
tarot for action

a zine for using tarot as a tool to create your dream...

by lex ritchie



ground in the present...

the moment where reality...

and our ability to influence reality...

intersect.

then...

act.

you have the power to act.

You have the power to act. You are powerful.

You have the power to make change in your life. Say it out loud: “I am powerful. I can take action. I can make change.”

Does it feel like a lie on your lips? Does your mind not want to believe it? Does something in you balk at hearing this truth spoken aloud?

Personal power is a birthright. We all have the power to take radical and effective action. That includes you!

But sometimes it feels like power doesn't exist. In the face of myriad, multi-hyphenate oppressions, you might feel powerless, unable to plant seeds of change in your own life.

That is normal, but the truth is that this powerlessness is learned. We all have some power to choose, to act. And when we use that power to take actions that change things. These actions MATTER. Your actions MATTER.

We will never be “ready”. And that's ok. Because we have all we need: this moment.

This moment is the key to action, the key to creating change. When we center in the present moment and choose that choice will change reality.

So, how can you take action when making a choice feels hard?

the present moment

The secret to taking action is right here: the present moment.

First, some vocab words (can you tell I used to be a teacher?):

Reality - This is the materiality of this world we exist in. It is woven of the physical world and the stories we tell ourselves about the physical world.

Agency - Agency is our ability to choose, to take action. It is our ability to influence reality.

And we only have this ability to choose in the present moment.

The present moment is the place where the realm that we can influence (reality) and our own ability to influence intersect.

You cannot act from the past, the past is fixed, set, unchangeable. It is impervious to your agency.

You cannot act from the future, the future is a reality that hasn't come to pass, your agency also has no power there. We cannot change the past and we cannot wait for the perfect moment to act.

The only moment we have for action is now.

tarot is a tool for action

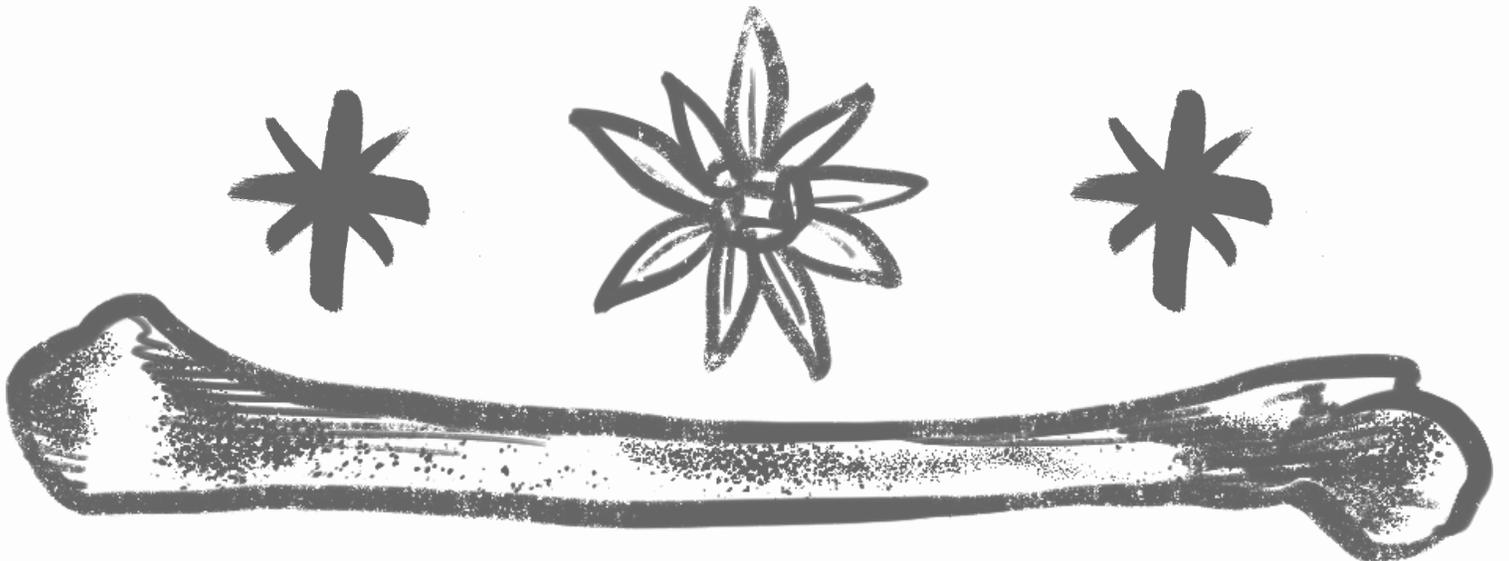
Tarot is a tool.

