

Tips & Tricks For Bonding With Your Tarot Deck

by Carrie Mallon

www.carriemallon.com :: [instagram.com/carriemallon](https://www.instagram.com/carriemallon)

Before purchasing a deck...

Ask yourself: what style of deck best suits me? IE: minimalistic art vs rich symbolism, dark color palette vs light color palette, Waite-Smith based structure or another structure, etc.

When unboxing your deck...

Set aside some sacred time for your first connection with your deck. Perhaps meditate first, or light a candle. Be in the right energetic space, be open to what you might find as you explore your new deck.

Work with your new deck...

Try committing to daily draws for a certain amount of time (IE: one month or one moon cycle). Pull one card every day and take notes on what this card brings up for you. As you go through your daily draw practice, begin to notice this deck's personality.

Connect with your deck's personality...

As you are receiving messages through daily draws, begin to notice if this deck is...

Gentle or blunt?

Straightforward or obscure?

Funny or serious?

Friendly or distant?

As you get a feel for the deck's personality, you can also consider what types of readings this deck might be best suited for. For example: a serious, blunt deck might be best for those times when you know you need your butt kicked a little, whereas a gentle, funny deck might be better when you are feeling fragile.

Form a personal understanding of your deck...

You can find many books and blogs that will give you interpretations of cards. However, as you devote to your tarot craft you'll also want to form your own individual understanding of your cards. Use the following worksheet to help form a personal understanding individual cards.

Bonding Deeply with A Card: A Worksheet

This is the most important step of the process! Use one card at a time, going through this worksheet in full. Ideally, you'll work through the whole deck eventually! In your tarot journal or using the blank space below, describe the card in as much detail as possible. For now, you are not trying to interpret the card, just describing it as literally (IE: "the sky is blue" not "the blue sky suggests clarity.").

Go back through what you wrote in step one and highlight the imagery you already have an interpretation in mind for. Using the example above, this would be where you'd note that for you, the blue sky represents clarity. Remember that there are NO rights or wrongs here! For this exercise, you're exploring what the symbols mean to YOU. Try to avoid looking up information in books or online at this point. If you get stuck, here are some examples of imagery you might try to interpret: colors, objects, body language, plant/animal life, and celestial bodies.

Now take notes on the imagery in the card that you are not yet sure how to interpret. Let yourself explore a little and think about what this imagery MIGHT mean, again remembering there are no wrong or right answers here. If you draw a blank on certain aspects, that's okay. You can always come back to this later.

Finally, take a few moments to tie this all together and write up your personal interpretation for this card. This doesn't have to be polished or eloquent, it's just for your own studies! You may also want to update or edit your interpretation as you continue working with the deck going forward.

Optional: as you close out this exercise, if you feel it is useful you can now look up your card in books or online. Use what you find to supplement – not override – your personal interpretation.