

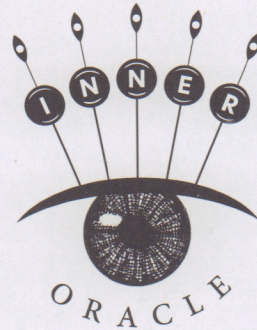
STEVEN BRIGHT



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A 52-CARD PLAYING DECK FOR  
THE MODERN AGE

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A 52-CARD PLAYING DECK FOR  
THE MODERN AGE



REDFeather™  
MIND | BODY | SPIRIT

4880 Lower Valley Road, Arden, PA 19310

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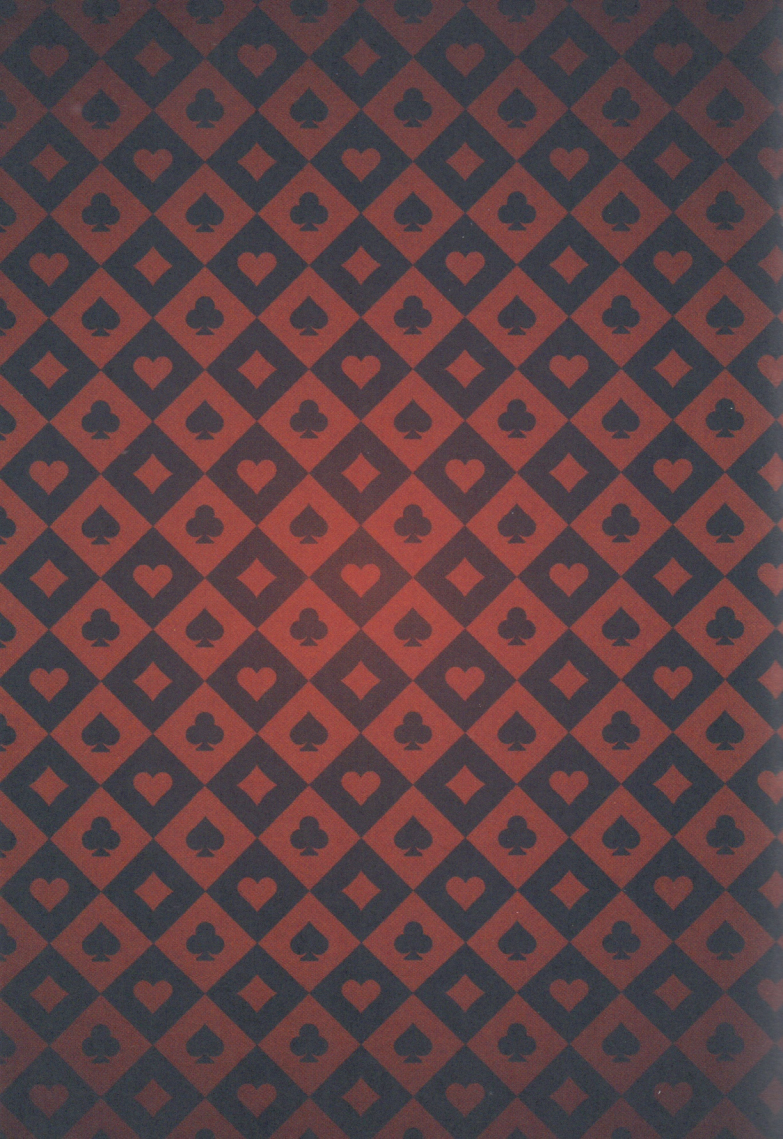
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## INTRODUCTION

The oracle is not new. In fact, it has existed since the dawn of time. Before the use of cards for divination, our ancestors would rely on nature to provide messages and insight, such as the clouds, the weather, or items from their natural environment, such as flowers, sticks, or stones. While their purpose for divining was quite different from modern diviners, since science offers answers for many of the questions that those before us would have asked, the desire to look into an unseen fate or glimpse of the unknown is still as popular.

The origin of playing cards, like that of Tarot, is unconfirmed. We can trace both methods of divination back only so far. Why they were invented, and by whom, remains a mystery. It was thought that playing cards originated in China or India, but nobody really knows for sure. We do know, from written records, their times of popularity and those who used them, such as King Charles VI of France and decks of cards in the inventory of the Duke and Duchess of Orleans in 1408. These card decks would have likely been used for gaming rather than divining, though. Using the cards for fortune-telling was a practice later adopted most famously by the gypsy community. The first known book about cartomancy with playing cards is recorded as being published in the 1480s.

As with the Tarot, the playing card, as a form of divination, has found itself in and out of fashion over

the years. Fortune-telling with cards is common in many parts of the world, with decks being sold in local bookstores, but this was not always the case, and it was historically much frowned upon (and even feared) by some communities and individuals. One of the reasons why some people chose to read playing cards rather than the Tarot was that a humble playing deck would be less conspicuous if found on your person or was seen being used in public. The simple design, used for gaming, hid its divinatory uses in plain sight.

There are still many readers who use a standard poker deck of cards for fortune-telling, and doing so is still desirable both to the reader and the client. It is often mesmerizing for those seeking guidance to experience such magic and knowing from such a common item, one that is found in most homes and appears to be no less than a simple tool for gaming. However, the playing cards do have, within them, more than you might first think. To begin with, we can see that the 52 cards in the standard playing-card deck could correspond to the 52 weeks in a year. To take this further, the four suits could be associated with the four seasons, and the 13 cards within each suit both to the 13 weeks within each season and the 13 lunar cycles in a year. It could be possible, therefore, that the cards have a calendar encoded within them. If you add the symbols on each card (one for an ace, two for the twos, eleven for the Jacks, and so on), you will find that the resulting number is 364. There are 364 days in a lunar year, based on the monthly cycles of the moon's phases. In recent times, this calendar—set in the cards—has been used by cartomancers to predict

timing, with slight adjustments in interpretation to suit our modern Gregorian calendar.

Not all playing-card decks, such as the one in this set, have remained simple in design. In the 1450s, it became popular for the card makers of the time to give the court cards (Jack, Queen, and King) identities, drawing on popular figures or legendary heroes. The first custom-made deck of playing cards for fortune-telling made an appearance in London in 1685.

These days, there are many playing-card decks in circulation, created with the intention of fortune-telling. Unlike the Tarot cards, from which a small handful of modern methods of reading and traditional systems have sprung, the ways in which playing cards are read are varied. In fact, with many interpretations of cards being handed down from individuals to family members by word of mouth, the meanings given to the 52 cards is as individual as the reader.

Over the years that I have practiced card reading, the Tarot has been my main tool for divination. I discovered the cards back in 1997 in London and was instantly attracted to their mysterious beauty, intrigued by how they worked. Since then, I have written three books on divination and have created two decks. While I am best known for my work with the Tarot cards, my work with them has been influenced by other forms of cartomancy over time.

During the first 10 years of my Tarot study, there was a resurgence of interest both in the Lenormand cards and the use of playing cards as a form of divination. What many readers came to realize was that these meth-

ods of card reading produced punchy and detailed answers, due for the most part to the simplistic meanings assigned to the cards. Unlike a Tarot card, which can be read in many ways and has symbolism that can lead a reader in a multiple of interpretive directions, the single Lenormand card, as an example, has one core meaning. The Dog, as an example, is a symbol of loyalty and dependability; Stork represents change. Playing cards, often using a keyword for identification, work in pretty much the same way. These meanings are usually strung together to make sentences, which will provoke a reader's intuition.

Many of the people who visit me for readings are looking for answers to practical problems. Most, though not all, are more concerned with day-to-day scenarios—such as their love life or career—than tapping into their own spirituality through the cards. The Lenormand and many systems of playing-card reading deliver focused and sharp messages because the card meanings are not as ambiguous as the Tarot. This is not to say, of course, that the Tarot cannot be read with the same level of accuracy and detail. I have presented a number of public workshops showing how the Tarot deck can be used in much the same way, with slight adjustments to the way in which the cards are laid and viewed.

Within this book, I will introduce the playing cards of this set, one by one, describing the meanings of each and looking at ways in which they can be read primarily in sequence but also individually. As well as looking at combinations and how the cards can be read in pairs, I will also examine real examples and spreads, so you can see how the cards can be read in action.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is a manual for this deck of cards. The cards have been designed to provide the reader with a comprehensive oracle system for our modern age. While the illustrations have an antique and mystical feel to them, the subjects covered by the 52 cards are relatable to our daily lives and will stand the test of time. To get the most from this deck, first take some time to familiarize yourself with the images and titles. Draw a couple of cards and look up their meanings in the directory provided here.

It is common for many readers to solely read with their intuition when consulting an oracle, but there are ways in which this deck can shine that bit more brightly, which will be described in this book. It is recommended that you read the material here first, with the deck to refer to, so you might see how the different components of the deck can be read and the most-effective ways in which you can perform a reading.

Once you are equipped with the information shared in this book, you will have a greater idea of how to use this oracle, and then true bonding can begin. The material here has been written to provide you with a foundation of understanding and the ability to get reading and receiving rewarding results from your deck as soon as possible. While you may receive relevant messages from the cards intuitively, without reading what is re-

vealed within these pages, a little time invested in reading and consulting this guidebook will garner greater and more-satisfying results.

## ONE

### FAMILIARIZING YOURSELF WITH YOUR FORTUNE-TELLING CARDS

The playing card deck is divided in a handful of different ways. The most obvious is by suit. There are four suits within the deck—Hearts, Diamonds, Spades, and Clubs—which we also recognize are split in color: Hearts and Diamonds are red, while Spades and Clubs are black. Each suit is then divided by numbered cards and court (or people) cards. There are 10 numbered cards and three court cards in each suit.

In this section we will look at the deck in detail. It is important for the reader to get a personal understanding of each card and how it might relate to life and their environment. I will begin with looking at the court (or face) cards, since these are often harder for a reader to bond with.

#### Reading Face Cards

The face cards within many card decks, including those in the Tarot, are famously difficult to read for many and can cause problems for the new reader. However, they needn't be. Familiarizing yourself with the different



characters is akin to meeting new people and developing a relationship with new friends; the face cards should be approached in the same way. Each has its own specific attributes, and you will find, since they intersect by suit and rank, that there are some commonalities. All Jacks, for example, have likenesses, as do those courts within the Diamonds suit.

Further on in this book, we will look at a specific method of reading that will help you understand the personalities and intentions of each court. This is a particular style of reading based on reading in combinations, and some examples for such are given in the following accounts of each card, highlighting their personal characteristics when the card is read individually but also in pairs with other cards. As well as this, there is a description for how a card could be read for empowerment, direction, and advice, perhaps as a daily card or singly, for those readers who desire this kind of interpretation.

## Understanding a Court Card

Each court card is set up in the following way:

### *Image*

The first thing you will notice about the face cards is that each holds the picture of a person. For some of you, these will provide intuitive hits and might even resemble somebody you know, but it is important to remember that they are just symbols. These images will help

you remember who is who within the deck, but their reach is wider than the face that looks back at you. For instance, the Jacks are split with regard to gender, showing two who identify as male and two who identify as female, but there are no hard-and-fast rules about which gender they depict in a reading. While the Lover (Jack of Hearts) shows a handsome young man, this card will easily depict a girlfriend or wife for some. The Leader (Queen of Clubs) will represent anyone who leads, whichever gender they identify as. These are simply illustrative starting points.

Within each image, a mood has been set. You will notice in some that there are symbolic references. The Jack of Diamonds (the Apprentice) is surrounded by spanners (suggesting his work ethic) and sits upon a grid (order and stability). The King of Diamonds (the Protector) is lavished in armor-like chain mail.

### *Playing-Card Reference*

Each card has a playing-card reference. The Jacks are the youngest in each suit, and the Kings and Queens signify mature traits, based on experience. The suit emblems (Clubs, Hearts, Spades, and Diamonds) have their own elemental associations. Clubs relate to the element of Fire, Hearts to Water, Spades to Air, and Diamonds to Earth.

## *Title*

Within each of the cards is a discreet title to aid the reader as they get to know the 12 personalities and work with them. Each suggests the traits of a certain personality or the way in which a person might come into your life. The Stranger (Jack of Spades) alerts you to those people of any age or gender who you are yet to meet or know, whereas the Advisor (King of Spades) might provide logical advice and guidance within a multitude of life areas.

It is important with cards such as the Jack of Hearts (the Lover) that we remain flexible with our interpretation. This card could describe an actual lover, but this may not be applicable in every read. In some, the attributes of the person's character are equally valid: a romantic and emotionally aspirational person of either gender. However, it is also important that you do not fall into the trap of making assumptions. We must never assume that the person in front of us does not have a sex life or lover, regardless of their age. For the young, it could represent a boyfriend or girlfriend with whom they only hold hands with at school, or someone whom they have a crush on. For the mature person, sex may still be an exciting and important part of life, regardless of their age. Consider these following ideas:

If you are single, does the Lover represent an ex?

Might the Lover be someone who has intense feelings for you? This could be someone who sees himself or herself as a potential partner.

In a work reading, could there be a potential for romance? Or does your own lover have a bearing on the question asked? A promotion, as an example, could affect your partner's life as well as your career.

In some readings, it will be important to simply rely on the nature of the Jack of Hearts, someone who is motivated by his emotions and has romantic notions and ideas.

## *A Note about Gender*

Within this text, I will make reference to characters as he/him or she/her, but it is important to remember that the court cards are symbols, reflecting anyone having a human experience. Within your readings, work with the personality traits and characteristics to identify who is who. For example, the Communicator (Queen of Spades) depicts a mature woman. This card suggests someone with communicative skills who expresses their thoughts in a clear manner. While it is likely that the person will be experienced and potentially mature in age, it can illustrate a younger person with a keen mind who imparts information distinctly. It is descriptive of all genders.

## The Jacks

The Jack is the youngest member of the playing-card court. His or her age is relevant to interpretation of each card, since it denotes attributes such as hope, expectation, and drive. However, it is also important to remember that because of their youth, they will also regard immaturity, inexperience, and naivety in mature people.

...



### THE REBEL

The Jack of Clubs looks at you from the corner of her eye, but she makes no effort to appease you. With her jet-black hair and brandishing strong eye makeup, individuality is her strongest suit, and she has no intention of bowing down to convention. Dripping

in costume jewelry and embraced by the wild ivy that decorates her shoulder, this person is the maverick of the deck.

Within a reading, the Rebel suggests someone who swims against the tide. It makes sense for a teenager to be shown in this illustration because it is only natural for most adolescents to pull away from the conventional path at some point, rebelling against their parents and authority. This is common and only to be expected as they explore and find their own way. However, it is also

important to remember that they have yet to experience the world, to make mistakes and learn from them. The Rebel may think that she knows it all, but in some situations this will be far from the truth.

As a person within a reading, the Jack of Clubs can represent someone opposed to you or a situation. It is in her nature to rebel, and all kinds of opposition are contained within this single figure. When she appears in combination, she and you may not see eye to eye if she carries difficult cards behind her (to the right). In this sense, she can become an obstacle that needs to be negotiated with or navigated around.

When the Rebel carries positive cards behind her, we view someone who is less troublesome. If cards of fun and adventure are present, then her wild nature could encourage exciting opportunities and may inspire you to do something different or new.

*As a daily card:*

If you have drawn the Jack of Clubs as a daily card, alone, then she will highlight a rebellious impulse within you. The card could ask that you stand up for yourself, rebel against an idea, or move away from conventional attitudes and ways of thinking. There is a stubbornness attributed to this character, and you may feel as though it is time to do what you wish, rather than fulfill the wishes of others.

On a lighter note, this card will arrive when the opportunity of adventure is near. In personal relationships, she will advise spicing up your love life or trying something a bit different. If you and your partner have

a set routine, then the Rebel will suggest that you shake things up by being spontaneous and impromptu. Within your career, thinking out of the box or trying a different profession from what you are used to might be relevant.

### Keywords

Opposition, resistance, unconventional, inspirational, spontaneity, individuality

...

## THE LOVER



The Jack of Hearts stares intently into your eyes. This handsome young man is consumed by the wing of a swan, her head curling around his neck and her feathers caressing his chest. The Swan is known as a bird of great strength but also for its faithfulness. It is the ultimate lover, surrounded by

the red roses of love and affection.

The Jack of Hearts represents lovers of all genders. While a male is shown here, any lover can be depicted by this card. What is important to understand is that this person leads from their heart, can be emotionally sensitive, and will likely have a romantic interest in you. If you are single, then the card could depict someone who has the qualities of this person, a romantic nature,

or a strong attachment to the world of feelings.

While this tall, dark, and handsome man might be a welcoming symbol for many of us, it is important to remember that the cards that he carries in a reading will provide more information. If darker or worrying cards are close by, he could be a disruptive influence, romantically troublesome, or even abusive. This Jack, when alone, is simply a lover, but the cards that he pulls around him will flesh out what kind of lover he is. Positive cards will amplify this card's positive characteristics, alerting you to the woman of your dreams or a knight in shining armor.

