

"You won't find a better teacher than Rana George."

—MARY K. GREER



THE
ESSENTIAL

Lenormana

YOUR GUIDE TO
PRECISE & PRACTICAL
FORTUNETELLING

RANA GEORGE



George W. Johnston, M.D., is a physician and a husband and three boys
while continuing to study and teach internationally. For more information, please visit
Now living in Texas, Rand enjoys spending quality time with her husband and three boys
deal them wisely.

Putting the cards in people's hands and helping them find the power to shuffle them well and
a fine session for all levels of readers. Rand's lifelong vocation is to inspire, guide, and help by
was a main presenter at multiple tarot conventions. She teaches a Lenormand podcast series,
and has published many articles on cartomancy. A respected presence in the modern divi-
for a span of thirty years. She has been consulted on the design of several Lenormand decks
chic, a medium, a teacher, a mentor, a fortuneteller, and a card reader, giving counsel to clients
With her mother's guidance and the loving help of her family, Rand has worked as a psy-
ties the tragedy of war and immigrants to the present day.

PRECISE & POWERFUL

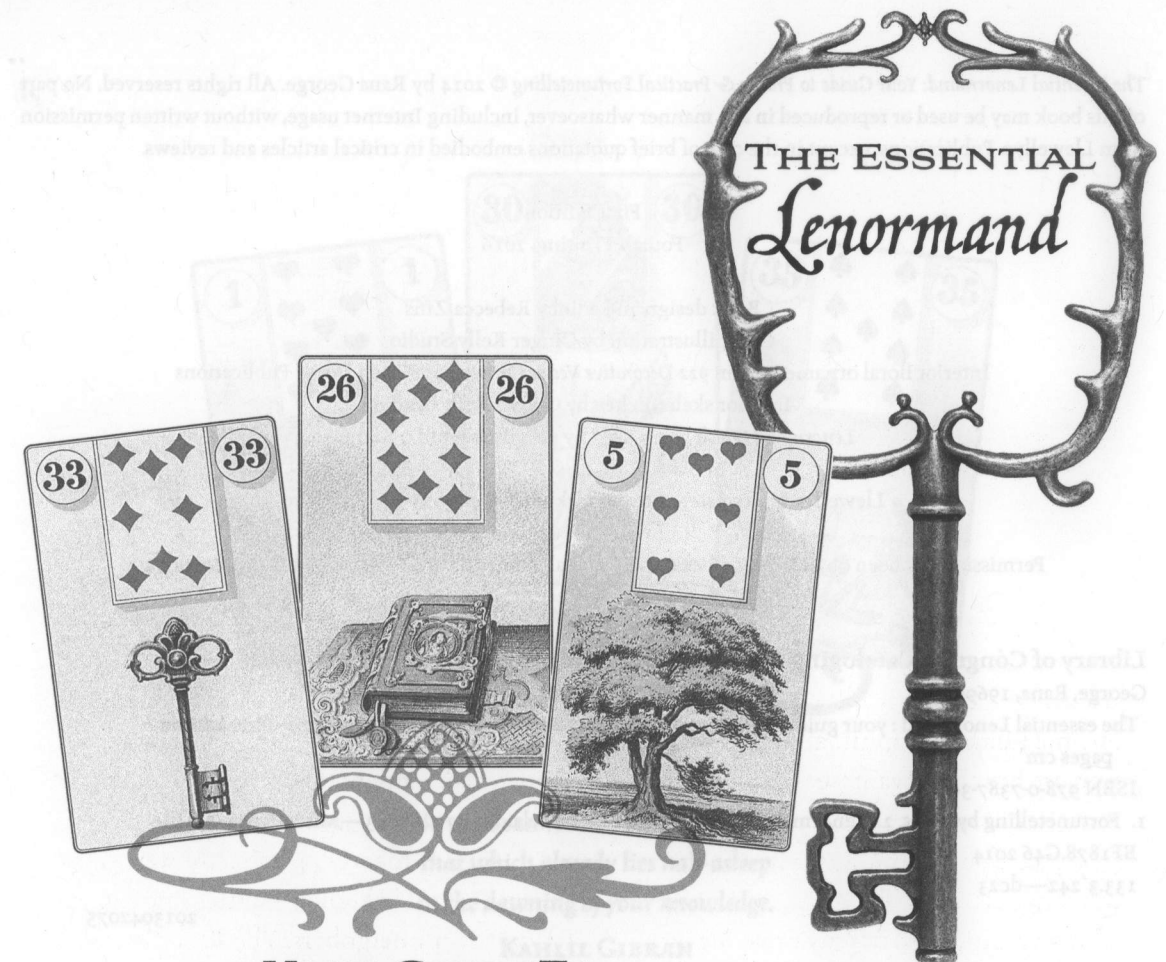
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Rand was born in 1954 in a small town in Texas. She was the youngest of four children.

Rana George was born in Beirut, Lebanon. For more than two centuries, the maternal side of her family has had an unbroken line of powerful and well-known psychics, seers, and mediums. Her spiritual quest has led her to many teachers who have helped her hone and nurture her clairvoyant (seeing), clairaudient (hearing), clairsentient (feeling), and claircognizant (intuition) talents.

Rana's Lenormand journey spans three decades. From an early age she showed signs of clairaudience and clairvoyance, and she began using her inherent abilities and a pack of Lenormand cards to give readings to friends, family, and neighbors. The little oracle of thirty-six cards was one of only five items she brought with her when her family was forced to flee the tragedy of war and immigrate to America in early 1988.

With her mother's guidance and the loving help of her family, Rana has worked as a psychic, a medium, a teacher, a mentor, a fortuneteller, and a card reader, giving counsel to clients for a span of thirty years. She has been consulted on the design of several Lenormand decks and has published many articles on cartomancy. A respected presence in the modern divination community, Rana has led multiple Lenormand workshops and study groups, and she was a main presenter at multiple tarot conferences. She teaches a Lenormand podcast series, a free seminar for all levels of readers. Rana's lifelong vocation is to inspire, guide, and help by putting the cards in people's hands and helping them find the power to shuffle them well and deal them wisely.

Now living in Texas, Rana enjoys spending quality time with her husband and three boys while continuing to study and teach internationally. For more information, please visit RanaGeorge.com.



YOUR GUIDE TO
PRECISE & PRACTICAL
FORTUNETELLING

Rana George

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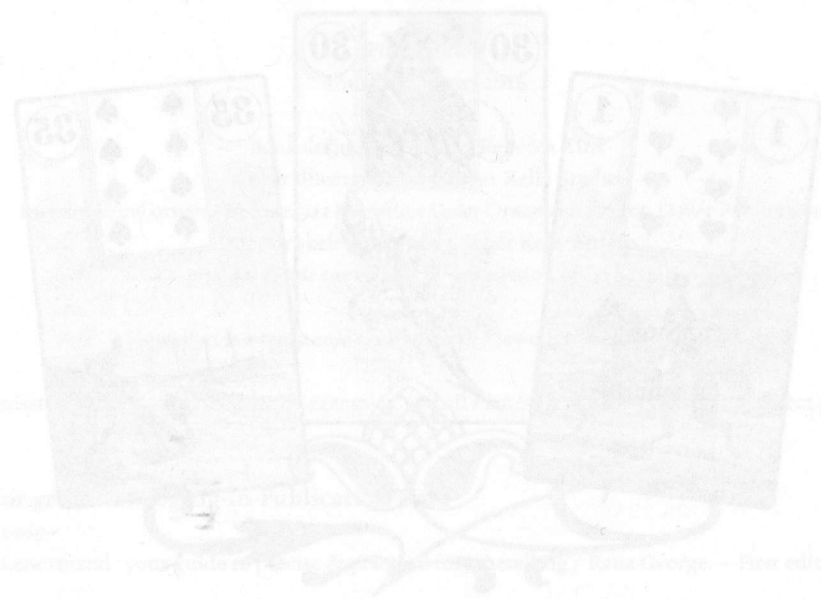
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No man can reveal to you aught but
that which already lies half-asleep
in the dawning of your knowledge.

KAHLIL GIBRAN



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Introduction

FOR CENTURIES, the study of divination was the domain of an elite rank of occultists; confronted with doubts and questions, the need for answers drew humanity to the mysterious and fascinating world of divination. This has been in practice from the beginning of human-kind and continues to flourish today as printing and communication have made esoteric subjects more accessible to those with the curiosity and willingness to explore them. Divination takes many forms—from astrology to numerology to sortilege to I Ching—but cartomancy has become one of the cornerstones of modern divination.

This book examines my personal journey with the Lenormand deck, a small pack of thirty-six cards used as a divinatory tool since the late 1800s in the salons and streets of Europe. This deck has made its imprint on history and helped shape my life. Reading, divining, and working with clairvoyance and other forms of esoteric study have been in my family for generations. We have records reaching back to the Victorian era, when the occult represented a normal form of studies included under religious mysticism. My ancestors delved into all forms of the occult and were well known and respected for their art. As far back as I can remember, I have always been able to predict events and see things that no one else could. The paranormal is normal in my family.

This book is a “how to” for an incredible tool and system that I have used for over thirty years. Lenormand has been in my life for as long as I can recall; for as long as I can remember, I have been the fortuneteller in my area. Growing up in a nation torn by civil war was no easy feat, especially with people calling me a witch and crazy. The funny thing is that those same people always came to me when they needed to know answers, and Lenormand has always been my main tool.

I have packed *The Essential Lenormand* with practical methods, approaches, and advice to help guide your own exploration of the Lenormand system. This book will give you the ability to navigate Lenormand's intricacies. I will take you through traditional meanings and methods, along with many new insights and techniques acquired through my thirty years of

practice. Not only will you discover the individual card meanings, but you will comprehend how they intermingle and interact with each other to produce clear answers. Of course, proficiency will be attained by repetition, time, practice, and experience.

My goal in this book is to teach and explain by using real-life cases. All the examples here come from real readings along with personal stories, although I've changed the names to protect my clients' privacy.

Divining and Symbols

We are all born fortunetellers, whether we know it or not. We make predictions all the time, from forecasting the weather to the outcome of a game or a movie ending. Divining with cards is as old as their first printing. Cartomancy arose from the novelty of cards, and their use in fortunetelling falls under the reading of symbols. We are surrounded with symbols in our daily life, and every small icon gets identified with a product, an act, a feeling, a person, etc. Using symbols to glimpse the future has been around since the early humans, who have gone from reading sand or the entrails of animals to tea leaves to scrying in water to reading cards. Humans instinctively read pictures and symbols; we cannot look at a picture or a symbol without complex associations. Unconscious thoughts and feelings get triggered by a picture or a symbol. Symbols surround us in our daily life; opening our eyes to those signs triggers our intuition and exercises our ability to read them and use these connections and synchronicities to affect and change our daily decision making.

In Lenormand, every symbol represents something—an object, a person, an idea, and/or a function—by convention or by association. These symbols on the cards are easy to grasp and require no familiarity with esoterica. Lenormand cards function as a bridge of communication between the conscious and the unconscious, connecting the logical awareness to the part of the brain where the psychic activities take place. When we look for answers in the cards, we activate our unconscious mind. Every time we lay out a spread, the meanings shift and change layers, becoming personalized to the question.

This book unlocks and decodes the symbols of Lenormand cards, making its language accessible. We all have the knowledge hidden within us; *The Essential Lenormand* will trigger and awaken it.

What Is Lenormand?

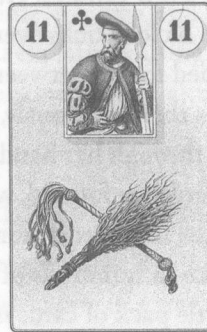
The room is dark but for the light of a few candles. Heavy velvet drapes cover the windows, and the drawing room door is locked. A clock ticks over the mantel. Two ladies sit across from each other at a table, talking in hushed tones. Between them rests a small deck of thirty-six freshly shuffled cards. One lady eyes them nervously, having just placed them back on the table. She can still feel them ruffling through her hands. The other picks them up and begins to lay them out. Four rows of eight cards are formed, with the remaining four at the bottom. "Are you sure these will work?" asks the lady across from the reading. "Oh yes!" is the reply.

This is a scene that has taken place in hundreds of reading salons and parlors in dozens of nations for over 150 years. This little pack of cards is divination. And while this deck may have started its life as a form of simple amusement, in the hands of diviners and readers its images became more meaningful. Somewhere during history it took the name of one of the most famous sibyls and fortunetellers of France, Mlle. Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand, and it quickly spread throughout Europe, making it—along with Tarot—one of the modern staples of divination. This little deck has endured to be one of the most fascinating and singular methods for divination used today.

The Lenormand card system of divination is based loosely on a cartomantic style from the late 1800s. That is why all the antique cards and some of the new ones include a playing card insert or a playing card value; you will find all the queens, kings, and jacks. The card numbers used are the sixes, sevens, eights, nines, tens, and aces. These card values are derived from an old game of cards called Piquet, which was played in salons across Enlightenment-era Europe. Mlle. Lenormand had mentioned using the game of Piquet in many of her autobiographies as one of her divination tools.

The Lenormand deck is fairly small, usually the size of the cards people use to play Bridge, and consists of only thirty-six cards. Each card has on it a single image, icon, or symbol. In readings, each symbol is completed and modified by those next to it. Combining the cards and their symbols in pairs will form a sentence or a message, much like reading hieroglyphics. Every symbol has many layers of meanings, and the appropriate meaning will depend on the context of the question, the adjacent symbols, and the reader's own insights. These symbols work in tandem to reveal truths, secrets, and events around us.

Let's take a look at these two cards: Whip and Book.



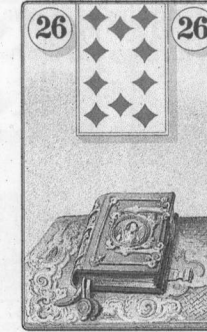
WHIP

The Whip card has the symbol of a whip and a birch, both items employed as a tool for discipline or punishment. For a more in-depth look, look for the Whip in part 2 of this book.

Keywords:

- strife
- arguments, fights, or disputes
- physical activities or sports
- sex
- abuse
- chronic conditions
- repetitive actions
- punishment
- lust
- addiction
- struggle

The Whip also carries the association of the Jack of Clubs, making the card masculine, young, and fit when it indicates a person. The card is number 11, which can be used for timing (eleven days), a date (the eleventh of a month—for example, June 11—or the month of November), or an amount (eleven dollars or eleven votes).



BOOK

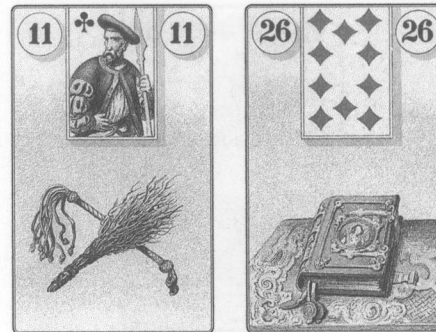
The Book card has the symbol of a book, a common symbol for knowledge and education. Again, you'll find a more in-depth look at this card in part 2.

Keywords:

- a project
- studies
- research
- knowledge
- secrets
- hidden or unknown details
- teaching
- information
- investigation
- esoterica

The number 26 association with the card may be used as timing (twenty-six days), a date (the twenty-sixth of a month—for example, Clouds [6] + Book [26] = June 26), or an amount (such as twenty-six dollars or twenty-six invitations).

Now let's put these two cards together:



WHIP + BOOK

When doing an actual reading, the context is the key factor in choosing the correct interpretation. With that in mind, some possible interpretations of this combination include:

- a workout manual or a physical therapy study
- a secret dispute
- hidden abuse
- sexual education, experimentation, or the *Kama Sutra*
- a documented debate or conflict
- unknown factors in an argument
- hidden addiction
- research about a chronic issue
- struggling with studies

Every card resembles a word. String those cards together with other cards and it becomes a sentence. That sentence turns into a story with every additional card added. The combinations are endless.

No deck? No problem! You can turn that old pack of playing cards in your kitchen drawer into your first working deck and get started this very instant. Just take out the twos and the fives and write down the name and number of every Lenormand card on its corresponding playing card (refer to the Lenormand images here; the playing card correspondence is inset in each image). The fact that you don't need special cloths, bags, smudge sticks, or other accou-

trements is part of the practical nature of this deck. It is a tool you can stick in your bag or pocket and take with you to do readings whenever and wherever you need one. For example, my friend Roxy was at a restaurant and needed to do a reading but no deck was around; she tore a napkin into thirty-six pieces, wrote the card's name on each, and threw a reading on the table right then and there. The Lenormand deck is easily accessible to all, as well as simple enough to be grasped by novices and professionals alike. Just connect the symbols and get your answer.

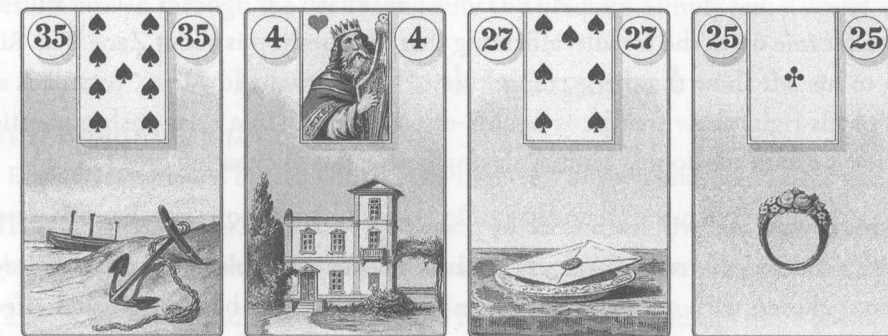
Lenormand is anchored in its simplicity. Several other systems of divination deal with the higher paths of life, but the Lenormand is a deck that will bring your readings down to everyday life and events. The down-and-dirty answers are ones that you can use. This is not a first-choice deck to go to if you want to learn about your spiritual life path; it points you to practical things that are going on around you. But that is not to say that Lenormand is unsuccessful in spiritual questions; *au contraire*, Lenormand can give a spiritual reading as good as many other tools.

The most traditional Lenormand spread is the Grand Tableau, in which all thirty-six cards are used; when laid out, it uncovers a full map of a person's situation. This is the oldest known spread and has been used by traditional diviners and readers for over 150 years; to this day it is still one of the best techniques. We will examine the Grand Tableau in all its details in part 3.

Remember: you can make a reading as simple or as complex as you like. For a quick answer, reading four cards in a linear, methodical way like a mathematical formula can produce ready results. For more subtle or complex situations, larger spreads will give better results.

Here is an example to give you a little teaser on how simply Lenormand can be read.

Question: Jad is a realtor who came to me worried about one of his listings. "What is going to happen with the house on the lake?"

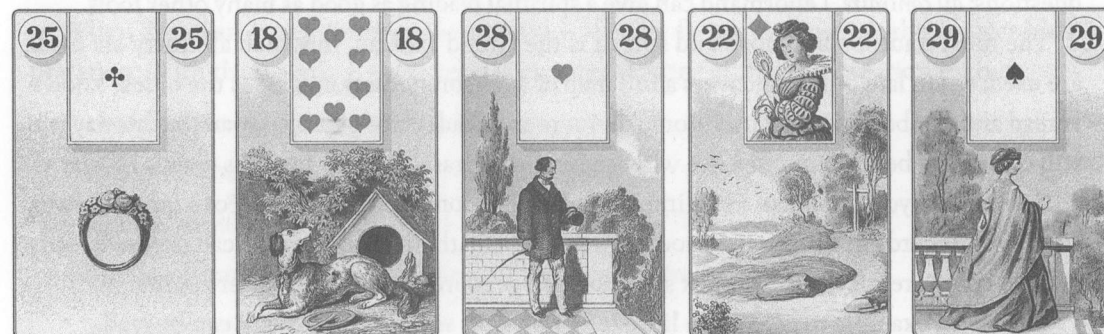


ANCHOR + HOUSE + LETTER + RING

Answer: Jad will close the deal and the house will finally get sold. Getting the House in the spread is the cards' own way of affirming the question, highlighting the fact that the reading is about a house, and the Anchor brings in the water feature, affirming that the prediction concerns the house on the lake. The last two cards, the Letter and the Ring, present a definite answer for a contract and signed documents. In Lenormand, the position of the cards is very important. They are linear; the last card is the final say. If the Anchor had been the last card and no Ring was present, the prediction would have changed: the house would have been stuck for a while.

Let's look at another example reading:

Question: Jane has been seeing Zane for a month and wonders about his intentions. "Is Zane interested in a long-term relationship with Jane?"



RING + DOG + MAN + CROSSROADS + WOMAN

Answer: No, he is already in a committed relationship, and all he wants is another dish on the side.

The Man came up in the middle, affirming that the question is about Zane. The Ring and the Dog to his left show that he is committed to a partner already. The Crossroads and the Woman to his right show that he is double-crossing Jane. (In a relationship question, the Crossroads is one of the double cards, a playing-both-fields or cheating card.)

And this is what you will learn to do by practicing with *The Essential Lenormand*. This system's clarity doesn't leave room for doubt because you get verifiable answers right away.

Any tool chosen with enough practice and experience will be accurate and effective. I believe Lenormand is an exceptional predictive tool to work with. Taking the time to learn it and practice with it is the best approach to become efficient and clear in your own readings.

For me, reading a small spread of Lenormand is like reading a string of words that form a direct answer. When the Grand Tableau is laid out, it is like a book unfolding a story within a story filled with many scenarios of action, drama, and twists and turns. Lenormand is so direct that sometimes only one card is necessary to give a definitive no or yes!

The Benefits of Reading Lenormand

The merits of reading cards are manifold; here are some that have benefited me personally:

1: Working with the cards and practicing diligently will sharpen your intuition; you will notice the symbols and signs all around you and pay more attention to your instincts. This boosts your aptitude and your figurative antennae tremendously.

