blackbirds are small, tenacious birds that collect in loose flocks and colonies, and by doing so, can power through the trials that face them.

They are protective and territorial, with a few males steadfastly “guarding” up to ten females at a time as their “harem”. These blackbirds adapt and thrive, doing whatever it takes in order to survive.

There is strength in unity, in groups of people giving and taking freely, working collaboratively with others in order to achieve your goal. In a world that tries to separate us, that tries to make us focus on the differences between us, don't be afraid to rebel.

Think about what connects you to the people around you, what you can accomplish with some help, and what you have to teach others on the way.

Robin + Egg

Key points: a new path, changes coming

The robin is a welcome sight, the red breast on this tiny bird bringing joy and comfort. While often seen in winter, it is actually present all year round and for centuries has been seen as a herald of hope and new beginnings.

Eggs are creation made manifest, a tiny, fragile item that holds so much potential. They're a part of world creation myths in many cultures and often represent fertility and the cycle of life.

Your path is changing - you may not have wanted to admit it to yourself, but you probably knew something was coming. You may still be trying to put it off, but stop. Don't cling to the past, but instead, move forward on this journey with happiness and determination.

It won't all be plain sailing but it will be worth it.

Salmon + Tangerine Quartz

Key points: sensuality, passion, self-love

Salmon infamously travel miles, enduring hardships and multitudes of dangers in order to spawn - travelling from the vast, wide ocean to fresh water. Their resilience knows no bounds as they perform minor miracles of flexibility jumping upstream.

Tangerine quartz, with its warm orange colour is a joyful stone that promotes creativity and passion.

Never be afraid of your own sensuality and personal needs - embrace them! You are a miraculous, magnificent being, deserving of passion and adoration, not shame!

You possess a body and mind that can bring you and others as much pleasure as you can stand, if you wish it to.

So don't listen to those voices that remind you of your flaws, and instead, indulge yourself in a world of delights!

Scarlet Ibis + Abalone

Key points: sacrifice, different perspectives

The ibis is a wader bird that primarily gathers and flocks in wetlands and marshes, although they can also be seen in areas of rainforest or near large lakes. They were considered sacred symbols of magic, knowledge, death and sacrifice.

Abalone shells are powerful spiritual tools, believed to soothe, and to bestow the calm courage required in order to view issues from different perspectives.

Time to take a few steps back and reconsider how you're going about this.

Because what you're doing isn't working as well as it could for you.

So now you need to ask why? Are you taking the easy route?

What are you willing to change, what sacrifices would you make?

Just how far are you willing to go in order to succeed?

Skull + Moss

Key points: mortality, wisdom, meaning of life

Skulls are often used to illustrate scary stories, but inspire fascination and awe, irrevocably linked to concepts of death and mortality.

Mosses are small, leafy plants that grow in clumps, often on rocks and forest floors.

They are ancient, some of the first plants to colonise the land after coming out of the sea in prehistoric times.

Time marches on - the only thing we are all certain to experience in life is our own death. But it is a slow ramble, rather than a dash in many cases, luckily.

So enjoy your life, rather than rushing through it.

Don't take it for granted, and make sure that you stop and enjoy the present, at every opportunity you get, learning all you can about the world, and yourself, as you travel through it.

Snail + Bloodroot

Key points: family, security, work on relationships

Snails move slowly, but surely, knowing that no matter how vulnerable they are, they're protected. They're not afraid of diving straight back into the security of their shell, if needed. They remind us that home is always with us.

Bloodroot is an American flower that has been used as a dye, as a medicine and to power hex-breaking magic. In particular, to protect family from destructive outside, and inside influences.

Regardless of whether they're blood, or the family you've created for yourself, no one has your back more...or can hurt you as much. These relationships are some of the hardest you'll experience, but are definitely worth the work! Sink into the company of those you feel at home with, take time to reconnect, and maybe repair some bridges.

Snake + Lemongrass

Key points: reinvention, commit to a better life

The snake is a creature of transition, shedding its skin as it continues to grow and improve. Its flexibility is legendary in terms of movement and sustaining life as well, as it can eat creatures much larger than itself. Lemongrass is a powerful cleansing plant, long respected for its medicinal properties, used in many ways to help mental, physical and digestive issues.

It can be incredibly hard to make changes, even when you know that they are needed. For health, or happiness, to de-stress, or to improve your circumstance in life.

It's different for everyone - it may require small steps, or something a lot scarier. But you can do it.

Take some time to work out what will make you happier, healthier, better, and then commit to doing just that.

Spanish Luna + Rose Quartz

Key points: appreciation of self, getting to know yourself

The Spanish Luna moth is a symbol for cycles, the temporary nature of life. As such, it represents maintaining our search for truth and knowledge so that we can make the most of what we have.