### As a daily card:

If you have drawn the Jack of Hearts as a daily card, alone, then your own romantic affairs will be of importance. If you are single, then the card could suggest potential romances or opportunities and will ask you how you feel about the possibility of such. Could the Lover arouse romantic interest within you? When this card enters your day, you might find yourself attracted to someone or thinking about the potential of a new relationship.

As a daily card, Jack of Hearts could suggest that the arrow of Cupid is aimed in your direction. Whether you are looking for love or are happily coupled, the Lover can represent interest of a romantic or sexual nature. This might not be immediately obvious, depending on its source, but the card will inform you that someone in your environment has intentions of a passionate nature.

At its core, this card regards our deep feelings and romantic ideals. As a daily card of inspiration, it can regard pleasant gestures from a partner or suitor and includes those giddy feelings of love that we all experience when we begin a new relationship.

*Keywords:*

Romance, romantic relations, passion, affection, faithfulness, love

...



## THE STRANGER

A mysterious young woman gazes into the distance. Wearing a beret, she stands beneath the light of the moon and holds a fan just below her face. Who might she be? This lady is a symbol of the unknown, waiting for all of us within the shadows.

It is only natural that the unknown is a little intimidating. We are all taught, as children, not to interact with strangers, so a card like this can trigger feelings of concern or worry. However, we must remember that everyone we have brought into our life was once a stranger, soon to become known. It might make sense to be wary of strangers to begin with, but not all of them will pose a threat. The cards that sit with the Jack of Spades will show you if this curious figure intends to

become a friend or foe.

Although this card depicts a young woman, the card is representative of *all* strangers; thus, anyone unknown to us at this time. A stranger could be a potential lover, business contact, friend, or someone simply offering assistance. When this card is drawn, we must simply remember that they are not part of our social set or business contacts yet, and this is how we will identify them in our day-to-day business.

### *As a daily card:*

While this card could most definitely suggest a stranger appearing in your day, its core meaning concerns the unknown. It is all of those things that are unfamiliar and undiscovered. The light of the moon is weak in comparison to the sun, so it can often be difficult to see when it glides over a reading. Think of this card as being like the fan in the young woman's hand. It obscures sight and muffles sound.

Many of us like to know where we stand, so this card will not be welcomed by everyone. However, when pulled in the context of a daily reading, it will tell a diviner that not everything can be seen at the present time. This needn't be as negative as it seems. It could, as an example, suggest that something of value is in motion but you are yet to hear about it. Confirmation of something you have been waiting for could be in the post.

When in shadow, the Stranger might turn up as a warning: Are things going on behind your back, or is there something you should be aware of that you are

not? In negative spread positions, stranger danger is most definitely something to be cautious of. Someone could be hiding important information from you or is not being entirely honest.

*Keywords:*

Mystery, unknown, unfamiliar, obscurity,  
caution, warning

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### THE APPRENTICE

A smiling young man looks out at you. He is fit and a picture of health, secure in his body and physical environment. Framed by two wrenches, he is connected to work and effort. The ivy, symbolizing the natural world, crawls around him and crowns him.

Standing within a grid, he is methodical and organized and takes one stable step at a time.

The Jack of Diamonds can easily become associated with work and our climb up the career ladder, but we must remember that he is simply an apprentice, someone who is starting out and learning the ropes. While this makes good sense within the working environment, it can be applied to a host of different situations—to the new parent or a bride and groom, all starting out on a new adventure and finding their way, step by step.

The Apprentice is studious and dedicated, knowing where he would like to be. In questions relating to romance, he would be a sure bet, offering dependability and a reliable choice of partner. In other areas of life, his (or her) effort is noted. This person is not work shy and is eager to learn.

In a reading, the Jack of Diamonds will illustrate those starting out. When connected with you, these individuals, both male and female, will indicate anyone who is trustworthy and eager to invest their energy and time. Of course, this will be dependent on what cards sit with the Apprentice. If it carries disruptive or negative cards, then this hard worker will likely become slack or uncommitted.

*As a daily card:*

As a daily card, drawn alone, the Apprentice suggests starting something new. This will make obvious sense for anyone who wishes to embark on a new job or some kind of education or training. The opportunity for doing so could come your way, but with the presence of the Jack of Diamonds, keeping your ears and eyes open for promising doorways into something new will serve you well.

It is important to remember that when this card turns up as a daily draw, things will take time. You might wish to achieve your desires overnight, but that is not how things happen. Some things are worth waiting for and will require time, commitment, and patience. When this card is drawn, know that you are on the right path

but that now is the time to stick with the job at hand. Rolling up your sleeves and showing dedication is the way to go.

Due to the rank of this card, inexperience is present: if it is depicting a situation in your day, be aware of your limitations. In response to romantic questions, this card suggests the start of a relationship and the time and effort that it takes to get things right. It could indicate a need to slow down and not rush into something.

*Keywords:*

Stability, organization, learning, dedication,  
steadiness, commitment

## The Queens

The Queens behold mature feminine energy and, when mixed with their element, possess different qualities. These are the nurturers in a given situation, nurturing through encouragement, compassion, advice, or practicality. All the queens lean toward the feminine, but don't get caught up in thinking that they will represent only females in your readings. The Queen of Hearts, as an example, represents friends of all genders; the pictorial description is simply that of a warm and kindly soul, light and full of life and understanding.

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### THE LEADER

The Queen of Clubs is a striking lady, enclosed within the wing of an eagle. Looking into your eyes with confidence and belief, she is certain and in control. For these reasons, many look up to and follow her. She is a natural born leader, always willing to take the reins. Naturally attractive, this queen is inspiring though, at times, might feel a little intimidating to an onlooker.

Mixed with the element of Fire (Clubs), we find a strong and independent person in this card. She knows what she wants and she knows just how to get it. You will find her in all walks of life, leading groups or coun-

tries or encouraging her children to stand up for themselves and carve out their own path. On social media, she is an influencer. In your personal life, she is a man or woman who gets things done without stalling.

The downside to this figure is that she is not above manipulation. When surrounded by difficult cards, she can be pushy or even a bully. This is someone who will achieve her goal at any cost. When she expresses as challenging, she becomes a dictator and has no interest in team play. She wants to lead and has no intention of following or joining forces with others.

#### *As a daily card:*

As a daily card, the Leader asks that you draw on your own leadership skills. This is a time to pull on reserves of confidence and take control. If you have become frustrated by following the lead of others, it could be time to stand up and make your own mark. This will not feel natural to everyone, and not every person enjoys leading; at a core level, the card could simply be asking that you take charge of your own life or a specific situation, rather than becoming a commander or figurehead.

If this does not make immediate sense, then the Queen of Clubs could be suggesting that you have more influence than you actually believe. With influence comes responsibility, so be careful of how you lead and what encouragement you provide for the more vulnerable. A good example is important, especially in any kind of public life.

#### *Keywords:*

Inspiring, attractive, influential, controlling, manipulative

...



#### **THE FRIEND**

You can see the kindness in this queen's open face. Her eyes are bright with compassion, and care is etched into her heart. With roses in her hair, representing love and affection, this queen is receptive and invests time in you and your

life.

Friends can come in all shapes and sizes, and this card is a symbol for all of them. The openness of this character can be seen in your friendship circles, whether your closest mates are male, female, young, or old. When this card shows up in your reading, know that this queen simply denotes a person you are close to. As with all the face cards, the cards around it will highlight which priorities this friend has.

When the card is in a favorable group, we see someone who has your best interests at heart. This is someone who wishes for you to do well, and will support you through thick and thin. They are there for the good times but do not vanish when things get rough. However, this will not always be the case when she carries problemat-



ic or negative cards to the right. She can become the backstabber, the unfaithful mate, or someone who gossips behind your back. With difficult cards, you might wonder why you have this person in your life at all.

*As a daily card:*

When this card is drawn singly in the context of a day, it could alert you to a friend in your environment, someone who is there for you. However, it is also likely that the card will ask you how good of a friend you are too. Is it time to put the judgment of others to one side? Might you suspend your own needs for an hour or two and concentrate on the requirements of someone else?

We often think about whether others fulfill their duties within the unwritten contract of friendship, but it can be useful to occasionally reflect on how good of a friend we are to them. It is easy to become wrapped up in our own affairs and neglect our nearest and dearest or talk on about where we are at, forgetting to ask how the friend sitting opposite us is feeling.

As a daily card, the Queen of Hearts could just suggest time with those people who care. If you have been busy with work or struggling lately, then a little “friend time” is needed. This card can advise kicking back and spending time with your mates, organizing a night out (or in) with the girls or the lads, or just meeting up for a chat over a coffee.

*Keywords:*

Compassion, thoughtfulness, platonic love, emotional support, kindness

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**THE THINKER**

A mature lady with flowers in her hair, like a crown, stands before you. Her eyes are closed and she is thinking. This is someone with a good mind, able to analyze a situation and make important decisions. She has the world of experience

behind her.

The Queen of Spades is the ideas person of the deck. She is someone, either male or female, who is an expert at problem-solving and working out solutions in their head. Of course, intelligence and knowledge are part and parcel of this, suggesting someone able to draw on their education or learning.

The Thinker is also a good communicator. Her words are considered and well thought out, meaning that she can deliver her ideas clearly and is able to speak with people on a multitude of different levels. She might show up as a teacher, a writer, or simply someone who is level headed and easy to talk to.

When carrying challenging cards, the Queen of Spades can become the overthinker. Her clear thought

can become clouded and might transform into worry or doubt. Alternatively, with difficult cards surrounding the Thinker, negative or even spiteful and harsh words could become part of her vocabulary.

*As a daily card:*

As a daily card, the Queen of Spades advises finding space for clear thought. Take yourself away and think things through, since the voices and opinions of others could become distracting. You may have something you need to work through, and a little distance from others might do the trick.

The communicative aspect of this card might concern choosing your words carefully and being clear in your intention. When we don't, people can misinterpret what we mean, so it is important to make sure that you are understood perfectly. Think about your audience. Not everyone is emotionally robust, and people can become hurt. A little tact might be needed with certain individuals since the truth can cut if delivered insensitively.

*Keywords:*

Analytical, decision maker, intelligence,  
knowledgeable, communication

...



## THE PRAGMATIST

A woman wears a hood. In the darkness of the forest, she is resourceful and skilled, knowing how to fend for herself. She has an arsenal of life hacks, knowing the best ways of navigating her way through daily obstacles and problems.

The Queen of Diamonds is the most practical of all the queens. Grounded within the element of Earth, she exists in the real world. We have all met women and men like this; those individuals who are not distracted by emotions, ego, or doubt. Instead, they get down to the job at hand. Patience is part of this queen's makeup, and she doesn't believe in cutting corners.

If The Pragmatist falls into your reading, then know that he or she will have the ability and self-control to get a job done, offering you practical suggestions and assistance. Her ideas will not be pie in the sky but, rather, will be suggestions that can be implemented realistically. If you are looking for someone who is down to earth and can offer real help, this is the person you'll want to see in your readings.

In some readings, such as those covering romantic questions, the practical nature of this queen could appear stuffy. Of course, the stable relationship is underrated, but not everyone wants their emotional unions or sex

life to be predictable or mundane. Sometimes, a little fantasy-making or mystery can be an asset.

*As a daily card:*

When drawn daily or alone, The Pragmatist will advise adopting the most accomplishable or hands-on approach. As an example, choosing a wedding that is feasible and within your price range would make more sense than going into debt for a day you'll be paying off for the rest of your marriage. This is not a time for convoluted ideas. Instead, consider what is achievable with the resources you have.

When making decisions, you may wish to reach for the stars, but this card suggests coming down to earth. Big ideas and life designs might be out of your reach at this time and could lead to disappointment. While we are often encouraged to dream big, compromises must be made at times. While all of this might sound disheartening, it shouldn't be. This card, when drawn singly, is about realism. While we may wish for fame, fortune, and all that lies in between, appreciating what we have and the opportunities that *are* available could be the true key to happiness.

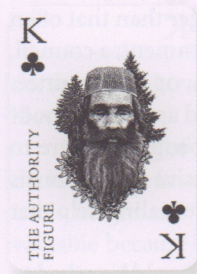
**Keywords:**

Practicality, resourceful, realism,  
compromise, patience

## The Kings

The Kings are the highest in rank and are the masters of the show. They are depicted as males in these illustrations, but the masculine energy associated with these cards can be found in males and females alike.

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### THE AUTHORITY FIGURE

An experienced man looks directly at you. He is stern in his stance, and while he may be a helpful ally, he can appear unnerving too. This is someone who arrives with power and rule; this will affect all whom he encounters, depending on their attitude to sovereignty and order.

The King of Clubs is a figure of authority and could (though not always) be connected to official matters. Most obviously, he can appear as a police officer, judge, or boss, but depending on the person being read for, this person could manifest in a variety of people. For the adolescent, he might transpire as a parent or teacher. For the adult, he could represent a boss or a government official.

As with all the face cards, the Authority Figure is neutral when alone. It is the other cards that will flesh out his meaning and let you know if he is for or against you. With light cards at his side, he will be supportive

and helpful. When he is surrounded by challenging cards, he could become a tyrant, oppressive, and dominant. The shades of the different cards will color his personality and intentions.

*As a daily card:*

As a daily card, the Authority Figure is a symbol of command. As a single card, rather than sitting within a reading system, his charge can be larger than that of an individual—he might represent government, a council, a group of people making a decision, or a committee. Although the image on this card could appear foreboding, there will be times when these people are here to support you, so don't be too apprehensive when it turns up in daily draws. It could simply be revealing help that is available.

When drawn as a daily card, you could be asked to step into your own authority. This could be as simple as taking control of your own life and being responsible for your happiness and security, not relying on others to look after you or sort your problems.

*Keywords:*

Command, rule, sovereignty, power, official representatives

... as a

## THE GUIDE



A handsome man stands before you, looking down in reflection. With the commanding horns of a ram, he is in control of his feelings. The arteries of his heart take the place of a breastplate, indicating his emotional experience and understanding. Love and care run through his veins like blood.

The King of Hearts is mature emotion within the deck. He has loved, suffered, and overcome emotional trials in life and has learned from it. His guidance is valuable because he understands all the situations you are going through, because he has been there too. With this wisdom he can help guide you through life's obstacles.

The Guide does not tell you what to do. Instead, he creates a space where you can work out which way to go with a little direction. He can help you view different avenues that you'd been unable to see before. He provides a safe place from which you can consider options and make decisions.

In general, this individual might arise as a counselor, parent, or wise elder in your life, supporting you on a troubled path and lending you their own experience as a guide to make use of.

### *As a daily card:*

As a daily card, the Guide is a symbol of emotional help and assistance. Whereas he could represent someone in your day or the need to seek out a professional in this field, he can also encourage finding ways of dealing with your own emotional care. Journaling, taking time out of your routine, finding a little distance from problems, or taking up yoga all are ways in which we might calm our emotions or challenge a negative mindset.

For some, the card will advise using your own experience and life skills as a way of helping those in need. Is a younger member of your community looking for a shoulder to cry on or a friendly ear? Might a friend benefit from some well-thought-out words of wisdom rather than an "I told you so"?

#### *Keywords:*

Emotional maturity, wisdom, guidance,  
counseling, measured

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### **THE ADVISOR**

An intelligent and considered man looks in your direction through spectacles. The leaf of a plant blasts out from behind him, suggestive of thoughts and ideas. The element of Air is associated with the mind and communication. This man has mastered both his thoughts and his speech, able to draw on facts and knowledge that will be able to assist you.

The King of Spades is the advisor of the pack, offering his opinion to anyone in need of direction or an educated perspective. In a reading, he might appear in the guise of a careers advisor, doctor, legal expert, or some kind of specialist. However, it is not only within the professional sector that you will find him.

We all have people in our life who can provide us with counsel and instruction. Some are better than others, and when this card falls into a reading, you are encouraged to seek out those who can offer unbiased and clear advice, who are distanced from the situation you are in a quandary about. The King of Spades should be able to cut through the confusion and help you see things from a new perspective, providing logical and rational tips and pointers.

If this card is surrounded by difficult cards, beware of manipulation or a biased attitude. The person

depicted by this card could have a vested interest in your current situation, and their advice could be tarnished by self-interest.

*As a daily card:*

In the context of your day, The Advisor could suggest approaching someone for a professional or impartial opinion. If you feel as though you are stuck between a rock and a hard place, with family members and friends being too close to a situation to help, you may need to travel a little further to gain a neutral point of view from someone detached from what is going on.

In some scenarios, the King of Spades will bring out the advisor in you. What are you equipped to advise others about? Are you in a position to make sound judgment or offer clear and concise counsel to others?

*Keywords:*

Mastery of thoughts, impartial advice, logic,  
sound judgment

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## THE PROTECTOR

A strong and stable man looks out from this card. He is mature and experienced, having built himself up from nothing. Golden chain mail surrounds him, suggesting both his accumulated wealth but also protection.

The King of Diamonds is the businessman of the deck, and whatever he (or she) touches turns to gold. This is someone with an aptitude for finance, knowing how to make it and invest it well. He has expensive taste but is also happy to share his wealth with others.

