

# *The Fantod Tarot Deck*

*- By Edward Gorey -*



*[Edited together and put into PDF format by Arcanaeum: 2003]*

*Before we get to the actual deck, you will want to read the following enlightening information regarding the deck. This is by a Brandi Weed, from her website which I found on the internet while researching. It will shed some light on the deck:*

This deck is a bit of an oddity, as it's not really so much an actual cartomancy deck as a spoof of same.

Edward Gorey is probably known to most people for the animations on the title sequence of *Mystery!*, but he's quite an accomplished illustrator and artist in his own right, with a morbid yet strangely appealing sense of humor (one of his more famous pieces is a little alphabet called "The Gashlycrumb Tinies," about 26 children and the untimely ends they come to).

The Fantod Pack comes with a booklet by one "Madame Groeda Wyrde" (anagrams are another Gorey favorite), giving instructions for how to read with the deck. The booklet itself is quite funny, with instructions such as the following:

*"Interpretation must always depend on the character and circumstances of the person consulting the pack. What might portend a wipe-out for a teenage hotdogger from Yokohama, might warn an octogenarian spinster in Minot, North Dakota, of a fall in the bathtub, though, of course, the results might come to much the same thing."*

The artwork on the cards and the cover of the booklet are the classic Gorey style of finely detailed pen-and-ink work. The card backs and the booklet feature a strange little creature known as a 'Figbash'.

The 20 cards themselves feature symbols that I would consider peculiar to Gorey's artwork and style, such as The Urn, The Child (a skeleton!), The Waltzing Mouse, and an untitled card of an armless black doll. The meanings for each, as given in the booklet, are that sinister yet funny mix characteristic of Gorey, predicting such things as a forged letter, green sickness, loss of saliva(!), and other such unwholesome matters. Each card also represents a day or month which, as the booklet notes, "should prove particularly calamitous." The exception is the Black Doll which has only the particularly grim warning of "What most you fear / Is coming near".

The stock the cards are on is thick and glossy, with unrounded corners, and would shuffle nicely if you wanted to do so. They are moderately large but not unwieldy, measuring about 2-1/2 by 4-3/4 inches.

While you couldn't really do a reading with these cards (I hope!), Edward Gorey fans will probably want to grab it as soon as possible, and even serious cartomancers might be amused by the spoofery.

Note: according to the booklet in my deck, this was issued as a limited edition of 776(!), so it may not be in print anymore. The place to contact to find it, though, is the Gotham Book Mart in New York, who are the primary source of Goreyana. (Alas, they're not online!)

# *The History*

*The Awful Vista of the Year.*

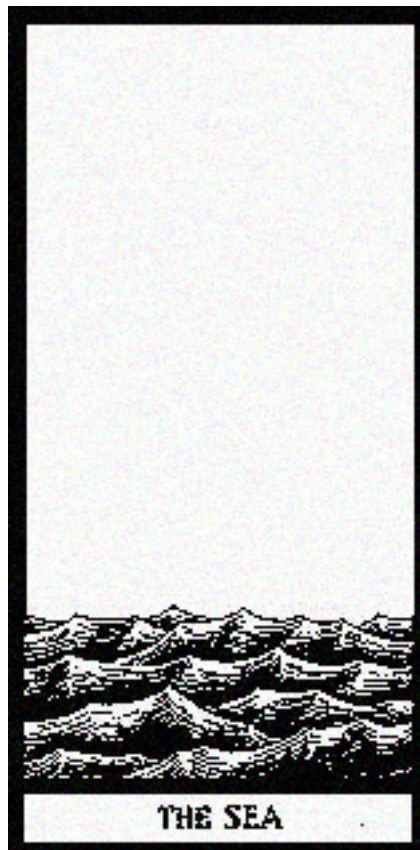
*Now that you have learned of all the dreadful things that have overtaken your friends and relations during the past year as scribbled on the inside of their Chirstmas card, don't you want to know what dreadful things lie in wait for you?*

*To this end Madame Groeda Weyrd (a nom de gare; her true one is known to few this side of the grave) has consented to have the fantod deck printed here. Madame Weyrd, who is of mixed Finnish and Egyptian extraction has devoted her life to divination, and is the author of, among a shelf of other works, Floating Tambourines, a collection of esoteric verse, and The Future Speaks Through Entrails.*