2: The cards will enhance your level of confidence and self-esteem every time you help someone solve a problem or guide a soul in need. Being able to help and advise effectively will give you joy and satisfaction, as well as make you feel valuable—a priceless gift.

3: The Lenormand cards provide glimpses of the future so that you can better prepare for and manage any situation. These informed decisions can alter the future you see in the cards. I practice this with my clients by figuring out ways to change and alter undesirable outcomes. Sometimes our paths can be redirected; other times the future seems fixed. I have discovered through many years of practice that a reading often can give us the chance to change our course or show us ways to handle the inevitable.

4: The cards will act as a quick guide and counsel when you are stressed, anxious, or in need of an answer. The cards will serve as a messenger from your higher self, helping you plan as well as recommend actions. A Lenormand spread helps you understand a situation from many angles, offering counsel on your problems, past and present.

Readings alleviate fear, give hope, and occasionally satisfy curiosity. Lenormand gives powerful results proven through the deck's longevity and ubiquity. Simply put: *it works!*

How This Book Is Organized

Part 1: Beginning with Lenormand

The Essential Lenormand begins with a basic overview of the Lenormand deck and the fundamentals that will steer you toward mastery of its system. It includes:

- a brief guide to choosing a workhorse deck for the exercises and lessons that follow
- a look at questions and how phrasing can help make your readings more powerful, practical, and predictive

- a brief testament to the virtues of picking and sticking with one Lenormand system as you begin your journey
- a guide to journaling your exercises and readings as a cartomantic foundation
- a look at the simple potency of focus cards and signifiers in eliciting specific answers from a spread
- a short history of my own first encounter with the Lenormand in a war-torn country

Part 2: A Closer Look at the Thirty-Six Cards

This section provides an in-depth look at Lenormand and an analysis of every card. First I will provide an overview of the Lenormand system and its origin. Then we will explore the different meanings and layers of every card in several contexts. You will find:

- a description of the illustration and details of every card
- a list of the card's contextual meanings for several common topics: prediction, work, love, health, money, timing, advice, and specific objects/areas of inquiry
- a personal story for every card
- how every card can be viewed in the Grand Tableau
- the orientation of each card—whether it is positive, negative, or neutral
- the nuances of every card—whether it is an action card, a mood card, a time card, or a portrait card (all cards acquire these nuances at one time or another, but these will be their most common connotations)

There are no concrete positive and negative symbols. The relative character fluctuates depending on the surrounding cards and personal situations. A negative card can be looked at in a positive light and vice versa.

You will find that there are cards with no time reference. Timing is malleable, and not every card has a time association. Every reader will build his or her own timing method from trial and error. In this book I will describe the system that has worked for me in different situations.

Part 3: Reading Techniques and Spreads

Here we will learn how to interpret card combinations by using simple techniques and exercises to learn the cards and blend their symbols. We will tackle small spreads and move on to more intricate and elaborate layouts until we get to the Grand Tableau.

NOTE: Throughout this book, I will be using the terms *client* and *querent* interchangeably.

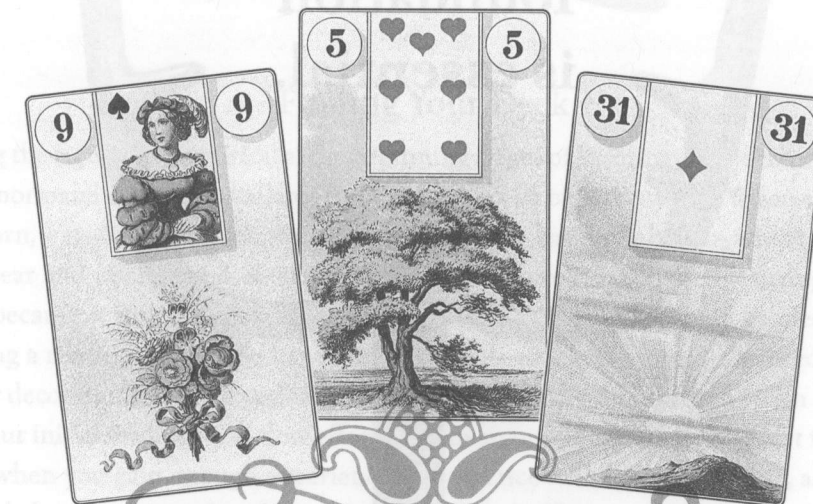
At the end of the book, we will examine the life of Mademoiselle Lenormand in a chronological format. In another appendix, I have also included an overview on how every card can be activated as a signifier or a focus card. And for a quick reference I've included an interpretation key; a list of the positive, negative, and neutral cards; a quick look at the house attributes; the court cards; and a method of combining Lenormand with Tarot. Lastly, the glossary will explain unfamiliar terms and concepts.

Through *The Essential Lenormand* I aim to give you the full experience of all of Lenormand's aspects, characteristics, and facets. This book will help you answer the many questions that crop up in day-to-day life and nurture a fortunetelling practice that works for you. My guidance will help you shed light on what is hidden through the beautiful and clear images of the Lenormand cards. I feel a tremendous joy and satisfaction when I see people picking up cards or any other tools of divination to benefit themselves and others. Believe in yourself and in the cards; have the confidence to predict and divine. I hope that you will enjoy playing with your deck and discovering the facets of Lenormand.

Life is like a deck of cards: you have to deal with it. Relax, keep it simple, and—most importantly—have fun!

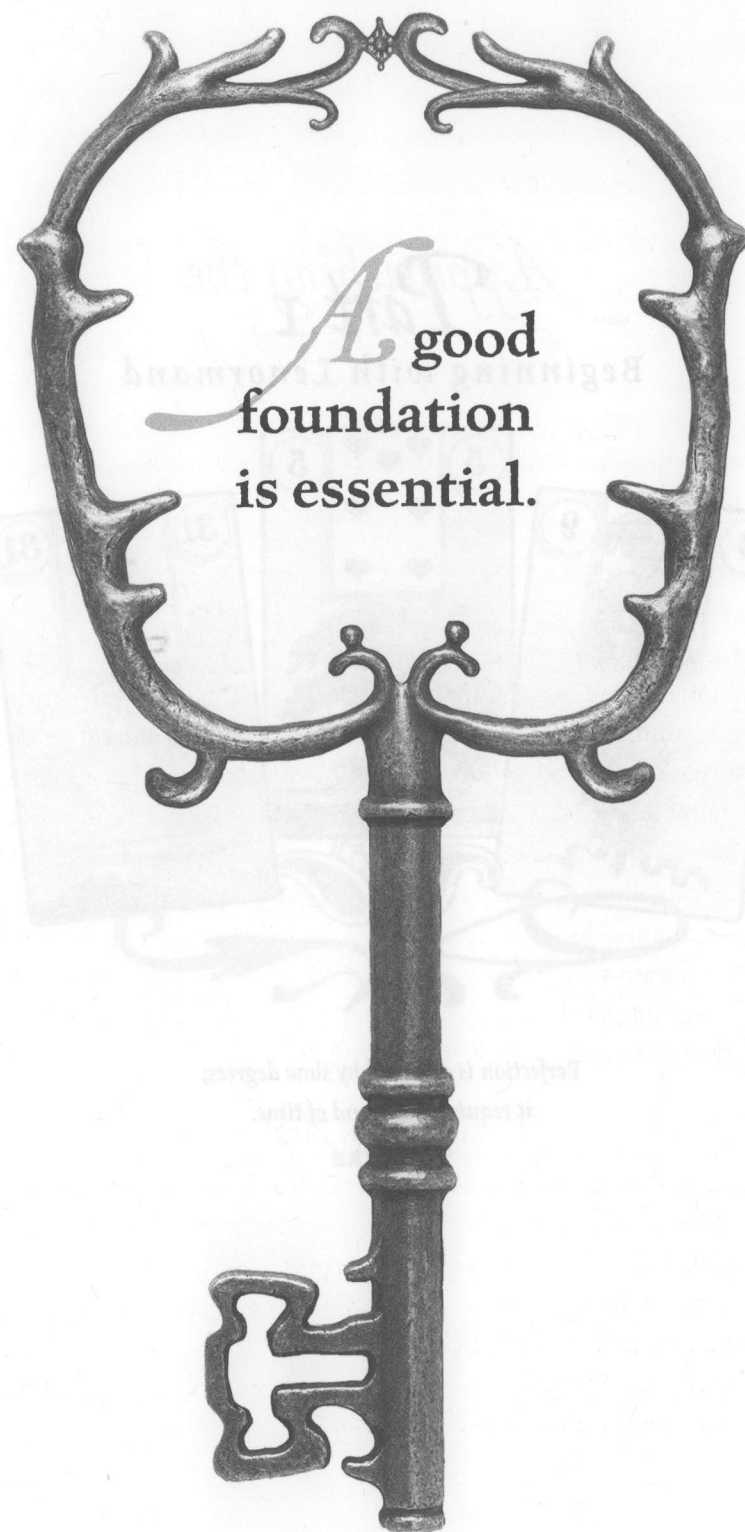
Part I

Beginning with Lenormand



Perfection is attained by slow degrees;
it requires the hand of time.

VOLTAIRE



Approaching the Lenormand Cards

Finding Your Deck

Choosing the right deck is critical at the beginning stages of learning. At the moment, a plethora of Lenormand decks are available from publishers all over the world. When you are starting to learn, I recommend picking a simple deck with basic symbols in which the artwork is very clear and uncluttered. A straightforward deck works best when learning the Grand Tableau because it minimizes distractions on the cards. Symbols should be clear and obvious during a reading. When the Lenormand symbols are cluttered and obscured with other shapes or decorations, it can interfere with your perceptions. By beginning with streamlined basics, your initial readings will flow effortlessly in an uncomplicated and direct fashion.

Only when you gain enough experience and practice will any deck be fine, as your brain will already be programmed to the Lenormand symbols. Then it will be good to let your eyes wander and your intuition soar in many directions. There are plenty of simple decks that are beautiful without seeming plain. You should connect with the deck and enjoy looking at it; the sense of enjoyment is essential in the learning process.

First Things First

When reading, it is vital to approach the cards with a clear head and a specific question to get a precise answer. I carry out the shuffling process like a ritual to get in the zone and concentrate on the question. I then formulate the question in a manner that will give me a specific answer to the situation at hand. Next I decide between pulling the cards or spreading them, determining the number and placement of the cards pulled. Then I make sure to listen to that first instinct, that first voice I hear when I see the symbols in the cards, because nine times out of ten this is the root of my accurate predictions.

Trust yourself: doubt is your number one enemy. Do not be afraid to be wrong, for it only means you are taking the necessary risks on the path to proficiency. The cards alone cannot give you the answer. Your intuition and your insights are at work here; the cards are only a tool.

Practice makes perfect. The more you work with the cards, the greater your comfort level and accuracy will be. Make sure to do whatever is necessary to clear your head: take a deep breath and assume a position where you feel secure, relaxed, and in control while performing the shuffling process and formulating the question.

Questions Lead to Answers

When interpreting the cards, it is essential to keep your question in mind and answer only the question asked. Do not deviate and go into a different subject. For example, if you are reading about someone's romantic intentions, do not get sidetracked into issues about his finances or his mother unless the finances or the mother relate to the romantic question. You must focus on answering the what, the who, the why, the when, the how, and the where of the question in practical, specific language. This is the only way to get precision in your reading without rambling or distraction. Keep it simple: you do not need an elaborate interpretation to be accurate.

Make sure your question is properly formulated in your mind; this is the most important step in your reading. It is more important than the reading itself, and your accuracy depends on it. Formulate the question in a way that produces a clear aim and a context for useful insight. The cards can only answer the exact question you ask. If the cards don't make sense, your focus or question may not have been clear. In that case, rethink the question and redo the reading.

Look for questions that allow for concrete and descriptive answers.

Examples:

- Is Amy interested in me or what are her thoughts about me?
- How will I do on my test?
- How will our dog react to the new puppy?
- What is the best way to tackle this situation?
- How does our financial state look in the near future?
- What are Alex's intentions toward me?

- Do I need to worry about my job?
- Will I get this job?
- Will Tanya land this contract?
- How will Robert react to the news?
- What am I to expect on my trip?
- Is Jason's relationship stable?
- What are my prospects for a love interest in the near future?

Coming up with the most direct and specific question will help you get the most clear and precise answer. Lenormand is a predictive tool. All questions are valid as long as they are simple and precise; a vague question will produce a vague answer. Be very specific in your question, and you will see how the Lenormand will answer in a very direct manner.

On the other hand, when doing a general reading without a question, use the cards to determine the focus card and the issue at hand. A general rule when pulling cards for a daily reading with no question in mind is to keep the interpretation simple and grounded.

Questions dealing with time, as in "when," are a little tricky. I have found that using the seasons for a time frame works best. Try to incorporate the time in the question, like "Will Shawn land the contract by the summer?" or "How will this situation develop during the winter?" Time is elusive; we influence time frames with our actions. The cards' time is different from our material time; in one sense, we are trying to access wisdom that doesn't adhere to our linear, human time. What the cards will do is give us the sequence of events that can help us determine an estimation of time once we can determine the context.

I cannot stress enough the importance of these first steps: breathe, center yourself, shuffle, think of a clear question, and then pull the cards.

Stick with Your System

At the beginning of your Lenormand journey, *consistency* must be your watchword. As you take the first steps, start with a set of meanings and stick to them, making them your foundation and base. This method will amplify your accuracy. For example, decide on the card you associate with sex and the card you associate with work and make sure to adhere to those symbolic associations. If you vacillate and mix meanings, you will disrupt your unconscious, compromise the clarity of your answer, and always have the doubt of which meaning applies, which will affect your confidence. For my part, I use the Whip as the sex card and the Fox as

the job card. Eventually you will build on the traditional meanings and cultivate your own set from your own successful readings. You have to experience the cards in order to understand how they speak to you.

In the recent resurgence of Lenormand, I learned that different Lenormand systems exist with a slight variation to the meanings, depending on their country of origin. The array of schools can create tremendous confusion because of the debate over context and approach. However, the distinctions between them are minor and involve subtle variations in the reading of a few cards. I lean toward the French/Belgian/Dutch set of meanings. Each has value and potency, but you must stick to your set of meanings. You can always expand these associations later, but to develop a firm grip on the deck, pick one set of meanings and adhere to them. In that way you will attach those meanings to those cards within your own mind. Your intuition will flourish within the Lenormand's symbolic structure, and your predictions will grow in precision. Every card needs a specific attribution for an accurate prediction. Being consistent is a key factor and a very important step in learning how to read Lenormand. So again, I have to emphasize the fundamental need to be consistent!

Journal Your Cards

Journaling will facilitate your personal connection with the cards and produce a perfect record to revisit as you learn. The easiest way to start is to select two cards a day and document them in your journal. Every morning, pull two cards and write down what you think they mean. At the end of the day, make a note of how those symbols manifested in your day. Since each card has a single symbol, you need two or more to produce a useful prediction. These simple daily readings will allow you to track your accuracy and reactions.

Over time, you will develop your own combination reference, and the cards will sync with your mind and intuition. When you start feeling a little bit more comfortable, move on to three cards a day, and so on. You can also use your journal for all your readings, recording your predictions so you can gauge hits and misses. Even if you only pull one card for a question or a situation, write down your question and the card pulled. This activity will improve your precision and nurture a tight rapport with your cards.

Exercise Your Deck

The most important part of learning is to practice, practice, and practice. It has been said that mastery of any activity requires ten thousand repetitions; the more you can read and check the outcome, the closer you can reach that kind of proficiency. Practice on yourself, on TV

shows to see who is going to win or "who done it," on the news, on elections, on the Oscars, even on the weather. *Predict, predict, predict.* The more you use the cards, and the more you do these exercises, the faster the learning process will become. It is like working out: the more you work out, the more supple and muscular you become. The more you practice reading, the more accurate and swift you will grow with Lenormand, intuition, and psychic abilities. And don't forget to journal your predictions as a way of keeping yourself diligent and tracking your progress.

Using a Significator or a Focus Card

A significator or a focus card is specifically preselected from the deck to represent a situation, a problem, or a person in question. In Lenormand, the Woman and the Man cards always represent your client, or the person getting the reading, unless they are specially picked out to represent a certain person. When a card is picked to represent other topics or subjects you are reading about, activate the specific card with concerns related to the topic. Activating a card sets the intention by energizing the symbol with the question at hand and superimposing that element of the querent's situation on the card's timeless image. The same is true of the Man/Woman as the client's significator: for a female client, you need to activate the Woman card for her specifically. For a male client, you might activate the Woman as his wife, his sister, or his female boss, based on the question.

By activating a particular card for particular people, topics, or concerns, you cast that card as if it were an actor on stage so that it can play a certain role in this particular reading. For example: the Snake may serve as a missing bracelet for one reading and a two-faced friend in another. The Ship card can represent my upcoming trip; the Book can represent a just-finished project. In your mind's eye, see the issue at hand being overlaid by the relevant card while you are shuffling; keep on shuffling until the topic and the focus card are one. For example, if you want to read about a trip, you could activate the Ship card, shuffle the deck, then look for it in the deck and read it with the cards that it was sandwiched in between. If you want to read about a project you are working on, activate the Book. The more mindfully you activate the cards, the more specific details will emerge in all your readings.

This method is not mandatory. You *can* ask the question and just pull the cards without activating them, but I suggest that you try using both ways for a while and compare the outcomes.

Focusing on the topic will be sufficient in some readings, and the deck will indicate the card requiring your focus by itself. This method works better when you pull an odd number of cards; the card showing up in the middle will be the important card for you to focus on. For example, if you are focusing on your upcoming trip and the card in the middle happens to be

the Bear, then the advice would be to watch your spending or be aware of where you put your wallet and purse or pay attention to meals, since the Bear is the symbol for money and diet. Basically, the cards pulled will guide you to the focus of your reading, with the surrounding cards providing the details.

That clarity is what I like about *not* preselecting a significator or focus card and just pulling the cards randomly. Almost always, the cards will identify the primary issue without input from the client. When reading about a business trip, the Ship card appearing on its own, without being activated, is the cards' way of confirming your question. The reading and the reality have synchronized.

In my experience, I have found that both methods work well. I use both, allowing the cards to direct the reading and at other times selecting the main cards and reading around them.

My Story with Lenormand

Before I can tell you how to use the Lenormand deck my way, I would like to share my own first view of the cards. My experiences and how the deck fell into my life helped shape me as a person as well as taught me how to use them to their full potential.

I was born at a time when Beirut, Lebanon, was called the Paris of the Middle East. My family's maternal lineage was drenched with psychics and empaths. Much later in my life, I found out that I had two great-grandfathers on my mother's side who were very well known as mystics and psychics. Her maternal grandfather was a regular medium and a channeler, but her paternal grandfather was a pharmacist versed in the arts of everything esoteric—he was a healer, a medium, a channeler, a fortuneteller, a religious mystic, an alchemist, and much more. The local people revered him and would come to him for help; however, at the same time, they feared him. There were a few more relatives here and there that were well known for their mysticism and healings. It wasn't long before I realized that I followed in the footsteps of my ancestors. It was a gift. As a kid, though, I had no idea how to use it, control it, or embrace it.

Growing up in Beirut, I saw the start of the civil war and endured twelve years of it. During the war there was always either someone being killed or abducted. After one of these tragedies hit home directly, my family and I escaped the country. It was a tense time: my father wanted to move to France, while my mother wanted to move to America. Through much thought and consideration, the decision was made: to the great United States we went.

My story with Lenormand started when I was around ten years old and living in Beirut. Uncle Charles was a close friend and a neighbor to my parents; Beirut was his home, but he also carried a French nationality; it was the norm back then. He used to always stop by for

coffee, a reading, and a chat. He was from a Lebanese-Jewish family that had been in Beirut for many generations.

I have very fond memories of him, and he played a great part of my life with Lenormand. Uncle Charles was also a psychic and a great seer in the mystical Ordre de la Rose-Croix. I recall when he used to go someplace in the mountains of France where he attended psychic meetings. I would sit in the hallway when I was supposed to be sleeping and listen to the stories he told my parents of men who could move objects with their mind and other men who could make plants grow. He explained how he was able to check up remotely on his friends in France and vice versa.

Uncle Charles didn't want to leave Beirut or his home. His love for Beirut was so strong that he endured the first four years of the civil war until one evening when, late at night, there was knocking at our door; it was Uncle Charles with a suitcase. He had received a tip from the militia of a serious threat to his life. The situation was very dire in Beirut, with explosions and gunfire, total political unrest, and the airport closed temporarily. Uncle Charles had to hide in our home for a while; it was a time packed with esoteric teachings and readings. The moment the airport opened, my mom and dad hid Uncle Charles in the car and drove him under the cover of night to the airport, where he took the first flight out of Beirut. Before he left, Uncle Charles gave my mom a deck to pass on to me when she felt the time was right. This was my first and only Lenormand deck for most of my life. That was the last time I ever saw him. Since he fled the country, contact was hard and minimal until it was finally totally lost. I hope he knows what became of that little girl with the pack of thirty-six cards.

For the next two years, my mom used that deck, and I watched her every day. Later I started doing little readings here and there for family and friends. Eventually the circle grew and kept on growing until it encompassed the neighbors and their friends. They used to all come with chocolate, desserts, and homemade cakes. I remember one specific neighbor coming with a plate of homemade *maamool* (a Lebanese desert stuffed with walnuts and dates). Her reading was a bit undesirable, but I gave her the warning. The next morning at six A.M., I was running late for my school bus—and, of course, the electricity was out again, so I had to run five flights of stairs. By the time I reached the second floor, she had opened the door and screamed from the fourth floor: "Rana! Remember your reading last night? I fell in the tub and twisted my ankle!" All I could think to answer was "I'm sorry!" That was the first of my many "I wish I hadn't predicted that" moments.