When this card falls into a reading, the Protector could suggest a financial advisor, bank manager, property investor, loan shark, business owner, or someone in a prosperous position. However, these are not the only ways in which you will find him. The King of Diamonds represents someone who is secure and could turn up as a hard worker who is able to take care of his or her outings, family, and dependents. This person is the Protector, looking after those he cares about, be that financially or through other physical means.

When in shadow, the Protector can become controlling. Those under his influence or with no other option might feel restricted by his care, unable to make their own choices and decisions. This might arise as the overprotective parent or a bullying or nagging spouse.

### *As a daily card:*

As a daily card, the King of Diamonds asks that you take charge of your finances and assets. A little order might be needed, and the spendthrifts among us might need to tighten their belt. In this sense, the card is a warning, asking that we hold tight to our physical possessions and make sure we are aware of where each penny is going.

When this card arises, it is not only our finances that might need a once-over or that we need to secure. Boundaries might be necessary with certain folk, and internet security may need to be taken up a notch. Think about all the things set in place to keep you safe. Something as simple as a good diet and a good night's sleep is needed to keep coughs and colds at bay.

#### *Keywords:*

Security, business, financially savvy, protective, boundaries

## UNDERSTANDING THE PIP CARDS

The pip cards are the bulk of the deck, comprising 40 cards. They have been designed to incorporate all the experiences that a person will encounter within life, whether singly or in combination with other cards. People have not been included in the illustrations for these cards, so as not to confuse the reader with the courts (face cards). The symbols used are a language in themselves, using those objects or animals that will trigger an intuitive response within the reader beyond words and help them remember the meanings of the said card. As an example, the symbol of a lightbulb is commonly associated with ideas and brainwaves.

### Understanding a Single Card

Each pip card is set up in the following way:

#### *Image*

An image has been included to help the reader remember the meaning of the card. These have been attractively put together to aid your understanding of each card, but also to make the experience of reading both magical and memorable for the person being read for.

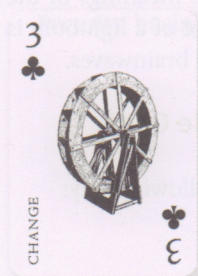
## Playing-Card Reference

Each card has a playing-card reference, as you would see in a standard poker deck. Each pip has a number and suit icon. The numbers have no direct meanings but act as a means of identifying each card.

### Title

The title for each image provides the core meaning for the card. As you become familiar with the cards, these will fade into the background while reading, but they have been added discreetly to aid the new reader as they learn.

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### CHANGE

*A waterwheel turns, its paddles taking advantage of the flowing or falling water.*

The one constant in life is change. Among everything else, it is dependable. Changes can be life altering or small, but all have the ability to affect us, whether the change is swift and momentous like a wave, or if it drips into our life consistently and steadily, modifying a situation over time.

It is empowering to consider how we have the

power to affect our life with change, but there will always be times when life affects us rather than the other way around. Life is not only about the decisions that we make, but the choices made by those close to us (our partner, friends, family, or colleagues) as well as those in authoritative positions (our employer, local councils, the government). In these situations, we will feel the repercussions of change, even if we did not instigate them.

Not everyone enjoys change, but it is important to remember that this card is not wholly negative. Change can be welcomed, such as a promotion or a new home, and needn't always suggest that things have taken a nosedive. How you respond to it, if you do, will always be key. While kicking back against it might seem the obvious thing to do, there will be times when acceptance is necessary. Going with the flow, in some situations, will be more beneficial than trying to prevent movement. Therefore, choosing your battles might be appropriate with this card, since there are simply some things that we cannot change, however challenging they might be.

*As a daily card:*

Change is part of every day, so in the context of a daily card, it might be less significant than if positioned in a larger reading or with a greater context (such as a six-month read or a question about career prospects). Within a day, it could highlight the altering of plans or the change of your usual routine. In some cases, this will bring joy: a surprise visitor may arrive, altering your diary, for example.



Notice the changes within your day. If there is something that inconveniences you, then it is important to address this if possible. However, there will be times when we have no control over the hand of fate, and it will be better to go with the flow.

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## COMMITMENT

*A ring, when worn on the hands of two people, suggests a recognized commitment to one another.*

When we see a ring, we think of weddings and engagements, and,

in the right placement, this can certainly be the case when this card arrives in a reading. But emotional connections are not the only commitments described by this card. Other partnerships can be noted, such as business agreements and contracts—the latter showing up when the Mail card (4 of Spades) is beside it.

Commitment is a good card when asking about a relationship of any kind because it will display the loyalty and dependability of someone else central to the question. If accompanying a face card, such as the Stranger, it will describe someone you do not know, but who employs dedication; perhaps a nurse you are yet to meet, who does not know you personally. When with the Lover, the card will describe a faithful bond

between yourself and a loving partner.

Commitment is a good card to receive because it alerts us to those situations and characters who have our back. This is good to know if you are planning to move forward with a person or are investing in something that will need commitment on both sides.

*As a daily card:*

Commitment will become an important part of your day. This might not be as obvious as the signing of contracts or marriage proposals; rather, it could concern committing yourself to being in a certain place at a certain time or agreeing that you can attend something on a certain date. In some cases, it will concern giving your word or making a promise. Putting effort into something could be relevant, such as being committed to a particular project or situation.

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## COMMUNICATION

*This card carries the image of an antique telephone, ready to ring.*

Communication is essential in all relationships, so it makes this card an important one in the deck. It

suggests the interaction of two parties and the sharing of information and emotions. At first glance it might seem similar to the News card, but this card suggests a back-and-forth sharing rather than just a one-way stream of information.

Communication can materialize as a telephone call, a text message, a letter, an email, or in person. It opens up conversation and merits a response. Talking to a neighbor, a call from a friend, or a written message on your phone are all examples of communication that you take part in. In some situations, the cards will reveal communication between others, but it will mainly speak of instances where you will be in direct communication with someone else.

*As a daily card:*

Communication will have some kind of relevance in your day. This could regard a conversation you are yet to have that will be influential in some way. Of course, we spend most days talking to a variety of people, but this card hints at just one interaction that is either special or significant. Keep alert, since something that is said could be to your benefit or useful for the future.

The Love card will describe a fruitful bond

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## CONFLICT

*The image on this card is of a single boxing glove. Since it's held up and ready to fight, imagine that this glove symbolizes someone on the attack.*

It is inevitable that we will all come up against conflict in life at some point. Some of us may be more likely to run into trouble than others, but conflict is something all of us will encounter eventually.

Conflict can transpire as a crossed word with a lover, or a dispute about something you have great passion for, or it might even manifest with a stranger, a clash you'd not bargained on. Most motorists will likely have experienced the latter, being beeped by someone else on the road or having an angry fist shaken in their direction.

While this card can describe fleeting or minor collisions with others, it will also, at times, describe bigger conflicts. Legal fights or battles with authority can be highlighted by this card. If partnered with Romance (2 of Hearts), then a difficult relationship is noted. If it shows up with Commitment (6 of Hearts), then there may be a disagreement between yourself and a business associate, landlord, or boss.

How we react to conflict is as important, if not more so, than the conflict itself. Biting back at the source of the clash can sometimes result in a greater drama than

you might already be experiencing. This card might appear scary to some, but we can minimize its damage by choosing our battles wisely. However, there will be instances when its presence can advise donning our armor and standing up to what opposes us. If Strength (7 of Clubs) sits next to this card, it would be the advice the card imparts.

*As a daily card:*

As a daily card, you are being warned that conflict is either heading your way or is required. If it is headed in your direction, then you are advised to think about how you deal with it. Conflict can arrive in many ways, and you must judge whether it is worth responding to or not. In some cases, a little understanding or a few gentle words will ease the situation, but there will be occasions when you need to rise up and stand your ground. This may not be a time either to walk away or to be taken advantage of.

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## DECISION

*A crossroads stands before you, offering two options. Do you decide to follow the arrow facing left or the one pointing to the right?*

We make decisions every hour, every day. On some days, we make life-changing, earth-shattering decisions that can turn our world upside down. But generally, the choices we make are mundane, considering what we'd like from a café menu or whether we decide to paint our bedroom a dark or lighter blue.

Decisions shape our future. What we say or do in the present can affect not only what happens straightaway but things that happen in years to come. Have you, for example, ever passed up an opportunity to do something or gain a qualification, only to find out many years later that it would have helped a current passion or pursuit? Similarly, our past decisions can have a habit of creeping up on us later in life, sometimes when we'd rather they wouldn't. The decision to do something we know is wrong can result in doors being closed in our face, if not now, then in the future.

Receiving this card can bring your awareness back to the power of decision-making. You hold the future within your hands, which makes the present a very powerful time. When you draw the Decision card, it can suggest that a choice needs to be made and that your future will be affected in one way or another. It is important to remember that not doing anything is a choice in itself.

It is always important to remember that when combined with other cards, Decision can be fleshed out more fully. When partnered with Conflict (3 of Diamonds), a decision could lead to a dispute. When followed by Romance (2 of Hearts), a choice about whether to start or end a relationship could be relevant.

*As a daily card:*

When pulled daily, this card will speak of choices that need to be made, and much of these will be mundane. These minor decisions may not have far-reaching consequences, but they could determine whether your day goes easily or not. While it might seem noble to take the longer route, you might consider an option that will lighten your load, as an example.

If the card repeats and reappears over a series of days, the decision you need to make might be that much more important or is something you are consciously putting off. Is there a decision that you are either unwilling to make or are pushing to the back of your mind?

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## DELAYS

*A snail slithers along the ground slowly, taking its own time.*

The 5 of Diamonds is a card suggesting a slow time frame. Therefore, it represents delays and those things

that are dragging or are taking their time.

This card can be frustrating in a reading because it suggests that things are not happening when they possibly should be, and this could cause problems and, in some cases, financial difficulties: time means money in

some situations. When coupled with other cards, you will be able to see where delays might be occurring, allowing you to find ways around them or seek alternative methods of doing something. When partnered with Money (Ace of Diamonds), there will be a delay in finances reaching you; perhaps a bounced check or a client unable to pay. With Misfortune (10 of Spades) following, problems may be upon you, but you might have managed to hold them off for the foreseeable future.

*As a daily card:*

When the Delay card arrives as a daily messenger, it will speak of things taking time and holdups. This could likely be frustrating. However, in some situations, a little extra time could be helpful. How might you use this extra time effectively?

Generally, this card could be asking that you accept that something is not going to happen as quickly as you wished. Rather than become stressed or upset, accepting that this is how it is to be could cause you less worry or anxiety.

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## DISINGENUITY

*The image shows a mask with a flower attached to it. Something is hidden, regardless of the beautiful rose that has been added to distract you.*

Disingenuity can be a worrying card. To receive it suggests that someone is being dishonest or is consciously manipulating a situation, unbeknown to us. While it is likely to be unwelcome for most, it can be a useful card in a reading because it alerts us to something that is not true. We are warned that the intentions of someone within our environment are not to be trusted or that they could be spinning us a line.

Those who request a reading about their love life will be fearful of a card like this, especially if they have worries about a partner's fidelity. When accompanied by one of the people cards in the deck, it would certainly suggest that the person highlighted is not being truthful, and in a romantic inquiry this could result in a partner being unfaithful. However, just because the Disingenuity card nudges up to a lover in a reading, it does not necessarily mean straight-out cheating every time. It could simply suggest that the person in question is saying one thing and thinking another. This could mean, in some relationships, that they are holding back their true thoughts because they don't want to hurt your

feelings. This could manifest in numerous situations and around many subjects.

There will be times when Disingenuity addresses you personally. None of us are entirely honest all the time, and occasionally not with ourselves. This card can highlight your own disingenuous thoughts and actions, those things you may not be willing to admit.

*As a daily card:*

As with many cards, Disingenuity appears to be hard hitting on the surface. When we see a card like this, we immediately consider that our partner is having an affair, our boss is thinking of sacking us, or that our best friend is less genuine than we'd hoped. Of course, there will be times when these things do arise in the cards, but as a daily card, alone, it simply advises that something is untrue. Not every deception is as grandiose as those mentioned already: Could a friend be telling a little white lie when you ask if she is available for a coffee, or has your teenage son played down the amount of trouble he got into at school for not handing his homework in on time?

Think about how honest you are being with yourself. We all have blind spots, and it's quite easy to persuade ourselves that something is true when it is not. How many of us have kidded ourselves that we had fewer glasses of wine than we actually had the night before, or have tried to convince ourselves that someone is good for us when we know, full well, that they are not?

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## ENDINGS

*A skeleton, adorned in marigolds and reminiscent of the Day of the Dead goddess La Catrina, stares straight into your eyes.*

Endings are simply part of life. For new beginnings to exist, something must end first, and this is completely natural. However, many are fearful of endings. The skull in this card represents many kinds of death and suggests far more than our own mortality.

Think, if you will, of a school education. Learning does not end when we leave school. In fact, many students will continue their education, obtaining higher certificates or degrees. This card sits in between each step, since we must finish school before we go to college. Similarly, nine months of pregnancy must end for a woman to give birth to a child, and the single life of a bachelor must finish if he is to become married and faithful to one partner.

It would be unrealistic to say that this card is always a token of liberating and successful endings, since it will turn up in readings to describe failed relationships, the loss of loved ones, and conclusions we will not welcome. However, don't fall into the trap of always interpreting a negative message when it arrives. Even in the most difficult of scenarios, there may be some wisdom or

valid experience to be gained from an ending. Look for the silver lining, though this may not come straightaway and might take a little time and reflection.

*As a daily card:*

We must remember that when cards come up in the context of a day, it is more likely that their meaning will be less significant than if we were reading for a longer period of time. An ending within a year or several months may have more impact than one that takes place within a 24-hour time frame. As an example, in a daily read the Endings card could congratulate you on making your way to the end of your to-do list or canceling your mobile phone contract. It is unlikely that these two events would be major episodes within a yearly read, where more-momentous incidents would be described.

We all experience endings within our day—the end of a cold, perhaps, a subscription running out, or even becoming unfriended (or unfriending someone) on social media. As a daily card, you may wish to use Endings as a prompt and think about what needs concluding that no longer serves your well-being or interests.

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## FAMILY

*A large tree stands tall. Its branches are wide and reach out like arms. Its roots, though unseen, spread beneath the earth.*

The tree is a symbol of family, of those who are alive and our ancestors before us. The roots suggest our family history, stretching deep into the past, whereas the branches open out and describe our relatives, those who may not be close but who are connected by blood or marriage.

It is important to remember that this card suggests those who are part of our actual family. This is true for the most part, but in some readings, such as those connected to work, a team or tribe we feel connected to could be appropriate. A family business might be insinuated.

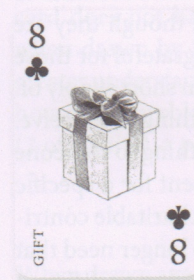
Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, sons, daughters, and in-laws are concerned when this card is drawn, and other cards in the deck will flesh out its significance or who is concerned. When pulled with a court card, it will direct you to a specific character within your family or a specific community; if one of the other pip cards supports it, you will gain a better idea about what is being addressed.

As a daily card:

By itself, the card speaks of your family. As a daily card, it could suggest that someone you are related to, by blood or marriage, is significant in some way: they might be visiting or contacting, or it may even be their birthday. Are you planning a family get-together or has there been a dispute with a brother or sister that is on your mind?

The Family card is neutral and has no emotional attachment; therefore it offers distinct meaning only when accompanied by other cards. As a prompt, the single card could inspire action, suggesting that you contact a family member whom you have not heard from for some time.

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## GIFT

*A present sits before you, gift-wrapped and tied up in a ribbon with a bow. It waits to be untied and opened.*

The gift is something that is given to you from another. While this could be a birthday or Christmas present, as the image appears as such, it needn't be. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes and can be received all year-round.

The Gift card might represent a literal gift, presented in person or sent lovingly and generously from

someone else. However, we must not become locked into always thinking that the card describes an actual present. In some cases, the gift is not tangible but is no less valuable. The gift of time is underrated. When someone shares an hour with you, either for pleasure or because you need their assistance, an important offering is being shared. Equally, compassion or a little well-meaning advice could be a valid interpretation.

*As a daily card:*

Within a day, you may receive a gift. The size and monetary value of this gift are not suggested by the card when alone, but it is likely to be something you will appreciate. If it does not describe a physical package or a cash donation, then it might mean that someone is extending their hand in sympathy, should you need a shoulder to cry on, or is offering their time, even though they are busy. In some cases, you will be most grateful for those who provide something that they are in short supply of.

The card will likely describe something you receive, but it can also inspire you to gift something to someone else. Once again, this could be a present for a specific occasion, but it might also describe a charitable contribution. What do you have that you no longer need that could be of use to someone else? Depending on different scenarios, you may feel inclined to gift a few hours of your time to a good cause, donate some old clothes to a charity, give blood, or visit with a lonely or vulnerable neighbor.



## HOME

*This card shows a Victorian town house with one door and many windows. The house stands proud and secure.*

This card shows a specific house, but it is simply a symbol for the home. We all live in different styles and sizes of home, so it will represent something different for everyone who reads this card—apartments, houseboats, studio flats, and static caravans all fall under the umbrella of “home.” It simply describes where you live.

