

READING GUIDE ~ THE
COVEN OF CAGLIASARO
CAROL ANN MOORE

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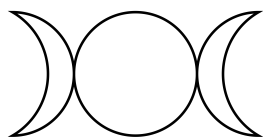
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WELCOME TO THE COVEN OF CAGLIASARO



WELCOME TO THIS CHARACTER compendium and reading guide to The Coven of Cagliasaro, from now on which we'll just call Coven.

The second instalment with our heroine Aella Saluagius, although it's more of a prequel than a sequel.

Let me explain.

Sisterhood, the original book was set in modern times, but Aella is immortal and hails from the 14th century. I had many readers ask me what had happened to the original coven of women. They wanted to know what had happened to them and Aella between 1348 and now. Quite a lot as it happens.

So, should you read Sisterhood first? Or should you start with Coven and work your way through the series? I'll leave that up to you.

And so, without further ado, let me introduce you to the women of the Coven.

Carol Ann Moore.

ROSA MARTINELLI



ROSA MARTINELLI IS THE older sister of Belafloa by four years. She has lived in the town of Cagliasaro since her parents settled there when she was small. Her ancestry is that of the Sinti people.

Rosa's magic is in her blood, her own mother having knowledge of herbal medicine and the ability to divine with palmistry and the tarot.

The tarot is an important part of the Coven story and we can get to know the characters through it. Rosa would be represented by The Empress.

The Empress is all about the female mind. She rules over her empire pragmatically.

She thinks, plans and is never short on ideas. Two words best describe the Empress: Creative Intelligence. Qualities associated with the Empress include intelligence, control, practical sense, youthful outlook and dynamism.

The Empress is all about the intellectual realm. She originally had wings, which are associated with the element of Air. Her authority is natural, her mind is sharp, her life is under control. The Empress also represents motherhood and a nurturing and caring attitude.



The coven of women has escaped Aquileia and found safety in Rosa's home on the outskirts of town. She welcomes them with open arms; they are a family and are safe.

"There has been an abundance of wine drunk this day. The men of the town will have become braver as it filled their bellies and emptied their minds. I would not have taken much to gather a mob to come and find and punish us." Rosa Martinelli.

BELAFLORE MARTINELLI



BELAFLORE, OR BELA, IS the younger sister of Rosa. She moved away from Cagliari in her late teens. Always a rebel and pushing against authority, she became a thorn in the side of the Guild Merchants. But a woman who will not stand down puts herself in danger in a world run by men. To escape the same fate as her parents, Bela left town and settled in Aquileia, where she met her coven members.

Bela's magic is like her sister's, hereditary. She has made it her quest in life to study magic in all its forms. She is a formidable witch.

Bela is represented by The High Priestess tarot card. The very essence of feminine intuition, motherly love, patience and ancient sacred knowledge. The High Priestess is a woman who has already lived a lot. She does not represent a young girl. To become the High Priestess, one has to go through many experiences and different phases of life, love and health. Time and life are her teachers. Through them, she understands the secrets and reasons for our very presence in the world. That's what the book she is holding is about. It is a book that can only be understood through intuition and experience. She is an ally, someone whose advice is essential and wise.



Bela brought her coven to safety. She knew they could heal in Cagliasaro from the terrible things that had happened in Aquileia.

“Women have obeyed men long enough; we do not yet have ample power to openly defy them. But we possess strength, courage and cunning, for life is always in motion, my friends, and we have the resolve to reach a resolution.” Belaflore Martinelli.

ORSOLA POGGIO



ORSOLA POGGIO IS A midwife and a healer. Her magic comes from her vast knowledge of women's health and the herbs and plants that can allay all the problems that can occur within a woman's body.

She never married, instead choosing to concentrate her efforts on helping the women who came to her for a potion or a brew, maybe to help start a baby or maybe to make sure one didn't.

Orsola is The Star in tarot. Always hard at work, constantly reviving the old water in the lake – sometimes a stagnant river – at her feet. The water she pours is hot and purifying. It brings back life, hope and balance. Her feminine figure is directly linked to the element of Water in the most literal way. She is harmony and good luck. The Star pours water where it is most needed: in a dying lake in a desert or dried out land. She brings protection in difficult moments of our lives. A healer, a good witch, a nurse or a friend.