The rest of my teenage years were atypical. Life weighed heavy through those years. I experienced friends and family members getting tortured and shot, others getting abducted, and all the while I had to live with predicting most of these treacherous events. The last of the

pain and suffering we could stand to endure before fleeing the country was the death of my grandmother and my two young aunts. These were not typical deaths; these were the most horrific and appalling murders anyone could ever bear. These events signaled the end of our life in Lebanon.

Throughout all of this, my mom was my anchor, my wall, my protector, and my hero; she was the one standing strong in front of people, defending the sanity of her daughter. With our escape to the United States, I made sure to bring with me the five items I cherished the most: my Lenormand deck, my polar bear, my only Barbie (wearing an off-white lace wedding dress), my diary, and my makeup case.

The move to the United States was no easy feat, and trying to live and fit in was just as hard. By then I was almost eighteen. I used to do readings to anyone who asked. Not only did I read with Lenormand, I read palms as well. One day on a double date with my close friend Tina, I saw danger in the hand of my blind date. I didn't know the guy, and I didn't know what to say. Should I tell him or should I stay quiet? Tina suggested that I tell him, so I did, and he looked at me funny. The next day he got stabbed in an alley. I went to the hospital with Tina to visit him, and the minute I walked into the room he pointed his finger and screamed at me as loud as he could to "get that g*****n witch out of my room." I was shocked, horrified, mortified, and couldn't breathe anymore. I went home and cried for a week. After that episode, I realized that for me to fit in, I had to be very careful and minimize my readings. So I stopped all readings and only read to very close friends and family.

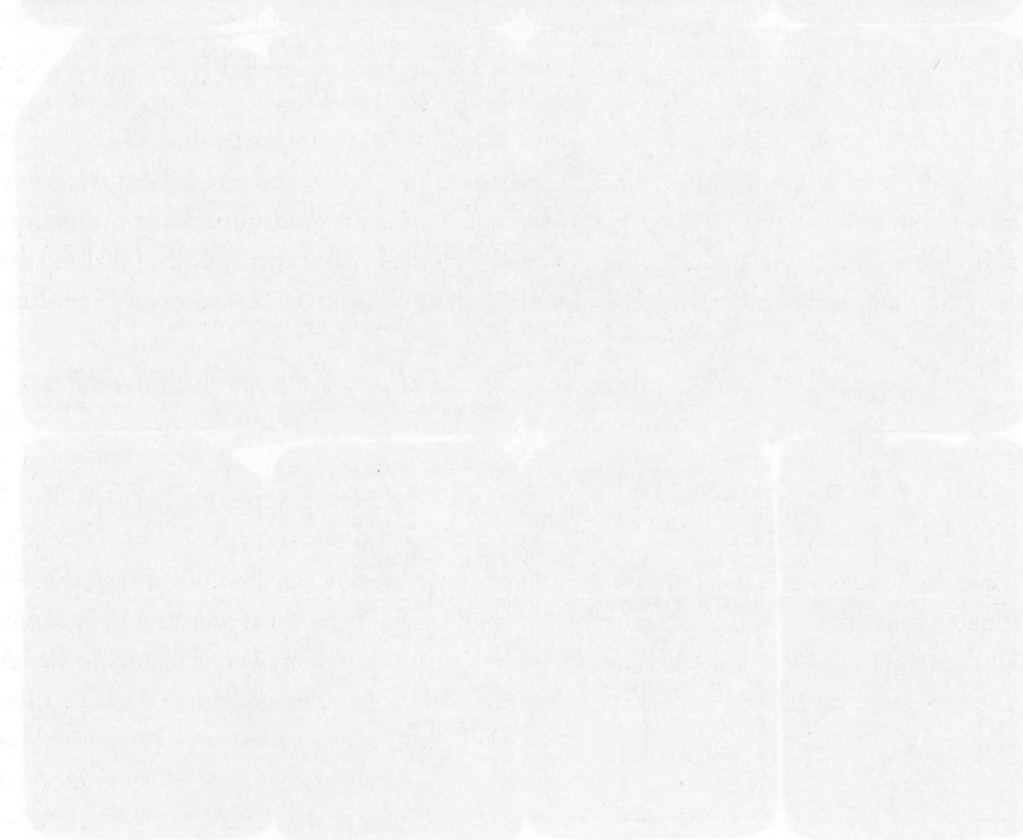
My only Lenormand deck stayed with me through all the years of college and marriage. After years of use, the deck was breaking apart in my hands; I was losing my precious deck, and I had no idea where and if I could get another one. In 2009 I decided to go on the web and do a search for "Lenormand." Imagine my shock when I discovered I could actually buy another one. I found a plethora of information and a great community of people who shared my passion for divination. This instantly supportive tribe seemed an absolute miracle; heaven led me to a wonderful Tarot community. Through it I met the most amazing people who taught me the art of Tarot and much more, and in return I shared my Lenormand knowledge.

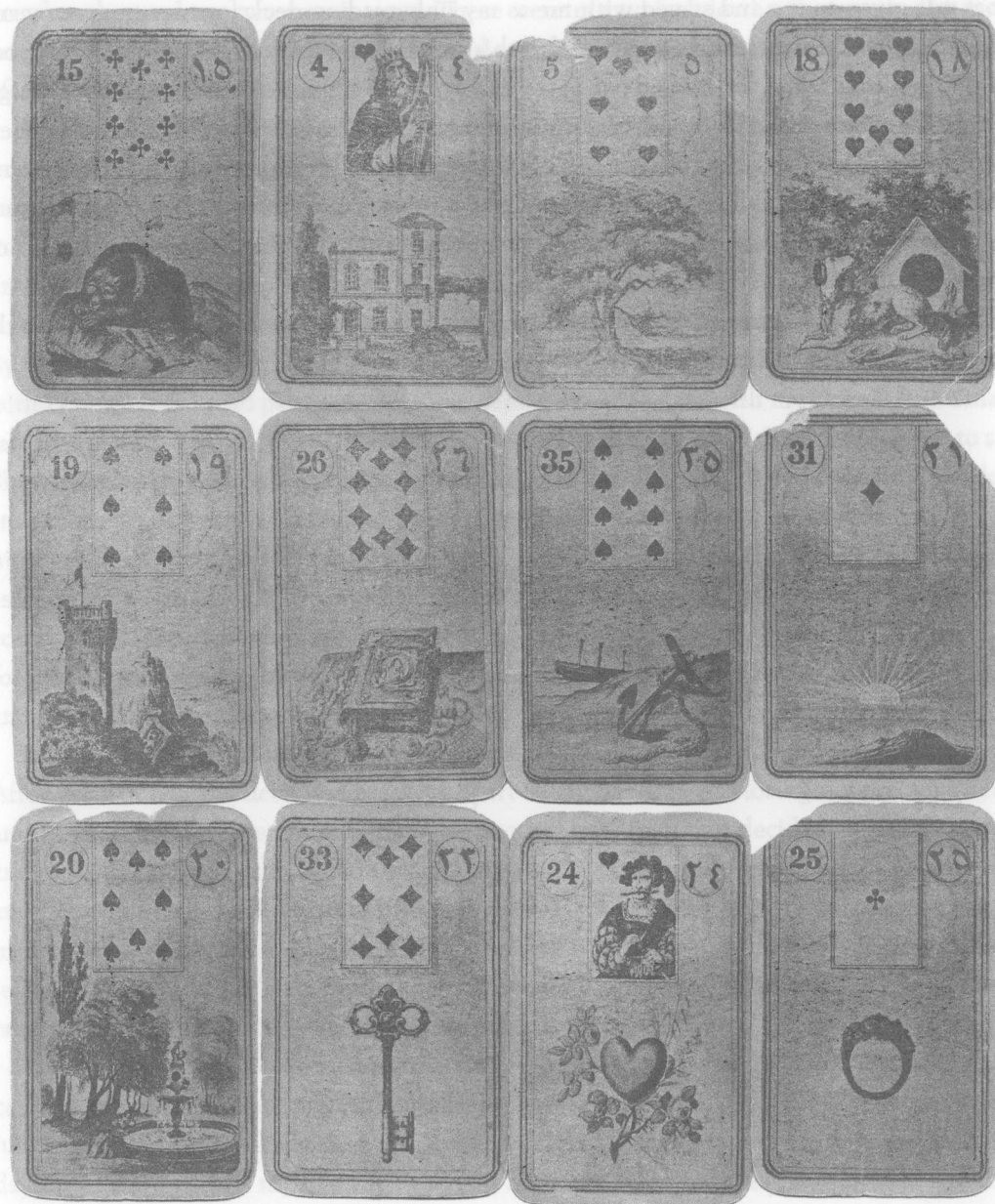
Over the past three decades, that little Lenormand deck has changed me to the core; those cards got me through the toughest times and always showed me a path. They grew up with me just as much as I grew up with them. From my early teenage years to my wife and mommy days, they have shaped my life. I have taught my three boys to do readings as well, and they do it beautifully. They solve many of their school problems with just a deck of cards. Reading cards empowers people; it is a transformative tool.

On the next page is an image of a few cards from my faithful Lenormand deck, the deck that was given to me and stayed with me as my only reading deck for twenty-seven years. After doing a little research, I found out that this particular edition dates from the early 1900s. It is a simple deck and considered one of the classics: a red-tinted copy of the Dondorf design.

This deck is a part of me, and I treasure it utterly. The constant use throughout all these years has made it fragile to the point where it is literally falling apart. It is tucked away in a special box far from any hands. It is amazing how a simple, small deck of cards has made such an impact on my life since the day it came into my little hands. It is my companion, my solace, and my guide; it molded me into the woman I am now.

My personal Lenormand oracle changed my life; I hope *The Essential Lenormand* can do the same for you.

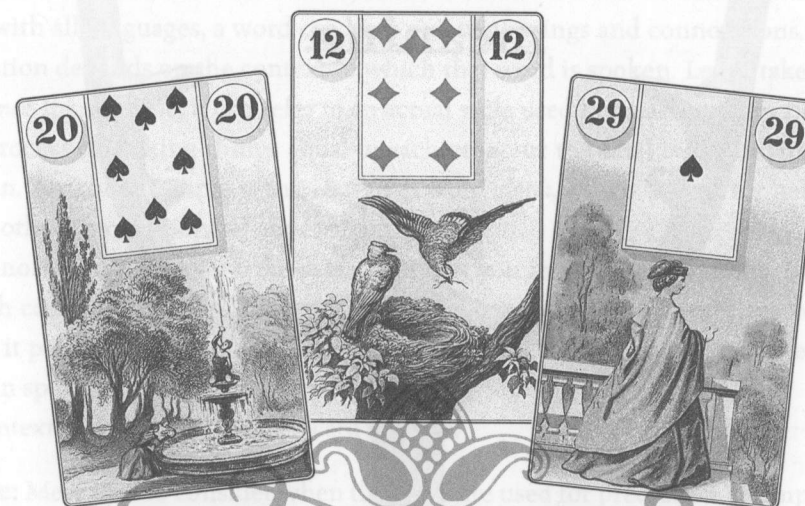




RANA'S ORIGINAL LENORMAND DECK

Part 2

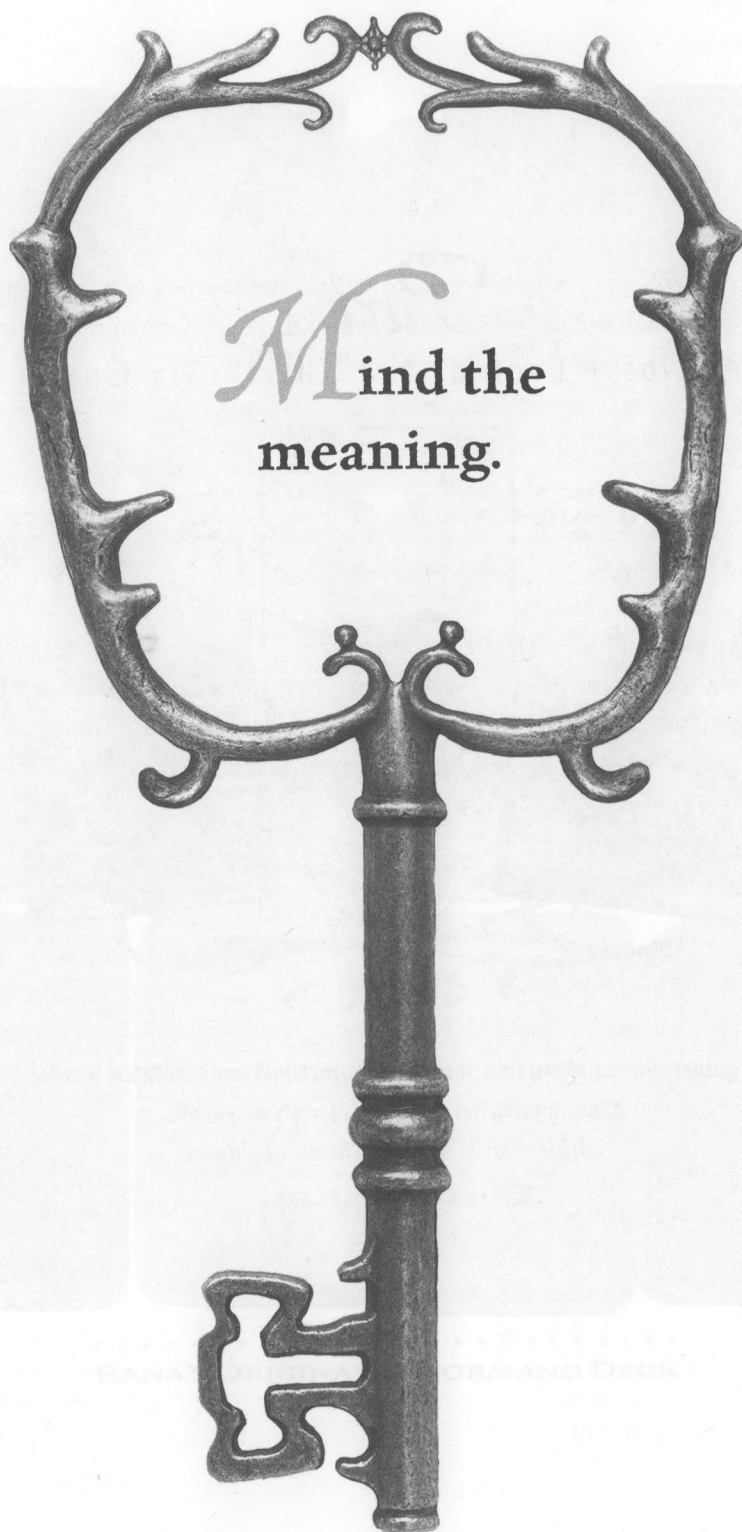
A Closer Look at the Thirty-Six Cards



Nature is a temple in which columns sometimes emit confused words.

Man approaches it through forests of symbols,
which observe him with familiar glances.

CHARLES BAUDELAIRE



IN THIS section we will go through every card with a fine-toothed comb, beginning with an overview of the card, including a full description and its general meaning. Then we will look at how each card can be viewed for different contexts and topics.

Every Lenormand card contains one symbol; each card is like a word in the language of the deck. As with all languages, a word can have many meanings and connotations. Meaningful interpretation depends on the context in which that word is spoken. Let us take the English word *balance*, for example; it can refer to an actual scale used to measure, the action of steady-ing, the process of making things equal to each other, or the final total left after a financial transaction. Another example is the Hawaiian word *aloha*, which is used for hello, goodbye, kind, and other connotations of endearment.

The Lenormand cards work the same. To assist you in your explorations, I have broken down each card within different contexts. By no means is this a comprehensive list. I keep adding to it periodically with new and variant attributes. You will surely do the same as the cards begin speaking to you.

The contexts I've covered for each card include:

Future: Meanings to consider when the cards are used for prediction. Example: "What am I to expect tomorrow?" Bouquet + Rider = happy news or good feedback. In this section you will also find notes about the card's nuance—whether it is an action card, a mood card, a time card, or a portrait card (see the "nuance cards" section beginning on page 29). All cards acquire these nuances at various times, but these will be their most common connotations.

Woman or Man: These are interpretations that emerge when the card describes a person's qualities, physical attributes, mannerisms, personality, etc. Examples: "How will she look?" Stork = tall, slender, long legs, graceful. "What kind of a personality does he have?" Stork = flaky, always looking for the next best thing.

Work: These meanings refer to issues around employment, a career situation, or a job question. Examples: "What is his profession?" Fox + Book = a detective. "What am I to expect in my review?" Stork = a promotion or change for the better.

Love: This section gives examples of emotional or romantic interpretations in relationship questions. Example: "What is the future of our relationship?" Ring = a committed relationship; a possible proposal.

Health, Body, and Spirit: These meanings refer to all kinds of health—physical, mental, or spiritual. Examples: "What is the best solution for my predicament?" Scythe = a surgical procedure or a procedure that requires an incision. "How will my new exercise routine work for me?" Coffin = it will leave me exhausted and might send me to bed. (A word of warning: when clients ask health questions, always refer them to an appropriate medical practitioner.)

Money: This portion offers ways of reading the cards for financial questions. Example: "Will I be getting a pay increase?" Bear = a lump sum is on the way. As always, be careful to direct clients to qualified advisors when discussing serious financial complications.

Time or Timing: This is a system for using the Lenormand deck to answer timing questions. When the question refers specifically to time, only read the time number and not the symbol. Example: "When will I get my assignment?" Fox + Bouquet = 14 September, or in two weeks and nine days. Remember that time is elusive; we influence time frames with our actions. The card's time is different from our material time; in one sense, we are trying to access wisdom that doesn't adhere to our linear human time. Timing is malleable, and not every card has a time association. You will eventually build your own personal timing method from practice and extensive trial and error.

Advice or Action: A set of aphoristic and/or motivational meanings for readings that seek counsel instead of a prediction or a description. Example: "What is the best action for me to do in this situation?" Mountain = stand your ground and don't budge.

Orientation: This section will tell you if a card is usually viewed as being positive, negative, or neutral in value, and how the card influences its neighbors. Additionally, in simple questions the positives would be yes cards and the negatives would be no cards. Example: "Will my car get fixed this weekend?" Cross = no, Key = yes. *There are no absolutely positive or negative cards.* The cards' impact fluctuates depending on the adjacent symbols, the context, and the question. A negative card can be looked at in a

positive light and vice versa. Examples: "Will my headache go away?" Cross + Coffin = yes, the pain will end. Cross + Fish = no, the pain will keep flowing or radiating.

Objects and Areas: To assist with specifics and more topical signifiers, I have listed items and places the card can designate. Examples: "Where are my keys?" Coffin = in a box, in a dark place or a drawer. "What will my boyfriend give me for our anniversary?" Snake = some sort of chain or bracelet.

Personal Anecdote: Because Lenormand works best with a personal connection, I have included a personal story about every card to indicate the way lifelong practice has woven this system into my world. These are card stories that have left a permanent imprint in my memory, and they include anecdotes from my journal. During the writing of this book, many synchronicities transpired that were relevant to the card I was exploring at the time. As you work with the cards, you will build up your own lexicon of Lenormand experiences that will flavor your readings.

Traditional Meanings: In the Grand Tableau section, I explain every card and how it is viewed from the traditional way that I grew up with and its evolution after many years of practice. You will notice that, at times, the traditional meaning acquires layers, and in other cases it gets shed. The Lenormand system never stops evolving.

Sample Readings: Finally, at the end of each card's section, I have included some examples from real-life readings to show the dynamic between the cards and some combination possibilities.

Nuance Cards

Before we begin the overview of the thirty-six cards, I want to bring you in on a little secret I've discovered with Lenormand: nuance cards. This is a trick I picked up through the years and thousands of readings. When certain cards come up around the significator, they tend to set the tone of the reading. Over time, I began to lump certain cards together under four categories, based of the nature of their effects. Some cards are more descriptive than others, others suggest more of an atmosphere in a situation, some cards vibrate with action, and others point directly to a sense of time. The distinction feels fundamental, almost as if these nuance cards belong to different elements.

When one of these nuances is dominant in a reading, the entire reading takes on that elemental character. These cards fall into four different categories:

- action
- portrait
- mood
- time

Granted, every card in the deck expresses these four categories at some level, but I have found that some cards lean heavily in one direction or another. In Lenormand there are no absolutes, no black or white; subtlety is everything, and so nuance can be incredibly potent in a reading. For example, the Rider is all about movement and urgency, but although the card can be descriptive, over the years of practice I've found that it falls mostly into two categories: action and time.

Obviously this only works with small spreads, because the more cards you have, the more nuance gets diluted. And the cards under each category are by no means stuck to it.

Here I am going to share with you my categories and the cards I ascribe to them. In time you will develop your own list, but I hope mine will suggest possibilities and help you gauge your spreads.

Action cards: Rider, Ship, Scythe, Whip, Birds, Stork, Crossroads, Key, Fish

All these cards tend to have movement in their meanings. They evoke the sensation of change or the need to act. If I see more than one action card in a small spread, I highlight that fact to my client. For example, seeing Crossroads, Rider, and Ship in one spread urges the need to act and move on (depending on the context).

Portrait cards: Snake, Child, Fox, Bear, Dog, Tower, Mountain, Ring, Man, Woman, Book, Letter

These cards tend to give a more descriptive feel to the spread; they add color and personality to the reading, and help to get specifics about the people and situations involved. A reading that incorporates Tower + Book immediately suggests an academic institution or a library, or Book + Tower might depict a respected writer's colony. These portrait cards set the stage for the other symbols acting upon the querent's situation.