As with many of the cards in this deck, the Home card does not have a positive or negative association when drawn by itself. Only other cards will allow for greater understanding—with Misfortune (10 of Spades), household problems could be an issue; with Romance (2 of Hearts), a potential love nest.

*As a daily card:*

When drawn as a daily card, the home will be important. For some, home improvements may be necessary. For others, the card could simply determine a day at home, whether that is a day off from work or for some other reason.



When drawn singly, the card may concentrate on feelings associated with the home. The meaning could therefore encompass safety, security, relaxation, or anything you associate with being in your own home. Once you have shut your front door, you can lock out the demands of life and problems that might exist within the external world.

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## IDEAS

*This card shows a lightbulb, often associated with bright ideas, clarity, and revelations.*

We have ideas all day long. These range from thoughts about how something could be adjusted for

the better, or monumental brainwaves that come less often. This card suggests both of these, as well as every other idea—useful or defunct—that passes through your mind. Ideas can shape our world and, in some cases, will result in viable solutions to problems or easier ways of living your life. An idea will usually propel a person into action. As an example, you may consider decorating your living room (Ideas + Home) or think about going on a vacation (Ideas + Travel).

To have an idea can be a little like a lightbulb being switched on, so this card can represent an “a-ha” moment or a sudden thought that comes quickly. Have you ever

puzzled over something for hours or days, only to receive a flash of inspiration, an idea that feels as though it was channeled from a higher consciousness or power? When this card arrives in a reading, depending on the cards that accompany it, its energy can become very powerful.

*As a daily card:*

Not all of us are ideas people, but when this card is received as a daily message, it could remind you that your thoughts are important. Have you had a new idea that you may not have voiced openly or shared with others? If so, this card could suggest that now is the time to follow it through. As a single card, ideas are important, so it might be time to put your thinking cap on with regard to a certain situation. Making a list of some of those things that excite you or could make your routine less of a bind may be useful.

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## LOSS

*For this card, we find the image of an elaborate and old headstone, shaped in the form of a Celtic cross.*

It is inevitable that we all will experience significant loss once in our lives, if not more, and this can range from the frustrat-

ing but easy-to-overcome trials to great grief. When this card is drawn, it does cast a shadow over the reading table, but it is not always a forecaster of great doom. Of course, there will be times when loss can be catastrophic and deeply scarring, but the cards will also highlight those times when loss affects us but does not destroy. In some readings, it will be less predictive but more descriptive; as an example, when carried by a court card, we could be witnessing someone who has been crushed by bereavement or is affected by the loss of material assets.

When this card is drawn, don't jump to wild conclusions, but think of ways in which this space can be filled or moved on from. The card of Loss, when on the right of a court card, shows that the person in question is lacking and could do with some understanding and sensitivity. We are not all confident enough to show our feelings and the presence of the card could alert you to something that is troubling someone shown in the cards.

#### *As a daily card:*

This card, when drawn alone, could identify grief or a loss that you are finding difficult to cope with or move on from. However, not all losses described within the parameters of a daily read are as severe as death or destruction. When predictive, the card can speak of small financial losses or even time that has been wasted. A lost possession could be indicated, or even a damaged friendship. Whether the card is alerting you to a potential loss or describes something you feel is already

missing from your life will be based on your intuition. Anyone suffering from grief will know, straight away, if the card concerns a gap in their life that is impossible to fill after a loved one has passed.

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### **LOVE**

*For Love, we find a beating heart, tender and real, rather than a symbolic one.*

Love is a jewel with many sides. Within an oracle reading, this title might bring romantic love to mind,

but this is only one facet of the card. In fact, there is already a card, Romance (2 of Hearts), that deals with this in the deck. When combined, the two speak of a strong bond or romantic commitment.

The Love card suggests warmth, compassion, and unconditional care. As well as being found within marriages and sexual partnerships, it also regards the love between parent and child, siblings, friends, or family members. If Love appears on the right of a court card, then we are made aware that someone has strong feelings and has your greatest interests at heart. It is always important to note whether these feelings are shared with the court, since not all love may be reciprocated.

In some scenarios, this card will be filtered by the card that accompanies it. For instance, with Endings (10

of Diamonds), there will be a change of heart; with Official Things (9 of Clubs), a marriage certificate could be relevant.

*As a daily card:*

When alone, the Love card is simply about strong feelings. This needn't always concern another person, since we can feel love for a project, a job, or a new home, or with life itself. In some cases, should it make sense, self-love can be considered. If you have asked a question and receive this card singly, then it is asking you to think about what or whom you love, since love will help you find the answer. If two options are available, use love to direct you toward the best choice.

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### LUCK

*A lucky horseshoe graces this card, suggesting luck is afoot for all who receive it.*

We all need a little luck from time to time. You could argue that we make our own luck, but there are times when it pays to be in the right place at the right time. This is not something we can always plan for, so we call it luck.

Luck can turn a difficult day into a better one. While

there will be times when it feels as though something has happened randomly, there are others when synchronistic luck feels as if it was meant for us, however unplanned. It can happen in many ways. In some cases, it can materialize as someone stepping in and helping us just when we need it; in other scenarios, we find something we were looking for or maybe didn't even realize we desired. But not all luck is as easy to detect as this. You might find that you have been lucky by taking a different route home and missing a two-hour traffic jam or, as an extreme example, find out that a decision you casually made prevented you from being put in some kind of danger.

When this card enters a reading, it will boost the card it sits next to, encouraging us to see the silver lining or benefit from some of life's more cloudy experiences.

*As a daily card:*

When arriving by itself, know that you are likely to be lucky and things will certainly go your way. While some of us will certainly experience large blessings or fortune, the presence of this card in a daily read will suggest that even-smaller strokes of luck will still brighten your day. What is important is that they are noted, regardless of size, and appreciated. Finding out that you have won a competition, that you are eligible for a discount, or that there is one place left on a course you were hoping to take are all examples of daily luck. Even changing appointments to dates ahead of time, which end up with brighter weather, could be described as being lucky.

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### MAIL

*A stack of letters are tied up with a piece of string, ready to be cut open and read.*

The Mail card is what we might call a neutral one, since it has no emotion connected to it. This is a card

that is best read in combination, since other cards will flesh out its meanings and alert you to the kind of correspondence the reading is focusing on.

This card covers all kinds of mail. It can deliver letters, bills, legal documents, birthday greetings, invitations, and bank statements. The other cards in the deck, such as Romance (love letters), Official Things (job offer, contracts, court summons), or News (advertisements, flyers, circulars) will determine what will arrive at your door. In some instances, this card will alert you to mail that you are aware of or are waiting on that has strict relevance to the reading, but there will be times when it predicts those things that are winging their way to you that you might not yet know about. If you have asked a question of the cards, then the mail will be connected to the subject about which you wish to know more.

In our modern age, not all mail will arrive through our mailbox. This card will also include electronic mail, such as email arriving in your inbox. Text messages and

online chat, however, would be better suited to the Communication card (8 of Spades).

*As a daily card:*

Relevant mail will arrive if this card shows up alone in your day. While the single card will not be able to tell you the nature of the mail, it does indicate that it will be significant in some way. A surprise postcard, tickets to a show, local information, or an anniversary card could brighten your day or provide you with much-needed information. If you are in doubt as to what this card is referring to, sit with your own mail and take a closer look. Even the most obscure piece of correspondence could have something hidden within it that you need to see.

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### MEMORIES

*A closed locket, possibly worn around the neck, holds old photographs from the past.*

We all have memories. We all have a back catalog of experiences, some warming and some difficult, which

we can draw on at any time. This card is a token of those things that are gone, whether from our distant childhood or from a few months previous.

When this card enters a reading, we are being asked

to consider those events that make up our past, since they will have some significance to our life at this time: they may, in some instances, help us solve a problem we are going through now. For example, experience is a good teacher. Looking back at mistakes or the bad choices a person has previously made can sometimes prevent them from making them again.

In some situations, the Memories card will simply concern reminiscence. Looking back at happy situations can be pleasurable, but there will be times when this card acts as a warning too: reflection or living in the past can be destructive and prevent us from moving forward, causing inaction rather than productivity. A person who cannot accept that a dead relationship is over or who is suffering from the grief of a partner who has passed may have trouble inviting new romantic possibilities into their life.

In some cases, this card will bring a situation or person back from the past and into the present. This is especially true when it accompanies a court card. When it sits on the right of the 12 "people" cards in the deck, it acknowledges those we have made memories with or those who are set to reenter our life. When with the Lover (Jack of Hearts), the two cards would suggest an ex-partner.

*As a daily card:*

As a daily card, Memories concerns your past. This could mean that something from some time ago is still lingering or is set to return. In the scope of a daily reading,

this could be as insignificant as a cold that will not go away, but it could also describe feelings that are recurring that might need to be dealt with. It could, therefore, indicate something you continue to have trouble confronting.

At its most positive, this card will regard pleasant memories, which can inspire and motivate. It can, at times, remind us of previous achievements and encourage us to accomplish more.

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## MISFORTUNE

*A volcano erupts, blowing hot lava and smoke into the air. Anyone nearby must take refuge away from its danger.*

The volcano in this card is a symbol of disadvantage and setback. We all suffer misfortunes from time to time, so this powerful emblem becomes a warning, suggesting that difficulties are on their way if they are not being experienced already.

It is only natural that a deck with cards such as Luck (9 of Hearts) and Satisfaction (3 of Spades) should also contain Misfortune, since both positive and negative experiences make up real life. The card could signify tragedies, such as a loss of money or a period of ill health; those things that can hinder or delay our progress. In some cases, this will be unexpected and unavoidable,

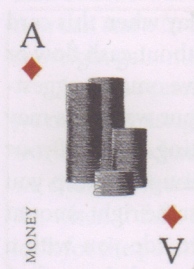
but when the card turns up, keeping an eye on our assets and foundations is advisable. Reading the small print on a contract or safeguarding your online security could prevent a challenging situation from arising or even lessen the misfortune headed your way.

When helping to describe a court card, Misfortune can color the person's temperament. This can turn a positive individual into someone who becomes worn and tainted by bad experience. When this is so, it might help us understand why a normally cheerful person has become moody or is acting out of character.

*As a daily card:*

The Misfortune card can describe devastating situations and destruction, but we must remember that in the context of daily reads, rather than those that look into a year or a longer period of time, the misfortunes experienced will likely be lessened. A daily misfortune could consist of running out of money when you need to pay for something, losing out on a job you wanted, or just a general run of bad luck: all things that can be easily overcome.

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## MONEY

*Four stacks of coins sit on the table, suggesting currency of all kinds.*

We are told that money makes the world go around. This may or may not be true, but what we do know

is that to get along in life these days, most people need it. As with other neutral cards in the deck, this card does not determine how much money is in question. Other cards will be able to explain the nature of the money, such as a potential inheritance when combined with Family or a wage when partnered with Work.

Money will speak of financial situations and could, in some readings, suggest a loan, a handout, or a windfall. If in a future position, then a financial acquisition is a possibility. If in the past, we could be looking at a security brought about by money that may have provided a solid foundation or, in less positive scenarios, may have been spent.

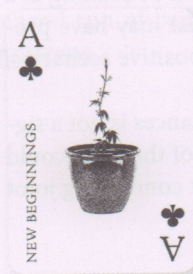
In a romantic reading, where finances is not a significant interpretation, the meaning of this card could suggest wealth and abundance, if not concerning joint assets or a partner's money.

*As a daily card:*

Money becomes the subject of your day when this card is drawn. If you have been worrying about cash flow or debts, then this card could be a positive omen, suggesting that a sum of money is coming your way. This may not be a great amount, capable of sorting out all of your debts or problems, but it could be enough to keep you going. There will be instances when just the right amount of money arrives to pay a bill or provide you with a necessity. Although the image on the card shows four piles of coins, incoming checks and money deposited in your account fall under this oracle card too.

There will be times when you feel flush and the Money card can alert you to this as well. Seeing this in your day could remind you that you have been doing well of late and could encourage you to treat yourself and enjoy what you have earned.

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## NEW BEGINNINGS

*A small sapling starts its life in a big pot, reaching up to the sky with its tiny leaves.*

New Beginnings occur for us all. They can manifest as major life shifts, such as a change of residence or career, or may show up as something less significant, such

as a change of image, learning something new, or a new diet. Often, it will take something to end before something new can start. In the case of a more healthful diet, illness or weight gain might have provoked the change.

In some cases, fresh starts will be out of our control; we might be assigned a new tutor or need to relocate for work. These changes may not be as welcome as those we choose ourselves, but this card is naturally optimistic; when it falls into a reading, you are encouraged to look for the positive gains you will receive from the new beginning indicated.

Depending on what has ended and what is beginning, a new beginning can be either easy or challenging. It is always important to see which cards partner this one. Whereas a new beginning with Love (Ace of Hearts) might feel exciting, with Loss (5 of Hearts) it could suggest moving on in grief or the next chapter after a failed love affair.

*As a daily card:*

We might consider that every day is a new beginning. Should this card turn up for you in a daily draw, it will ask that you embrace the new day with enthusiasm and gusto. It might make sense for you to leave yesterday behind (especially if it was testing or taxing) and wipe the slate clean.

When New Beginnings is drawn singly, it could be suggesting that you consciously make a fresh start. What new thing would you like to take on? Is there something you'd like to try? Does your lifestyle need a shake-up?

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## NEWS

*In this card you will find a rolled-up newspaper. Think of it as either tossed into your front garden by the newspaper deliverer or dropped through your mailbox. Either way, news is headed your way.*

When we think of news, we think of global broadcasts and statements, but not every piece of news will be as large or far reaching. In your readings, far-smaller announcements may have a large impact on your life, though not on the world around you.

With the world recently falling under the shade of a global pandemic and a consistent threat of terrorism, world news can have a big effect on everyone's daily life. However, when this card comes up in your readings, it is as likely to describe the birth of a child or the results of a test. In some cases, it can present troubling information. The News card is neutral and is therefore modified by the cards that sit with it in a reading: if a card such as Obstacles (5 of Clubs) partners it, then the duo's meaning is obvious.

When News makes an appearance in your readings, look at the cards around it to see what information will be coming your way. Good news will, of course, be welcomed, but difficult news may need a little time to

digest and deal with. In a time of second-guessing, where public news is concerned, a card such as Disingenuity (7 of Spades) may ask that you query its source.

*As a daily card:*

News can arrive in a variety of ways and through many different mediums. Public news could influence your day—a weather report or a closed road may delay your plans, or the news of a job vacancy might enhance it. Community news, via an internet message board or social media site, could bring useful information for you to take advantage of.

It is likely that most news will come from friends, family, or colleagues, relating to things they have heard or have done. Wedding engagements, a new job, a house sale, or information about a loved one could fall into this category and is most likely. People share their own personal news every day. If this card arrives in a reading, consider the news you hear and how it might have a direct effect on your life.



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## OBSTACLES

*A padlock is bolted tightly,  
but there is no key nearby.*

An obstacle prevents us from doing something we wish to. Think of it as a barrier or a stop sign that doesn't allow you to pass. It can hinder progress temporarily and bring about frustration.

What is important to remember is that many obstacles can be overcome. While there is no key present in this card, it doesn't mean that one cannot be found (in fact, there is a key in this very deck—see Solution, 6 of Spades). If we cannot move a mountain, we can aim to find a way around it. When this card arrives in a reading, it will advise that something stands in our way. How might you find an alternative route or way of doing something?

On first glance, the Obstacles card may seem similar to Misfortune (10 of Spades), but the latter does not include the option of becoming solved. An obstacle is a puzzle to fix, whereas misfortune is unfortunately something we can only deal with, live through, or learn from. When Obstacles arrives in one of your readings, know that a challenge awaits you and will need to be responded to. Remember that not doing anything about it is a decision in itself, and it will quite likely not go away. When this card turns up on the right of a court card, it

can suggest someone who is an obstacle. How you approach this person will make a big difference as to whether the obstacle is removed or not.

*As a daily card:*

We all experience obstacles throughout the day, since things will not always work out in the way we might have hoped. This could mean reorganizing appointments to suit a change in your schedule, going out of your way because of a diversion in traffic, or having to make cancellations because of ill health. An obstacle will mean making changes or rethinking options should you want to overcome it.

In a day, these obstacles might go unnoticed to some degree because they will not make a huge difference. As an example, having to wait in for a delivery could mean reorganizing a meeting for an hour later rather than at the time it was originally scheduled.

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## OFFICIAL THINGS

*A policeman's hat.*

This card stands for things of an official nature. Because the cards in this deck are best read in duos or trios, this card, when combined with others, will give an official

status to the card it sits with. As an example, with Mail (4 of Spades) it will describe an official document, such as a birth certificate, a job offer, or even a summons to court. A Social Engagement (10 of Clubs), when linked with this card, would likely be a conference, a local council meeting, or the coming together of a board of directors.

When this card accompanies a person, it provides them with some kind of authority. This might be someone who you communicate with in a professional capacity. The Advisor (King of Spades), therefore, might be someone providing guidance about physical health (a doctor), your emotions (a therapist), or your finances (a bank manager).

