



CLAIRVOYANTES

UN ORACLE LITTÉRAIRE
A LITERARY ORACLE

alto

CLAIRVOYANTES



French edition in stores and online
on **APRIL 5, 2022**

Box set with 45 cards and a 104-page book
\$38.95 | 978-2-89694-559-7

Clairvoyants is a unique work, a gorgeous literary oracle spotlighting the fascinating world of fifteen female authors and promising readers and players a divination experience like no other.



Audrée Wilhelmy, who heads up this extraordinary project, has brought together a lineup of gifted Quebec writers whose voices blend seamlessly. Their texts, which describe different characters, places, and objects, are complemented by dazzling images created by photographer Justine Latour.

Available as a box set including forty-five playing cards and an interpretation book, *Clairvoyants* bears Alto's inimitable stamp. After asking the oracle a question, the reader is invited to draw three cards—a character, a place, an object—which link to short texts written in surreal, dreamlike prose with a feminist bent. These texts combine to tell a story.

Players can also draw cards online through a platform specially developed by the design company Deux Huit Huit, making *Clairvoyants* the first digital literary oracle. The experience will also be recreated at various events thanks to a portable stage set that will go where fate takes it.

This whimsical literary venture is sure to attract fiction lovers, fans of tarot cards, and any curious souls eager to discover the art of divination.



www.clairvoyantes.com

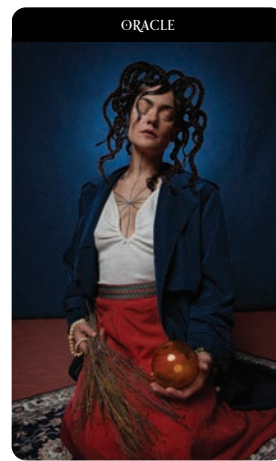
Mélikah Abdelmoumen
Stéfanie Clermont
Hélène Dorion
Louise Dupré
Dominique Fortier
Marie-Andrée Gill
Karoline Georges
Véronique Grenier
Catherine Lalonde
Perrine Leblanc
Catherine Leroux
Chloé Savoie-Bernard
Élise Turcotte
Christiane Vadnais
Audrée Wilhelmy



Under the direction of
Audrée Wilhelmy



Photographs by
Justine Latour



The box set includes a book and forty-five cards divided into three categories: characters, places, objects. Ask a question, draw a card from each category, then discover the matching story and how to interpret it. The narratives created by the cards offer much food for thought, sublime reverie, and endless possibilities.



Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. As a writer, she's won the Prix Sade and been nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Prix littéraire des collégiens, the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, the Prix des libraires du Québec, and the Prix France-Québec. Her work has appeared in France, and two novels, *White Resin* and *The Body of the Beasts*, have been published in English by Anansi. In addition, she's studied photography and practices portraiture and fine-art photography.



Justine Latour was born in Shawinigan in 1985. She moved to Montreal in 2007 after studying visual arts in Quebec City and Lille. Over the years, she's photographed artists from the world of literature, dance, and film, while also capturing the essence of strangers, particularly the marginalized and the forgotten. Fascinated by people, she immortalizes her subjects using intimate black-and-white imagery and soft lighting. For Justine, photography is an antidote to oblivion and death.

ALEA (Latin)

1. An element of risk (from classical Latin, a game of chance). 2. A publishing laboratory.

In our quest to astound and confound, Alto has a new tool at its disposal: a publishing lab we call **Alea**. A playground for a team bursting with crazy ideas for books, Alea is to our publishing house what a yard is to a real house: a space where we can run free and also plant beautiful things.

Our aim: to explore literary paths traditional publishers won't go down. For us, a book is above all an experience, one that can even forgo the written page. As the lines between the arts blur, as digital technology seeps into all parts of our lives, we want to mix things up, test out new hybrids, and share our passion to surprise far and wide.



alto
Éditeur d'étonnant

Deux Fluit Fluit



Conseil des arts
du Canada Canada Council
for the Arts

SODEC
Québec

If you need further details, please contact our rights manager, :
Tania Massault | tmassault@editionsalto.com

WIDOW

Her name defines her by what she's lost; she defines herself by what she still has. What she has is a vast space suffused with memory and silence, a time belonging to her alone. Before she drifts off to sleep, she sees long deserted beaches, clouds crushing time.

All day, she wanders through empty rooms, sees them gradually fill with herself, a substance she's not felt in so long. Corners brighten; petals open within balls of dust.

She sometimes has an intense desire to hold her beloved tightly in her arms, feel his weight on the world. A fissure opens in her, emits a silent scream. Her skin becomes a blank canvas; her hair turns brittle, splits. Her thoughts tangle. She longs to burn the ghost trailing her.

The voice of the dead still echoes, but she speaks aloud to drown it out. She rummages clumsily through her old belongings. Sounds mutate, becoming domestic, material, human, supernatural. Sifting through the past is a noisy affair.

Outside, she's battered by wind and whispers. A woman alone, she's become suspect. Neighbors avoid her, fearing that she's contagious, her solitude voracious enough to swallow faith, hope, and men.

So she takes refuge deep within her grief.

Under the floorboards lies her legacy.

Interpretation

The Widow represents loneliness and grief. She bears an irreversible loss. She may also evoke vulnerability, material insecurity, and the fear of being cast out. But the notions of change, autonomy, and freedom are also present. The cards chosen with the Widow are crucial for interpreting this character. Some cards reinforce the notion of loss and emptiness; others point toward a woman who's being reinvented, rediscovering herself, becoming the master of her destiny, living a life unencumbered. Although it comes at a cost, this independence also leads to new opportunities.

Key words

Pain | Solitude | Loss | Transformation | Freedom | Autonomy