Mood cards: Clover, House, Clouds, Coffin, Bouquet, Stars, Garden, Mice, Heart, Sun, Moon, Key, Cross

These cards cast an atmosphere over the reading: gloomy, anxious, relaxed, sexy, stern, etc. These nuance cards suggest a general vibe that subtly shifts the context. When you lay out a spread and get the Cross, the mood is quite different from the Bouquet. These cards will vibrate that energy through the spread.

Time cards: Rider, Tree, Scythe, Mice, Lilies, Moon, Anchor

These are the cards that immediately bring to mind the passage of time, whether fast and urgent or slow and arduous. If two cards come up in a spread evoking the same time frame, I note this for the querent. For example, if the Lilies and the Anchor appear together, I know that a long period of time is involved; on the other hand, if the Rider and the Moon turn up, they denote a sense of swiftness.

Again, I include the idea of nuance cards because it has added power and subtlety to my readings. Nuance is just a little something that grabs my attention when I first look at a small spread of cards. Don't feel that you need to work with these or that my categories need to be yours.



Rider

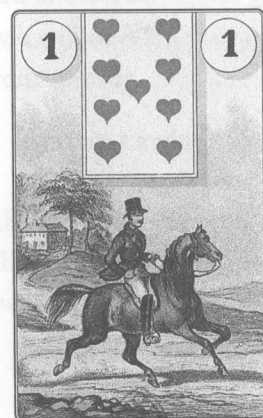
Playing Card Association: Nine of Hearts

The Rider card usually depicts a sharp-looking rider mounted on a confident horse trotting along an open path. The Rider is the symbol of movement, arrival, or transit, as well as swiftness and speed. Historically it stood for gallantry and chivalry. The Rider's horse also symbolizes power, agility, freedom, travel, beauty, and grace.

The Rider card indicates that "news is on the way" either from afar or closer to home. Perhaps someone will be calling you or you will be receiving news by mail; either way, you will receive an answer or feedback soon. The Rider always comes up when someone is coming into town to visit or when someone new is coming into my life. Most of the time this card relates to news and any new piece of information. The Rider card also can be the mail carrier or the delivery person—a person bringing something to your door or an actual person coming into your life. The Rider card is also about movement coming in and going out.

Furthermore, the card brings the energy of novelty and new things. Rider and House could be a new house; Rider and Heart intimates a new relationship.

The swiftness and agility of the Rider card describes a fit and vigorous young man.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- news arrival
- new information, updates
- feedback
- getting an answer
- receiving a package or notification that something is on the way
- a new person is coming into your life
- a visitor
- movement ahead
- something new

Nuance:

- an action card
- a time card

Woman or Man

- fit, chic
- a Vogue, Chanel, or Banana Republic look
- a clotheshorse—a natty, sophisticated dresser
- an outgoing personality; confident, proud
- active (can be a runner)
- a pleasant, preppy person who is very well put together and distinguished
- likes to go riding
- a delivery person

Physically:

- a fit figure with good stature
- strong legs

Work

- you have to be quick; swiftness is of the essence
- something new is coming up—a change in the office
- a Rider is on his way to bring awaited answers
- delivery or freight business
- working in the postal department

Love

- a new prospect
- a new person that you will be attracted to or flirt with
- a new relationship
- a new friendship that will blossom

Health, Body, and Spirit

- the Rider connects with the legs, ankles, feet, and joints
- run, jog, or take up walking as a regimen
- sometimes comes up as having the runs (diarrhea), especially with the Fish card

Spiritually:

- an aha moment—connecting the dots
- spiritual signs and messages
- allowing your spirit to run free
- sharing your wisdom, talents, and abilities is the key to the doorways
- discovering your own freedom and power

Money

- there will be some news coming
- information about a budget, investments, or capital
- financial news
- depending on the cards around it, it can be a check in the mail or a bill

Time or Timing

- quick, fast
- one day
- January
- the first of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month; for example, Rider [1] + Birds [12] = first of December)

Advice or Action

- go
- keep moving
- move on

Orientation

Neutral: this card usually leans toward the positive by itself, but it is highly influenced by the cards next to it

Objects and Areas

- horse
- bicycle
- motorcycle
- on the road
- riding school
- farm area

A Personal Story about This Card:

One day while doing a daily reading, I pulled Stork + Rider + Dog. Later that day my friend called me to happily announce that she finally got pregnant. Stork + Rider = news about a pregnancy or a birth, news about a move or a promotion, or news about some sort of change, all relating to the Dog, a friend or someone close to me or my partner.

Looking back in my journal, I found another daily reading of Rider + Garden + House. Later in the day my husband informed me that my in-laws were coming to town for a visit. Rider (news or coming) + Garden (a group of people) + House (in a house, home). Also Garden + House = a big family or a family gathering.

Recently the Rider + Ship came out on the day my sister and her hubby were leaving us to go back east. I pulled those cards in the morning and walked out of my room to find my sister packing her suitcase: sadly accurate and literal.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional interpretation, the Rider card always signifies good news arriving from a close or distant country, depending on how far it is from the Man/Woman card; it also indicates news from a foreign country or a foreign person. When surrounded by negative cards, the news indicated could be alarming.

The Rider first and foremost is about news and updates. You need to check the location of the Rider: where is he heading or where is he leaving from? Is he approaching or going away? If the Rider card is far from the client's significator (Woman or Man card), the news is coming from a distance, but if it is close, the news will arise from the circle around the querent's life. Originally, the direction of the horse was important as well; if it faced the future, very important news would appear in the near future. If it faced the past, the news concerns something old or about your past. If the Rider was on top or on the bottom of the significator, then it related to something going on in the present. It is very important to see all the cards that are surrounding the Rider. If it is surrounded by negative cards, you've got some bad news. If there aren't any negative cards, than the news is more than likely good. Also, the cards around the Rider will give clues as to what the news is about; for example, Dog + Rider = news about a friend.

The Rider card also predicts the arrival of a person or a visit, depending on its distance from the querent's card, which indicates the distance that person is crossing. The card can also announce the meeting of a new person or a new friend.

Some Combinations and Examples:

When doing a reading about a horse, you use the Rider. You activate that card with the horse in question and read the cards that come before and after it.

Ashley asked about her horse: "What can I know about my horse, and what can I do to make the horse happier?"

Clouds + Rider + Clover = the horse is not very happy and needs to stay outside more. (Spreads can be very easy and very literal at times.)

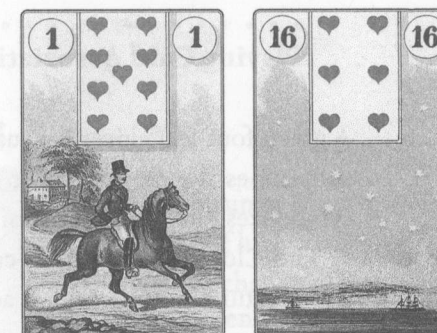
Clouds + Rider (unhappy horse) + Clover = the horse needs more green, more grass, and more outside time. (In a professional reading, it is always advisable to use more cards for a more definite answer.)

Rider + Snake = bad news, news that shouldn't be trusted, lies, news about treachery or a con, news about some sickness, information about an upcoming problem

Rider + Whip = a sexy lover; an erotic, sensual meeting; an extreme fitness buff; a dispute or an argument (with more negative cards)

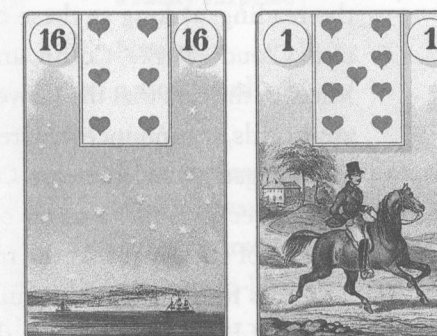
Whip + Rider = a booty call; wham, bam, thank you, ma'am; getting out of an argument

Rider + Stars = a new Facebook friend, look for synchronicities



RIDER + STARS

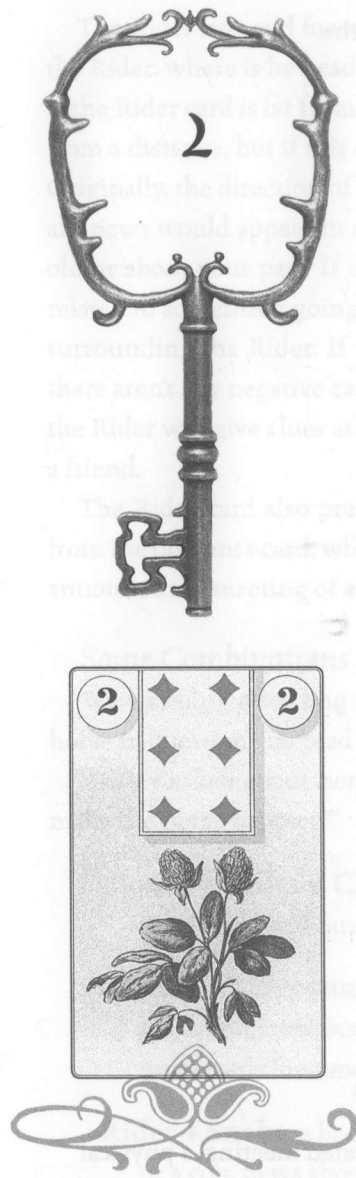
Stars + Rider = bringing hopeful news



STARS + RIDER

Rider + Clover = a new opportunity, news about a lucky gain

Man + Whip + Rider = an argument between two men, a heated meeting, a physical training session



Clover

Playing Card Association: Six of Diamonds

A green four-leaf clover is usually depicted on this card; sometimes the clover flower is shown with it. Clover symbolizes luck, chance, blessings, and good fortune.

The Clover is a positive card, bringing happiness, good fortune, and success. It adds a positive vibe to any reading and diminishes the negativity of the negative cards, especially when it lands on the right side of the negative card or at the end of the line reading. The Clover card brings inspiration and hope.

When this card appears, it forecasts happy tidings to the reading, as long as these cards are not to the right of it: Clouds, Snake, Coffin, and sometimes Scythe and Mice. In the case that the Clover card is followed by negative cards, it announces the return of deception or previous negative predicaments. On the other hand, getting the Clover card *after* a series of negative cards predicts the end of sorrow or that the trouble will be short-lived. It speaks to the positive turning of the wheel and the return of luck. The Clover is the reward card, the great find or the bargain card. The Clover urges the querent to take a leap of faith.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- an opportunity coming your way
- a stroke of luck
- a sudden change of fortune or an auspicious turn of events
- success—a positive outcome
- a winning situation
- happiness
- a happy discovery
- a lucky surprise

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- a lucky person who is financially motivated or someone who is always looking for a good catch or bargain
- bubbly personality, spirited and passionate
- a happy-go-lucky kind of person
- a risk taker, an opportunist, a gambler
- an upbeat, glass-half-full type
- a jokester, a prankster

Physically:

- eyes colored green, hazel, or blue

Work

- a great opportunity
- a promotion
- a favorable outcome
- all difficulties will soon be a thing of the past
- success is on the way
- a profitable venture; a winning deal
- working in a casino, the gaming industry, or with the lottery

Love

- a quick fling
- a second chance
- a reconciliation
- a new opportunity for a lonely heart
- a happy relationship
- an unexpected encounter

Health, Body, and Spirit

- it's all good
- recovery is on the horizon
- herbal medicines or homeopathy
- eat green, leafy vegetables
- go outside—embrace nature
- serenity of the soul

Spiritually:

- start your day with a positive affirmation
- find joy and blessings in the small things
- work with a good-luck talisman

Money

- a lucky win
- receiving an unexpected bonus (possibly not what you wanted but still welcome)
- getting an unexpected payment or tip
- the financial situation is on its way to recovery
- a fruitful investment

Time or Timing

- a short time
- two days
- February
- the second of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- be optimistic
- stay positive
- grab that opportunity
- jump in and take that risk

Orientation

Positive: this card is always positive, which only gets diminished if it's followed by a negative card

Objects and Areas

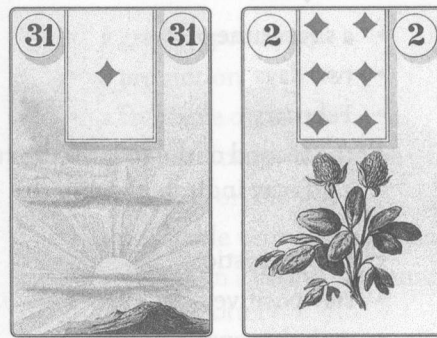
- a charm or a trinket
- a lottery ticket
- a lucky item, a talisman
- grass field
- lawn

A Personal Story about This Card:

One year, two of my boys were competing in the state championship for tae kwon do. The morning before we left, I pulled two cards for each of the boys:



D: SCYTHE + CLOVER



.....
Z: SUN + CLOVER

I immediately took it for granted that they both were going to win in their respective categories. I was a little concerned about the Scythe, but having the Clover come after the Scythe, I knew it would be a positive outcome.

Well, during D's final match, he got knocked out by an axe kick to his neck, which stopped the match and sent in the paramedics. I think my heart stopped. He came out needing only an ice pack...everyone said he was very lucky.

He ended up getting the silver medal for second place, which he wasn't too happy about. On the other hand, I was very happy that my son was safe and sound. I was very proud because getting a silver medal in a black belt tournament was no easy feat.

The Scythe and Clover in this story played out as a lucky break from a serious accident. On a side note, the motion of the Scythe is the same motion as an axe kick, coming down with the foot as an axe/scythe. I found that parallel interesting.

My second boy, Z, had to spar and defeat three competitors nonstop, one match after another. It earned him a gold medal, and he went on to become the Illinois state champion in tae kwon do for his category. Everyone kept saying luck was on his side.

In this story, the Sun and the Clover indicated them receiving the reward after a victory. I will never forget how the Clover played out that day with both of my boys.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning of the Clover is that it brings happiness, but that happiness is contingent on the location of the Clouds card. If the Clouds card is close by, it predicts the arrival of pain and suffering; fortunately, the suffering will be short-lived.

If the Clover is next to the Woman or Man card, the querent's troubles, worries, and losses will soon be forgotten. If it is far away, it implies that there are other influences going on, and

things need to fall in place before that happiness is reached. The cards around it will indicate the source of the happiness. Always check if the Clover is in the past, present, or future. The Clover is the lucky card, the happy card, and the winning lotto ticket. It is a very positive card, so the closer it is to the significator, the better.

The Clover surrounded by negative cards is a warning to expect trouble, but not for long. The Clover card softens the blow of all negative cards.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Clover (lucky) + Bear (money) = a surprise bonus, receiving a sum of money unexpectedly, a substantial profit

Bear + Clover = winning at gambling, lucking out in an investment

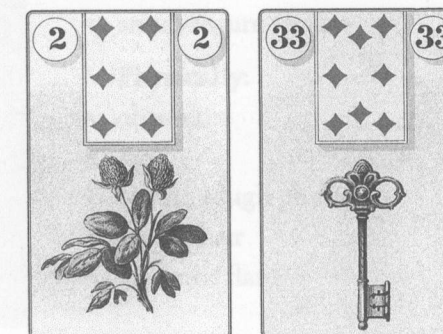
Clover (opportunity) + Snake (lies and deceit) = a swindler, what looks like an opportunity but is a scam

Clover + Clouds = deceptions, luck vanishing in the clouds

Clover (luck, inspiration) + Moon (imagination, creativity) = a creative success, overnight recognition

Miguel asked about his career future: "What am I to expect?"

Clover + Key = the doors of luck and opportunities are opening. Your luck is going to explode and set you on the path for success. Make sure to take advantage of the lucky opportunity coming your way.



.....
CLOVER + KEY



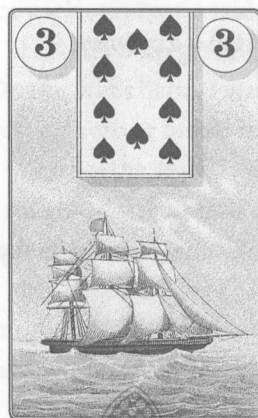
Ship

Playing Card Association: Ten of Spades

On this card we usually see a big beautiful ship with the sails wide open or an inviting boat in the middle of the vast ocean. The Ship symbolizes travel, embarking on a new adventure, and going to a distant location.

The Ship is about movement, travel, and distance. It suggests moving away and leaving, a change, a transition, a vacation, a cruise, a flight, or a journey. The Ship represents foreign lands, people from another country, foreign companies, and overseas ventures, as well as other states or distant locations. The Ship can also show up as a separation or a transfer. The Ship is your vehicle, your car, or any other vehicles. In traditional meanings it can also mean inheritance, especially if it appears next to the Coffin.

On another level, the Ship indicates other worlds, universes, or dimensions; it also refers to crossing over. On multiple occasions I have gotten the Ship when reading about a mediumship session; in this context, the Coffin also comes up sometimes.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- a move
- traveling, vacation, or taking a weekend trip
- going far
- relocating, a transfer
- a change
- departure, leaving
- far, a good distance
- crossing

Nuance:

- an action card

Woman or Man

- impulsive, spontaneous
- from abroad, international or foreign
- a traveler from another country
- anyone who travels a lot or works in the travel industry (flight attendant, travel agent)
- on the negative side: commitment issues, wanderlust, the need to be free
- an adventure seeker

Physically:

- olive skin
- tan
- robust, rough physique
- brown hair
- an exotic flare

Work

- a foreign/international company
- shipping, trucking, import/export
- airline industry, travel business
- a job requiring a lot of traveling
- a necessary trip
- a shipment on the way
- outsourcing
- affairs or relationship abroad or with/in another country
- a change or movement needed to revamp or shake things up
- the need for a break
- if business is in commerce, that ship could be bringing merchandise from afar to you

Love

- a foreign love affair
- a romantic getaway
- a long-distance relationship
- with negative cards can mean separation or leaving
- the ship is sailing, that ship is not here yet, or that ship is coming, all depending on the cards around it
- if you are single, there is a chance on your voyage that you will meet a new interest, especially if the cards around it confirm this (like Rider, Heart, or Bouquet)
- for a couple, a change of scenery is needed to rekindle the fire

Health, Body, and Spirit

- liver, gallbladder, urinary tract
- alcoholism (especially with the Fish card) or substance abuse
- motion sickness, vertigo, diarrhea, the runs
- circulation

Spiritually:

- the distance in space and time, the crossing between
- journeying work or doing an astral trip/astral exercises
- working with mediumship

Money

- liquidation
- budget set aside for a trip
- money coming in from trade or commerce
- overseas transfer
- inheritance (especially if the Coffin card is around)

Time or Timing

- three days, weeks, or months
- March
- the third of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- be free
- venture out or go on a trip
- try out new horizons
- dare

Orientation

Neutral: this card is greatly influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- car
- boat
- truck
- train
- plane
- marina, port, airport, pier, train station, bus station

A Personal Story about This Card:

Back in 2010, the Ship kept coming up in many different combinations depending on what was going on at that time. During that time, my husband had to move to Texas while the boys and I had to stay in Illinois.

Ship + House = this was when we began thinking of moving our family and home

House + Ship = this was a reading I did on a home we were interested in purchasing; when I saw the Ship coming right after the house, I knew this house was going away, and it did—another buyer snatched it

Ship + Mountain = this is where I started to get stressed because everything was being delayed

Mice + Ship = this was a reading I did right before the departure day, and it shows the stress of the move

Woman + Ship = this was a reading I did right before the boys and I got on a flight to join my husband

Another unforgettable story with the Ship:

I was fifteen years old and living in Beirut during a rough patch of its history. My aunt and her family were visiting on a Sunday afternoon. She asked me for a reading. I spread the Grand Tableau, as that was my habit back then, and I clearly remember seeing the Coffin and the Ship. I told her what I saw—that there is some inheritance coming her way. She asked me when, and I told her around two signs (two days, weeks, months, or years), as the Coffin was two lines away from the Woman card.

I still remember everything like it was yesterday. Two days later, on Tuesday night, shooting started in the streets between two different militias belonging to two different religious groups; it was a civil war. Around midnight, gunmen went up to my aunt's house, knocked on the door, snatched my uncle from between his kids and his wife, and showered him with bullets.

At the funeral, while we were all crying and wailing, my aunt leaned over to me and said, "Do you remember what you told me on Sunday?" At that moment I wished that the earth would swallow me right then and there, I was so mortified. That incident and those cards are forever etched in my brain.

On a lighter note, not too long ago a client called, asking me to track a lost overseas shipment. He was very worried because the freight company and the airlines couldn't find it. He just wanted to see if it was going to be found. I shuffled and pulled two cards and got the Ship and the Bouquet. I told him not to worry—his box was in transit and would be found shortly. A week later, I got a happy call thanking me for helping ease his stress. (I love getting these kinds of calls; who doesn't?)

In the Grand Tableau:

Traditionally, the Ship represents wealth by way of inheritance. If the Ship is close to the significator, it can sometimes mean travel. The Ship is a motion or movement card when it is close to either the Woman or Man card: a voyage, a trip, or some sort of transition or change is sure to be coming up. The position of the Ship—if it is coming or going—will indicate what is at play in the reading. The cards surrounding it will be your key toward identifying the change happening.

When the Ship card is surrounded with negative cards, it warns of risks, problems, and sometimes separation and abandonment, depending on the situation. Positive cards will make whatever transition, change, or movement more pleasant and agreeable.

