

THE WILDWOOD TAROT

by Mark Ryan and John Matthews illustrated by Will Worthington

The following cards represent a selection from both Major and Minor cards in the deck to illustrate the wonderful depths and magical quality of the Wildwood.



2 *The Seer*

2: THE SEER

The Seer is wrapped in the owl's cloak of wisdom decorated with totem animals of power and shamanic spirits. She stands before the World Tree, drawing wisdom from the roots that are deeply embedded in the earth. Close around her are the symbols of the four elements that she mediates: the cup, staff, arrowhead and stone. From the head of her staff hang the crane bag and a set of runes. Her face may only be glimpsed or seen in half-light. Her voice may be hushed and she may speak in riddles, but if you listen, she can point you to new, wiser beginnings. With her inherent ability to balance emotion, intellect and will power, she spurs us to create change in our material world and is a skilled mediator of all the elemental forces found within the Wildwood. She fosters the positive exercise of will, manifested by emotion and commitment and resulting in outer material effect. This is one of the purest and most blessed forms of Earth magic.



7 *The Archer*

7: THE ARCHER

The Archer holds the broad longbow poised in the act of release. The bow is of an ancient design, the fletchings are of goose feather, taken from the right wing, and the arrowhead is flint. The Archer's gaze is focused and steady as she looks beyond the arrow into the sky, holding the tension between the bow and the sinew bowstring with controlled and relaxed intent. She wears a simple amulet and appears serene and confident yet full of purpose. By her side stand two great hunting dogs, messengers of the power she holds within herself. Just as spells and curses were loosed through the air by hunters and shamans, so we must ourselves tune in to this ancient process and become archers with quivers full of ideas and desires, capable of forming and focusing our aim in the steady drawing of our will and then loosing our creative and intellectual drives in a controlled and effective way.