Rose quartz is a stone of universal love, of trust, harmony and promoting self-love in all areas of our lives. There is acceptance of self to be found within this stone.

You are on a never-ending journey of self-discovery, there is no shame in not knowing everything straight away. Learning is a gift, a privilege, a rite of passage for each stage of your life. Embrace the opportunity to get to know yourself better, to love yourself more. To appreciate the beauty and flaws that exist within you, before they morph and alter. Before the person staring back at you in your mirror becomes a stranger once more.

Spider Lily + Jasper

Key points: cutting the ties that bind, acting in your best interest

Spider lilies are flowers often associated with goodbyes. While they can grow anywhere, and are truly beautiful, most parts of these flowers are toxic, often used to deter people or animals from land. Jasper is a nurturing stone, absorbing negativity and encouraging honesty – sometime used to support those facing truths that may be hard to swallow, and helping them in times of stress.

Not every situation is healthy, and sometimes you have to face the hard truth of that. There comes a time when you must put yourself first, and act in your own best interest, rather than continually sacrificing your wants and desires. Don't be afraid to sever ties, to walk away from a toxic relationship, to leave a place that doesn't nurture you. Consider instead, what you may be walking toward!

Spoonbill + Labradorite

Key points: solitude, introspection, take a break

The spoonbill is so named due to the unusual shaped beak it has evolved to help it feed on a variety of tadpoles, small fish and worms by swinging their "spoon" through the water. While spoonbills feed in flocks they are shy birds and are often seen away from the crowd.

Labradorite is a stone of positive enhancement, offering protection from negativity and helping us to tap into our personal power and strengths.

There's no shame in retreating from the world to indulge in some introspection. Don't be afraid to give your mind and spirit what they need, to disconnect for a moment, a day or longer, and give yourself time to breath and think. To reconnect to your innermost thoughts and desires, and to what you need in order to achieve them.

Strata

Key points: learn from the past, help the present

Strata is a geological phenomenon where layers upon layers of soil or rock have built up over many years to create a new landscape. These layers are formed out of a multitude of materials, like gravel, shells, dirt, sand, bones, even fossils.

Sometimes they've been broken into tiny fragments, and sometimes they're undamaged, protected by the layers.

Who you are today is shaped by everyone you've ever been, everything you've ever done, by the people who moulded you, by all your experiences layered on top of each other.

Some are stronger than others, some formed patterns that are very much a part of your current life, but all have taught you. So dig deep and consider how your previous lessons will help with a current situation.

String of Pearls + Feather

Key points: behaving ethically, restoring karmic balance

The wearing of pearls is considered to enhance your beliefs and values, promoting purity, chastity and happiness. They are also believed to help balance karma and strengthen truthful relationships. Feathers are symbols of spiritual messengers, even of angels, often representing a need to listen to the higher realms.

When it seems as though unethical behaviour is rewarded in so many areas of our lives, it can be tempting to lower your own standards. We all make mistakes, act in ways we regret later.

But the karmic price eventually comes due. So consider, before you act, how this will affect yourself and others. The decision you would make if you knew someone was watching. Make ethical behaviour your priority at this time.

Thrush + Lapis Lazuli

Key points: self-expression, truth, determination

The thrush is a songbird with a tenacious streak. Their diet consists of insects and worms, but they will throw snails at rocks to break the shell and get to the snail within. Lapis Lazuli is a blue stone flecked with gold been used as a precious gem in jewellery, and even Egyptian death masks to help communication and expression.

Standing in your own truth is not always going to be easy, but who is going to do it if not you? Don't be afraid to speak out. Yes, there are times when you want to choose your battles, so let little things slide, but when an issue is important, then you have to be prepared to fight like hell! You deserve to be heard, and respected, even if another person does not agree, and don't tolerate anything else!

Unicorn Floatie + Macaroons

Key points: joy, happiness, rewriting the past

While unicorns started as legendary fierce creatures, in our current world, they are more likely to be seen as a symbol of magic, positivity and purity, with the unicorn floatie seen as a popular accessory for joy at the beach.

Macaroons are a modern pastry considered to be the epitome of elegance and refinement.

There is a temptation, when looking to the past, to re-write our history. To sanitise the world, remake facts, and create a more palatable, even amusing tale.

We must strike a balance, between learning from the lessons of the past, and sermonising. Between bringing joy, light and beauty to the world, and losing substance. We can continue to evolve, but not at the expense of truth. It is better to appreciate and learn, than forget or ignore.

Universe

Key points: power, magnitude, possibility

The secrets and mysteries of the Universe don't always make sense while you're living in the moment, experiencing each situation as it happens.