There is one example (the Lover) where you may not meet with this person on a professional level. When the Lover (Jack of Hearts) is combined with Official Things, it is likely that you are (or may soon be) involved with someone with an official title or responsibility. For instance, you may start a romantic relationship with a lawyer, a policewoman, or a local politician.

#### *As a daily card:*

As a single card, Official Things concerns anything official that will take place in your day. It might advise you to keep an eye on the time while your car is parked, so as not to receive a parking ticket. It could suggest the need to vote, sort out documents for the sale of your house, or go through official channels in a situation.

Because of the nature of the image on this card, legalities are also concerned. If you have been considering doing something you know you shouldn't, know that there might be some kind of authoritative body ready to prevent and even punish you for doing so.

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### **OPPORTUNITY**

*An eagle flies high above the land, able to see its prey with razor-sharp eyesight.*

It is always useful to notice when an opportunity is upon us. In life we might not be so aware of the potential we have available, so this card can alert us to those times when an opportunity is close.

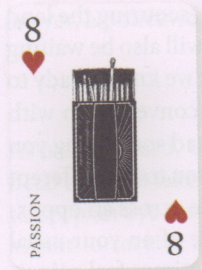
Opportunities can be found in many places. There will be times when we seek them out, scouring the land like the eagle in the picture, but they will also be waiting within scenarios and through people we know, ready to be discovered. Have you ever had a conversation with someone, only to find out that they had something you needed right at that time? Or maybe you took a different turn on your morning walk and came across an opportunity that you'd not have been aware of on your usual route? These opportunities may sometimes feel coincidental or even magical.

When this card arrives in a reading, it is suggesting that there is some kind of potential around you at this time. If the card accompanies one of the court cards, then the person likely holds an opportunity for you. Recognizing who this person might be could be the first step toward a new way of life or an opening that might be extremely helpful or beneficial.

*As a daily card:*

Sometimes, we don't see the opportunities around us, and this card, when drawn alone, will suggest that there is something that could be useful to you but that you are yet to perceive. The Opportunity card could be encouraging you to open your eyes. If you have already been provided with an opportunity, then this card in your day could confirm that it is a chance worth taking.

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## PASSION

*A box of matches is open,  
with one match ready to be struck.*

Within life, passion takes many forms. Initially, you might think of sexual passion, but it can also manifest in how you feel about some-

thing. You may be passionate about a hobby or a cause for which you are fighting.

When this card falls into a reading regarding your romantic life, it is likely that things will be taking a spicy turn. This card can add sex and sensuality to love readings, igniting a flame of passion between two people. Whereas this can speak of sexual encounters, it can also alert you to someone who finds you attractive. If a court card holds this card behind him or her, this person most definitely has their eye on you. This can be useful in readings because it can speak about those times when someone develops an initial interest. However, it can also alert you to those people who are interested only in a physical liaison too.

Passion is present not only in our romantic lives. It is something that drives the artist, the activist, and the career-hungry, so keep your mind open when you read this card. Think of this match being tossed into a bale of hay. When this card accompanies other cards in the deck, it injects excitement and intensity into your interpretation.

*As a daily card:*

This card, when drawn by itself for a daily reading, indicates passionate times ahead. This could, of course, suggest fun times with a lover, but it also concerns becoming involved with a project or cause that excites you or that you have strong opinions about. Your passion for a specific subject can be motivating and drive you.

4



PLANNING



4

## PLANNING

*A globe sits on a table, holding a world of possibilities.*

Planning is part of many processes. Not everyone will plan ahead, but doing so can certainly make a big difference to an outcome.

When we plan ahead, we bring purpose into our future. We create a destination that we can aim for, and this can be very motivating. This can be as immediate as planning our day with a to-do list, which is always satisfying to complete, or creating a five-year plan, marking off where you wish to be with each year. This can, in some instances, bring security. In a reading that focuses on years rather than days or months, planning can provide a crash mat for anything that might go wrong. Insurance is one example of this.

When this card arrives in a reading, it suggests that some kind of plan is likely needed, and encourages you to look further than just the present moment. It might suggest that there will be times when you cannot wing something or be impromptu. If the card is shared with another character in the cards (between you and it), then this will be a future you commit to together. However, if it is carried by a court card (to its right), it reveals a plan that they may have hatched that could include or influence you.

*As a daily card:*

When this card is drawn alone, planning is important. This could mean that preparing for something ahead of time would be useful; have you booked a restaurant ahead of time, perhaps, or have you made sure that your desired babysitter will be available on the night you go out in a month's time? Don't leave things too late or to chance.

This card, as a daily draw, could simply alert you to the structuring of the day ahead, reminding you of the things you need to do. Creating a list, as an example, could be a good way of making sure that you don't run out of time or forget anything necessary.

7



RELATIONSHIP



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## RELATIONSHIP

*The matching jigsaw pieces are ready to connect.*

Relationships are an essential piece of the oracle, so it makes sense to find a card in the deck that is assigned to unions and partnerships.

It is easy for the reader, and client if you have one, to think immediately of a romantic relationship, but this card does not state that without supporting cards; namely, Romance (2 of Hearts) or, in some cases, Passion (8 of Hearts).

Relationships exist in all areas of life. We have relationships with friends, family, and colleagues. This card simply alerts us to the fact that one is relevant to the question asked or situation the cards are referring to. With Opportunity (2 of Clubs), a partnership is promising and could be beneficial, likely in business or work. When paired with Memories (3 of Hearts), we might be looking at an ex or a relationship that was important in your past. With New Beginnings (Ace of Clubs), a new connection is imminent.

When this card enters a reading, notice the cards around it if you wish to find out more information about the kind of relationship in question. Generally, however, it will alert you to those people you are involved with, suggesting that this association has significance in the given scenario.

#### *As a daily card:*

When drawn daily, this card speaks about a significant relationship or, in some cases, the lack of one. This will be dependent on your own intuition and circumstances. If you are single and are wanting to find a partner, this card could ask that you keep your eyes and ears open, since a potential relationship could be in the cards. If it is work on your mind, then a connection within your chosen industry might be valid. This might be a time to reach out within your career environment for help or assistance.



#### **REST**

*A four-poster bed stands before you, welcoming you to lie down and rest your head for a while.*

Life can be busy, and we all need to take a rest from time to time.

Unfortunately, not all of us take the hint. Some of us overwork and find it difficult to maintain a healthy balance between work and play. For these kinds of people, this is a necessary card.

While you may need to take the weight off your feet from too much rushing around or are experiencing the price of being a workaholic, this card deals not only with the physical side of rest. Relaxing the mind and our emotional state is just as important. It is often stress that can cause illness, so it is important to factor in time to unwind. When this card hits a reading, it can suggest a little time-out, but it might also suggest booking a vacation or a weekend away. In its darkest of meanings, it can suggest forced rest. If we do not take the time needed, rest may become inflicted on us by ill health, therefore putting us out of action for a while.

As with all cards in this deck, the Rest card is open to personal interpretation and your own intuition. There will be times when this card could describe too much rest or even laziness. A lack of motivation could be

relevant, encouraging you to take action and fake it until you make it.

*As a daily card:*

Within the scope of a day, the Rest card could simply mean taking half an hour out. Have you been working so hard that you've forgotten to take a proper lunch break? Has your mind been so full that a meditation, massage, or coffee break is needed? We often forget how helpful a walk in nature, if it is accessible, can be for our mental health. Turning off the computer or your phone for an hour or taking a warm shower are ways that you might want to tune out of the everyday noise today.

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## RESTRICTION

*An ornate cage holds a small bird. Restriction can come in many forms.*

We have all seen, globally, in recent years how it is to become physically restricted, unable to leave our

homes or countries due to a pandemic. However, being physically restrained can manifest in a variety of ways: for example, a lack of public transport or money can keep us tied to our homes, unable to do the things we might like.

When this card falls into a relationship reading, it can bring about frustration. This is not a good card to see in love readings, because it might mean that someone is feeling hemmed in or unable to express themselves properly. If this is you, then you may be wondering whether it is time to free yourself from the cage and seek new pastures.

The other cards in the deck will help you understand where you are restricted. With Opportunity (2 of Clubs), you may be living in a place where opportunities (whether in love or work) are scarce. With Support, there might be restrictions placed on the kind of assistance or help you want or need. It is important to remember that this card speaks only of the immediate time. The narrative may well change, whether from your own actions or by those of an external body. In the instance of geographical limitations, moving residence could be a way of unlocking limits that are imposed on you.

Restrictions will not always be physical. There will be times when we are restrained by our own lack of self-belief. In some cases, this will be a direct response to how we have been treated. Those who have been critiqued or have suffered an emotionally abusive relationship will understand how it is to have their confidence taken away. Changing how we view ourselves and our capabilities can be difficult but not impossible. Recognizing that this needs to happen, possibly by seeing this card in a reading, is the first step to weeding out the negative thought patterns imposed on you. Seeking the help of a professional to assist with this is the next advisable move.

*As a daily card:*

The limits that this card can suggest will likely be mundane. A set delivery time, as an example, could prevent you from going out with friends, or, perhaps, bad weather—such as snow and ice—might mean you are unable to fulfill obligations. In this age, where we have social media and video calling, if you are unable to make the date in person, there are alternatives.

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## ROMANCE

*A beautiful blooming rose graces this card, suggestive of romance.*

Love, in the romantic sense, is a hot topic within many readings. People will often want to consult the cards

to find out if someone is interested in them or whether a new relationship is nigh. Although there are cards that might hint at this within the deck, none of them are as directed at a romantic involvement as this one.

When this card is drawn in a reading, it most certainly does concern romance and a healthy interest in another person. The card of Love (Ace of Hearts) can be read in a variety of different contexts, ranging from platonic love to marriage, but it is important to remember that this one always speaks of courtship or a love

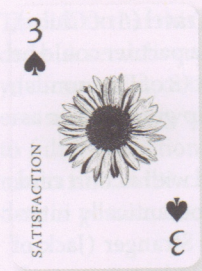
affair. When it is drawn with a card such as Work (7 of Diamonds), it would suggest a romantic encounter or interest within the workplace. With Travel (6 of Clubs), a honeymoon or weekend away with a partner could be predicted. When drawn with Support (8 of Diamonds), then it could suggest that relationship guidance or assistance is needed.

When the Romance card is pulled with a court card, know that the person described is romantically interested in you. When drawn with the Stranger (Jack of Spades), it is likely that you do not yet know your admirer. When pulled with a card such as the Pragmatist (Queen of Diamonds), the romantic gestures displayed by the person may be less flamboyant than those showed upon you by the Lover (Jack of Hearts).

*As a daily card:*

Romance is an exciting card to draw in a daily read, since it can set the heart fluttering. It could mean a gift from a lover or admirer, a conversation with someone you find attractive, a little flirting, or the warmth of a long-term partner. However, the card could take you to task too; do you need to inject a little romance into a tired relationship, or is it time to finally try out online dating and find yourself a mate?

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## SATISFACTION

*A blooming sunflower fills the card, suggesting warmth and happiness.*

Contentment is very much underrated. Often, many people either strive for something they think will

make their lives better, not appreciating what they already have, or spend so much time thinking about what is not right in their lives that they forget to concentrate on what is.

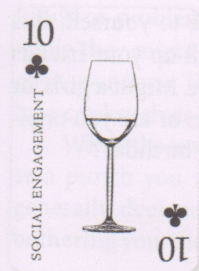
Satisfaction can manifest in many ways. It might be the joy you experience from holding your newborn baby, the pleasure you feel from achieving something, or the delight of finishing a painting, perhaps. Similarly, everyday events, such as being awake when the sun is rising or taking a walk through a beautiful garden, can be equally satisfying. Satisfaction will look different for all of us.

When this card enters a reading, it suggests a favorable present time or even outcome. In some cases, it could be deemed the card of happy endings or a pleasing result. Courts that carry this card on the right are happy with their place in the world or are positively receptive to the question that has been asked of the oracle.

*As a daily card:*

As your card for the day, Satisfaction brings about feelings of warmth and fulfillment. This could certainly suggest a positive day ahead, but it also begs you to look to the good things in your day too. Even if you are striving for something better, remember to be grateful for those things or people that do bring joy and happiness.

...



## SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

*A glass of wine stands in a social setting, suggesting a celebration.*

The wine glass in this card is reminiscent of a party or get-together. As a card, Social Engagement

suggests those times when we meet with others and integrate. The most obvious of these are weddings, birthday parties, and christenings, but despite the upbeat image, there may be times when gatherings of people are of a more somber mood. The cards combined with this one will help you understand the meaning of the social engagement. With Loss (5 of Hearts), people may come together to say goodbye to a loved one.

When this card arrives in a reading, it can suggest an invitation to a function (this would be especially true if it arrives with the Mail card). You may be asked to



attend a public meeting, a conference of like-minded souls, a convention related to an interest or hobby, or even a reunion (if the Memories card is also in the sequence). This card is neutral by itself, but it is generally accepted that a card where people reunite or gather together will usually be positive in nature.

*As a daily card:*

Social engagements could be part of your day, or you may find yourself invited to one. If you have been working hard or have not had much time to yourself, this card might also encourage you to call up your friends or family and arrange getting together. Might a girls' or boys' night out have become overdue, or are you organizing the guest list for an upcoming birthday?

...

## SOLUTION



*A skeleton key is handed to you so that you can open a locked door.*

One of the reasons that people come for readings is to find a solution. It is not always possible for the cards

to do this, though they can certainly point you in the right direction much of the time. As we have seen in the Obstacles card (5 of Clubs), featuring a padlock, we are

often blocked by the hurdles we are gifted in life, but the Solution card promises a fix of some kind. When these two cards come together, with the key following the lock, you would expect to see a positive result to a problem.

It is not likely that the lock and key will find their way into every reading together, but without the Obstacle card beside it, Solution is still extremely favorable since it announces an end to a dilemma. However, it is important to remember that while it brings closure to a complication or dispute of some kind, this will not always be the one you might have hoped for. Solutions to all kinds of problems are made by external bodies, and while they might solve a situation, this will not always go in your favor. This would be evident when it is followed by a card such as Misfortune (10 of Spades).

While there will be times when this card can deliver a punch you were not expecting or wanting, it is generally deemed as positive. If something has been bothering you, then this will clean it up once and for all.

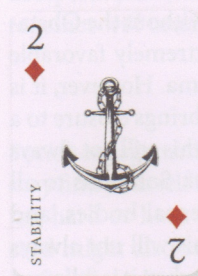
*As a daily card:*

A solution will make itself available. Whether you see it as such is entirely up to you. In some cases, the solution will be nonnegotiable (such as some kind of court settlement or a claim for support), but other suggestions can be taken or left. It will depend on whether you prefer the resolution or would prefer to stick with the problem and wait for something better.

Within the context of a day, the card could ask that you look for a solution to an existing matter. This might

mean doing a little ringing around or an internet search to see if it is resolvable.

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## STABILITY

*An anchor, with chain attached, is heavy, suggesting stability and grounding.*

The anchor has historically been referred to as a symbol of stability, since its job is to park and stabilize a boat. This is therefore associated with the most grounded and steadfast of people, those who have our back and have their feet planted firmly on the ground.

Within readings that concern relationships of any kind, Stability is most often a welcome omen. If you wish to know if someone is in a partnership for the long haul, then this card will alert you to someone who is staying put and not going anywhere. When drawn with a court card, this would certainly be so. Even the Rebel (Jack of Clubs), when drawn with Stability, is committed to a cause.

On a general level, the Stability card describes security. With Money (Ace of Diamonds), for example, finances are good and will look after you. Of course, when the cards around it are darker in mood, Stability can become problematic. When drawn with a card such as Restriction (4 of Hearts) or Misfortune (10 of Spades),

the combinations could represent being stuck or unable to know when to get moving and take new chances.

*As a daily card:*

When drawn alone, the Stability card can suggest a reliable day; one that doesn't throw any curve balls or present any unexpected trials. If you have been feeling ungrounded, then it could encourage you to find the places and people who make you feel secure.

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## STRENGTH

*A lioness shows her strength by bearing her teeth.*

When we feel strong, we feel as though we can take on the world. But having strength is not always about possessing muscle and vigor. While it might, in some scenarios, concern physical stamina, the core meaning of this card regards mental and emotional resistance.

Have you ever surprised yourself by how you dealt with something that was scary or intimidating? Maybe you confronted a fear or stood up to someone rather than backing down. This is true strength in action. Think of those animals that puff themselves up when threatened. We all have resources of strength within us, waiting to

be used and put to the test.

If this card comes up in a reading, it suggests that you have what it takes, even if you do not feel particularly strong at the time. This could mean fighting someone in authority and showing them you will not be taken advantage of; or maybe it is possessing the courage to walk away from something or someone, regardless of how difficult doing so might be.

*As a daily card:*

Strength is yours today. It might be that you do not feel strong at this time or in a certain situation, but this is quite possibly why you have drawn this card: you do have the core strength to carry on through this and survive.

Not every fight will be as intense as those mentioned already. There will be times when we simply don't want to get out of bed or can't face the day ahead. This card encourages you to bare your teeth and show your day that you can do it.

...