Orsola is the member of the coven who helps others through the tough times. She is full of calm, well-balanced energy and open to healing the wounds of the past. She also gives the best hugs.

“Orsola smiled to herself; this was a safe place, and without the interference and dictatorship of men, it was peaceful and calm. Then a shadow puckered her brow. She knew it was just a small pocket of happiness, this time here.” Orsola Poggio.



SAVIA CONSTANTINI



SAVIA CONSTANTINI LIVED IN Aquileia with her husband, a tailor, in the town. She has two sons, but they left home to find work in Milan, Northern Italy. Her physical appearance has, occasionally, given her some trouble with certain types of men, but she has ways of dealing with unwanted attention.

She is a witch whose powers come from her ability of empathy. She can touch a person and feel their emotional state. This can be of great value but alternatively causes her distress. At least, though, she can tell if someone is lying.

Savia is Justice in the tarot deck. Justice has always been represented by a woman. Goddess or allegory, she is always female and so is her energy. Her qualities include constancy, honesty, good temper, reliability, rationality and impartiality. Justice speaks of the righteous order of things and balance in life. If you have been wronged, Savia may bring you relief. On the other hand, if your actions cause pain to others, she will bring retribution. She will bring the truth. It must come to pass, and it cannot be found from the mouths and gossip of others. Instead, it's based on facts. Savia urges you to learn the truth about others and yourself. She will always speak and know the truth before passing a judgement.



“But she would use her gifts, the ones she had been born with, the silken mass of raven black curls and the almond eyes, the colour of liquid amber. And the gift of knowing their thoughts, although sometimes she believed it to be a curse. It would be a curse for them. She was as fragrant and bewitching as a summer bloom, drawing in her prey, only to find that she was not as sweet as they had expected.” Savia Constantini.

ZANETA DE LUCA



ZANETA DE LUCA is also married and has one daughter, Catalina. She is a fierce and loyal mother and friend. With Zaneta on your side, you need not fear anything.

She has the magical powers of divination. There are many mediums she uses, flames, scrying mirror, runes and her favourite, the tarot cards.

In her beloved cards, Zaneta would most certainly be the Moon. It is traditionally a darker and difficult card. Ruler of the night, ever-changing and accomplice to all that happens in the shadows, the Moon has long been considered a card as negative as the Tower or the Devil.

Throughout its existence, the energy has consistently been and remains entirely feminine. For a long time, it was misunderstood and feared. The cycle of the Moon is the same as one of a woman and both are therefore naturally, spiritually and culturally linked. The Moon stands for the darker side of feminine energies. It is therefore the card of witchcraft and mystery. It can also speak of what is repressed under the surface of the subconscious mind. But there is a brighter side to this fascinating arcana: the Moon is the card of intuition, dreams and motherhood. It speaks of secrets known by women only. Secrets that come with a price.



“Zaneta strode to the ornate four-poster bed, swathed in elaborately embroidered curtains, casting shadows over the man that sat on it. She stood before him, her expression impassive, and said, ‘I have come to watch you die.’”

CATALINA DE LUCA



CATALINA, THE FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER of Zaneta and childhood friend of Aella. She is brave, loud and most of all, hungry. She is the bane of her mother's life in the kitchen and the apple of her eye.

Catalina has inherited the divination skills from her mother and is busy learning all she can from the rest of the coven. You can never know too much magic.

In the tarot deck, Catalina is Strength. Another allegory which shows a woman taming a lion or sometimes simply walking side by side with him. She may gently put her hand on his head. The lion completely surrenders to this woman and yet no violence or weapons are used.



That is because the strength represented by this is not the one of force and muscles. It is a more subtle way of fighting, which brings better and more impressive results. Generally, the strength developed by women who were not allowed to fight or carry weapons. Strength in Tarot is the exact opposite of aggression. Actual strength does not depend on how big you are, it comes from the head and the heart.

“They dined on bread, cheese and cold meat. Rosa uncorked some rich red wine, made from last year's grape harvest, and

they ate dried figs and dates with rye bread, spread with honey. Catalina groaned. 'I think I have eaten too much,' she said with a loud belch. 'I need to lie down.' She pushed back her chair from the table and prostrated herself on the rug in front of the fire." Catalina de Luca.