Cosmic energies are vast and momentous, unfathomable to one person staring out into the darkness.

But looking back, you usually realise that all things happen for a reason. And one day, you will view this in the same way.

Right now, the Universe is demanding your attention, asking you to consider the sheer magnitude of what is possible, to think about all the things that you could achieve.

But also how much you want this, how much you are willing to change your world, your universe, in order to achieve it.

What sacrifices you are willing to make in order to get what you want most.

Venus Flytrap

Key points: development, evolution, movement

The Venus flytrap is one of life's mysteries, a plant that devours creatures, rather than the other way round. It reminds us that life isn't always a straight path. This carnivorous plant has evolved into a marvel, showing us that we're always developing, always growing into our ultimate self.

Never forget to keep using what you've learned, from each failure as well as each success. Both help you gain the experience you need to keep pushing forward. Now is the time to take every opportunity in front of you, regardless of the risk! View every challenge as a chance to develop as a person, and to grow the skills that will help you succeed. It isn't always about doing what is expected of you. Sometimes, you need to go for it in a completely unorthodox way!

White Bat + Larimar Stone

Key points: addiction, temptation, healing power

A white bat is a symbol of transformation, often from addiction. It can represent the shedding of something in your life that drains you of self-belief and power.

Larimar is a healing stone said to hold the energy of the Sky and Sea. Reminiscent of a sunny ocean, it can bring harmony to body and soul and help with guilt and anxiety.

We live in a world where temporary pleasures are everywhere, seducing and urging us to over-indulge, and forget what truly ails us.

Desire can be healthy, when tempered, but too often, it spirals out of control.

Take back your power.

You have more control than you believe, even if it takes you on a difficult journey.

Face what causes you pain, and act to eliminate it!

White Peacock + Blue Lace Agate

Key points: inner light, divinity, higher self

The white peacock is a powerful symbol of purity, spiritual clarity and realisation. Believed to be a representation of the Divine Self, it is aligned to a higher state of consciousness, our most giving self.

Blue lace agate is a stone of elegance, peace, tranquillity and purification of the soul.

Give yourself time to come back to your soul's purpose. To nurture your soul, mind, and needs. Devote yourself, and your energies, to seeking clarity and peace, despite and even because of the hectic nature of the world. Retreat into meditation, ritual, prayer, or your own personal spiritual practice. Sink securely into the expression of your inner most thoughts and feelings, giving yourself permission to achieve tranquillity of your heart and soul.

Woodpecker + Log

Key points: natural rhythm, working with Gaia

Woodpeckers can generally be heard before they are seen, known as “drummers” of the forest, because of their distinctive hammering against trees. This is not designed to harm the trees, and this way of making themselves known often occurs in dead trees.

Logs are not to be underestimated, they still have many uses even though they are “only” a dead tree - used to fuel, heat, decorate, and build, to name a few.

Get in touch with the natural rhythm of the world however feels right to you - listen to the birds, walk barefoot in the grass, stand in the rain and let it cleanse your spirit. Reconnect with Gaia, the nurturing, divine Earth that sustains us all, no matter how badly we treat her. Consider the beauty of nature, and how you can contribute, how you can give back and take care of her!

Blood Moon

Key points: large scale change, transformation

A blood moon occurs when there is a total lunar eclipse and the Earth, Moon and Sun are in complete alignment. The Earth blocks sunlight from reaching the moon, and light reflected by the moon has been bounced off the Earth giving it a brownish reddish glow. It is a rare event, and does not even happen annually. A blood moon means that the pull of lunar energy is stronger and more intense.

This is the perfect time to stop putting off the decisions you know, deep within, that you have to make.

To finally come to the realisation of those parts of your life you did not want to see and accept, and to understand yourself in a more all-encompassing way than you've been willing to before.

Blue Moon

Key points: communication, opportunity

A blue moon occurs (as you might expect from the phrase "once in a blue moon") quite rarely, and the origin of the term is one that is under debate.

The most common definition is that a blue moon occurs in any calendar month in which we have two full moons. Symbolically, although the moon itself is not blue, it is believed to affect communication and elements of behaviour associated with that colour.

This is a rare opportunity to go deep within your soul and heart in terms of introspection. Pay particular attention to how you are communicating with, and dealing with others at the moment.

Consider how you see yourself, and how others see you. Ask yourself what you can improve upon, what would make you happier?

Crescent Moon + Venus

Key points: marriage of emotion and ideas

Occasionally, as night gives way to day, you can see a sliver of the moon and a shining star - the combination of Crescent Moon and Venus that inspired one of the most seen celestial images - the star and crescent moon used on flags, coins and religious icons the world over.