10



SUCCESS

10



## SUCCESS

*A beautiful war medal is polished and displayed for all to see.*

Success will be different for everyone who experiences it, since we

all have our own ambitions and goals, unique to ourselves. The medal in this card is a symbol of achievement and notoriety, bravery and commitment, but success will possibly look quite different in your life.

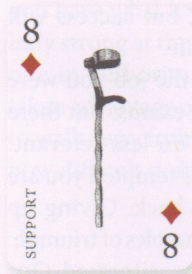
Success can be as big as getting the job you were after, becoming published, or passing exams. But there will be everyday successes that are no less relevant. Deciding to stick to your diet, however tempted you are not to, is as worthy of a pat on the back. Giving up smoking or paying off a debt are also examples of triumph.

Successes do not always need to be witnessed. Our own personal victories, those that go unseen, are as important as those that are viewed by others at award ceremonies or on social media: they can be private. Not every triumph needs to be photographed and commended by others.

*As a daily card:*

This card could suggest that success is coming your way, but it will also ask you to think about those successes you have already amassed. When we are feeling low or unconfident, it is easy to forget about those things we have achieved already. When we suffer a disappointment or something doesn't go as planned, we can easily obliterate past accomplishments in our mind. Remind yourself of those things you have been successful at and know that you will succeed once again.

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## SUPPORT

*A crutch is waiting to support someone who cannot walk.*

The crutch is used to help someone stand and walk. It is symbolic of anything or anyone that helps us move through life more easily when

we are disadvantaged in some way.

Support can come in many ways. In some it will transpire as financial assistance (especially when joined with the Money card), suggesting loans, a handout, or benefits of some kind. In others, people may lend their hand or time, helping you move home, as an example, or even letting you stay in their home while you find your feet. But support can arrive in other ways too. Knowing that someone has your back or is there for you can make a big difference when we are in need. These days, many people will show their support for others by adding their voices to causes and promoting them on social media. Just a handful of likes or positive comments can be extremely supportive when we feel alone or vulnerable.

When this card appears in a reading, support might be near, even if you don't immediately see it. Is someone available to help you? This card can suggest that we must not allow pride to get in the way. If you are in need, one of the strongest things you can do is to ask for a little

assistance, whether this is from friends and family or a professional body.

*As a daily card:*

Support might be closer than you think, and this card could mean either accepting help or seeking some out. In some scenarios, the card will alert you to the support you have to give. When drawn as a daily card, Support asks what you can do to help someone else. Do you have something tangible that you can share? This needn't be financial. Time and kindness can be as important, if not more so, than money in someone's pocket.

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## TRAVEL

*A ship makes its way through the water toward foreign lands.*

The ship is symbolic of travel. While this card shows a boat, any kind of travel can be determined by this card—whether it is a car ride, train

journey, or travel by air. The card simply means that you, or whoever the reading concerns, is taking a physical trip of some kind.

In some oracle systems, the idea of travel can be metaphorical, suggesting a spiritual or emotional journey, but this does not apply here. This card will always

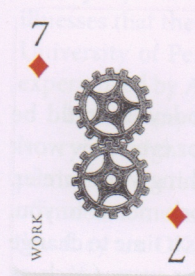
speak of making it from A to B. For example, if a card such as Romance (2 of Hearts) turns up in a reading, then it could mean that you are going on a honeymoon or having a romantic weekend away. Even though the result of such a trip could have an emotive response or become part of a larger journey you are on, the actual act that this card describes is physical.

If this card arrives in a reading, then it will suggest that you are planning to go somewhere or that a journey of some kind is imminent. If it is carried by a court card on their right, then it might be that they are traveling to you. If you share it between you, then you travel together.

#### *As a daily card:*

Travel will become part of your day, or, at least, the opportunity to go somewhere will arise. This could be important travel, such as a holiday, a future engagement, or a work trip, but within a daily reading it could just mean that you have errands that you need to run that will take you away from your home. In some cases, travel will be welcomed and exciting, whereas, depending on your other responsibilities, it could also be seen as a hassle.

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### **WORK**

*Two cogs turn together, suggesting the smooth running of a business.*

The word “work” conjures up different meanings. To begin with, you may think of it as an indication of effort. This is a card of career and the things we do for a living, but in some readings it can suggest that it will take a lot of work to get something done.

The Work card will describe the work that you do. This can range from a high-powered career job to fill-in work you do to make a little extra money. All these kinds of jobs, including caring for a relative or bringing up children, fall under this umbrella. How you feel about your job is not suggested by this card. In that sense it is neutral, though other cards can add flavor to its meaning.

There will, of course, be some people who are not working. This card is no less important for them, since it can suggest the need to work or the opportunity of work coming their way. This might manifest as a new option for an unemployed person or someone returning to the workforce after studies or bringing up a family. Just because someone is not working at the time, it does not make this card any less relevant. It is important to remember that in today’s society, work looks very different from how it once did. More people are self-em-

ployed and are working in fields that would have once been impossible.

*As a daily card:*

Work will have some bearing on today. It could be speaking about work you have to do or even how work is preventing you from doing something you'd prefer. As a daily card, think about what work means to you. Are you happy in your job or career? Is it time to change things up, perhaps, or even consider ways (such as training or education) that you might develop your career for the better? When work is not involved with your day, know that there could be a great deal of effort needed to overcome a situation. In response to a romantic inquiry, work might be required to get a relationship on track.

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## WORRIES

*A small rabbit looks cautious. As prey animals, bunnies are open to attack, often leaving them nervous and afraid.*

We all worry. It is only natural. However, what we worry about is not always justified. Quite often, people will worry about things that have happened that they cannot change.

Alternatively, they will worry about things that are other people's business or, especially in terms of health, illnesses that they do not have. In a recent study by the University of Pennsylvania, 40 percent of the worries experienced by Americans never actually materialized.

Is there any merit to worrying? In some situations, worrying might actually prevent something from happening or correct it. If you are worrying that you've offended someone, then getting in touch to make sure that they are OK could reduce any bad feeling on their part. If you are worried about your health, a visit to the doctor might either ease your mind or catch an issue before it becomes a problem.

In a reading, this card can suggest anxiety around a certain subject. When it is connected with a court card, it might describe a worrier or someone whose worries are having an impact on your life. Look at the cards around this one and see if there is some way of remedying the worry.

*As a daily card:*

If you have drawn this card within the framework of a day, then it might suggest that you have something on your mind. Is this something that can be sorted? Confronting our fears could defuse them. Remember that a worry is simply a thought and not a fact. Not everything we worry about is justified, but worrying can be disabling. It can stop us in our tracks and prevent normal life or progress. If you have a serious worry, seek out a professional for help.

## TWO

### READING WITH THE DECK

Reading the cards is regarded by many as an art. How you choose to work with your cards is, of course, up to you, but there are some methods of reading that you will benefit from, should you practice them. The cards in this deck have been designed to work with the following techniques, in order to help you receive as detailed and accurate information as possible. I have worked with many different kinds of cards over the last 20 years, using these processes, and am still amazed by how such simple pairings can reveal what is happening [and will happen] for myself and my clients.

If you have encountered playing-card reading before, it is probable that the systems and meanings in this book will be different to those written about elsewhere. However, there will be, in some cases, crossovers between the way I work and the methods described by other cartomancers. At this point, I would like to acknowledge some of the people who have influenced my own style of reading. What is written within these pages has become my own system, but it would be true to say that some aspects have been inspired by other great readers and teachers of cartomancy. Deborah Leigh, author of *Per-*

sonal Prophecy (cowritten with Elizabeth Rose), teaches a version of playing-card reading that has been handed down from her grandmother. The interpretations in her system are very different from those described here, but her method of combining cards and integrating the courts with the pips is similar to both Lenormand reading and my own approach when reading with playing cards.

Ana Cortez is the author of *The Playing Card Oracles*, which is built around cards illustrated by her father, C. J. Freeman. While theirs is a very different system from the one I use in this book, this fascinating way of reading has undeniably affected how I read. Ana turns a general reading into an art form, connecting the cards together and revealing fascinating insights.

### Reading in Pairs

As with the aforementioned styles of card reading, this deck is best read when the cards join forces in groups of two and three. While it is not impossible to read a card alone (as we have seen in the “as a daily card” definitions), they are primarily designed to be read together. Reading in combinations fleshes out the meanings of each card. For instance, if we receive the Change card (3 of Clubs) singly, we are alerted to a change of some kind, but we will not have a definitive answer regarding what the nature of the change is. Another card will modify the first card’s meaning and provide us with greater understanding. With the 9 of Hearts (Luck), it will suggest an upturn of fortune. With the 4 of Clubs

(Planning), ideas will need to be rearranged due to circumstance.

Most people will acknowledge that card reading exercises our intuitive muscles, but I have found within my experience that cards need something to anchor them. Although some people will perform poignant readings from laying out cards randomly without a system or spread, the existence of such will provide a greater foundation for the intuition to jump from. When cards fit into some kind of framework, creative ideas and insights are formed but are held together with reason, thus making your interpretations stronger and giving you greater conviction in your answers. This means that the reader will no longer deliver interpretations that could mean a handful of things, which can appear confusing for the person being read for and can mean a less-than-confident interpretation from the person reading the cards.

This fortune-telling deck has its own system built into the pack. It is designed for two- and three-card readings. This amount of cards in a reading might seem limiting, but please bear with me. These readings will provide snappy answers for single questions, but I have considered ways in which multiples of smaller readings can become incorporated into an overall larger one. If you think about common Tarot and oracle card spreads, the larger and more-complex ones simply hold a handful of small card readings within them.



## Where Do We Start?

Before you sit down to perform your reading, it is important that you set up your space appropriately. There will always be occasions when you read on the spur of the moment, but, if possible, it is desirable to prepare for a reading. Doing so will depend on the tastes and preferences of the reader, but there are some requirements that will make for a better session.

### *Essential*

Turn off the phone and make sure you will not be disturbed. There is nothing worse than getting into the zone and then being interrupted, especially if you are reading for someone else.

Make sure that your reading area is clean and there is enough room for you to lay out the cards. A cramped reading space can be stressful, especially if cards fall to the floor or there is not enough room to shuffle them. You will not want to get your deck dirty or wet, so you might want to cover the table with a clean cloth. If you choose to have a glass of water with you (which is advisable for keeping yourself hydrated during a reading), make sure that it is far enough away from the cards that it is not accidentally knocked and spilled.

Make sure that you are warm and comfortable. Reading times can vary, and you will not want to rush a session because you are either cold or feeling uncomfortable.

### *Desirable*

Some readers like to mark the beginning and end of a reading in some way. This takes the session out of normal activities and treats it as something special. Some will light a candle at the beginning and extinguish it at the end, while others will ring a bell. Many readers will say a small affirmative prayer at the beginning and a few words of thanks at the end. This can be directed toward Spirit, deity, or even the Universe, depending on your beliefs. Doing so is a way of announcing that something sacred is about to take place.

Some readers will play soothing music in the background during a reading as a way of creating a relaxed atmosphere. This is not necessary, but should you choose to, make sure that the style of music is appropriate (gentle, likely instrumental, and that the volume is low) or it could actually be distracting for yourself or the person being read for.

Incense is often lit to relax and add magic to a reading session. This must not be an overpowering scent. As with the lighting of candles, make sure that anything lit is placed in a safe holder to avoid accidents. There are many safe alternatives to candles and incense these days, which will either softly light your space or provide a delicate aroma.

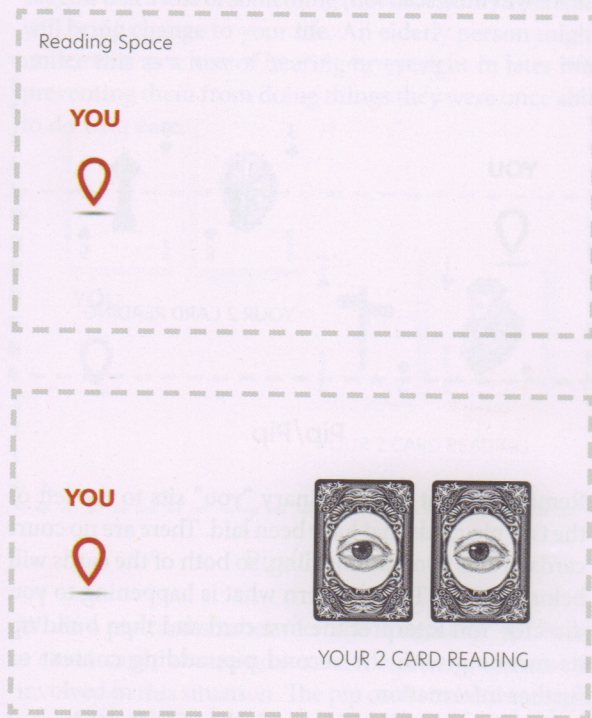
Dressing your table is optional. Some readers will add crystals, figurines, or symbols of the elements to their table. This can be both empowering and decorative. Framed pictures of deity or that are relevant to your reading may also be present. However, don't fall into the trap of putting so much on your table that you cannot see the woods for the trees. An overdecorated table may look magical, but it isn't necessary. I have learned over the years that less is more. Overly patterned reading cloths or clusters of magical items can be distracting. When I used to read at fairs, I would book a large table and, apart from my deck, would have some freshly cut flowers in a vase at the side. The attention, therefore, was on the cards.

## Two-Card Readings

In order to understand the method of reading described in this book, it is important to first divorce yourself from what you already know about reading the cards. This way of reading will carry similarities to other methods of cartomancy, but the way in which the cards are laid out and read is individual to this style of reading. To explain it as clearly as possible, I start off with a clear reading space.

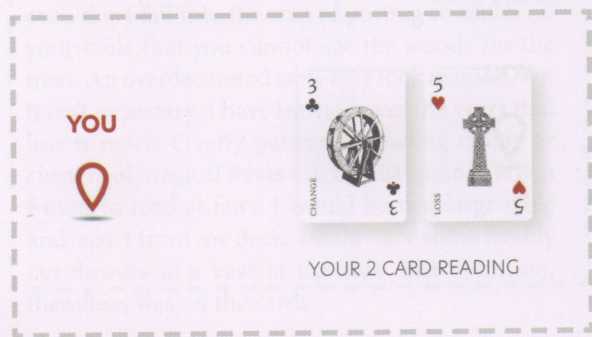
Clear your mind and look down at your reading space. Now, even though no cards have been laid, I would like you to think of yourself in the blank space on the left. If you are reading for someone else, then this space is reserved for them. To illustrate this, I have added a

marker to the reading space in the following image. However, you must simply imagine that you are in that position as you look down at your own table.



It is now time to shuffle the cards. We must remember that the deck has two kinds of cards within it. The deck contains what are referred to as pip cards (those from Ace to 10 in each suit). There are 40 of these. In addition

to these cards, we have the courts (Jack, Queen, and King), of which there are 12. In a two-card reading, there are four different ways in which these cards can be laid, as we will now see.



### Pip/Pip

Remember that the imaginary “you” sits to the left of the two pip cards that have been laid. There are no court cards in this two-card reading, so both of the cards will belong to you. They concern what is happening to you directly. You interpret the first card and then build up its meaning with the second pip, adding context or further information.

In the example above we find 3 of Clubs (Change) and 5 of Hearts (Loss). The first card would indicate that change has either begun or is soon to take place. The second card would suggest it is due to a loss. This could be something that you are already aware of and may

need to take greater notice of. For instance, a personal loss could be affecting your work or relationships for the worse. If these cards are predictive, they will simply suggest that a loss of something (not necessarily a person) will bring change to your life. An elderly person might notice this as a loss of hearing or eyesight in later life, preventing them from doing things they were once able to do with ease.



### Pip/Court

When a pip card sits between the imaginary “you” and a court card, we are now aware that someone else is involved in this situation. The pip card sits between you, so what it describes is something that the two of you share.

In the example above, we find Jack of Hearts (the Lover). This card depicts someone you have a romantic relationship with, or someone who might have the po-

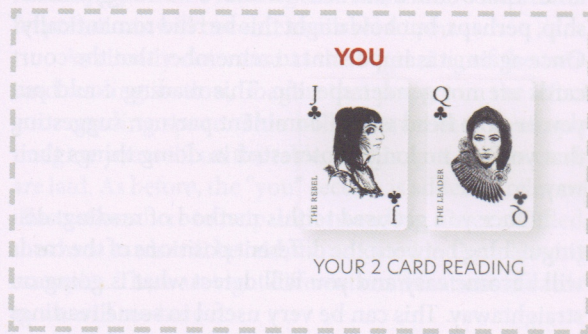
tential to become a lover. Although the card image displays someone presenting as a male, this card is reserved for lovers of all genders. Sitting between the two of you is 2 of Spades (Decision). This two-card reading would suggest that a joint decision needs to be made. This could be a decision around children, the home, or your relationship, perhaps. Since it sits in between you both, it would suggest that you both have responsibility.



### Court/Pip

When the two-card reading begins with a court and ends in a pip, you are now face to face with a person, in the case of the above example, once again, the Lover (Jack of Hearts). In this example, you can see how a subtle change of position alters the way in which the cards are read. In this instance, the Decision (2 of Spades) sits behind the court (to the right). Therefore, the decision to be made is all his.