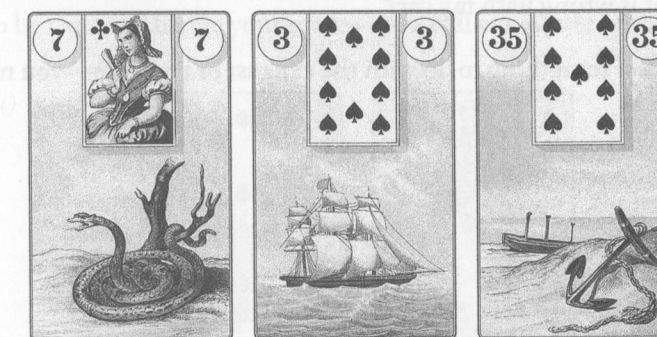
I look for the Ship in the Grand Tableau if the client is asking about a transfer, a vacation, a trip, or simply about their vehicle.

Some Combinations and Examples:

When doing a reading about a trip or a vacation, use the Ship card as a significator and energize it with the trip in your mind. Shuffle the deck, then turn the deck over, look for the Ship card, and read it with the cards that it was sandwiched in between.

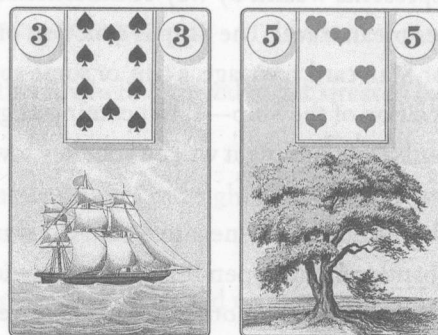
Suzanne is having problems booking her trip. "How is my trip to the Bahamas going to turn out?"

Snake (trouble) + Ship (travel) + Anchor (reaching the destination) = even though Suzanne is having small issues, she will make that trip



.....
SNAKE + SHIP + ANCHOR

Ship (travel, journey) + Tree (spiritual, ancestral) = shamanic journeying



SHIP + TREE

If you want to do a reading about your vehicle, energize or focus on the Ship card because the Ship is the only card in the deck that represents a vehicle with an engine or motor.

Andy was trying to buy a previously owned car. "Should I choose car A or car B?"

Car A: Bouquet + Ship + Snake = this car is eye candy (Bouquet) but has some hidden internal problems (Snake)

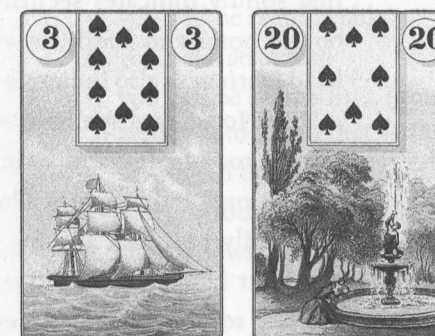
Car B: Dog + Ship + Lilies = this car is reliable (Dog) and will last you a long time (Lilies)

Mary asks, "What is wrong with my car?"

Ship + Clouds = something to do with the exhaust or pressure—you need to get it checked

Ship + Bear = a substantial material gain. This combination reminds me of these expressions: "a boatload of money," "that trip will cost a lot of money," and "I need to do a currency exchange or a money transfer."

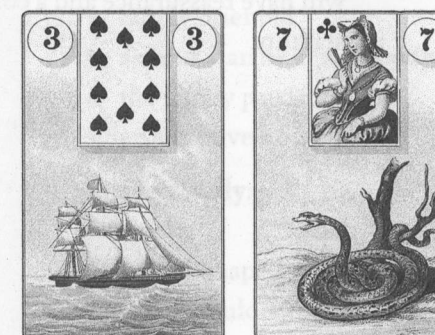
Ship + Garden = a vacation abroad or to a place with lots of greenery, a time for some rest and relaxation, a meeting with an international and diverse group of people, changing the location of a meeting or conference



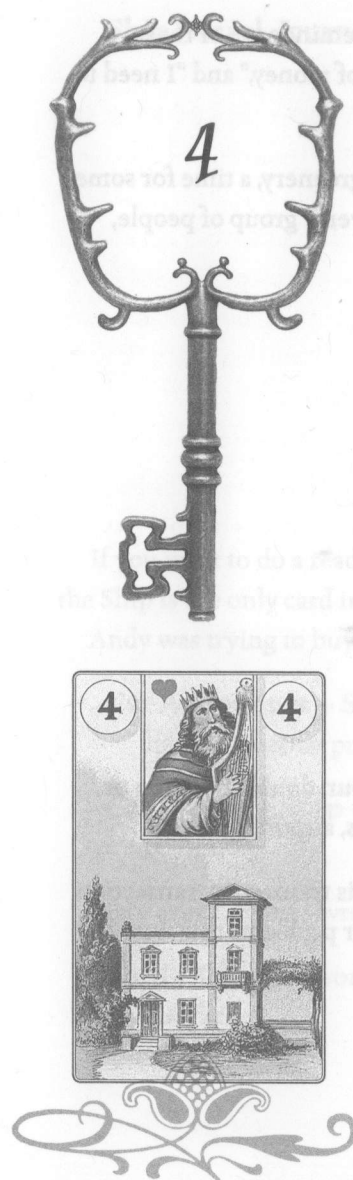
SHIP + GARDEN

Ship + Crossroads = a change of plans, derailment or a detour, double booking or going on multiple trips or stops, going on a tour (a ship, bus, airport, or train)

Ship + Snake = be careful: you might get sick on this trip; this transfer or transaction is not to be trusted; change your route—you will encounter problems this way



SHIP + SNAKE



House

Playing Card Association: King of Hearts

In this card we usually see a beautiful home surrounded with lush greenery or a garden—a very inviting house that solidly indicates security. The House is the symbol for home and family, as well as the base, center, and headquarters. It also indicates comfort and security.

The House card symbolizes home, family, entourage, refuge, roommates, and stability, as well as real estate, possessions, and property. The House can point toward the family business, a home office, your sacred space, and your family foundation. A house can also mean a dynasty, so it is also sometimes the patriarch.

The House card represents a place of residence where you go to bed—your routine life, with all the joy, pain, and people that you share it with. It suggests satisfaction, security, and protection. Always look to the cards surrounding it to get a feel if it is all in good shape or if you need to guard against something. When the House card is followed by negative cards, watch out for some shakeup or instability. When positive cards follow it, you will have reassurance and a confirmation of security and stability.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- you will feel at home
- you will be comfortable
- you need structure
- you will be secure in... (you need the card next to it to finish that sentence)
- settling in or settling down
- a strong foundation
- sitting down, staying home

Nuance:

- a mood card
- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- confident
- protective
- homey
- calm
- grounded, solid
- can be on the conservative side
- family oriented
- serious (can be a homebody or an introvert)
- the family patriarch
- an attentive host

Physically:

- stocky
- square-shaped
- wide shoulders
- sturdy
- well built

Work

- secure, stable environment
- a comfortable situation
- building a foundation
- a safe project with no risks
- a home office or working remotely from home
- a home or family business
- a harmonious situation
- construction work

Love

- secure relationship
- a warm setting next to a fireplace, sipping hot cocoa
- settling down and starting a family
- affected by family, where the family is of high importance

Health, Body, and Spirit

- your body and your frame
- a stable condition
- stay home and rest

Spiritually:

- work on grounding
- cook, clean, eat
- enjoy your material world

Money

- safe and stable financial situation
- don't take a risk; stay with what you know
- invest in real estate

Time or Timing

- a bit slow
- four days, weeks, or months
- April
- the fourth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- stay true to your nature
- stay in your base; nestle in
- stand still
- create a foundation
- secure your position; stand your ground
- pay attention to your surroundings

Orientation

Neutral: this card by itself can be looked at in a positive light, but it gets colored and influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- house
- real-estate property
- apartment
- small shop
- small building
- a website's home page
- base

A Personal Story about This Card:

The House story involves my friend Heather during a Grand Tableau practice session. She gave me a reading, and close to the Woman card (me) was House + Stork + Coffin, with Coffin landing at the end of the line. She looked at me with eyes wide open, horrified, and for a split second froze—then immediately switched to “happy reading” mode (which, by the way, was on the nose; if anyone can spin the Coffin to make it bearable, it is Heather) to make me feel better, bless her heart.

At that time our house was on the market. When I saw this reading, I knew it was bad news, so I figured we would have to absorb some loss.

The way it played out, not only did we lose all of our equity and everything we had invested, but we ended up paying an enormous sum to the relocation company for them to take it from us. House + Stork + Coffin depicted a house move with a grim price tag. I was pained but grateful because it was only a monetary loss.

One more House story:

I was doing a reading for a new client who refused to say anything or give me a question. She just sat there staring at me and testing me. This reading took place at a party, and I didn't have time for a Grand Tableau. So I said to myself *fine, I'll play along*; I shuffled and pulled five cards, letting the cards decide. Her cards were Bouquet + House + Fish + Fox + Whip.

The fish being in the center indicated some kind of entrepreneur work done at home (House + Fish). My first question for her was, "Do you work for yourself from your home?"

Immediately she relaxed and said, "Yes, I run a hair salon from my house" (Bouquet + House = a beauty salon in the house). As it happened, she was having problems with one of her employees, which played out in the reading: Fox + Whip = an argumentative employee or a dispute with an employee. Once the cards had broken the ice, she showered me with questions.

In the Grand Tableau:

Using the Grand Tableau, the traditional meaning of the House talks of success ahead even if the current situation is not promising. If the House falls under the Man or Woman card, it warns the querent to be careful of the people that are around him or her, especially if there are adjacent negative cards.

Usually the House card brings a favorable influence. If the House card appears in the past position, it can mean that your parents are influencing you or it could refer to a previous residence. If the card occupies the future position, there is a new house or a new place of residence in your future.

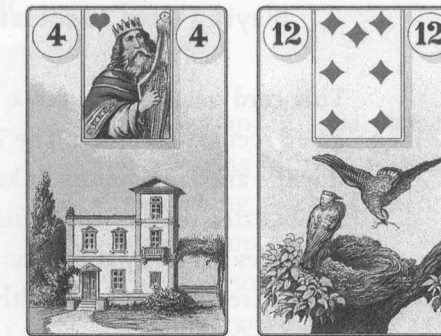
The House card in the Grand Tableau is one of the cards I hone in on as my focus card to see the situation, the condition, and the circumstances of the client's home, family, or real estate. The cards around it weave the story.

Some Combinations and Examples:

House + Crossroads = multiple homes, some important decisions or choices need to be evaluated concerning a family matter

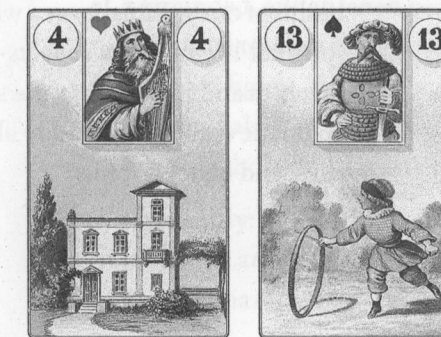
House + Snake = watch out, be careful of a betrayal from a close person or a neighbor, a dysfunctional family, problems at home, check your pipes and drains: a repair might be needed

House + Birds = siblings, roommates, moving in or living together, family counseling, house negotiation, a home-based talk show or broadcast



HOUSE + BIRDS

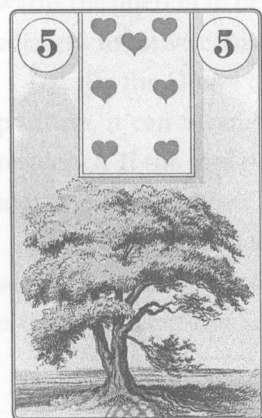
House + Child = a well-grounded child, a daycare, a family-oriented child, a child returning home



HOUSE + CHILD

Child + House = a small family matter, a new baby or a new child in the house, a small or a startup family business, a small house

Some cards are interchangeable, where the meaning is the same if the position is on the left or on the right. Child + House and House + Child are interchangeable; it all depends on the context. In the above examples, both meanings are valid for both positions.



Tree

Playing Card Association: Seven of Hearts

This card usually features a beautiful, lush tree with green scenery around it. The Tree is a powerful symbol: it is the ancient antenna linking heaven and earth and symbolizing fertility and things that grow. The Tree also embodies longevity and endurance.

The Tree concerns all health matters—spiritual, mental, and physical. It is our vital energy, our roots, and our evolution, as well as the cycle of regeneration. The Tree card also represents maturity over time.

In a specific way, the Tree evokes shamanic, tribal, and aboriginal spirituality as well as Eastern meditation techniques and “Om” factor. In general, the Tree denotes the health of our spirituality as a whole and encompasses our spiritual life in all its aspects—from the spirituality of psychics and mediums to the spirituality of religion and dogmatic convictions and to all esotericism, philosophy, faith, and belief systems.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- growth
- firm, grounded, solid, planted
- connecting with certain people or to your roots
- nourishing, reaching out, or branching out
- standing up
- pay attention to your physical and/or spiritual health
- making roots or creating a strong foundation
- spiritual belief
- slowness

Nuance:

- a time card

Woman or Man

- a grounded, enlightened person
- a spiritual teacher or light worker
- religious figure, cleric, or nurse
- healthy, balanced individual
- religious, holistic, or medical skill

Physically:

- in the 30s and 40s
- green or hazel eyes

Work

- branching out
- a strong base or foundation leading to eventual growth or advancement
- a slow but steady progression
- reliable
- a simple organizational chart
- healing arts, spiritual work, yoga
- any type of medicine: pharmacies, pharmaceutical industry, healthcare, hospitals

Love

- patience is the key
- rooted, strong connection
- a deep and serious love
- karmic or soul mates
- your relations with family and friends
- if you are in a relationship, you have serenity
- if you are single, you are working toward harmony

Health, Body, and Spirit

- mental health, the brain
- vegetarian
- healthy eating habits
- make sure you are getting plenty of rest and staying away from strenuous activities
- go to a retreat or a calm place
- sit under a tree and breathe in the clean air
- Reiki or energy work

Spiritually:

- the Tree connects you to your ancestors and your roots
- meditation and self-serenity combining mind, body, and soul
- treat your body like a temple
- inner peace
- connect your roots to your higher self
- work on all your chakras
- look into shamanic work

Money

- investments
- a good financial situation (depending on the cards surrounding it) after a long gestation period

Time or Timing

- always remember how long it takes for a tree to mature
- five weeks, five months, up to five years
- May
- the fifth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- take root
- find the origin
- bring what you awaken out into the world—share and apply it
- be patient
- reach out
- grow, mature

Orientation

Neutral: the Tree card is highly influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- family tree
- genealogy
- a tree
- forest, woods
- an organizational chart

A Personal Story about This Card:

This story took place at the end of the summer of 2011. I was out on the town with family, all primped with heels and all. While walking to the restaurant, my heel got stuck in a crack in the asphalt and my body went forward, resulting in a nice clean break across my toes.

After I got home from the ER, one of my boys pulled Rider + Scythe + Tree. Looking at me with wide eyes, he said, "Look, Mom. It says you broke your foot." Gee, thanks!

Rider (movement, feet) + Scythe (cut, break) + Tree (it is going to take time to grow back) = it took six months to heal and still is not back to normal.

Another reading I remember clearly was after I hurt my back cleaning my boy's closet. I pulled Whip + Tree + Coffin—a chronic problem (Whip) that will keep me flat in bed (Coffin). I didn't like that; I ended up in bed for three months.

I have a client in the corporate world. During his latest reading, the Tree card sprang up relating to a complicated organizational chart with managers and direct reports. He was experiencing some stress over it, trying to figure out whom to move and where. His dilemma showed up in the cards with Man + Cross + Tree + Bear + Garden. Man (my client), Cross (stressing over and struggling with), Tree (the organization chart), Bear (the managers), Garden (his team).

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meanings of the Grand Tableau state that if you see the Tree card surrounded or close to the House, Crossroads, and especially the Garden, it is a prelude to the accomplishment of wishes. If all these cards are around, then you hit the jackpot. It is a cute little feature of the deck. Sometimes I look for it just to see; I think in the last thirty years I have probably seen it with all these cards only a handful of times.

When the Tree card falls next to the Woman or Man card, it indicates that attention must be paid to a health matter. If the Tree card was under or over the Woman or Man card, it implies that there are some health issues going on at the present time. It is always better to have it far away from the person card.

If the Tree card is surrounded by positive cards, you have security, abundance, peace, and harmony. If it is surrounded by negative cards, you need to pay attention and act swiftly to bring back harmony and alignment.

The Tree card is one of the main cards that I look for in the Grand Tableau to read about the situation of the client's physical, spiritual, or mental health.

Some Combinations and Examples:

The Tree card is the card you look for in the Grand Tableau to see about health. The card around it will tell you what is going on. Energize the Tree card when doing a line reading about health.

Debby has been going to medical treatments, and she wants to know about the outcome; her cards are Coffin + Tower + Clouds + Tree + Fox + Birds + Sun.

The first part shows the seriousness of the illness (Coffin) and that she has been doing treatments in a hospital (Tower); it hasn't been easy (Clouds). The Clouds card also shows her doubts and second thoughts about all this. The second part is what is coming, and there will be more double talks; the health officials will not be straightforward (Fox + Birds), and there will be some more counseling sessions that she will have to endure, but all will be well (Sun). The Sun is that light at the end of the tunnel. Debby will be fine; she just has to go through a bit more to reach her goal.

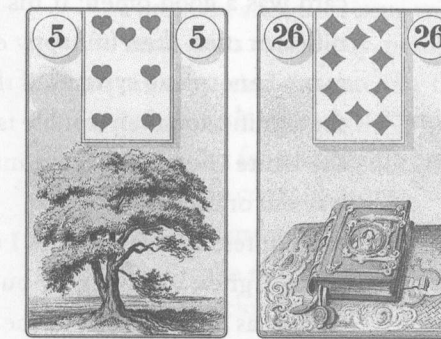
If you see Tree + Coffin, this is an immediate "go to the doctor and get checked" flag; sometimes it's a mandatory stay-in-bed situation. It is a purification kind of a period, indicating going through a major life point.

NOTE: Be very prudent in interpreting the Tree card in health issues. Always look at the cards surrounding it and be very careful about what they represent in that context. Predicting health situations takes a lot of practice and experience. If you are not comfortable talking and

predicting health, don't do it; just wait until you are ready and always, *always* refer your clients to qualified medical experts and health professionals.

We can help clients by our predictions through easing stress and worry, preparing them for certain outcomes, and giving them advice, but we are not doctors. Unless you are a physician that reads cards, too, and that would be great. I know some psychics in the medical field; they are the best at what they do.

Tree + Book = a health checkup or exams (Tree = health, Book = looking into, analyzing), history or a genealogy research, holistic studies or a medical book, an herbal medicine book or homeopathic research, giving a spiritual reading (Tree = spiritual, Book = esoteric), a deck of cards



... ..
TREE + BOOK

When doing a past-life reading, the Tree is the card you need to activate and use as a signifier; then read the cards around it. Examples of card combinations for a past-life reading include:

Tree + Birds = siblings

Tree + Ring = a spouse or a looping/repeating situation

Tree + Lilies = a father, grandfather, or patriarchal figure

Tree + Dog = a repeating soul mate, a close and deep connection



Clouds

Playing Card Association: King of Clubs

This card usually depicts a cloud on one side of the card. Sometimes it shows a dark side and a light side; other times it just shows a dark storm brewing. The Clouds symbolize a problem brewing or bad omens.

In the old tradition, cartomancers said that the King of Clubs depicted on this card facing the significator card was a good omen; if his back was toward the significator card, then unhappy events were inevitable. In many Lenormand systems, if the dark Clouds are next to the significator, then trouble is definitely brewing, but if the white Clouds are there instead, troubles are on the way out or over.

I confess that sometimes I do take note of this detail since I grew up using it, but basically you want the Clouds as far to the left of the significator card as possible in the past position. If the Clouds card is on the left of the significator card, the individual is going through some issues, but they are almost over. If the Clouds card appears after the significator, trouble is on the way. Always look at the surrounding cards; they will indicate how serious the difficulty will be. One thing's for sure: clouds always clear out quickly, because that is what clouds do—unless it is followed by negative cards or cards that indicate a long duration of time.

The Clouds card is all about doubts, confusion, hesitation, and instability. Like a fog, the clouds hide what is behind them. Deceit can be hiding in the clouds, or some mixup or outright catastrophe. When the Clouds card shows up, it alludes to that uncertainty—a feeling that something is going on and a future that cannot be

seen clearly. It is rarely direct and totally unpredictable. If the Clouds card is followed by negative cards, the troubles might linger a bit, but if it is followed by positive cards, the storm will be short and quick, and the calm is soon to follow.