*Her Career as one of the most celebrated trace mediums came to a close when she lost two and a third fingers as a result of a contretemps during a ectoplasmic manifestation. She had long since been persona non grata to many of the rich and famous because of her fearless predictions of disaster. She now makes her home on Staten Island (the one that's part of Tierra del Fuego) and is writing what is hoped may be the definitive treatise on the Mystic Bean. Of the Fantod Pack itself, Madame Weyrd will only say that its origin may not be divulged, but it is of incredible antiquity.*

*Interpretation of the card must always depend on the character and circumstances of the person consulting the deck. What might portend a wipe out for a teenage hot-dogger at Yokohama, might warn an octogenarian spinster in Minot, North Dakota, of a fall in the bathtub, though, of course, the results might come much to the same thing. The day of the week or Month of the year given for each card should prove particularly calamitous. The meanings given are selective rather than exhaustive, and hints rather than assertions. Lastly, you must rely on your own temerity and "imagination of disaster" (Henry James) to gain full meaning of the cards.*

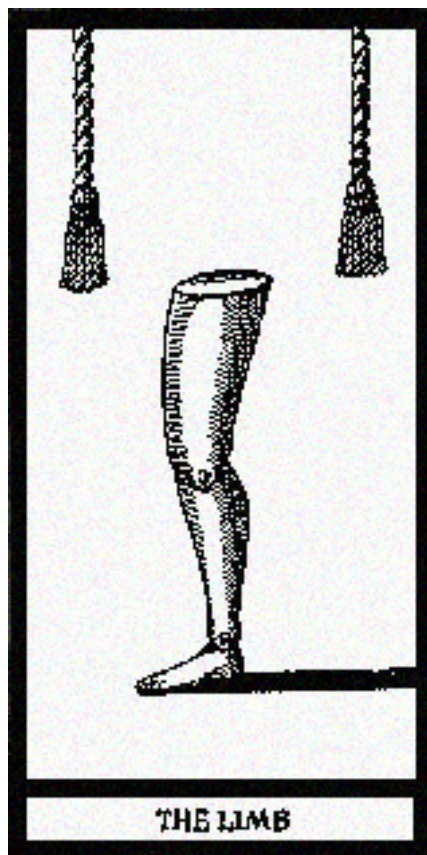
# *The Sea*



*January*  
*wasting*  
*loss of ears*  
*an accident in an elevator*  
*lurching sickness*  
*cracks*  
*false affection*  
*vapors*

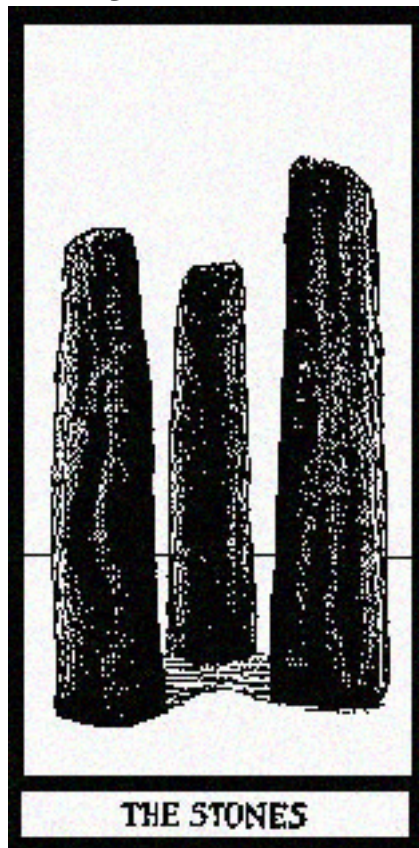
*a secret enemy*  
*misdirection*  
*demons*  
*estrangement*  
*chagrin*

## *The Limb*



*February*  
*miscarriage of justice*  
*gapes*  
*a forged snapshot*  
*morbid sensations*  
*a useless sacrifice*  
*alopecia*  
*a generalized calamity*  
*broken promises*  
*ignominy*  
*an accident in a theatre*  
*fugues*  
*poverty*

# *The Stones*



*March*  
*a forged letter*  
*paralysis*  
*false arrest*  
*falling sickness*  
*evil communications*  
*estrangement*  
*a sudden affliction*  
*anemia*  
*strife*  
*a distasteful duty*  
*misconstruction*

## *The Ancestor*



*April*  
*hereditary weakness*  
*thurs*  
*loss of money*  
*a false statement*  
*morbid dependency*  
*staggering sickness*  
*champerty*  
*megrims*  
*paranoia*  
*an overdose*  
*imprisonment*  
*instable furniture*

