

# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Ordinary Magic* by Alison Stone



August 7, 2016 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Ordinary Magic* by Alison Stone. Award-winning poet Alison Stone draws from the tarot in her latest collection. These 78 poems range from the archetypal (The Fool, The Magician, etc.) to the everyday situations of love, work, ideas, and conflicts that make up our lives. Mythical figures from past and present appear—Prometheus and Persephone represent court cards, as do Lou Reed and Steve Jobs. By turns witty and heartbreaking, this book goes down easily enough to be devoured in one sitting yet reveals greater depths with each subsequent reading. Stone's accessible lyrics move and entertain us with the struggles and joys of what it means to be human.

*"Ordinary Magic, Alison Stone's wonderfully titled book of Tarot-themed poetry, returns the deck to its creative roots, for the cards were used to inspire poetry long before they were drafted as a tool for fortune-telling. Her cards on the Major Arcana, the 22 trump cards, follow closely the themes and imagery of the well-known Rider deck, while zeroing in on original details that make these symbolic pictures both personal and fresh. But it's in the fifty-six suit cards, the so-called Minor Arcana, that Stone really shines.*

*Largely abandoning the 'official' imagery of the scenes (which are, in fact, only 100 years old), Stone allows the cards to suggest ideas, memories, and personal stories for poems that are immediate and alive."* —Rachel Pollack

### Prior praise for Stone's poetry:

David Cope: "Gorgeous work—not only accessible, but tight as can be. I must say that Alison Stone's book is the first one I've read cover to cover within the first day of reception. Remarkable work."

Thom Ward: "Stone understands that poems, as Robert Lowell encouraged, must be events in themselves and not merely records of events. Whether psychological or philosophical, or advancing the intensity of raw emotion, Stone's poems are urgent and dramatic, put themselves and by extension the reader, at risk."

Verse Wisconsin: "Stone offers lean and sparkling poetry that invites us to join with it—poems that are, in their way, multi-faceted spaces to explore, discovering what we may, and grafting what we bring."

Cindy Hochman, *The Pedestal*: "Reading Alison Stone's searing collection...feels like childbirth—anesthesia optional—leaving one bloodied and drained, joy tinged with wince, and after a great hue and cry, blessed relief and reward."

Alison Stone the author of *Dangerous Enough* (Presa Press 2014), *Borrowed Logic* (Dancing Girl Press 2014), *From the Fool to the World: Poems in the Voices of the Major Arcana of the Tarot* (Parallel Press 2012) and *They Sing at Midnight*, which won the 2003 Many Mountains Moving Poetry Award and was published by Many Mountains Moving Press. Her poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *NYQ*, *Barrow Street*, *Poet Lore*, and a variety of other journals and anthologies. She has been awarded *Poetry's* Frederick Bock Prize and *New York Quarterly's* Madeline Sadin award. She is also a painter and the creator of The Stone Tarot. A licensed psychotherapist, she has private practices in NYC and Nyack. She is currently editing an anthology of poems on the Persephone/Demeter myth.



photo by Michael Stone

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.