Contextual Meanings

Future

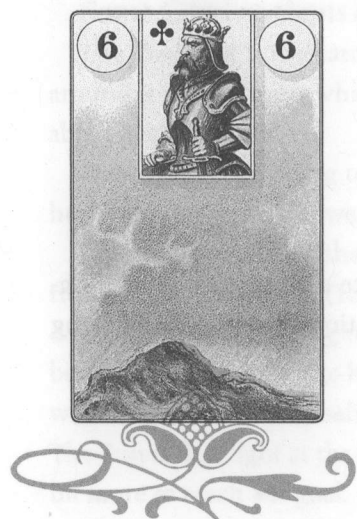
- a problem ahead: an issue will rise up, a disagreeable situation is coming up, predicaments
- uncertainties: the outcome is unclear, you will not get a clear answer, your view is blocked
- watch out for underlying holes and anticipate complications
- fog, rain, storms, or simply bad weather ahead
- don't make that decision now; wait until the clouds clear up or wait until the steam is out and you are calm
- a damper on the following sequence of events

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- irritable, with an attitude
- a confused individual or a scattered brain; illogical thoughts
- a high-energy, hyperactive person
- someone with mood swings, short fused, easily distracted, indecisive, hesitant
- insecurity
- a smoker
- plays on both sides



Work

Physically:

- all shades of gray, hazel, or blue eyes
- two-colored hair or different shades of hair color

- an unpleasant environment
- a troubled or unclear situation
- obstacles and problems will affect normal activities
- it is not a concrete deal
- a wishy-washy activity
- meteorologist

Love

- a foggy relationship
- something is not right; be careful
- tempers might flare
- wait for the storm to pass

Health, Body, and Spirit

- bipolarity, manic depression
- asthma, bronchitis, pneumonia, coughing (relating to lungs and respiratory system)
- hard to make a diagnosis
- under the influence of an inhaled substance
- simply being unwell and feeling under the weather

Spiritually:

- a chaotic sense of misalignment
- the feeling of being in a dark place, unable to connect spiritually
- unclear mind, feeling conflicted
- work on your alignment and connection
- take a deep breath and exhale
- work on breathing techniques

Money

- some discrepancies or setbacks
- financial difficulties

Time or Timing

- six days, weeks, or months
- June
- the sixth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- focus
- clear your mind
- face your doubts and fears
- let off some steam
- think clearly
- be vague and ambiguous; don't give a concrete answer
- stay behind the curtain

Orientation

Negative: this card will exert its influence on the cards around it in a negative light

Objects and Areas

- perfume
- smoke
- incense
- cigarette, hookah, or any other item that can be smoked
- a humidifier

A Personal Story about This Card:

I had a hard time remembering a story about this card, so I waited for it to show up in one of my readings during the writing of this book, and what an entrance it made! My friend Raven called me, frantically wanting to know about her move: Where was she moving? When was she moving? Her lease was up, and she needed to go as soon as possible. I did three readings, and in every reading the Clouds card was at the end: Lady + Stork + Clouds, House + Lady + Clouds, and House + Ship + Clouds. In every combination I could see the move and the change, but the outcome was hidden; I couldn't give her an answer.

I felt that there was something she needed to decide on—some sort of personal choice she needed to set her mind on. It was as if she stood at a crossroads and the moment she chose, her destiny would be written. Her standstill proved that something needed to happen for the

clock to start again. I told her the truth of what I felt and that I would try again the next day. This is how the Clouds card comes up in a very literal sense, as if the eight ball is telling me "ask again later."

The next day I pulled the cards and got Woman + Ship + Tower. I knew right away that she was moving to an apartment (Tower) not in the same area where she is now, but a distance away (Ship). When I called her, she informed me that after our previous day's conversation she had decided to phone a friend to wire her some money, and that she was going to sign a new lease for an apartment in another town. The way the Clouds played out was so eerie. It made me realize how predictions are dependent on human choices. As long as you are on a path, I can predict what is coming; but if you are at a crossroads waiting to make that jump, I can't tell you what is coming. If it's cloudy, I can't see!

Another recent and literal Clouds daily draw was Bear + Clouds + House.

At first I thought there might be some family arguments with one of the parents: Bear (authority figure) + Clouds (misunderstanding or getting upset) + House (in the house, in the family). Then I was worried I would have a misunderstanding with my mom, as the Bear comes up as the matriarchal figure and the House as my family. The way the cards played out was very literal: my pregnant sister was visiting us, and she was super sensitive to any and all smells; as it happens, I was making her favorite dish, which required frying onions. What a huge mistake that was! The smell was like a cloud in the house, and needless to say I got an upset pregnant sister. Bear + Clouds + House = the cooking that made a literal cloud in the house, resulting in upsetting the house dynamics.

Today my daily draw was Man + Ship + Clouds.

I knew this was about my husband, and since we live in a subtropical state, I checked the weather to see if there were any storms on the way. Negative: it was going to be a beautiful, sunny day. The next possibility was some issues at work with one of the overseas offices (he works with international departments in different countries), but my hunch was car troubles. I told him what I thought was possible. Later in the evening, on his way home, his car broke down—some hose popped out from pressure (Clouds), spraying the windshield. He waited, cooled the engine with water, then put the hose back in and drove home. Clouds usually are a non-lingering problem unless more negative surrounding cards indicate otherwise.

In the Grand Tableau:

The old meaning depends on the king and where he is facing. If the king faces the Man or the Woman card, it denotes a good forecast of events; if the King has his back to the Man or the Woman card, then it warns of unfortunate events that may be on the horizon.

Look for the Clouds card to see if it is in the past, the present, or the future position. Always look at the cards surrounding it to see what the Clouds card is affecting. If it is in the past, make sure that the story with the cards around it matches a situation in the querent's past. If the Clouds card is in the present, again look at the cards around it and what it is directly influencing so you can advise your querent to be cautious or to prepare a strategy for handling this situation. Another clue is to look at what house the Clouds card is in; it will give a precise explanation of the awaited difficulties.

Generally speaking, the Clouds card exerts a negative influence on the cards around it. Pay attention to the directional position of where this card lands—it is very important if it is to the right or the left.

If the Clouds card is far away from the person card (Man/Woman), it is a sign of relief; no worries there. Also make sure it is far from the cards that bring happiness, such as the Heart, the Bouquet, the Sun, the Key, etc.

Always keep a positive attitude and advise being patient, because the clouds always go by and the storms always pass.

Some Combinations and Examples:

The Clouds card describes and colors the card before it or after it.

Bouquet + Clouds = a beautiful gift, but watch out for an ulterior motive; a beautiful gift that will be taken the wrong way; a bribe; something dealing with smell and smoke

Clouds + Birds = a misunderstanding, a miscommunication, talking behind your back, misinformation



.....
CLOUDS + BIRDS



Snake

.....
Playing Card Association: Queen of Clubs

The snake in the card is usually depicted as being coiled on the ground or dangling from a tree. No matter what position it is in, it always looks menacing. The snake has many contradictory connotations throughout history, with wisdom and knowledge on one side and treachery and deceit on the other. I believe if we are working on a spiritual level, the metaphorical meanings of wisdom and knowledge are relevant; on the other hand, when doing a predictive reading, the more tangible meanings of lies, loss, trouble, and difficulties are more appropriate, because it reflects our reaction when a snake is lunging at us or when a snake is found in our home. The snake slithers quietly, undetected by its victims.

The Snake card brings adversity, loss, and misfortune. It could indicate a person who is hiding ill feelings toward you while playing nice in front of you. It is the card of betrayal, deception, envy, and jealousy. Expect an attack from a person or an attack on your health. This card represents double-crosses, treachery, and duplicity in all matters. The Snake card can be a deceitful person bringing troubles and lies, a simple malfunction, car troubles, an altercation, or an inconvenient situation.

I always think of the Snake as a problem you can pick up and move out of your path. The Mountain requires an expedition to traverse, but the Snake can be charmed. Remember: if caught early, the Snake is easy to handle, and this may lessen the damage. It is an obstacle on your path that is easy to move or to go around, depending on the cards around it. The crucial part is to spot it first. That is how the Snake gets you: by hiding in the shadows.



In some instances the Snake card will denote illness; the cards close to it will define how long or how serious the illness is.

The Key may neutralize the Snake if it comes after it in certain circumstances or in certain contexts. Snake + Key = you will find a way to steer clear of the Snake. You have the key to make the snake harmless. Again, you have to see the other cards and the context.

If you know a Snake is in your surroundings, use common sense and walk away, because sooner or later those fangs will glisten.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- some difficulties or trouble ahead—complications or snags, a little bump on the road
- a detour
- be cautious of the people around you
- lies and deceit
- be careful of a trap
- be wary of a malicious attack or act
- watch out
- sometimes indicates a minor medical issue unless more negative cards are around

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- tantalizing, suggestive
- mesmerizes their prey
- agile—an acrobat or a dancer
- skanky or sleazy
- an envious or jealous person
- a sweet talker with malicious intentions
- a used-car salesperson, a liar
- a back stabber
- untrustworthy, deceptive
- can be cold sometimes
- hypocritical: will flatter you, then turn around and talk behind your back

Physically:

- slim (not always)
- slick
- agile and flexible
- sexy

Work

- a setback
- treachery
- watch your back
- someone is going behind your back
- an illegal activity or dishonest situation
- loss of some duties and/or responsibilities
- technical hitches
- tricky problems
- having to struggle, difficulties
- a complicated issue
- faulty wires, connection malfunction

Love

- jealousy
- betrayal, disloyalty
- cheating, adultery
- the relationship is based on lies
- warns of dishonesty and/or deception

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a light type of sickness that is easy to recover from (cold or flu) unless other negative cards are around
- also deals with the intestines, the colon, and the digestive tract
- you need to clean your pipes
- kundalini

Spiritually:

- work on your root/base chakra (the “I have” chakra)
- surround yourself with like-minded people who will lift you up
- eat and wear red
- sit on the ground, walk barefoot, and enjoy eating
- wait for a rebirth into new abilities of vision, creativity, and wisdom
- experience rebirth/change without resistance; shed the old and welcome the new

Money

- a small loss
- a bad investment
- debts
- abuse of confidence
- difficulties
- take out your investments to prevent further losses
- a red flag

Time or Timing

- seven days, weeks, or months
- July
- the seventh of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- use your wit: be slick or sly
- use unconventional methods
- be careful who you give your trust to
- shed your skin
- bend the corner or go around an obstacle
- twist or spin
- be suspicious of excess flattery

Orientation

Negative: the Snake card colors neutral cards negatively; sometimes it can be neutral if talking about a mundane object such as a wire

Objects and Areas

- pipes, wires, tubes, rope
- drains
- a bracelet
- anything else that winds, coils, snakes, or can make the shape of the letter S
- rollercoaster

A Personal Story about This Card:

This story is very vivid in my mind: Wanda, my best friend's mother, called me for a reading. In her cards treachery kept on showing up, but it didn't resonate with her at all. She kept on saying that everyone around her was trustworthy and they were all her friends. So in digging more and trying to pinpoint where the treachery and betrayal would be coming from, I simply started to pull one card for every name she told me. One name in particular got the Snake. Wanda was shocked and very sternly said, "No way! Not possible." We went through all her friends, and only one person got the Snake. So I shuffled again, focusing on that person, and the Snake came up again. Still, Wanda was not convinced, and she told me to try again; since she was dear to me, I wanted to help her so I went through the whole list of people again; the same person got the Snake. Now I said, "I am sorry this is what I am seeing; you need to be very careful of this man. He is a snake and will betray you." Wanda was still not satisfied, swearing up and down to me how that person was always there for her and how he

helped her at work and spoke highly of her to her boss, etc. I just told her that I really hoped she was right and to be careful anyway.

A month later Wanda called, frantic and furious. That person had betrayed her. He had used her as a scapegoat, and she had lost her job. I was really sad to hear how hurt she was. The one thing she couldn't get over was the absolute betrayal. She said, "I can't believe he made himself my best friend and turned around and stabbed me in the back. I can't believe I didn't believe you." This was one of the times that I didn't like being right. I felt the pain Wanda was going through. It is really hard when a trusted friend betrays you.

Looking back in my old journals, one day I got Woman + Snake, and that night I got hit by a strong fever and flu. Another daily entry was Tree + Snake, and I wrote that one of my sons had intestinal and abdominal cramps and pains that day. On one of the more recent daily draws, the Snake card manifested as road construction, causing delays and a detour.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning declares the Snake as a sign of hypocrisy, treachery, and loss. The farther away the Snake card is from the Man or Woman card, the better it is for the querent. If the Snake card is close to the Man or Woman card, you have to be aware and try to determine from what direction the danger or the deception is coming. Watch for people in your surroundings who are envious and spout out a lot of beautiful words to try to get your friendship. Be careful of hidden enemies.

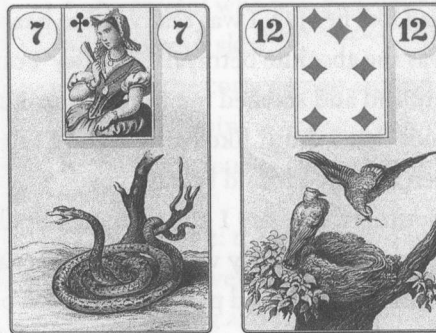
Pay attention to the Snake; even if it is far from the person card (Man or Woman), do not ignore it—look at the cards around it and what house it is sitting in. The closer it is to the person card, the closer is the menace. It is just a warning to make sure of whom you give your confidence to. See if there are any people cards around it. You need to make sure whether it is an inconvenient health issue the querent is going to encounter or if it is a malicious person.

If negative cards surround the Snake, it is more dangerous, and the difficulties become more aggressive. The Snake will accentuate the negative card around it. If it is around positive cards, the venom is still there, planting the seeds for trouble in those cards. Sometimes when the Snake card is close to the significator, it tells of a troubled querent.

Some Combinations and Examples:

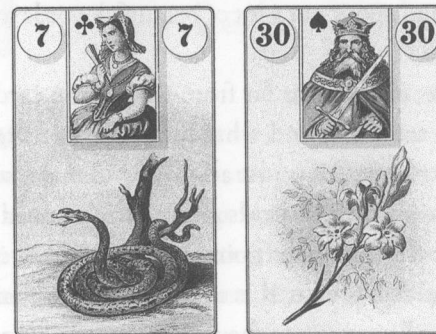
Birds + Snake = poisonous words, malicious gossip, slander, smear, plotting a scheme

Snake + Birds = false marketing, deceptive advertising, spreading lies, a spiteful or troubled couple, a misleading meeting, an interview gone wrong, a difficult date



.....
SNAKE + BIRDS

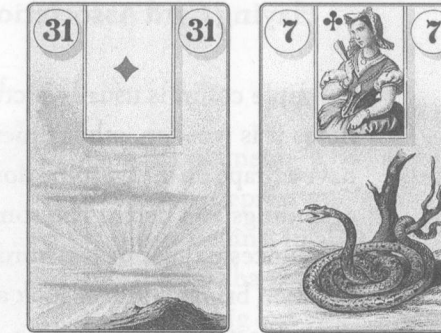
Snake + Lilies = a deceptive older man, a treachery or a loss in some investment, discovering hypocrisy by a trusted old relative, a fake shaman or a con posing as a spiritual person, a sick older person



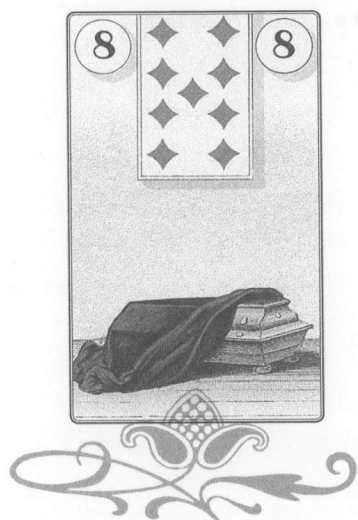
.....
SNAKE + LILIES

Snake + Sun = success after lies and deceit or success after a good amount of pain

Sun + Snake = regardless of your success and your victory, there will be some unexpected difficulties springing up to thwart that victory



.....
SUN + SNAKE



Coffin

Playing Card Association: Nine of Diamonds

A simple coffin is usually pictured on this card. Sometimes it is wooden, other times it is ornate; some cards have a drape on it, and some don't. The Coffin is a symbol of endings and death. The somber picture on this card announces danger or big hurdles to conquer. The Coffin often brings endings; look at the card before it to see the subject of what is ending. Endings are painful, but always after them are the blossoms of new beginnings. The Coffin card can sometimes bring an ending to painful situations. The Coffin warns of a grave sickness or a major financial loss. It is also the sign of depression and discouragement. Especially if it was with other negative cards, the pain and burden will be on the heavy side.

The Coffin card paints a scenario that will cause worry, as it foretells the ruin of everything we work hard for, be it our relationship, our work, our professional environment, or our health. It is the card of painful change and transformation. The Coffin can sometimes mean the death of old beliefs and the emergence of new ones—a mental transformation.

The Coffin indicates a time to dust off and start again, a time of purification and new beginnings, a time to let go of the past and have hope while looking ahead. It is important to maintain a positive attitude with hope on the horizon during this time to better overcome the adversities. Sometimes I get the Coffin for a simple “stay in bed” day.

The Coffin can sometimes represent death, especially if the Ship card is next to it or when it is surrounded with negative cards such as the Scythe.

On a positive note, the Coffin card can show up as an ending to unfortunate circumstances.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- major sickness
- sadness, depression
- death, ending, finality
- a painful change or transformation
- defeat, a big loss
- a rupture
- an extended stagnation time
- phobias and paralyzing anxiety
- a fear, dread
- lying down

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- a depressed individual
- glum and down, miserable, unhappy
- low self-esteem
- a negative person
- on a rare occasion, a person with a big hidden skeleton like a torrid past
- an ill person

Physically:

- distinctive angular features
- black or dark hair
- a chiseled look (strong, angular chin)

Work

- underground locations
- working in the basement
- end of employment
- closing shop
- losing your job
- a breach of contract
- leaving a tedious, dead-end job

Love

- a dead relationship
- an emotionally draining situation
- a painful ending or closure
- someone is leaving—a separation or divorce
- sad hearts, despair
- mourning an ending
- liberation from ending a bad situation

Health, Body, and Spirit

- bedridden
- getting worse
- clinical depression, suicidal impulses
- loss of appetite
- exhaustion, feeling depleted emotionally and physically
- unable to cope with difficulties and hardship
- experiencing dread
- the end of an illness
- staying in bed for the day

Spiritually:

- a kundalini flare
- having your house rewired while you are still in it
- breaking away from the old you
- sometimes going through the pains of the Coffin opens up a new door or a new phase on the spiritual ladder, like ascending to the next level

Money

- a big loss
- bankruptcy
- taking a big hit
- financial ruin
- time for a do-over

Time or Timing

- eight days, weeks, or months
- August
- the eighth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- rest
- stay down or stay in
- put your feet up or lie down

Orientation

Negative: this card colors the cards around it with a strong negative mark, but it can also signal the ending of hardship, especially if a positive card follows it

Objects and Areas

- boxes or any containers with lids
- basements
- drawers
- the bed, under the bed
- closets

A Personal Story about This Card:

This is a very important story for me; it shook me up and taught me a huge lesson. I was reading for a very close, dear person and the Coffin showed up after the person card. I redid the reading and again the Coffin was right there. My long experience with the Coffin made me very alarmed, so I went ahead and did the Grand Tableau: the Woman card was the last card to come, with no future and nothing underneath, only the Coffin on top of it.

By now I couldn't mask it anymore, so I did a Grand Tableau for her daughter and activated the Bear as the mother card to see the cards that would come around it. The Coffin and the Scythe came up around the Bear. I went ahead and did the Grand Tableau for the rest of my friend's children, doing the same thing and charging the Bear as the mother card. And lo and behold, the Scythe and the Coffin were right there in each and every one!

I started crying uncontrollably; without a doubt, it indicated an accident in the near future. Then I had a thought—a feeling or a spark that because I had this information, then there was a possibility that we could change it. I believe that sometimes you have the power to change your destiny. I told my friend, and we both decided to do something about it. We started doing meditations followed by prayers, then calling all angels, spirit guides, and everyone else we know of. After all that, I threw the cards again to see what was in her near future, and the Coffin was at the end of the line. I wanted to scream; I *did* scream! We went to phase two, with a lot more intense praying. My husband was away on business, so we were undisturbed all night. That night we did not sleep, and by the morning we were exhausted from praying, crying, meditating, and everything else in between. I vowed not to let her out of my sight until this was cleared. We decided to make a conscious effort in our sleep to change that Coffin.

Before I went to bed, I decided to take a shower. In the shower I was praying, begging, and crying, and I felt my heart open so wide and so vast that the universe could fit in it. At that moment, the light flickered and went off—it felt like a movie “awww” moment, when the lights come from the sky and everything stops for a second. Then the lights came back on. I ran out of the shower, threw the cards, and got Heart + Birds + Clover + Key + Woman + Lilies + Tree + Bouquet + Stars—the most beautiful cards I have ever seen!

The first part—Heart + Birds + Clover + Key—speaks of our passionate prayers and spiritual work. The second part, with the Woman + Lilies + Tree + Bouquet + Stars, indicated that she would be here for a long time and that she has the gift of a new path and a lot of hope. I did the cards three more times with the same outcome, then we went through all the Grand Tableaus of her family, and it had all miraculously changed. Only then was I able to sleep.

That day I knew we had done something. I realized that the cards predict your future based on your present will, but if you change that will or if you make any other changes in the formula of your daily life, that prediction will also change. From that day on, my readings changed. If I see a negative outcome, I urge my client to go outside the box and do something out of character to try and change that path.

Within five days of that day, my dear friend called me and told me this: “I woke up in the morning feeling morbid, with a strong, strange feeling in my heart. I took my crystal angel and my special rock with me. While driving on the highway, I felt that morbid sensation

again, and I held on to my crystal. During my drive on the highway at normal speed, a white bird flew straight into my window and crashed. It was like he was coming to me! He flew directly into my side window, by my face...not the windshield but the side window. It felt like he had been sent instead of me. I have been grieving for him and thanking him and everyone else for the second chance I have been given. I will be paying it forward as long as I can.” We both had an eye-opener and a deep knowing, and we couldn't help but cry.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning the Coffin signifies a dangerous illness, death, or the loss of an entire fortune. The danger of this card diminishes the farther it is from the designated person card.

When this card falls in the past position it speaks of a period of sickness, stagnation, or depression that was in the past of the querent's life. On the other hand, if it falls in the future position it is a warning of unfortunate events ahead.

The closer the Coffin is to the Man/Woman card, the more menacing and dark is the situation. If the Coffin is close to the Man/Woman card, it doesn't matter if it is on top, below, to the left, or to the right: you have to examine and dissect the message this card is bringing with a lot of scrutiny and care. Study all the cards around it and the relations they have with the Coffin in order to decipher the threat and where it will be appearing from. What is ending? What is changing? What area will experience painful transformation?