# *The Waltzing Mouse*



*May*  
*vertigo*  
*loss of jewelry*  
*a betise*  
*morbid cravings*  
*disorders of the large intestine*  
*corruption*  
*equivocal symptoms*  
*a hazardous project*  
*brawls*  
*suicide*  
*involuntary seclusion*  
*shriveling*



## *The Echorche*



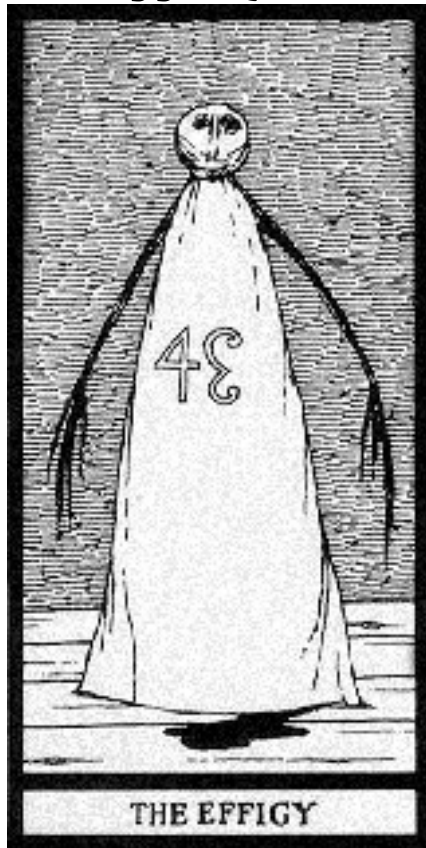
*June*  
*sexual incompetence*  
*a forged check*  
*obscurity*  
*irregularities*  
*puckers*  
*inconstancy*  
*an accident on a pier*  
*morbid sensibilities*  
*deception*  
*a social disease*  
*confinement*  
*cysts*

## *The Plant*



*July*  
*tics*  
*sexual indecision*  
*impetigo*  
*loss of intellect*  
*misplaced confidence*  
*writhing sickness*  
*loose ends*  
*palsy*  
*assailed credit*  
*dissolution*  
*scandal*  
*worms*

## *The Effigy*



*August  
a sexual problem  
assailed honor  
unpleasant secrets  
amnesia  
broken hopes  
a misalliance  
rashness  
yaws  
clouded mentality  
abrasions  
financial losses  
an accident in a stadium*

## *The Child*



*September*  
*denigration*  
*sexual inadequacy*  
*sties*  
*hallucinations*  
*breakage*  
*loss of youth*  
*rust*  
*crawling sickness*  
*an obstacle*  
*forced restraint*  
*aberrations*  
*catarrh*

# *The Blue Dog*



*October*

*loss of one of the senses*

*weltschmerz*

*unnatural voices*

*disorders of the knee*

*diseases of the tongue*

*disturbances*

*miscarriage of a child*

*an accident in a garage*

*dementia*

*fraud*

*a quarrel*

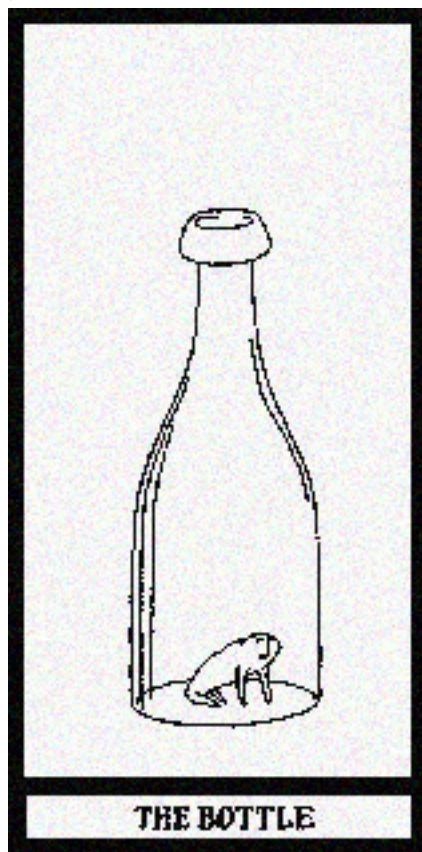
*wispiness*

## *The Feather*



*November*  
*blackmail*  
*a forged passport*  
*hysterical pregnancy*  
*loss of eyelashes*  
*disorders of the small intestine*  
*a disagreeable letter*  
*delerium*  
*hinderance to prospects*  
*twitching*  
*separation*  
*imbroglios*  
*a mistake*

