



# The Tarot Cafe, #1

*Sang-Sun Park*

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## **The Tarot Cafe, #1** Sang-Sun Park

Meet Pamela, a tarot card reader who helps supernatural beings living in the human world. She'll help anyone, whether they're a love-stricken cat, a vampire spending eternal life running from his one true love, an unattractive waitress looking for the man of her dreams, or even a magician who creates a humanoid doll to serve the woman he loves. Although she is good-natured, there is a deep dark secret that she must deal with before she can move on to the next life.

## **The Tarot Cafe, #1 Details**

Date : Published March 7th 2017 by TokyoPop (first published 2002)

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Author : Sang-Sun Park

Format : Paperback 176 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Fantasy, Graphic Novels, Manhwa, Comics, Romance

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# From Reader Review The Tarot Cafe, #1 for online ebook

## Valerie says

3.25

Nice art style, interesting enough plot, I'm intrigued about some of the characters, will definitely continue reading.

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## ReadingAddict says

The title and premise of this manga drew me in, but it was a bit flat. No world building, little to no character development. I'll probably try the next one to see if it improves.

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## Gustav Gerät says

very good book, I like it

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## Kelley says

As soon as I saw the title, I knew I was going to be buying this manga! The story focuses on a tarot reader who helps all kinds of people — including mystical creatures like fairies and cats that can use their lives like wishes. Each reading/tale was unique and fascinating; some were about love, or loss, or family. The explanation of each tarot card was spot-on, both in the notes and in the storytelling. Nothing stood out to me TOO much, but I enjoyed this manga!

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## Lourdes Hill says

not interesting.

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## Sarah Sammis says

I've mentioned before the diverse selection of graphic novels and manga my local library has. The latest volume I picked up is the start of a seven part manhwa (Korean manga) series, Tarot Cafe by Sang-Sun Park.

Pamela reads fortunes for a living. After hours she takes special clients who need to harness her clairvoyant powers. After a brief introduction the rest of the book is divided into four episodes: one per tarot reading. They are: A Wish-Fulfilling Cat, Eternal Beauty, A Fairy and the first part of A Heartless Princess, an

Alchemist, and a Jester.

Of the four my favorite is the first. The story of the cat's unnatural love for his human mistress is heart breaking. Eternal Beauty is the old emo vampire who falls in love but makes enemies in the process. That sort of story has been done (and is still being done) to death. A Fairy is the story of a fair folk cursed into the body of a little girl and forever pining after her fiancé. Time is cruel to her. The final story acts as a cliff hanger to the second volume; it's the creepy tale of an alchemist who desperately wants a princess to love him. His gifts though reveal an ugly side to his beloved.

Sang-Sun Park's artwork is beautiful but ambiguous. One reviewer complained that all her characters look like girls. I wouldn't go that far but her magical characters do tend to be overly beautiful beyond even what seems typical in the manga equivalents.

Tarot Cafe Volume 1 was one of the quickest manga volumes I've read. I plan to see if my library has any more books from the series.

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### **Fatima says**

This was my first 'graphic novel' by a Korean author better known as (I believe so dont quote me) manhwa. Definitely want to carry on the series

Characters:4/5

Plot:3/5

Writing:3/5

Development:4/5

Overall:3.25/5

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### **B says**

Minimal clichés, but lots of twists to make up for it.

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### **Leonor says**

The vampire story appealed to the tiny goth in me. Pretty entertaining.

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### **Chili Public says**

I've read the first volume of this series, and I must admit I'm not completely taken with it. I like the premise: tarot card reading woman helps mythical beings such as vampires and fairies. However the illustrations, which are the very soul of a good manga, aren't very appealing to me. In many of the manga series, the men have a tendency to lean towards the effeminate, however in this series it feels way over done. The men are practically dainty and the female characters have a stronger more commanding presence.

That being said, while its not my cup of tea, I think that there will be a lot of teenage goth loving girls that will love it. It will definantly appeal to those who love pretty vampire boys.

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### **Chloe says**

The Tarot Cafe is a wonderfully grim series with a bit of drama, light horror and undertones of occult.

I'd say it's a healthy mix between X-files, Godchild and maybe Xxx Holic.

I love the way stories are broken up into small sub-stories and all tie back to the tarot readings that are given. Though the tarot card meanings are not always accurate, they provide a lot of entertainment and a nice set up for stories that you don't often see in manga or comics.

I'd say you could enjoy this series if you're over 13, and until adulthood if you like the Macabre themes and drawing style, though the stories can become a little flimsy. A good read all around and it took me about 30-40 minutes to get through it without rushing.

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### **Dai-wei says**

Oh man! This manga was SO cute! The art is terrific and has gothic and sometimes not-so-subtle kink themes. Finally a story that treats tarot like a gifted art and not some magical glowing Gambit bullshit. I was VERY relieved to find out in the first couple of pages that the character uses the tarot deck realistically. The meanings of the actual tarot card featured in the story even has a little description of what that card represents which is 1000 times better than how tarot or other Wiccan culture is represented in other mediums, like film for example.

Anyway, it's cute, well drawn and a quick read (took me maybe 15 minutes?). I picked it up at a used book fair for \$1 and I'm definitely going to buy the rest eventually. :)

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### **Kay Iscah says**

This is a review of Vol. 1-3

The Tarot Cafe has that uber-melancholy, everyone is super beautiful but in a sinister way art style. I'm not impressed by the use of background here. Black and white super photoshopped photos used for blurred backgrounds or the barely there backgrounds when they bother having a background (which isn't very often) seem kind of lazy and don't blend well with the uber detailed characters. The story matches the art style. Everything is fantastic over the top and angsty...except when it suddenly isn't angsty. There's a lot of implied sex both of homo and hetero varieties in the book...even some implied sex with minors...but nothing is shown. Most of the people, fairies/vampires/alchemyists, etc., who go to Pamela (the gothed out rather indifferent main character with tarot reading talents) are terrible people who've done terrible things in the name of "love" or were ensnared by someone awful. There's a few exceptions...which are welcome changes in the tone, yet seem rather out of place.

There's an over arching plot with Pamela herself behind the episodes. It's just interesting enough to make me curious about what happens next, but not curious enough to want to buy a copy of volume 4. I may see if the library has one.

While this series is arguably more violent and the implied relationships more twisted than Tenshi Ja Nai!! I don't think it bothers me quite as much, because the book isn't trying to present itself as a semi-innocent highschool romance. This series is very honest about the fact it's portraying creatures and behaviour of the night. And that these dark actions often have dark consequences. And that's my biggest hesitation toward seeking out more volumes. While seeing consequences makes the actions more palatable, it's not really the kind of stuff you want to feed your brain a steady diet of.

The series greatest flaw is that, while the plot is semi-interesting-if-slow to unfold, the characters are fairly one dimensional and not all that likable. You have Pamela who's main goal in life is dying. Belus...who stands around and looks pretty except when he's antagonizing Pamela. And some poor werewolf boy with stockholm syndrome who was abandoned by the pedophile who bought him from his drunk father....the werewolf boy is the only one semi-likable, but despite his twisted past he's just "the kid" archetype.

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### **Kurtis Burkhardt says**

Pretty good manga so far:)?????

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### **Mark says**

Sara brought this home yesterday.

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