This phenomenon heralds the combination of important concepts, but can result in intensity and sensitivity.

There is often a decision made between letting heart or head rule, but this is a chance to marry emotion and ideas, to let both mould your choices.

Consider both sides of the argument, weigh up light and dark, without judging either, and determine the truth.

Just be wary of the underlying vulnerability you may feel as a result.

Full Moon

Key points: completion, evaluation, fruition

The full moon is a mid-point in the lunar cycle, the point at which the Sun illuminates the entire moon, and we on Earth can see her at her best. Because this is the time during which the Sun has the greatest pull on the Moon, things can be a little awkward around this time in particular.

But it is also full of powerful, emotional, creative energy.

Gaze at the moon, bask in her light, and feel the lunar energies, even if it is just for a few minutes (or you could conduct a complete full moon ritual).

Use this time as an opportunity to think about the manifestations you have put in place, that have come to fruition, and those that will soon come to be.

If they have turned out differently than planned, or just as you wanted.

New Moon

Key points: endings, beginnings, release, cycles

The new moon represents the start of the lunar cycle. On its circuit around the Earth, when the moon reaches a point at which it is positioned between the Earth and Sun, it can't be seen from Earth.

While the presence of the moon still lingers, this invisible moon is known as the new moon. This signifies the ending of one phase, an opportunity for release, and new beginnings!

This is a great time to release what doesn't serve you any more, to close the door on one phase of your life and open another! Decide what it is that you want, set intentions and plant new seeds...take advantage of the creative power and energy that surrounds you right now. Harness this energy and use it to fulfil your dreams.

Super Moon

Key points: restlessness, energy, enhancement

The moon does not spin in a circle, but in an oval, meaning there are times when it is further away, and times when it is closer to the Earth. When a full moon, or new moon, coincides with the apogee, this proximity to Earth, it is known as a super moon.

It is a marvellous, rare lunar event, during which, the moon is an amplifier, increasing intuitive, creative energies.

You may be eager to get started, inspiration and energy flowing through you, even preventing you sleeping. This is a chance for you to really dig deep and think about your innermost desires.

Consider those heartfelt dreams and slightly outlandish goals that you would love to manifest - take advantage of this energy to set these as your intentions, and work toward them.

Waning Crescent Moon

Key points: surrender, clearing, reflection

The term 'waning' is used to describe the "shrinking" of the moon into the darkness as the moon's illumination is reduced.

During the waning phase, the moon is transitioning from full to new, through gibbous, to quarter and finally to crescent. This is the smallest element seen of the moon before it is a new moon once more.

This is a time of preparation and reflection, as the light from the moon diminishes and the shadows increase, you may be feeling naturally more introspective.

Consider indulging in some shadow work as you really consider any destructive behaviour patterns or actions that you want to clear and release.

Ask yourself what negativity is around you (either within or without) that you want to be rid of?

Waning Gibbous Moon

Key points: forgiveness, gratitude, preparation

The moon is waning when it is transitioning from full to new again. The illuminated part of the moon (the part of the moon that we can see) is disappearing into darkness night by night as it goes from gibbous to a crescent and back to a new moon.

Gibbous means that more than half of the moon is still visible, for now.

This is a good time to let emotions flow and to consider how your manifestation is coming to pass. To express gratitude for both successes that you have had, and help that you have received so far. To forgive any missteps and to ask if these may have been diversions rather than mistakes.

If they have maybe taken you a different way because your intentions have changed as you prepare for a new cycle.

Waxing Crescent Moon

Key points: focus, ask for help, release doubts

When the moon is in its waxing phase, it is moving and transitioning from new to full moon - it is becoming more visible because more and more light is reflected off the moon every night.

It follows the same journey every cycle, as it increases from crescent to quarter to gibbous and back to a full moon again.

You need to really focus on what you want, to invite magic and manifestation in, and ask for help to give you the best start - maybe enlist a friend's aid as an accountability partner.

Make sure that you release any fears and doubts that might hinder your progress - complete those acts and rituals that free you to move forward (a bit like double checking you locked the door before you drive away from the house).

Waxing Gibbous Moon

Key points: fine tune, check in with your intention

In a waxing phase, the moon's illumination is growing as it changing from new to full moon, and day by day more of the moon is becoming visible.

The term gibbous refers to the point when more than half of the Moon is lit up, and is the final phase in the lunar cycle before the moon is full once more.

This is the time to check in with your intentions. To ask yourself if this is still what you want, or if your plans need to be refined? As you continue to progress, it's a good idea to make sure that no obstacles have arisen, and that if they have, you can plan around them to keep moving along your chosen path.

To touch base, and ensure everything is in alignment for you go get everything you want to achieve.