In some cases, a reading like this could be describing someone who has already made a decision, but it is most likely that the decision is something he is yet to make. Because the court is a lover, it does not necessarily mean that the choice he needs to make relates to love or romantic endeavors, unless the question covers these areas. It might simply mean that he has something on his mind and could influence the subject being read about.



### Court/Court

The final way in which the two-card reading can fall is if there are two courts together. As you will see from the example above, we lose our imaginary figure on the table because we become the first court. In this situation, you have become Jack of Clubs (the Rebel) and are facing someone else—in this reading, Queen of Clubs (the Leader).

When two court cards fall into a reading like this, we can look at how the two cards interact. While we can assign elements to the suits and note their rank, the names of each of the courts should give you enough information to work with. For example, in this scenario the Rebel suggests that our interests are unconventional and possibly nonconformist. In short, we are likely opposing something. The opposition is the Leader (Queen of Clubs), who could be a superior of some kind. This would make sense within a working relationship, perhaps, but how might this be read romantically? Once again, it is important to remember that the court cards are not gender specific. This reading could put you head to head with a dominant partner, suggesting that you are no longer interested in doing things their way.

Once you get used to this method of reading, distinguishing between the different positions of the cards will become easy and you will detect what is going on straightaway. This can be very useful in some readings because it can alert you to the motivations of those involved in specific situations. If we return to the third scenario (court/pip), should someone have asked about the future of their romantic relationship, we might ascertain that their lover was weighing up what to do. It would also place the responsibility in his hands, since this would not be a shared decision but something only he is in control of.

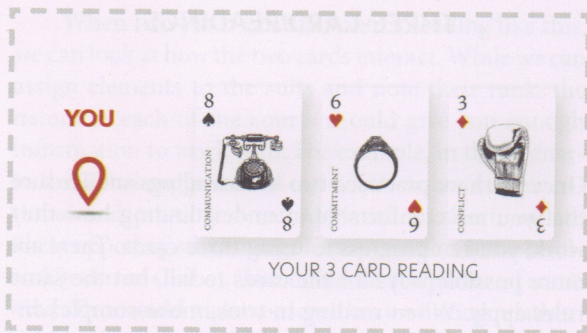
## THREE-CARD READINGS

Once you have practiced two-card readings and are sure that you are comfortable in understanding how they work, you can progress to using three cards. There are more possible ways for the cards to fall, but the same rules apply. When reading in trios, more-complex interpretations will become available to you.

As already described at the beginning of the two-card reading section, imagine that you are on the left of your reading space. This will mean that you simply imagine yourself, on the table, in this spot, before cards are laid. As before, the “you” section is added to relevant illustrations here to help understanding. Once shuffled, the three cards will be laid, as indicated in the following examples. There are eight different combinations of cards, as we will see here.

### Pip/Pip/Pip

When three pips fall together, they follow the imaginary “you” figure in the illustration (which stands for you or the person you are reading for). Since there are no courts in this combination, this would suggest that all the cards belong to you. Therefore, these are situations happening directly to you and are experienced from your perspective.



In this example, the first card is the 8 of Spades (Communication), which suggests that the line concerns conversation with someone else. The 6 of Hearts (Commitment) adds a little more information to the first card, letting you know that the communication concerns a partnership. Finally, we find the 3 of Diamonds (Conflict). With this card on the end, the communication is conflictual in some way.

Each card, like a word in a sentence, adds its own part to the overall line. The final card in this example changes the meaning of those already laid, suggesting that a partnership involves challenges or that an argument might ensue. This could be a friendship or a romantic or work partnership, as well as those between siblings, parent and child, or anyone with whom a bond has already been established.

## Pip/Court/Court

In the below line, we have two courts. If you remember from the two-card reading examples, when there is more than one court, we naturally become the first in the line (on the left). This would mean that our imaginary self in the workspace jumps into that position. In the example below, we therefore become Queen of Diamonds (the Pragmatist). Remember that the gender of the person shown in the card is irrelevant. The Pragmatist is someone who is practical and grounded; we all have these qualities within us.



In this line, we face the King of Clubs (the Authority Figure). As before, look at how the two characters play together. The court card that depicts you is facing a figure of authority. This could be someone of higher rank within the workplace, or it could even be a member of an organization whom you come into contact with.

In this line, the pip sits behind us (on the left). It does not belong to the king and is not shared. It is ours to take responsibility for. In this case, it shows that we are displaying conflict. Something has antagonized us, relating to the King of Clubs, and we have taken umbrage.

When we carry a card in this position (behind us, on the left), its message may not be a surprise. In this situation, we might be defiant or ready to oppose something. However, it might remind us that our way of interacting with the depicted authority figure might not be the best way of achieving what we want. Might conflict only separate us and the King of Clubs further, causing a greater disturbance?

### Court/Court/Court

As with the two courts in a two-card reading, you naturally slot into the position of the first when there are three courts. This will give you some idea of how you fit into the group of people and what either your asset or hindrance may be, depending on which card you are signified by. In the next scenario, you become the Protector (King of Diamonds), suggesting that you are protective of yourself, others, or your assets.

When there are three courts within a three-card reading, it could indicate that there are a lot of people present in the situation you are reading about. This might be deemed as either positive or negative. If you are looking at a romantic relationship, for example, this could suggest interfering or even the presence of a third

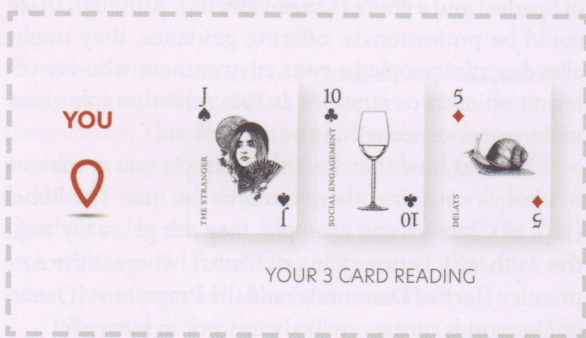


spoke in the relationship wheel (an ex, someone with an interest in you or your partner, or a counselor perhaps). In the row shown above, we find an advisor (King of Spades) and a guide (King of Hearts). Although these could be professionals, offering guidance, they might also describe people in your environment who are offering opinion or support. Is this something you can make use of or something you repel?

Look at how the court that depicts you combines or clashes with the other courts in the line. The Rebel (Jack of Clubs), as an example, may not gel easily with the Authority Figure (King of Clubs), whereas the Apprentice (Jack of Diamonds) and the Pragmatist (Queen of Diamonds) are more likely to work in harmony.

## Court/Pip/Pip

Since we have just one court in this line, we know that it represents someone else. We, therefore, take our place in the imaginary spot on our reading space again, looking toward him or her. The two pip cards are carried behind the court (to its right) so either are attributes of their character or tell us something about them that is relevant to the question asked. Rather than just one piece of information, which we received in the two-card reading for a court followed by just one pip, we now have two cards to fuse together. This information gives us a little peek into the intention or personality of the court figure.



If we look at the example shown above, a stranger is shown as the first card (Jack of Spades). The Stranger is simply someone we do not know and is not gender specific. We might think of a stranger as being an omi-

nous character, but they needn't be. Think, if you will, of a blind date, where you have agreed to meet someone you don't already know in person. In this scenario, there are a handful of ways that these card could be read. The 10 of Clubs (Social Engagement) could mean that they intend to meet with you socially or that they are a very sociable person. However, when 5 of Diamonds (Delays) joins these cards, the person or social engagement will be delayed.

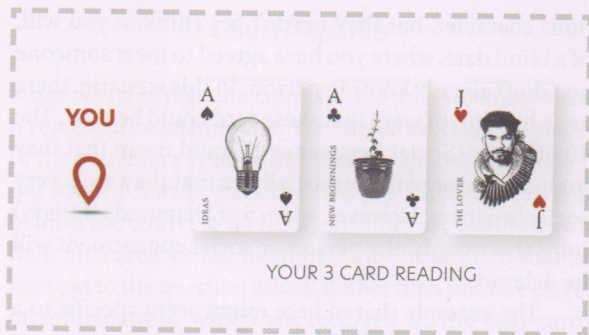
The example shared here might seem specific to a first date, but in different situations its meaning may alter. It might be suggesting that a social engagement is going to be postponed. The stranger could simply be someone involved with the arrangements, who informs you that an engagement you were expecting to attend has been delayed. Alternatively, it could mean that someone you asked about is going to be late due to attending a social function elsewhere.

## Pip/Pip/Court

The court card in this line is someone else, and if you think of yourself in your imaginary spot on the reading table, you will notice that the two pip cards are shared between you. This means that these are things that bring you together or, in some cases, force you apart, but they are felt by yourself and the person depicted by the court.

In this example, we find the Jack of Hearts (the Lover). This is someone you are connected to romantically (or, in some readings, someone possessing his



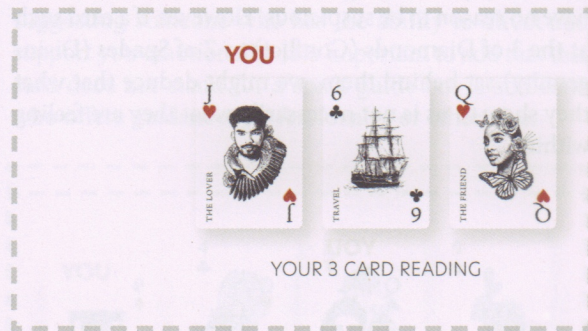


emotional and sensitive traits). If you do not have a romantic connection at this time, then the card could symbolize someone who has an interest in you or is a prospective romantic partner. Intuitively, you will work out who this is in a reading. You will notice that what is shared between yourself and this person is the Ace of Spades (Ideas) and the Ace of Clubs (New Beginnings). This would suggest that you both have an idea about a fresh start together. This could mean, for instance, a new phase in a relationship, agreed on by both of you.

### Court/Pip/Court

Something interesting happens when we have a pip card surrounded by two courts. Of course, as you will remember, when two courts appear in a line, we naturally become the first. In the example below, we assume the place of the Jack of Hearts (the Lover). The other

court is represented by the Queen of Hearts (the Friend). Why is this interesting? In this specific example, we can see that we view ourselves as a romantic partner of the court, but the other person views himself or herself as a friend. This could describe different intentions between the other person and yourself. Once again, don't get hung up on the gender of the people in the cards. They are just illustrations. The Lover still describes you, should you regard yourself as female, and the Friend could just as well be male as it could regard a female.



Between the two courts we find the 6 of Clubs (Travel). This would suggest that physical travel is imminent between these two people. Have you planned to take a trip with someone? Are you hoping that a friendship might evolve into something more on a vacation or time away together?

## Court/Court/Pip

Since we have two courts in this line, the first one becomes us. In the example below, you can see that we exhibit the traits of the leader in this situation. The other court is either a friend or outwardly expresses friendliness. One of the things that is useful about this system is that there will be times when someone greets us with a compassionate and friendly persona, but the card behind them will show their true intention. We can see in this line that there is love (Ace of Hearts) behind them, so we have no reason to be suspicious. However, if a card such as the 3 of Diamonds (Conflict) or 7 of Spades (Disingenuity) sat behind them, we might deduce that what they show to us is not necessarily what they are feeling within.



In the scenario shown here, we are in a position of power. This could be direct leadership, as in a superior position at work, but it could also represent an informal

influence you have over the person described by the other court card. It is always useful to see how the two different roles work together. In this example, you would have some advantage over the other person.

## Pip/Court/Pip

In this last line, you return to your imaginary place within your reading space, since we have only one court. The court, in the case, is the King of Hearts (the Guide), suggesting someone who has the ability to direct and support you emotionally. It is important to add that this card does not stand for a spirit guide but is someone who offers guidance, professionally or otherwise.



Between you and the King of Hearts is the 4 of Clubs (Planning). This card could represent something that you have planned together, or it might even symbolize a plan you have chosen to share with this other

person. The 9 of Spades behind the king would suggest that this plan worries him. This may not be a worry that he outwardly displays, but the cards are suggesting that he has concerns or anxiety relating to the plan shared.

## The Revealing of True Intentions

As we have seen in the previous examples, the cards will often reveal information about how another person feels regarding a specific situation. People will not always openly express their feelings, so when a court carries its own card, or two, in a reading, we gain a little extra knowledge about their true intentions or feelings. Take a look at the following examples and see how this might manifest:

*6 of Hearts (Commitment)*  
*/ Court / 9 of Spades (Worries)*

The court in this line could be worrying about this partnership with you, even if it's not something they wish to mention at this time.

*Ace of Hearts (Love) / Court / 8 of Hearts (Passion)*

While love might be shared between you, this person holds passion in the card behind them. This would be a good omen for a current relationship, but if this is not someone you are partnered up with already, it could alert you to a sexual interest on their part.

*4 of Clubs (Planning) / Court / 10 of Diamonds*  
*(Endings)*

You might be making plans with the person in question, but they are actually considering severing a connection with you. In terms of this example, it is important to remember that this is just a thought at the moment and may not manifest. We are simply being given a view into the current motivation of the person in question. They have free will to change this mindset.

## Creating Larger Readings

So far, we have looked at two- and three-card readings. As you can see, a good deal of information can be amassed from such a small amount of cards. With just pips, we gain an idea of how a situation might manifest. When courts are added to the mix, we can receive information about the people in our life, their intentions, and how we react to them. However, while this will aid specific questions and provide quick hits in some cases, this might not be enough for a six-month review or a subject that involves more than one area of observation.

If you are familiar with popular Tarot or oracle spreads, you will know that some can be quite large. The famous Celtic Cross spread holds 10 cards. While this might seem a lot to the new reader, it is often helpful to remember that a large spread is held together by a variety of smaller ones. Using the Celtic Cross as an example, within the 10 cards can be found smaller spreads: there is a *Past, Present, Future* spread running though

its middle, as well as a small cross of two cards at its core, and cards suggesting the conscious and unconscious desires of the person consulting the cards. It is possible to craft larger readings using the two- and three-card reading method described already, allowing the reader to look at a handful of different life areas for the client. What follows are examples of how this can be done, but it is desirable for the reader to become inventive and devise their own positions and spreads, depending on what they need to know or with regard to their specific clients and practice.



THE PAST



ROMANCE



THE PRESENT



CAREER



THE FUTURE



THE UNKNOWN

### Using the Two-Card Readings in Larger Spreads

The easiest way to use these readings is as components of larger spreads by separating them into different areas.

What follows is one way in which you might do this: In this example, we have, effectively, a past, present, future reading down one side and three areas of interest running down the other. The time placements (past, present, and future) may have relevance to one of the areas specified on the right. This kind of larger reading allows for a reader to focus on different aspects of a person's life and the people who may be involved in each.

### An Example of a Larger Reading

#### *The Past*

*5 of Diamonds (Delays) / Ace of Clubs  
(New Beginnings)*

We can determine from these cards that there have been delays; so much so that some kind of new beginning was unable to take place. Something you may have been trying to get off the ground has been unsuccessful and has encountered problems. This line is not all doom and gloom though, because the Ace of Clubs, as the final card, suggests that there will be a fresh start after the delay.

#### *The Present*

*3 of Diamonds (Conflict) / King of Diamonds  
(the Protector)*

In the present there is conflict with the King of Diamonds. Because of his connection to the earthly realm, he could be an investor, advisor, or someone connected with finances or property. He might be coming across as heavy

handed or overcautious, which is where conflict may arise between you.

*The Future*

*Jack of Spades (the Stranger) / 3 of Spades  
(Satisfaction)*

When the 3 of Spades sits behind a court, it brings warmth to their character and is rarely negative. In this scenario, it comes from someone whom you are yet to meet. If we think about the difficulties and conflicts already mentioned in the past and present positions, we could see this as someone coming into your life to bring assistance and support. Their intention (3 of Spades) is positive.

When we look at the future in a reading, we understand that it is simply a possibility. What we read here is likely, but it depends on how you respond to what you see in this position. Whether you take advantage of this stranger is your call, since the cards are simply giving you a heads-up to an opportunity that could take place if you are observant.

*Romance*

*6 of Spades (Solution) / 9 of Hearts (Luck)*

These are two fortunate cards to find within the romantic area of your life. Some kind of lucky solution becomes available. If you are in a relationship, then difficulties could be resolved successfully, and chance might play a part in this.

*Career*

*10 of Diamonds (Endings) / Jack of Hearts  
(the Lover)*

With the Jack of Hearts in play, a few interpretations are possible. It is, of course, likely that he could represent a male or female lover within work (either your partner or additional to such). If this does not make sense within your reading, then it is important to rely on his (or her) characteristics. This is someone who is emotionally charged, sensitive, or romantically inclined. Their way of viewing the world, emotionally, could play a big part of a situation within your working life.

With the 10 of Diamonds sitting between you and the Jack, something ends between you. Because of the nature of the Jack of Hearts, it might help to refer to the Romance section of this reading and find out if this person and an ending has any bearing on what information you find there. For instance, the ending suggested in this line could be connected to the solution affecting your life that appears in the area of romance in this spread.