If we want to use tarot as a tool to facilitate action, we need to center our questions and our selves into our power - into the present moment.

Start by centering your self.

This is a version of the meditation I myself use to bring myself back into my power. I use it in every tarot reading I offer.

This meditation will help bring you back into the moment, centering here in your body, in your power, so that you can take action.



Breathe in. Settle in.

Find a comfortable posture, standing, sitting, laying, whatever works for you. Personally, if I'm about to pull tarot cards, I prefer a seated position where I can put my feet flat on the floor.

Find this comfortable seat and breathe in. Breathe in. And settle in.

Notice where you are that is not here. Notice where your mind is.

Is it here in your body?

There are threads that tie you to different times, different places.
Take time to observe these threads.

Where do they lead to? Do they tie you to the past or the future?
Perhaps you are tied to both past and future?

Your consciousness stretched out away from this place, this singular moment in time where you yourself are and where you yourself are powerful. Do these ties lead to different places? Work? School?
Somewhere else?

That's fine. No judgment here, just observation. Observe the ways these invisible threads pull you away from this moment, away from your self, away from your power.

Now, choose. Commit to yourself, your body, your power, your moment and start to pull back in these threads of consciousness.

Wind them up, pull them back.

And as you do, choose to be here now. Be here now and breathe.
Breathe and feel yourself fill up with all the threads of your consciousness, with all your power.

And choose...to Be. Here. Now.

centering your questions: how to ask questions for action

When approaching our deck to ask questions about taking action take care to ensure your questions are centered in the present moment. I will provide specific examples of questions rooted in the present moment as we move through the next few pages.

I like to consider 4 broad categories when I am asking my tarot deck about taking action: emotional, practical, support and timing:

Emotional: These questions deal with the ‘why?’ of why you might be struggling to take action. Maybe there’s an underlying belief that is causing fear, maybe you don’t feel ready, whatever the reason you’re hesitating you can take it to the tarot!

Practical: These are questions that deal with the real, material actions that you might take. These are questions like “What is one thing I can do today to make progress towards this goal?”.

Support: I'll be real, taking action is hard, even when you're using tarot for some help. But tarot can help you help yourself. Learning how you can best support yourself when you're taking action can make it feel a little less scary!

Timing: Time to get perhaps a little controversial - I am not a predictive tarot reader. I don't believe there is a fixed fate that awaits us. The fate that awaits us is unwritten, but it becomes written with every moment's choice. So, in my view, we are masters of our own fate. But that doesn't mean that I believe questions of timing to be beyond the purview of the tarot. Instead, I use tarot as a way to estimate a timeline or as a guide to how long a particular goal or project might take to complete. And to be completely clear, I use it as a VERY LOOSE guide. When asking about timing I use the following classification:

Minors:

- Swords: very quickly completed, on the scale of hours/days
- Wands: shortly completed, on the scale of weeks
- Cups: might take a bit, on the scale of months
- Pentacles: it'll take a while, on the scale of years
- Number: I (sometimes, though not always) use this as a guide to the number of hours/days/weeks/years the action will take to complete

Majors:

- Major cards indicate that this will happen in it's own time, or perhaps that it's unclear. It's not an indication that you shouldn't pursue this action at all though. The Major Arcana offers us invitations from the universe/nature/spirit/whatever word you like to use to refer to that thing beyond us into which we are all interwoven. So, it's not telling you it's not gonna happen, but it is an indication that you're collaborating with spirit in this and it'll happen in a way that might not conform to linear ways of thinking.

asking your questions

Already feeling inspired? Take some time to write down the action-oriented questions you want to take to your deck!