MATALIA MONTANARI



MATALIA MONTANARI IS A saddler's wife. Well known for her ability with horses, her gifts ensured her husband's business was the most revered in Aquileia and the surrounding towns.

Happier dressed in men's breeches and shirts than a gown, Matalia would rather muck out the stables and groom a horse than have to dress up for a fancy dinner.

Her magical gifts are not strictly limited to equines, however, she can communicate with every beast in the animal kingdom. She is a gentle soul with compassion and kindness in ample supply.

Matalia is Temperance in tarot. The figure of Temperance in Tarot is not an actual woman or Goddess but an angel. In most traditional representations, she has wings, and the sky embraces and surrounds her. Temperance is the divine alchemist. She is the uniter of opposites: shadow and light, spirit and flesh. She is the keeper of the most ineffable mystical truths; and what could be more spiritual than being at one with animals? In her unique magic of blending the opposites, Temperance tells us to take the middle way. Matalia always errs toward moderation, helping the coven to redirect their considerable magical energy to good use.

“Matalia cupped her hands around her mouth and gave a low hooting sound. She waited; in a heartbeat came the reply and she called again. The twilight that was gathering delivered a silent envoy onto her outstretched arm. The eagle owl had tufted ears above enormous black orange-ringed eyes, which blinked slowly. She clicked her beak at Matalia, who produced a scrap of dried meat from a pouch tied at her belt.” Matalia Montanari.

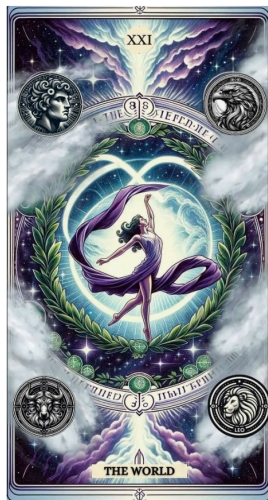


AELLA SALUAGIUS



OUR HEROINE, OUR PROTAGONIST, our witch. Aella is a teenager in Coven, she has just made the life altering decision to become immortal. Her reasoning is that many innocent people died at her hands, albeit in an accident. She wishes to make amends and La Eternità is the spell the coven has performed to achieve this.

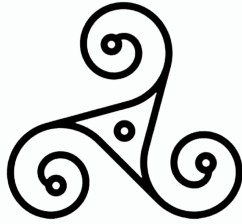
Aella has been born with the powers of elemental magic, but at this stage in her magical career, she is not quite in tune with them, or able to wield them sufficiently without some direction from the older and wiser members of the coven. Still, it's not as if she hasn't got time to study.



Aella's tarot card is, of course, The World. The Goddess of life and fertility stands in perfect balance and harmony with the elements. At the four corners stand the symbols of the 4 seasons, cardinal points and fixed signs (Aquarius for Air, Taurus for Earth, Leo for Fire and Scorpio for Water). She is the glue that holds everything together. Aella carries a profound message that echoes the notion that we are architects of our own reality. She symbolises the power we possess to craft our personal worlds exactly as we envision them. The universe is poised to offer opportunities, and it is up to us to seize them. Aella embodies the cycle of life and our progression through life events. She signifies the promise of return, signifying the gratification that comes from a job well done. Her connection to Mother Nature, or Gaia, the creator of all living things, is a reminder of our ability to create and shape our world.

“Aella lifted her hood from her head and, as the wind whipped tendrils of black hair around her face, a cluster of comets arced across the horizon and disappeared, trailing burning tails. An audible ripple of fear flowed through the onlooking crowd, but they fell silent as Aella spoke aloud.” Aella Saluagius.

FINAL WORDS



I HOPE THIS READING guide has helped you somewhat if you have read *The Coven of Cagliasaro* and needed some questions answered. If you haven't read it yet, I hope it has encouraged you to download a copy. Come and join the coven. We would be overjoyed to have you!

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/carolannmooreauthor>

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Also, check out my website for news, blogs and a monthly newsletter from Coven Headquarters.

The other books in the series are:

Sisterhood

Alchemy of her Heart