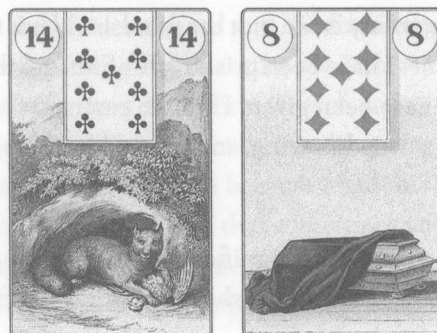
If the Coffin is far from the Man/Woman card, you still need to pay close attention to the cards around it to see what the Coffin is influencing, all the relations the Coffin has with the cards, and what is it that will be ending, changing, transforming, or lost.

Don't take predicting with this card lightly; be very prudent. When I lived in Beirut during the wartime, the ratio of the Coffin coming up as an actual death was pretty high, but since I have moved to the States that ratio has dropped significantly.

Some Combinations and Examples:

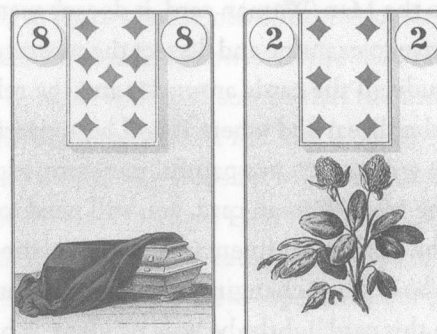
Coffin + Scythe = the end of difficulties and pain, the liberation from past burdens and grief, surgery after long suffering, making a poor decision (Coffin = an unstable person, Scythe = a decisive decision)

Fox + Coffin = end of a job, retirement, a negative outcome to a ploy



FOX + COFFIN

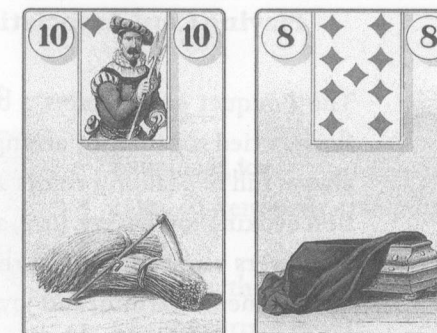
Coffin + Clover = a recovery, another chance, a liberation of hardship



COFFIN + CLOVER

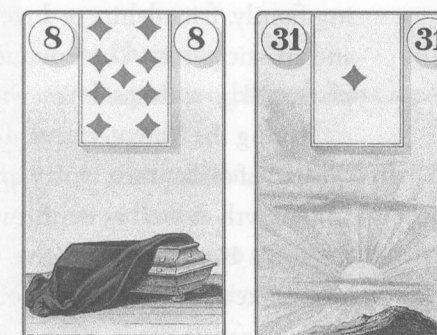
Whip + Coffin = an end to a struggle or an end to a dispute; it can be a physical danger or abuse—this is where context is very important, as well as the rest of the cards in close vicinity

Scythe + Coffin = an accident, an unsuccessful surgery or staying in bed a long time after a surgical procedure, a decision to end relations with no going back



SCYTHE + COFFIN

Coffin + Sun = a resurrection, a new beginning, dusting yourself off and getting back on your feet



COFFIN + SUN



Bouquet

.....
Playing Card Association: Queen of Spades

The Bouquet card depicts a beautiful arrangement of flowers tied together or arranged in a vase. The card is always full of beautiful colors and an exquisite presentation evoking joy, beauty, love, and happiness. A bouquet of flowers always has been the symbol of admiration, contentment, warmth, and joy. The Bouquet represents a beautiful offering of affection, appreciation, and gratitude.

This card brings happiness in all areas and aspects of one's life, as well as success and victory in any field. It is a happy gift or a nice surprise. The Bouquet offers a beautiful omen about any affectionate situation regarding family, friendship, or love. It also shows a creative and artistic person. The Bouquet card indicates that your plans will go as desired. You will be happy and pleased.

Having the Bouquet land after negative cards heralds the end of difficulties, worry, and stress. It brings success and growth as well as confirms feelings of warmth and sincerity. Happy and positive cards following the Bouquet make all the interpretations harmonious and agreeable. Negative cards after the Bouquet warn of some insincere feelings and disappointments.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- happiness, joy
- calm, contentment, tranquility
- a gift
- help is on the way
- a happy turn of events
- a positive answer
- you will receive a helping hand from an unsuspected source

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- charming
- a positive, happy, pleasant person
- vanity
- a beautician, makeup artist, or hairdresser
- an artist
- an advocate of vegetarian living
- on a negative side, a possible narcissist

Physically:

- attractive, good looking
- lush hair, sometimes long and on the lighter side

Work

- landscaping, making beautiful grounds
- in the art industry or an art collector
- in the decoration business
- flower shop
- botanical garden
- homeopathic and alternative medicine, an herbalist
- receiving a recommendation
- a very attractive offer
- a pleasurable work environment
- a professional evolution bringing a great sense of satisfaction and gratification

Love

- flourishing relationship
- a gift, a nice surprise coming up
- you will be satisfied and happy
- a blossoming bond
- harmony, fidelity, sincerity, and understanding—everything that will bring happiness and joy

Health, Body, and Spirit

- recovery and healing of all sorts
- pollen allergies
- a therapeutic process
- alternative medicine

Spiritually:

- inner contentment, a happy exhale
- express gratitude to all that is around you
- spiritual healing and forgiveness
- bring colors into your life

Money

- looking pretty good
- a positive outcome
- a financial advantage will be presented
- your monetary situation is protected and balanced
- financial security

Time or Timing

- nine days or months
- September
- the ninth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- be happy
- beautify
- perform a random act of kindness
- pay it forward

Orientation

Positive: this card always brings a happy vibration to the reading; only when it is followed by a negative card will the mood be dampened

Objects and Areas

- bouquet of flowers
- rose
- valentine card
- makeup, cosmetics, and beauty products
- trims, tassels, and laces
- flower pot
- arts and crafts (coloring pens, paints, pencils)

A Personal Story about This Card:

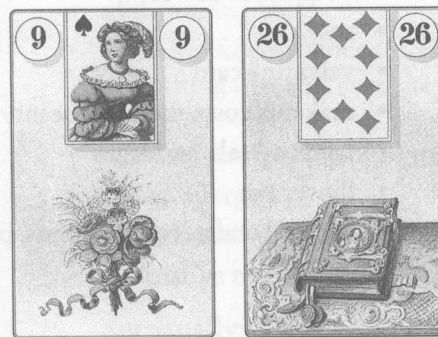
The day I had allotted to write about the Bouquet I was glued to the Internet because I was shopping. It all started while searching for a birthday gift for my soon-to-be fourteen-year-old. Seeing me in shopping mode, my husband asked me to check on an item he needed. During my search, I stumbled upon a stunning hand-painted wall hanging that my mom would love—and then I noticed homeopathic pellets but couldn't decide which one to get because there were so many different kinds. Then I remembered I needed Arnica Montana, but I didn't know the difference between the blue one and the green one. I spotted a bracelet that seemed perfect for my sister but wondered if I could find it cheaper somewhere else. I was missing my nephews, and it had been a while since I sent them anything... So many choices, and I couldn't leave my other two boys out; they wanted some steampunk gear (thanks to a

certain steampunk Tarot deck that created a fanfare when it landed in our house). I'd found a beautiful compass but wondered if I should get the sundial as well... In passing, I spotted a handsome old book that a dear friend might want.

By the time I had finished shopping and obliterating my bank account, it was almost midnight. I had spent eight hours on the Internet shopping, researching homeopathic medicine, and hunting down the perfect gifts.

It turns out that the two cards I had pulled that morning (Bouquet + Book) didn't refer to me writing the Bouquet entry for this book. I believe I discovered a new combination meaning for the Bouquet and Book.

Bouquet + Book = studying and reading up on homeopathic medicine, the science and art of gift shopping for everyone in your family, a deep study and analysis of every gift before you buy it, dissecting the pros and cons for every gift, a gift investigation in your future, the study and exploration of a wide range of gifts or just gift researching



BOUQUET + BOOK

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning the Bouquet card signifies immense happiness, serenity, and tranquility. The Bouquet predicts absolute satisfaction and feelings of elation. It is the pinnacle of love, friendship, and loyalty. If the Bouquet is close to the Man/Woman card, it indicates that you are surrounded with good people who have your best interest in mind. If it is in the present or the future position, it means that luck is on your side or you might be getting a gift that will bring you much joy. Remember that gifts are not always material; being surrounded

with loving people and having blooming friendships are the best gifts we can have. Also, you can be the one doing the giving under happy and joyful circumstances.

I love having the Bouquet around; it always foretells happy times.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Bouquet + Birds = a lecture on vegetarian living, getting high praise or when someone speaks highly of you, a very nice visit or a pleasant meeting over coffee, a lovely couple or good-looking twins, having a chat at the beauty parlor, a makeup or hair consultation

Bouquet + Clouds = some problems or discomfort will trouble your peacefulness, your happiness is going to be disturbed, a ditzy or intoxicated good-looking person (head in the clouds), smoking weed (Bouquet = a bunch of plant material, Clouds = smoke)

Bouquet + Cross = a painful rejection, distress and sorrow replace what used to be a happy situation, a flower arrangement in the shape of a cross, donating to a charity, a beautiful and ornate place of worship

Bouquet + Crossroads = walking in beautiful shopping streets and looking at all the beautiful options, taking a scenic route, questions and doubts enter the serenity of the mind, some good opportunities to choose from

Letter + Bouquet = a valentine card

Vidisha was worried about an event she was organizing. What was she to expect?

Bouquet + Mice = expect more stress about the decorations and how they are going to look; more pressure, strain, and tension about the presentation; maybe some damage to the decoration or structure

Mice + Bouquet = anxiety and stress will soon be at an end, as the event will be beautiful and well put together; worries are short-lived and turn into excitement, anticipation, and butterflies in the stomach



Scythe

Playing Card Association: Jack of Diamonds

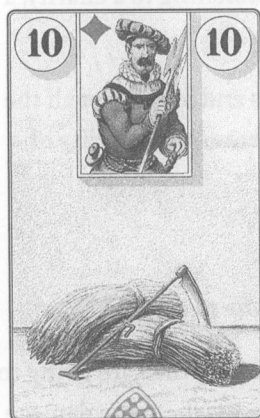
You will always see on this card a scythe, ever sharp and ready to cut. Sometimes it is depicted in a field with a bundle of hay and sometimes it is just a picture of a scythe alone. The Scythe is a sign of clearing, cutting, and harvesting.

The Scythe predicts danger that can be avoided if it is surrounded with positive cards. It denotes sudden events and represents cutting and slicing as well as severe, quick, and abrupt decisions. The position of the Scythe card is very important. If it is on the left of the significator or focus card, that means the event already happened or is happening now. If it is on the right of the significator or focus card, it suggests that the event has yet to happen, and you have to watch out and prepare for it. The Scythe also forces the hand into making decisions that are razor sharp, hard, and painful.

This card brings a sudden act of loss or a sudden rupture. It is the card of accidents. Take extra care on the road and be vigilant of your surroundings. Be wary of forgetfulness, carelessness, and distractions. The Scythe gives a sense of urgency to the matter at hand.

This card also comes up a lot for surgical procedures of any kind, especially in a health reading. It came up with me as an injection and needles.

On a positive note, when negative cards are on its left, the Scythe could also be liberating by cutting away pain.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- be careful: what is coming is very abrupt, sudden, and possibly dangerous
- a sharp cut
- an accident
- a break
- a flat tire
- an abrupt decision
- a shock
- you need to be swift; fast action is called for
- a violent act
- a decision needs to be made

Nuance:

- an action card and a time card

Woman or Man

- sharp
- strong
- an aggressive persona
- cutthroat
- a doctor or surgeon
- a hairdresser
- quick and fast with comebacks and a sharp tongue
- can be hurtful and rude
- a precise mind

Physically:

- curvy but on the slim side
- edgy
- visible scars
- short hair (sometimes a crew cut)

Work

- termination
- resignation
- turning down an offer
- breaking a contract
- a deal falling through
- injury in the workplace
- scaling back and having to do cutbacks
- a surgeon, a dentist, or someone who uses sharp precision tools
- a hairdresser
- a farmer or a gardener

Love

- a breakup
- a brutal separation
- cutting off
- rejection
- a very difficult emotional time
- release from a bad relationship
- a dangerous relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a broken bone
- cuts
- injury
- an incision or a surgical procedure
- a biopsy
- an injection
- laser removal
- plastic surgery
- a shooting pain or the "pins and needles" sensation
- tooth sensitivity
- brain freeze
- connected with the teeth and dental work
- migraine
- sharp pains

Money

- Spiritually:**
- clean your aura
 - clear your chakras
 - cut away unwanted attachments and ties
 - cut off
 - the flow will stop abruptly
 - taking a pay cut
 - a financial crisis
 - a sudden reversal of fortune
 - a cutthroat decision

Time or Timing

- ten days or months
- October
- fall season
- the tenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- be sharp and decisive
- precision is important
- cut away and clear
- be assertive.

Orientation

Negative and sometimes neutral: this card influences the cards around it, and sometimes it can be neutral when it is about a decision that needs to be made

Objects and Areas

- rake or gardening tool
- needles or an IV syringe
- knife, scissors, razor, letter opener, or any sharp tool with a metal edge
- utensil drawer or cutlery area
- a shed or where lawn/gardening tools are kept

A Personal Story about This Card:

This is another emotional story for me. It's from when my mom was using the cards. I was around ten years old, and my mom did the Grand Tableau for my dad. She did it about three times, and every time she kept on getting the Scythe next to him: Man + Scythe. I remember it clearly because her face would turn colors and she would hold her breath, collect the cards, and throw them again. Finally she told my dad, "You have to be careful because there is a definite danger looming." They both looked at each other, and then they looked at me. They saw that I was horrified. My dad said, "Don't worry; I face danger all the time racing my car on the mountain. Let's get some ice cream." I was relieved because he always boasted of his boldness.

The next day my dad went to get bread from the baker. While he was out, bombing started. The detonations were very loud, which meant they were close. My mom and I ran to the balcony to wait for him to return. The bombs were getting closer and closer. No one was on the street anymore. Then we saw him far away on foot, running. Behind him a bomb fell and exploded. He started running in a zigzag motion across the street. Soon after that a bomb fell between us and him, and Mom clutched my hand tightly. We were both in shock waiting for the cloud of smoke to clear until we saw him still running. He made it to the building; the bombs were coming down like hail. We ran the five floors down to meet him. His face was white; he was in shock, and he hadn't let go of the bread bag because he knew that whenever bombing began, bread would be in short supply.

That day I learned that the Scythe is serious. Thinking back, my dad zigzagged like the motion of the Scythe, cutting his way through the streets and smoke toward his family.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning speaks of the Scythe as a sign of terrible danger that can be averted with the presence of positive cards around it.

The Scythe announces a great threat for the querent. You can determine where the menace is coming from by the placement of the card and all the cards that are around it. The cards around the Scythe are very important; they are the situations that are being affected by the Scythe. It is advised to take extra caution when dealing with this card.

If negative cards surrounded the Scythe, some lingering hardship is to be expected. If positive cards are around it, the Scythe can be the strong decision needed to be able to move forward or it could be a painful decision with some sacrifices or some difficult separations.

Some Combinations and Examples:

This card usually is not used as a significator. You need to keep it in the deck because it affects the card before it and the card after it.

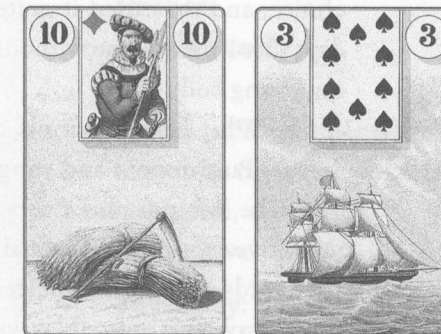
Scythe + Tower = a surgery or a procedure in hospital or medical establishment

Heart + Scythe = heart surgery, the breakup of an affair (Heart = passion, Scythe = rupture)

Bouquet + Scythe = plastic surgery, a haircut, mowing the lawn or cutting the grass, or even broken lipstick

Ship + Scythe = travel cancellations, an accident

Scythe + Ship = car repair, going away after surgery, escaping



SCYTHE + SHIP



Whip

Playing Card Association: Jack of Clubs

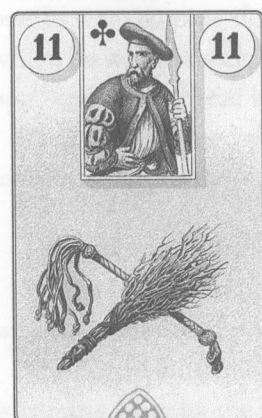
In this card we usually see a whip and a birch next to each other or crossing each other, ready to be used for punishment. Those were the instruments used to reprimand children in the old times. These symbols of pain bring to my mind a picture of anger and physical violence, something out of *Oliver Twist* or my early school years.

Growing up in a French Franciscan school, the sisters always had a wooden ruler as their punishment tool of choice, and they used it quite regularly. Rare were the days that I went home without the sting of that wood on my young body.

The Whip brings quarrels, oppositions, and explosive energy. Punishment and vengeance also fall under this card. The Whip is also a very sexual card; it deals with repetitive motions and sexual fetishes. With other negative cards around, it indicates deviances, violence, and abuse. Problems or troubles will be in the family, friends, relationships, work environment, or living arrangements areas. The Whip also indicates internal quarrels manifesting in sickness, chronic illness, or nervous tensions.

Often when positive cards are next to the Whip card, the positive attributes of the Whip come out as sexy, attractive, fit, and passionate.

Because of the repetitive motion of the whip, the broom, or the birch, I associate the Whip card with any physical activity requiring a repetitive or rhythmic movement or action such as physical exercise, training, cleaning, writing, and sex.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- arguments, strife, dispute
- pointing fingers
- anger
- fights
- a high-energy emotional discussion
- disciplinary action
- violence

Nuance:

- an action card

Woman or Man

- quarrelsome, argumentative
- likes to be right and gets into confrontational debates
- passionate, sexy, sexual
- competitive

Physically:

- a bodybuilder, nice physique
- good looking and in shape

Work

- working at a gym
- an athlete or a personal trainer
- escort business
- a highly charged environment
- a strong disagreement or aggressive attack is about to erupt
- discord, not being able to see eye to eye

Love

Health, Body, and Spirit

Money

- the relationship is emotionally charged
- a physical relationship
- a lot of fights and make-up sex
- a passionate relationship
- an argumentative relationship
- aggressive tensions
- hot sex
- chronic pains and ailments
- repeating fever spikes
- a pulled muscle
- addictions
- obsession
- abuse
- the male organ
- required physical activity or exercise
- Spiritually:**
 - resolve internal conflict
 - get into balance and harmony
 - work with your sacral chakra (the "I want" chakra)
 - tantric sex
 - eat and wear orange
 - nurture yourself
 - dance
 - laugh
 - enjoy friends' company
 - work on tolerance and patience
- a dispute
- unsatisfactory outcome
- a reoccurring problem
- a payment to end a dispute
- a repeated payment

Time or Timing

Advice or Action

Orientation

Objects and Areas

- eleven days, weeks, or months
- November
- the eleventh of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

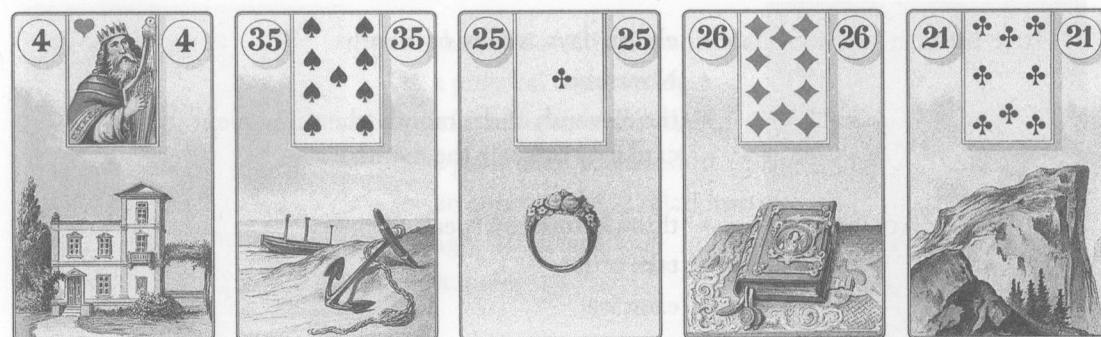
- think before you speak
- take action
- exercise
- argue your position
- repeat or redo something
- enjoy being physical

Negative and neutral: this card is usually looked at in a negative light, but it is neutral when it represents a mundane expression or activity like exercise, routine, or sex

- whip
- belt
- broom
- workout band
- rubber band
- leather strap
- swing
- rod
- ruler
- fishing rod
- sticks

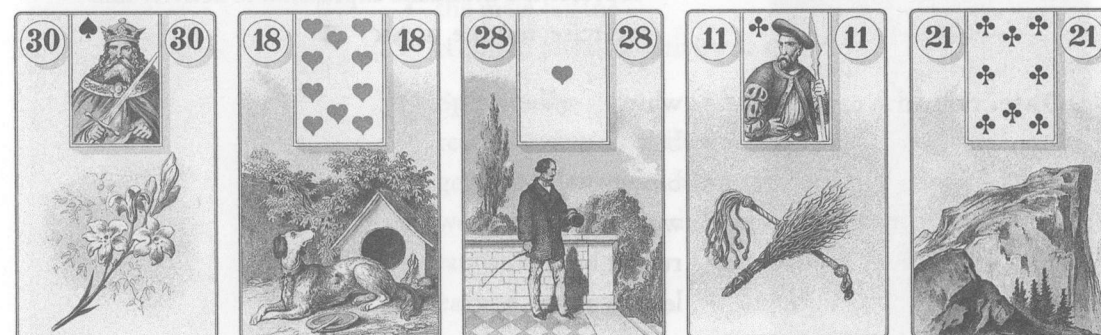
A Personal Story about This Card:

Mona, a client I have known for a while, was worried about her relationship with her husband. Mona said, "He is very distant; I don't know what is going on. We are both too busy with work and kids." I decided to pull cards on their marriage first. If I didn't get a clear answer from that, I would then pull on each of them. I activated the Ring to represent their marriage and their union, and I got the following cards: House + Anchor + Ring + Book + Mountain.