However, if you need some help, here are some example questions that I like to use:

What is an action I can take that will support my soul / my emotional self / my creative self?

What is a practical action I can take in the material world to forward this goal?

How can I support my capacity to take action?

Where am I empowered to take action?

Do these feel a little too loose? Do you need to get nitty gritty and clear with yourself, otherwise you'll just wriggle out of it? Try this:

Get really specific: What is one action I can take toward this goal? When should I commit to have this action completed? Are there related tasks I need to do to complete in order to bring this action into reality?

interpreting your cards

Interpreting cards when we're asking about practical action is a bit different than when we're asking about primarily esoteric things. I have a few tips to share that will provide some insight into how this differs from your average tarot reading.

The first difference is in how reversals are read. I read reversals in A LOT of ways, but when I'm asking my deck about a particular action I find that I most often use a way of interpreting reversals that was taught to me by Lexa Burton, of The Blind Oracle. In this view reversals are understood to be invitations to engage with process, as opposed to being goal oriented. This is POTENT magic for reading tarot when we're talking about action. This view of reversals suggests that the reversal might be an invitation into focus on HOW you are approaching your goals, how you are taking action, rather than whether or not you will complete the action or achieve your goal.

I also find the way I read a certain card changes drastically depending on the question. Using the 6 of Swords as an example:

For a general question about action - There's an aligned action that you should take but you can't do it alone. Who is your ferry captain? Your action isn't the crossing of the river - it's finding the boat to take you across.

If I'm asking about emotional support for action - reach out, accept help, surrender to process/journey

If I asked about a practical action - get clear on the vehicle that is going to take you to the next shore of your life. Find ways to acquire it, get a ticket for the ferry, so to speak.

making progress

It's always worth checking-in when you've made a commitment to a large action that will take place over time.

You might consider setting periodic check-ins with yourself on a calendar app (my mentor Ren Zatopek likes to say that calendars are magic and I agree!). You can set these weekly, monthly, or quarterly depending on your goal.

Some questions to consider at your check-in:

Am I making progress on this goal?

What is holding me back from taking action on this goal?

What is the next step?

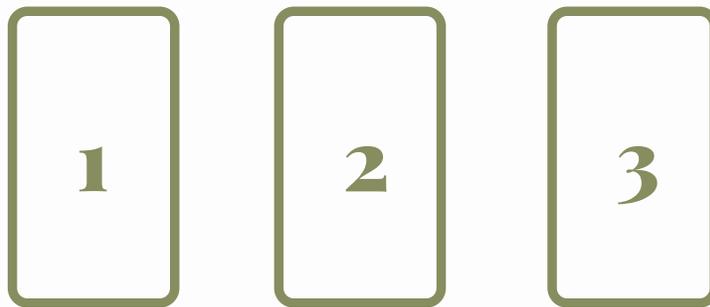
How can I jumpstart this goal?



spreads for action

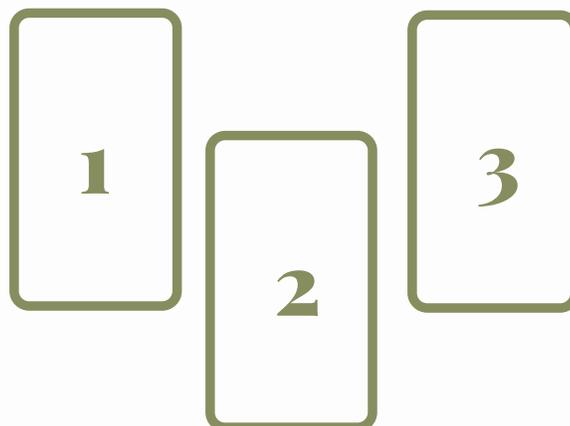
a spread for pivoting when your situation changes

1. Orient: See this moment clearly
2. Commit: Your personal power in this moment
3. Response-ability: An aligned action to get you back on track



a spread for when you're afraid to take action or desiring to stay small & stagnant

