



LUCY'S SPELL



Tarot has been updated in a magical new way

Lucy Cavendish grew up in a suburban 'footy and pie' family in Australia. But when she went to live in London, young, alone, far from home, a whole new world opened up for her.

'When I saw my first tarot deck I was nervous. I thought maybe if I touched it it would jump away, like the book in *Charmed*, or I'd get electric shocks up my arms,' she grins. 'But that didn't happen. I fell in love with them – they were so beautiful. I had no knowledge of esoteric subjects though, so I was astounded I was allowed to do this.'

She bought a starter deck, and spent time with the cards every day. She meditated on the meanings, slept with them under her pillow, did her own daily spreads and even travelled with them, doing readings in bad Spanish as she hitched around Europe.

Years later, a practiced reader, astrologer and witch, she was told she had to update the tarot, a divination tool which came into use in the 14th century.

She was terrified. Why her? But, having communicated with spirits and otherworldly beings since she was a child, and trusting implicitly in the wisdom her three guides give her, she took up the task.

She dropped the 16 court cards from the original 78 card set, changed some of the others, and updated them for a new age. The result is The Oracle Tarot, an incredibly beautiful, inspiring and easy to use deck.

'I was told to do it this way, but I had to think about why. The Death card is now Change for instance, as it's never been a literal death.

'The court cards are three masculine to one feminine for each suit, so until there's a balance of gender in society I'm happy not to have them.

'The 19th century tradition doesn't reflect where we are now. These things need to evolve,' Lucy says.

'I wanted it to be therapeutic and mystical, but I was going for clarity too. I wanted to make it simple, for people to work out the issues in their own life from the cards, and then take part in their own activation. The tarot is more than just fortune telling, it's helping you see how you can change your life.'

Lucy says if you are drawn to the tarot go to a place with a large selection, and spend time seeing which one you have a connection with. She suggests you

don't ask anyone's advice, just see which one resonates with you.

'Don't wait until you know every card – you'll learn by just doing it, using your book as a reference, and you'll start to absorb the meanings. There's the literal translation, and there's what the picture means to you, the feeling you get from each card... it becomes very personal.

'It's just respect and love and a lot of intimacy, just getting to know them. It's like any relationship,' she laughs. 'If you give yourself time you will get to know them and develop your confidence.'



Lucy speaks about being 'told' to update the tarot, but where is the guidance coming from? She says she has three primary sources of inspiration.

The first is Nanna, her mum's mother, who died when Lucy was young.

'I trust her, because she's a very good person. She helps me try to be good too. She helps me when I'm not being that way. She's such a lovely soul.'

She also has a guide called Rachel, who started communicating with her

while she was in London, perhaps because she became more open to things she couldn't explain there.

'She talks to me. She's a very loud voice in my ear. It is very startling when it first happens – for a minute I thought I was going mad – but I have come to know her. I don't know a lot about what she is, but I trust her implicitly. She's kind. And she's stern with me. She's a real activator.'

She also feels a connection to the goddess Isis. And while she's been told she has a lot of other 'people' around her, it's these three she says she receives clear guidance and suggestions from.

'They are not tangible in the usual sense, but they're very real to me.'

Lucy is also an astrologer, and has a TV show, *Zodiac Zone*, which screens on Foxtel.

She's created a deck of Magical Spell cards too, designed to help you work magic, safely, according to the sacred laws of witchcraft.

'The word spell still freaks people out, and I think that's my job, to make it nice, to make it good – not to make it saccharine or less powerful, but to show it's not unsafe.

'You're just concentrating, activating and releasing an intention. And it puts the power in your hands. Spells are very empowering for individuals.

'And people underestimate how much fun it is!' she smiles.

'I think we do them all the time anyway. When you decide you're going to go out with a person, that's casting a spell. Casting just means sending out. You cast a fishing line – you send it out and bring something back. It's making conscious choices.

'Witch is a word for an intuitive person who likes the earth and the seasons. I want everyone to feel: "Oh, I can do that," or: "That's really lovely." It's positive magic. We're all magical.'

TO FIND OUT MORE

Visit Lucy at www.lucycavendish.com for private readings, articles, horoscopes, spells, and heaps of information.

Info about Oracle Tarot and Magical Spell cards: www.hayhouse.com.au.

She is presenting magical workshops at the Mind Body Spirit Festivals in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne and May and June: www.mbsfestival.com.au.