## *The Bottle*



*December*  
*melancholia*  
*itching*  
*unfortunate publicity*  
*a disregarded warning*  
*irregularity*  
*an accident on a bicycle*  
*loss of feeling*  
*flukes*  
*vexation*  
*intrigue*  
*abandonment*  
*frustrated hopes*

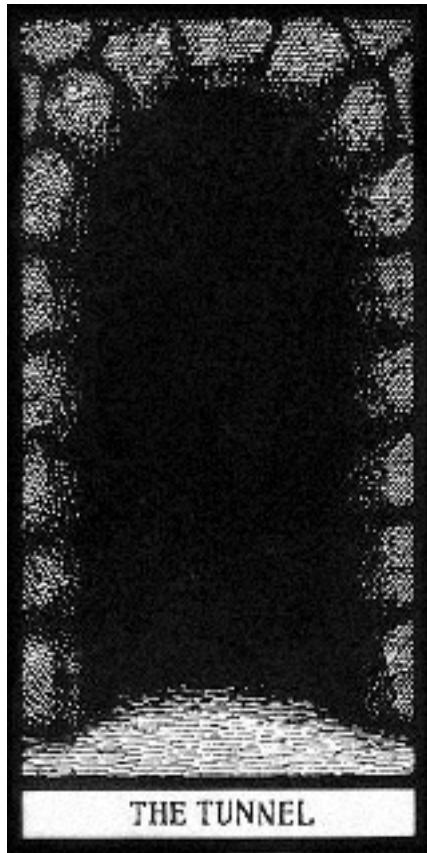
# *The Burning Head*



*Sunday*  
*bafflement*  
*loss of saliva*  
*a forged deed*  
*an impasse*  
*extradition*  
*a boating accident*  
*chilblains*  
*delayed desires*  
*wandering sickness*  
*evil companions*  
*an impediment*  
*despondency*

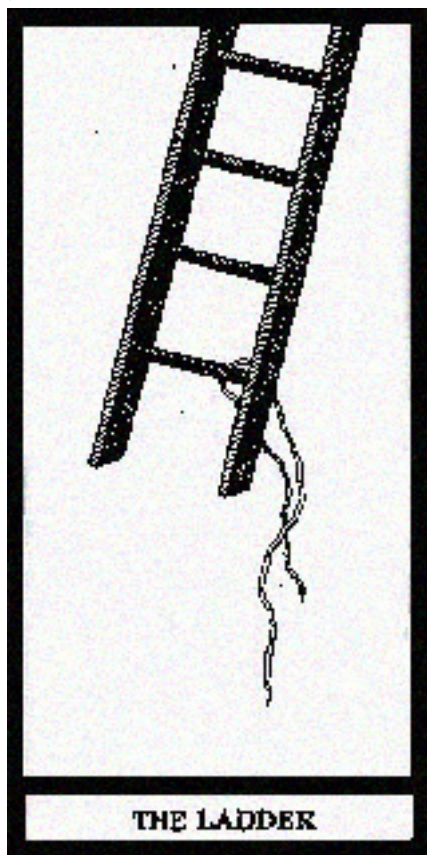


# *The Tunnel*



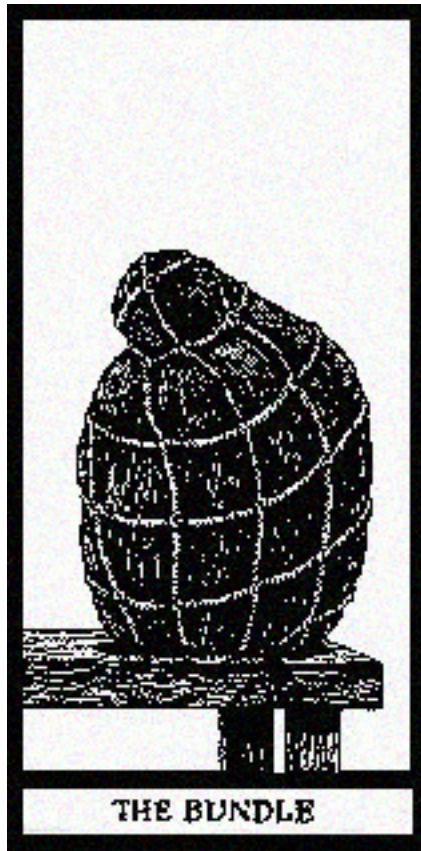
*Monday*  
*sexual disturbance*  
*a swindle*  
*loss of wits*  
*diseases of the blood*  
*angst*  
*false trust*  
*an irrational project*  
*an unpleasant discovery*  
*bad luck*  
*an execution*  
*boredom*  
*panic*