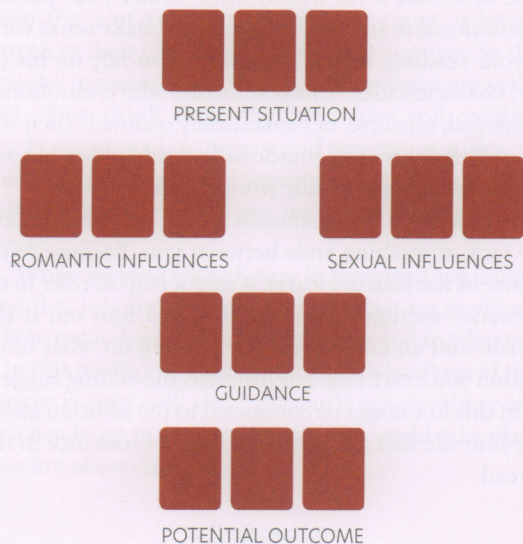
*The Unknown*

*10 of Hearts (Success) / 8 of Clubs (Gift)*

This position alerts you to something you are unaware of just yet. In this line, the combination of these two cards could suggest a promotion or award, a result of your success or achievements.

## Using Three-Card Readings in Larger Spreads

In the same way as we used the two-card readings in a larger spread, we can also group three-card readings together to form larger spreads. This will allow for a greater amount of information to be shared.



Traditional positions can be used in these larger spreads, as we saw within the last example, but I'd encourage you to create your own positions that serve your needs. The following example shows a spread that has been personally crafted for specific requirements. In this spread, the person is able to look at their present situa-

tion, seeing what romantic and sexual influences surround them, receive some guidance, and take a look at a potential outcome.

*In the following example, we might observe the following visual clues:*

■ In the **present situation**, a figure of authority could be providing support. There are many ways in which this might manifest. While this reading concerns the love life of the person being read for, there are many ways in which the King of Clubs could arise. He (or she) might not be directly involved with them romantically but could be offering some kind of assistance through correspondence. This might be an online contact, a dating agent, or even a prospective lover.

■ In terms of a **romantic influence**, a youthful person is shown. The Apprentice (Jack of Diamonds) is someone who is potentially naive in the world of love or inexperienced. There are obvious obstacles and restrictions here, possibly connected to his or her immaturity.

■ In the line concerning **sexual influences**, we find the Family card. Now, we must not jump to conclusions when we see something like this. There will, of course, be times where the 6 of Diamonds in a position regarding sex will have ominous associations, but in this reading, it might simply highlight where family commitments could prevent a healthy sex life (10 of Spades). Looking after children and running a home could mean

a person is exhausted and passion is pushed further down the list of requirements.

■ Regardless of the obstacles and difficulties in the first three positions, the cards offering **guidance** are inspiring. When we look at the line beginning with the 5 of Diamonds, we initially see Delay. However, the line does end in Luck. For the person being read for, we can understand that a relationship and good luck will arrive eventually, but they must remain patient.

■ The last line shows a person. Remember that even though the person is depicting a young female, the nature of this card is of someone who could be rebellious or simply individual and out of the ordinary. However, the cards this person carries are revealing. The 2 of Diamonds (Stability) and 9 of Diamonds (Rest) could suggest that this person is looking to settle down and may be a secure bet for the seeker.

### Reading Tips

When reading, remember that not everything will make sense to begin with. There will be times when the information will be instantly understood: you will recognize the person being spoken about, and the cards around them will be revealing and confirmatory. However, this will not always be the case, and, as a reader, it is important to cut yourself some slack. If a line of cards does not make immediate sense, come back to it or reflect on it



PRESENT SITUATION



ROMANTIC INFLUENCES

SEXUAL INFLUENCES



GUIDANCE



POTENTIAL OUTCOME

over time. There have been many instances in my career when a client has told me that they cannot understand a set of cards, only to call a few days later after a relevant life event had manifested or they remembered something that connected them to the cards drawn. This is why it is always a good idea either to jot down the cards pulled or to take a photograph of the reading to refer back to at a later date. What might not make sense today could be extremely accurate tomorrow.

One of the great aspects of this kind of reading is the way in which the cards will pinpoint characters and situations within life in a focused and specific way. But understanding the messages and combinations will take practice. There will be times when a card might feel at odds with the one next to it, but taking a deep breath, clearing your mind, and then trying to look at the combination afresh can be useful. In the previous reading example, the cards within the Sexual Influence section may have looked strange together, but when we begin to fuse the meanings into one slowly, they can make more sense. A success in family affairs could result in other areas of life suffering, as shown by the trio in that area of the reading. There will be other ways of reading these cards that will have meaning for the person being read for, even if we do not immediately see it as the reader.

Drawing two or three cards a day can be a good way of familiarizing yourself with these cards. Pulling them in the morning and making a prediction and then reflecting on them in the evening will help integrate the deck into your life, noticing the people who pop up and the scenarios that repeat and influence daily situations. Keeping a journal is a must, since it allows you to keep track of the cards drawn and that have been successfully interpreted. As mentioned before, looking back on readings can be enlightening and will likely provide additional and fresh insight. A journal does not need to be lavish. It can be as simple as a jotter pad or even noting the cards on a calendar where you can see it each day. It is always useful to note down your

impressions as well. For more personal readings, something that is more private than a kitchen planner will probably be best.

## Traditional Placement Readings

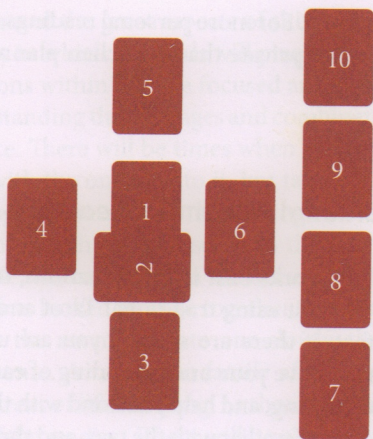
While this deck works best in combinations, it is not impossible to read it using traditional Tarot and oracle spreads. In fact, if there are spreads you are used to, doing so can improve your understanding of each card when you are learning, and help you bond with the deck before you become familiar with the two- and three-card combinations.

### *The Celtic Cross Spread*

The Celtic Cross is one of the most well-known spreads used by Tarot readers. Having been around for over a hundred years, it has stood the test of time due to its versatility, and you will find it in most books written about Tarot cards.

The Celtic Cross does take time to master, but it is time well spent, since it contains a wide cross section of information. It allows the reader to examine the recent and distant past, the near future, and situations and their challenges, as well as the intention of others. While this spread uses a card in each position, there are many ways in which each card influences each other, so it makes sense to look at how cards work together.





### Card 1—Situation

The first card in the spread addresses a situation. This could be, if there is no subject area provided for the reading, a subject of interest.

### Card 2—Challenges

This card is always at odds with the first one. The nature of its position in the spread is that it crosses the card in the first position. It can alert the reader to blockages, obstacles, or those things that challenge the first card. How might this card block the situation?

### Card 3—Foundation

This card looks at deeper issues involved with the question or subject of the reading and is what I call the root because it digs into both the past and our history of

experiences. This card can tell you what the real root of the problem is, and might pull out something that is causing a disturbance, but that we are unaware of or are less willing to acknowledge.

### Card 4—Recent Past

Depending on the time frame of your reading, this card will suggest things that have happened more recently. These things may no longer be active but could still be influencing what is going on. For example, an old relationship could still be affecting you.

### Card 5—Focus

What are you focusing on? This card will tell you. A positive card might describe a positive mindset, whereas a negative one could pull us off course.

### Card 6—Near Future

This card advises where a person is headed. Since it concerns the near future, it describes possible events or characters appearing within weeks rather than months and years. It forewarns the person being read for and allows them a peek into a potential future.

### Card 7—The “You” Card

This card is one of the most important cards in the layout because it can affect every other card. If the card drawn in the position is positive, it will have a good effect on issues described elsewhere in the spread because you will be approaching them from a good place. If the card here is negative, then it will color all experiences

(even the good ones), tainting them with fear, doubt, or uncertainty.

### **Card 8—Environment**

This card allows us a glimpse into our environment. If a person falls into this placement, we are shown someone who could be either a help or hindrance, depending on who they are and how they fit into the overall story. Pip cards will likely describe opportunities or, in some cases, disturbances that need dealing with.

### **Card 9—Hopes and Fears**

While our hopes and fears might seem to be in contrast to one another, this is not always true. When reading this position, you may be instantly aware of how a card is either a hope or a fear, but remember that what we wish for in life can sometimes be far different from what we expected, and traumas can bring reflection, wisdom, and new hope.

### **Card 10—Projected Outcome**

Many spreads will have an outcome position, but I find that it is more realistic to remember that it is projected, since we have the ability to make changes due to free will. If we do not like what we see in a projected outcome position, we have time to adjust our actions or make new plans that can either soften the blow or change route entirely. Nothing is set in stone. The value within a reading is what we can gain insight into about where things are going, and should we not be happy with that, make alterations for a brighter or more focused future.

## *Interpreting the Fortune Cards within a Celtic Cross*

The Celtic Cross spread contains a wealth of information, and while this is an obvious asset, it can also become overwhelming to the reader. When we begin to think of it as a container for a handful of smaller readings, it becomes easier to access.

If you look at the central horizontal line of the cross, you will see the simple *Past, Present, Future* reading within it (positions 4, 1, 6).

The “You card” (position 7) can be examined in comparison with each card, should you have time, seeing how its energy and meaning influence each of the other nine.

Is the root issue of the reading (card 3) in harmony with your focus (card 5)? Are you concentrating on the real essence of the problem or something else?

In the following example, a woman asked about her relationship. Things had begun to wear thin, and cracks were beginning to form. She was interested in whether her relationship was worth saving or if she should call it a day.

The cards drawn are

card 1 (situation)—3 of Hearts (Memories)

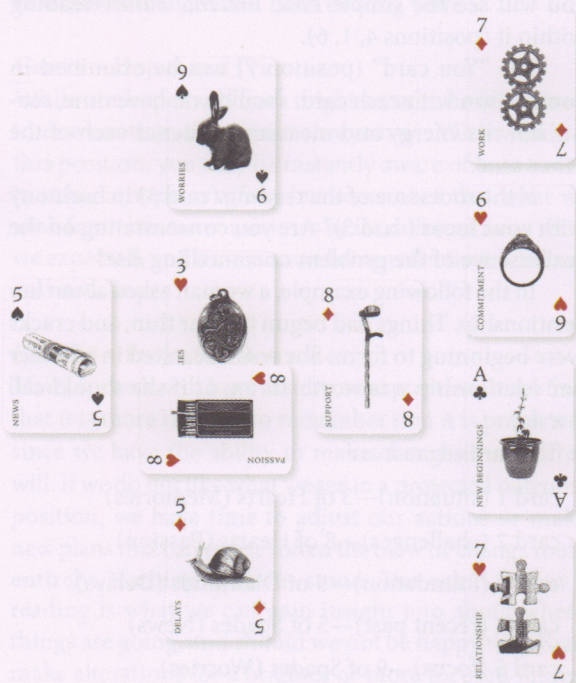
card 2 (challenges)—8 of Hearts (Passion)

card 3 (foundation)—5 of Diamonds (Delays)

card 4 (recent past)—5 of Spades (News)

card 5 (focus)—9 of Spades (Worries)

- card 6 (near future)—8 of Diamonds (Support)
- card 7 (the “you” card)—7 of Hearts (Relationship)
- card 8 (environment)—Ace of Clubs (New Beginnings)
- card 9 (hopes and fears)—6 of Hearts (Commitment)
- card 10 (projected outcome)—7 of Diamonds (Work)



It is always advisable to scan the spread to begin with. We can see, from this reading, that there are themes that instantly make sense—relationship, worries, passion, and commitment. We might also notice that there are no other individuals (court cards) among the 10 cards, suggesting no exterior influence on this relationship (friends, family, etc.).

Once we have given the spread a once-over, we can begin to look at how the cards work together. Here are a few observations you might note as you are reading:

- The “you” card (position 7) is the 7 of Hearts and concerns relationships. This would suggest the woman being read for is still interested in staying with her partner. She sees herself in the relationship, despite other difficult cards within the spread.
- The cross in the center shows a contrast between memories (what once was) and passion (something that she and her partner may have been unable to maintain in their relationship). The woman may have good memories of their time together, which keeps her going, but the passion between them may have become watered down with time.
- The woman is worried, as we can see from her focus—9 of Spades in position 5. Recent news may have added to this (5 of Spades in position 4).
- Regardless of the difficult cards pulled already, support is available in the near future if she seeks it out (8 of

Diamonds in position 6). This could be a vital element for getting things back on track, as long as the couple work together. You will also notice that Ace of Clubs (New Beginnings) falls into the position of her environment, meaning that there is opportunity for starting again or reevaluating their relationship.

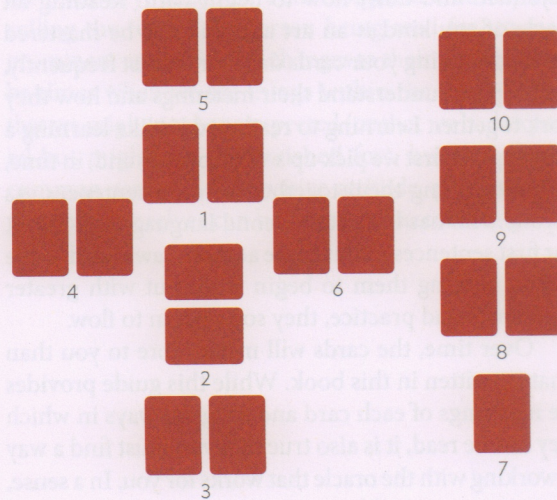
■ The 6 of Hearts (Commitment) sits within her hopes and fears. We already know that she has worries about where this relationship is going, but this card suggests that she is wanting a stronger partnership (or even marriage) to grow from the challenges already stated. With 7 of Diamonds in the future, this could mean that effort and work will be needed, though from both partners and not just her. Notice that in the context of this reading, the 7 of Diamonds is focused on the nature of working on a goal rather than a career, should the latter not be relevant to the person being read for.

### *The Doubled-Up Celtic Cross*

For those readers who have grown competent at reading the Celtic Cross but would like to add a little more to the experience, it is possible, should you have the table space, to double up the cards in each position. This will add a little more information to the reading, meaning that you can read each position as a two-card reading, as described previously. This will mean 19 cards within your reading. Why 19, you might ask? The “you card” is not doubled up, allowing the person reading the cards

to have a clear and concise idea of how they are influencing the other aspects of the spread.

It is important to remember that there is a lot of information in this reading, and it could easily overwhelm the diviner. The doubled-up cross is more appropriate for longer sessions, where it will take time to consider each position carefully.



## Bringing Everything Together

Learning to read the cards takes time and practice, so don't become disheartened if your readings appear disjointed and don't flow to begin with. Reading an oracle of any kind is an art and will not be mastered overnight. Using your cards daily, or at least frequently, will help you understand their meanings and how they work together. Learning to read cards is like learning a language. At first we pick up a word or two, and, in time, we start putting them together to make sentences. As anyone who has learned a second language will know, our first sentences might come across as awkward to the person hearing them to begin with, but with greater experience and practice, they soon begin to flow.

Over time, the cards will mean more to you than what is written in this book. While this guide provides the meanings of each card and suggests ways in which they can be read, it is also true that you must find a way of working with the oracle that works for you. In a sense, the written material here is just a starting point. While I have relayed a way that these cards can be used to deliver messages and provoke intuitive responses from the reader, your own connection to these images and the keywords is just as important when developing a relationship with the oracle. Use what you read here as a jumping-off point, as a way of inspiring and lighting

your own feelings and thoughts about the cards. A good way of approaching this deck of cards is by understanding the core meanings of the cards but not allowing this to become a rigid exercise. For the meanings of the cards to connect with modern life, they must be both accessible and flexible.

Reading the cards can be a fulfilling experience. Looking at the images as a mirror, reflecting your own life back at you, can be both insightful and inspiring, calling the reader (or person being read for) to make prominent and proactive changes to their life. There will be times when we see things within the combinations that we might not have expected (or that we had expected but might not have wished for), but with a little common sense and a positive attitude, problems that present themselves can be dealt with accordingly.

## About the Author and Illustrator

Steven Bright was born in London in 1972. He picked up his first Tarot deck in the mid-1990s and, after some years of study, began to read professionally. He has designed three card decks (including the *Spirit within Tarot* and the *Rainbow Kipper*) and has authored three books (*In Focus: Tarot, The Oracle Creator*, and *In Focus: Divination*). He has spoken at the U.K. Tarot Conference, for the Tarot Association of the British Isles, at the London Tarot Festival, and for the World Divination Association. He is also cofounder and coeditor of *The Esotoracle*, a magazine focusing on all types of divination.

Steven is a reader at heart and still receives clients in person and virtually. He has given interviews on radio and has written for a handful of magazines, including *Take a Break Fate & Fortune* and *Watkins Mind Body and Spirit*.

You can find out more about Steven at [stevenbright.org.uk](http://stevenbright.org.uk) or follow his Instagram account, [@stevenbrightuk](https://www.instagram.com/stevenbrightuk).