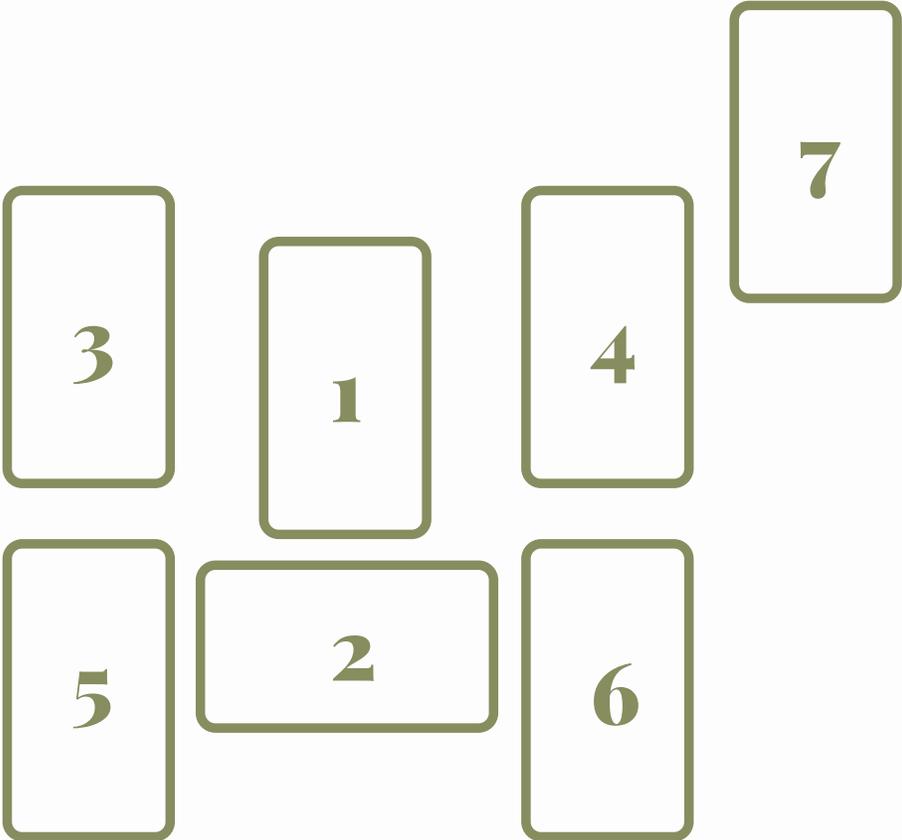
1. What is underneath my fear/discomfort/avoidance of taking this action?
2. Is there any truth to this fear?
3. How can I offer myself some extra support as I commit to this goal and take this action?



a spread for initiating action

Focus on the action you're committing to, hold it close in your heart, and set the intention to find clarity on how to make your mark on reality.

- 1. What challenges will I face in taking this action?
- 2. A way I can support my emotional self as I face this challenge and take this action:
- 3. A practical action I can take that will provide a foundation for this action:
- 4. A timeline for this action:
- 5. What my guides think of this action:
- 6. How can I keep myself accountable?
- 7. A touchstone I can return to when I start to feel discouraged:



about lex

I'm Lex (they/them). I'm a radical queer mystic based on the Great Black Swamp (present day Toledo, Ohio, traditional lands of the the Miami, Potawatomi, and Peoria). I use my experience with tarot, folk magic, and spiritwork to connect you to your birthright: your personal power.

I offer tarot readings and folk magical education.

I have formally studied Spiritwork with Ren Zatopek, tarot with Lindsay Mack, Tess Giberson, and Erin Aquarian, and ancestral reverence with Olivia Pepper. I add to this list of educational experiences my childhood introduction to tarot and Catholic folk magic at the tables of the old grannies of my hometown. This early education is foundational in my folk magical tarot practice.

I use tarot and intuitive channeling to help you center in the present – the intersection of reality and agency – to find your personal power so that you can plant seeds of change and take the kind of intentional action you need to achieve your dreams!

If you want to chat about tarot and folk magic for radical empowerment hit me up! You can email me at daysetarot@gmail.com! You can also find me on instagram [@the.days.eye](https://www.instagram.com/the.days.eye) and at www.daysetarot.com!