## *The Ladder*



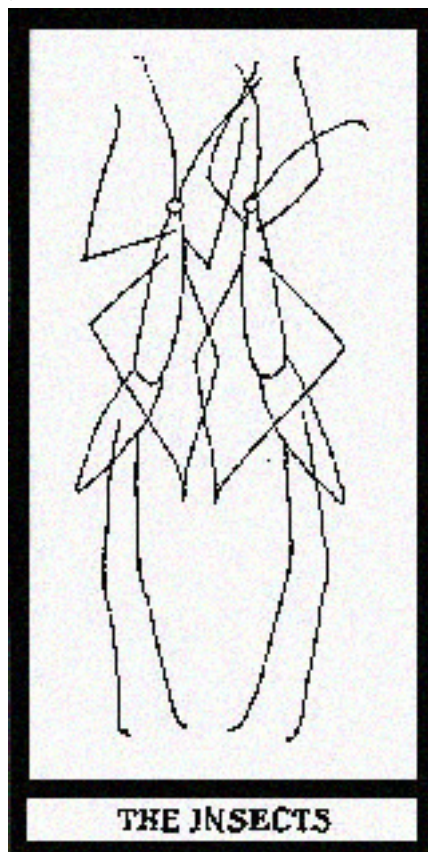
*Tuesday  
slander  
reversals  
creeping sickness  
a forged will  
insomnia  
loss of hair  
detention  
theft  
cafard  
jealousy  
an accident in a restaurant  
inanition*

## *The Bundle*



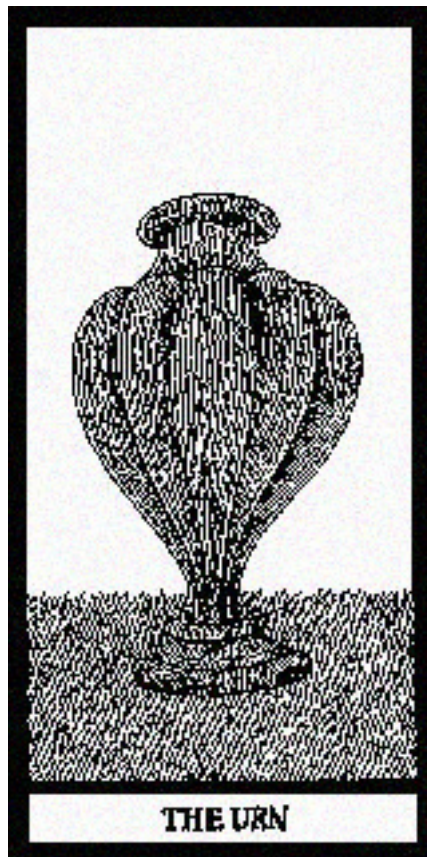
*Wednesday*  
*a tedious illness*  
*inadequate drainage*  
*a broken engagement*  
*a train accident*  
*malaise*  
*false friends*  
*hangnails*  
*misconduct*  
*aphasia*  
*regrets*  
*disappointment*  
*fluctuation*

## *The Insects*



*Thursday  
folie a deux  
green sickness  
senseless talk  
loss of vitality  
an accident in a field  
false hopes  
spasms  
a refusal  
insincere love  
blisters  
disagreeable news  
threats*

# *The Urn*



*Friday*  
*a sexual dilemma*  
*a forged invitation*  
*harmful rays*  
*alginuresis*  
*a broken heart*  
*mumbling sickness*  
*broken communications*  
*injustice*  
*interference*  
*miscalculation*  
*low fever*  
*scales*

# *The Yellow Bird*



*Saturday*  
*true love thrown away*  
*pigue*  
*foot trouble*  
*mania*  
*barratry*  
*an accident on a ladder*  
*insicretion*  
*bone disease*  
*thwarted ambitions*  
*poison*  
*an unforeseen catatrophe*  
*complications*

# *THE BLACK DOLL*



*"What you fear is coming near!"*

*Final Note: the archive I created this from included this picture, which I found amusing, considering the its use of 'the black doll' as a toy. – Arcanaeum*