HOUSE + ANCHOR + RING + BOOK + MOUNTAIN

The first part, House + Anchor, shows that the house is stable and solid, but the second part, Book + Mountain, was the issue: there is something hidden that is causing the blockage. To see if there was any foul play, I pulled cards on the husband and got:



LILIES + DOG + MAN + WHIP + MOUNTAIN

Poor guy, he has been a faithful husband (Lilies = long time, Dog = faithful), but here is the Mountain blockage again. I knew I had hit the problem when I saw the Mountain again. I asked if there had been any quarrels, fights, or arguments, but my client shook her head back and forth. Then I asked the only question left to ask: the bedroom question! Right away, she covered her mouth with her hand and said, "I am afraid we haven't had a chance to connect in that area for a while" (Whip + Mountain = sexual frustration). *There* was the problem! She looked like she just had an aha moment, and she started crying because she was so relieved. Mona had been worried that her husband was looking elsewhere, while all along he was keeping his frustration secret because she was so busy and overwhelmed. Later in the month I got

an email from her saying that everything was back on track and thanking me for taking the shades off her eyes. I love seeing happy endings. I wish it was always that easy or that simple.

In the Grand Tableau:

The old meaning for the Whip predicts domestic quarrels, family troubles, pain, engagement disputes, fights between friends, or separation.

The Whip is the card of affliction and distress. It predicts a great conflict, aggressive tension, and discord in the area it falls in. The quarrels can be between anyone—friends, lovers, family, coworkers, neighbors, or any group of people. If the Whip is close to the Woman or Man card, conflicts will trouble your peace. You need to see if it is in the past that is still affecting the now, an ongoing situation in the present position, or a minor dispute that will arrive in the future.

When the Whip is surrounded by negative cards, the tensions will be intensified. If surrounded by positive cards, the problems will be resolved easier and faster but perhaps not without leaving some emotional scars.

The Whip brings about heavy consequences and distress. Always look at the surrounding cards for clues if it is about a physical activity, exercising, sex, illness, abuse, or a conflict. If it is still unclear, then talk to the querent about this card or try asking if they have been in arguments. This is one of the tricky cards that is mastered only with time and lots of practice.

Some Combinations and Examples:

What are Jason's intentions toward Caroline?

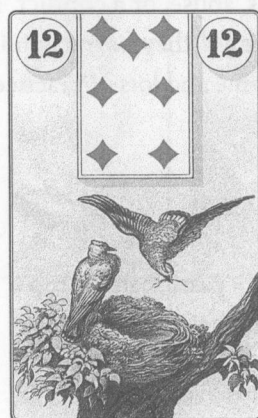
Heart + Whip = he just wants to get in her pants for now (Heart = passionate, Whip = sex)—surrounding negative cards would show abuse or bad intentions

Should Paula stay with Lane after the way he just treated her?

Whip + Scythe = no, the abuse is going to get out of hand and dangerous (Whip = verbal/physical abuse, Scythe = accident)

Will Steve win the case tomorrow?

Whip + Sun = there is a big chance that Steve will win the case, but he needs to be pretty aggressive (Whip = debate/argument, Sun = success; in this situation, I would pull more cards to get a concrete answer, as two cards ending with the Whip are not enough and if the line of cards still ended with the Whip, I almost always pull one more card to see what is coming)



Birds

Playing Card Association: Seven of Diamonds

The Birds card usually depicts a couple of birds, two pigeons or two owls, or sometimes a flock of birds. The birds are always happily flying together or perched together in and around a nest. Birds have been used as symbols of omens and signs directly from the divine force. Some birds, such as the dove, are the symbol for love, relationship security, and fertility. Owls are symbols of wisdom, vision, and healing. Symbolically, birds such as homing pigeons convey the arrival of news, as historically that was heavily used for spying and sending signals and messages.

The Birds card is about news, messages, information, phone calls, verbal communications, discussion, gossip, meetings, negotiations, small get-togethers, dating and companionship, and any and all types of communication spread verbally and now electronically (as it is still being transmitted through the air). Television (in our home, giving information), radio (chatterbox), and the Internet fall under this card as well.

When it falls right before the Man/Woman card, the Birds card indicates if the person is already in a relationship.

Because it is connected to air, the Birds card is also the card for thoughts.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- you will be involved in a conversation
- a date or a short visit
- having a cup of coffee or tea with a friend
- an exchange or arrival of verbal or electronic communication
- a little outing
- a negotiation
- a meeting, an interview, a pitch, a presentation

Nuance:

- an action card

Woman or Man

- talkative, articulate
- talk show host
- PR person
- a person with sharp instincts and fast reflexes
- someone who likes to gossip
- an eloquent talker
- a pilot
- in a relationship
- salesperson, negotiator, or mediator
- a good speaker or presenter
- telemarketer

Physically:

- sharp eyes
- on the hairy side
- distinctive nose
- quick reflexes

Work

- negotiator
- talk show host
- radio disc jockey
- in public relations
- salespeople
- be careful of gossip
- a negotiation, a meeting, or an interview
- grow professional contacts
- social worker
- speechwriter (with the Letter card)
- a counselor or speech therapist
- beware of distractions

Love

- a couple, lovers
- going on a date
- wooing
- declaring one's love and affection
- getting the awaited phone call or message
- having an intimate conversation or a steamy phone call, depending on the adjacent cards

Health, Body, and Spirit

- throat, strep throat, tonsils—anything dealing with the vocal chords
 - all kinds of therapy and counseling
- Spiritually:**
- connecting with your guides or higher self
 - a séance or communications with the other side
 - work with your throat chakra (the “I speak” chakra)
 - wear and eat blue
 - speak up
 - sing, chant
 - listen to music
 - look at the sky
 - watch your breath
 - take flight and leap into a higher consciousness

Money

- come and go
- trade, stock market

Time or Timing

- twelve days, twelve weeks, or one year
- December
- the twelfth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- speak up and speak out
- make that call
- trust your first impression or instinct

Orientation

Neutral: this card is totally neutral and gets influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- telephone
- iPods, MP3 players
- birds
- nests
- speakers
- music concert (with the Garden card)
- music studio, music store

A Personal Story about This Card:

It took me two days to finish writing about the Birds, and during those days my thoughts were taking me back and forth on which stories I should include, my cellphone kept on ringing and twinkling between calls and text messages, and my boys wouldn't stop distracting me with their constant chatter and questions. I was torn between my boys, my family, my friends, and my book.

By the end of day two, I realized how all these events were tied to the Birds energy, so I had to include this story and one of the old Birds meanings that I had stopped using for a while: “the little annoyances that are short-lived and easy to overcome.”

The Birds usually comes up about discussions, meetings, siblings, and two people together. On the day my family went to SeaWorld, I pulled two cards quickly, with no question, and

got Birds + Mountain. The first thing that came to my mind was of two people not speaking to each other or getting into a stalemate. Being in a big park with lots of people, having kids wanting to do separate things, and trying to keep everyone together and happy is a challenge. I made a mental note to take it easy, try to keep the peace, and not let small things affect us.

The first part of the day little things popped up that threatened to disturb our harmony, but I squashed them with a positive attitude. Later that day somehow the five of us got separated—I was with my middle boy, my thirteen-year-old was with his six-year-old brother, and my husband was alone. At first I was calm because everyone had phones so I could reach them all, but after many failed attempts at contacting them I started to panic. There was a sea of people around, and I couldn't find or reach anyone. Then some people told me that no one could use their cellphone in the park—something about the network being overloaded.

My husband finally found us, but the other two boys were still missing. I was so worried, especially for my six-year-old in case he was alone. I didn't want to move from my spot in case they returned. I looked at the phone in my hand; it was a useless brick. I immediately thought about Birds + Mountain...no service, no connection, no calls, no phone, loss of communication. And I had been under the impression that I would be able to avert and squash the problem early in the day!

Right away I dug in my purse, got my cards, and pulled one card: the Clover. A sigh of relief! So I stood patiently waiting, knowing everything was going to be fine, while my husband went to look for them. Sure enough, the Clover came true: he found the boys and we were safely reunited. From that day on, we never rely on phones and always have a plan B (walkie-talkies) and a plan C (an agreed-upon meeting area).

Another recent short story about the Birds card: my brother-in-law got to the airport and found that his flight was delayed an hour. I pulled cards asking about his flight; first I got Birds + Scythe, which speak of a canceled flight. I pulled again to make sure and got the Birds + Mountain, which predict more delays. They kept on delaying the flight and finally he got on after sitting in the airport for five hours. Later on he told me that they were talking about canceling the flight, but then the weather changed and they were able to go ahead.

This really shows how the future is malleable and the cards predict what is ahead as long as there is no change in the course of events. As soon as a change happens, a ripple will occur that will change the outcome and the prediction.

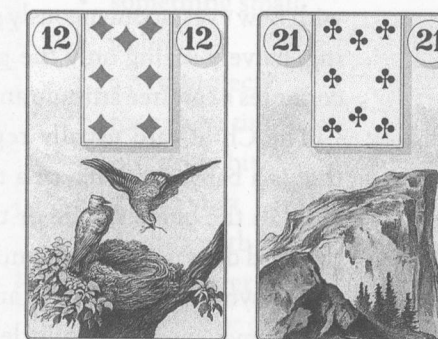
In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning, if the Birds card is far from the Woman or Man card, a small, unexpected trip will be in your future. If the Birds card is close, it will bring little troubles that can easily be overcome.

The cards that are around the Birds are very important as well. They will explain the nature of the relations as well as the type of news or conversations. Negative cards will turn the conversation unpleasantly into badmouthing, and happy cards will accentuate the positives into praise, happy encounters, and welcomed news.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Birds + Mountain = announcement of obstacles, flight delays, losing your voice



.....
BIRDS + MOUNTAIN

Birds + Garden = a reception or a party, a conference with speakers, a family reunion, a sales meeting, a concert, literally two people sitting in the garden

Birds + Cross = bad news, the negotiation or mediation is going sour, the date didn't turn out as expected, the interview was dreadful, prayers or supplications

Donnarosé has been working diligently on her project. She asked, "How will my project be perceived?"

Stars + Birds = your project will be highly regarded (Stars) and talked about (Birds) in many venues and sites (Stars); it will be viewed as a guide and a source of information, plus the positive (Stars) word of mouth (Birds) will help it spread far and wide

Birds + Stars = hopeful news, good news, information going viral, an announcement or status update on Facebook, Twitter, or emails



Child

.....
Playing Card Association: Jack of Spades

On this card you usually see a little girl or boy dressed nicely, playing happily, or enjoying toys or flowers. The Child symbolizes innocence and looking at the world with new eyes, spontaneously jumping in without thinking, naively seeing only the good in people. The Child connotes a carefree attitude and effervescent zeal for life.

The Child card usually represents a child, whether that is a baby, a toddler, or a teenager. It may refer to a child in the querent's life or their own child. Although this card does not always signify a person, it usually takes on the symbolism of a child and expresses childish attributes: small, new, minor, little, beginning, starting, playing, immature, innocent, naive, etc.

If the Child is the subject of the reading, then the cards around it describe and predict for the child. If the Child is not the subject in the reading, then the Child card becomes the adjective.

For example, if we are reading for a child or a teenager, Child + House = stable and mature child at home (maybe homeschooled if the Book is next to it). Same goes for House + Child.

If we are doing a reading on a house, Child + House = a small house, a new home, a childhood home, or a nursery or preschool. Same goes for House + Child.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- a new beginning
- something small
- a child
- a new project
- for a short time
- just a tiny bit
- a fresh start
- dealing with kids
- starting over
- reducing or diminishing

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- young or younger
- naive, trusting, young at heart
- playful
- shy
- childish, innocent, spontaneous
- inexperience, pure
- immature

Physically:

- short, petite, small stature
- young
- innocent look
- baby face or doll face

Work

- startup business
- a new project
- looking for something easy and manageable
- a part-time job or small gigs
- a junior position
- working with kids or young people

Love

- a new relationship
- an effervescent time
- spontaneous relation
- taking it slow, with baby steps

Health, Body, and Spirit

- whatever the issue, it is at the early stage or too small to be detected
- pregnancy
- small microbes or a cold
- vaccines or the illnesses kids get vaccinated for: measles, mumps, chickenpox, etc.
- it is shrinking

Spiritually:

- you are at the beginning
- you are about to blossom
- find your inner child and release it
- play and draw
- look at the world through innocent eyes

Money

- a small investment
- a little amount
- a new venture
- being careless

Time or Timing

- thirteen days or weeks
- a year
- the thirteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- unleash your inner child and enjoy life
- finger paint
- play, have fun, enjoy yourself, smile
- look at your problem with a fresh and innocent perspective
- reduce and diminish the effect of the situation on yourself

Orientation

Neutral: the cards around it influence this card, and sometimes it influences them by making whatever the issue is smaller

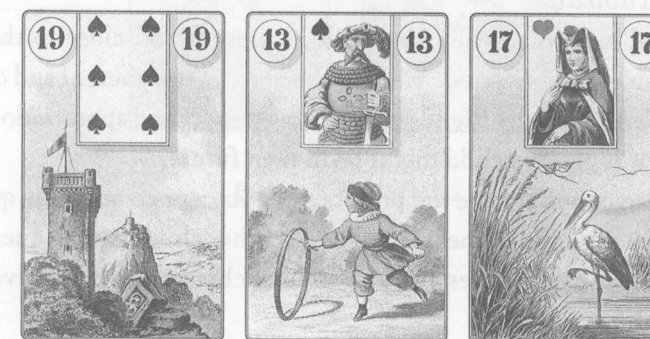
Objects and Areas

- a child
- a playroom or nursery
- toys

A Personal Story about This Card:

When my cousin was pregnant, I wanted to do an experiment to find out the gender of the baby. You will need a deck with the playing card inserts for this experiment.

I focused on the baby's gender, so I only get the female or male answer by using the playing card inserts and the feminine and masculine nuances of the cards. I superimposed the baby on the Child card while shuffling. After spreading the cards, I started pulling until I got the Child card. I laid down one card that came before it and one that came after:



TOWER + CHILD + STORK

I had a dilemma: the Stork is a female card (with its Queen of Hearts), but the Tower has strong phallic energy. But there was only one court card, and it was a female; hmmm... Well, I decided to throw again. This time, instead of spreading the cards after shuffling, I would just go through the deck and pull the card that came before the Child and the card that came after: Book + Child + Stork. That was my definite answer: seeing the Stork again sealed the deal. When I found out that my cousin was pregnant with a girl, I felt like I had hit the jackpot!

I kept on doing these experiments to get the perfect formula. After going through some hits and a couple of misses, I resolved to pay the most attention to the court cards and to the location right after the Child card, so if one court card showed up, that would be it. If two court cards showed up, then it will be the one that came after the Child, on the right. With no court cards, I try to decipher the nuance of the card that is to the right of the child. For example, Sun = male, Moon = female, Ring = female, Clover = female, Rider = male, etc. See appendix F for more explanation on the court cards.

During the writing of this book, my sister got pregnant. We were all excited, trying to determine the sex of the baby, so I pulled the card and got Child + Sun = Boy; my son pulled cards for her, and he got Child + Rider = Boy; she pulled cards for herself and got Child + Man = Boy. It was amazing how we all got the same answer, and our fascination grew when it was confirmed that her baby was indeed male. I love it when the cards and the universe come together to give you the answer.

When using the cards for gender, remember not to read the card—only extract the information needed. For example, if you get the Scythe, don't get alarmed: just read the sex (male, because of the Jack of Diamonds).

Experiment on your own and come up with the best formula that resonates with you.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning, when the Child is present and close to the significator, it expresses the amicable, good-natured, friendly character of the querent and confirms that the querent is surrounded by worthy friends who bestow respect and appreciation on them. If the querent is married, it suggests a child might be in their future.

The Child card can communicate the presence of a young person in the querent's immediate circle. This can be the child of the querent or any other child that the querent is associated with. In addition, the card intimates a young-at-heart character and also evokes confidence, sincerity, and immaturity.

The Child card is one of the cards you want to look for when you are reading for fertility. Combined with the Stork, the Tree, and the Garden, it indicates pregnancy.

The Child can also appear for a new venture or a new project; look at the cards around the Child to find more descriptive detail.

When I throw a Grand Tableau for me, I usually get the Child card for one of my boys; I just have to decipher the cards around it to see which boy is coming up in the reading.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Child + Clouds = a troubled child, an unstable child, a small storm, a minor problem

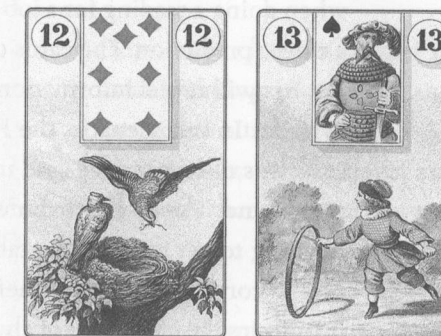
Child + Dog = a new friendship, a childhood friend, a puppy or a small pet, beginning to trust

Child + Fish = a startup company, starting your own business, a new consultant job, a small entrepreneurial business, fertility, a tiny amount of money, unimportant (small fish)

Child + Garden = a youth with many interests

Garden + Child = a playground, a small group of people, a group play date

Birds + Child = small talk, chitchat



BIRDS + CHILD



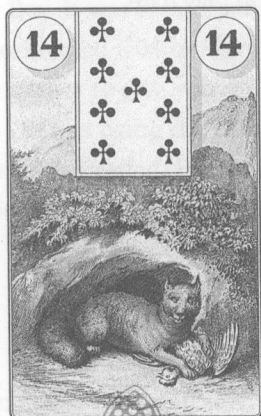
Fox

Playing Card Association: Nine of Clubs

The Fox card normally depicts a fox strolling or posing, a fox with his family around a freshly caught dinner, a fox bringing food for his pups, or a single fox with his prey between his paws. The Fox is famous for devising and plotting to make sure his family is fed; he is known to be concerned with his family's safety and will go to any means to protect and secure his family. The Fox is the symbol of stealth, deviousness, treachery, and the art of manipulation. The Fox has a bad reputation for his deception and trickery, but he is very loyal to his family. The Fox is a survivor.

The Fox card is the work/employment card—the everyday job, 9 to 5 employment, working in an office, and working for a salary. The Fox card is the card I activate when doing a reading for a job situation, employment, or a career prediction. The cards that come before and after the Fox will reveal information about the job and what is to come. In this scenario, the Fox card works as a neutral card; it is not a negative card unless more negative cards are around. The Fox's attribute of the family guy always running to get food on the table and having the obligation to constantly and routinely run for his life and family mimics the obligation of always running to make ends meet, as well as mirrors the responsibility and duty to acquire and keep a job for survival and family.

When doing a random throw without energizing or charging the Fox, if the Fox shows up, first find out if it is job related. If the Fox is not about employment or the



job, then it is a warning of some sort of con, trap, or manipulation going on. This is when the Fox card takes all the negative aspects of deception, trickery, treachery, duplicity, and fraud. The Fox embodies the game of smoke and mirrors. The Fox never reveals his true intentions.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a trap
- a warning of shifty business going on
- be careful of the people around you, especially of the person that is buttering you up
- you need to investigate more and inquire further
- be prepared, be alert, beware, and be aware

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- foxy, witty, charming, street smart, machiavellian
- manipulating, inventive, cunning, crafty
- attractive but dangerous
- devious, sly, artfully clever and shrewd, observant
- dubious character, untrustworthy
- swift
- patient
- trickster, con artist

Physically:

- petite to average
- any variation of red/copper hair coloring
- mostly fit and in shape
- graceful, dainty, light footed

Work

- be careful about betrayal and deceit in your surroundings
- backstabber alert
- a double talker
- a shady deal
- you need to put on the ingenious/devicious cap to win the project
- to reach your objective, you need to manipulate certain aspects or make sly maneuvers
- charm your opponent
- undercover work
- criminal work or crime
- a detective, a spy, a private investigator
- an employee
- a job or position that requires reporting to someone

Love

- there is duplicity in the relationship
- seduction with a hidden agenda
- manipulation in the name of love
- dishonesty, deceit
- romance serving ulterior intentions or interest
- one party is taking advantage

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a misdiagnosis
- need further inquiries
- something still undetected
- sometimes it refers to a specialist

Spiritually:

- use scent as a trigger for your next spiritual work (meditation, journeying, aromatherapy)
- connect with your family
- be careful of self-deceptions
- be honest with yourself
- don't be foolish—maybe it is time to withdraw for a short time and be unseen, like the Fox

Money

- discretion is key
- a devious or dishonest investment
- you need to be sly or be aware of being scammed
- avoid a risky investment

Time or Timing

- fourteen days
- the fourteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- use your wits
- be crafty
- use your cunning nature in a positive way
- avoid potential danger
- manipulate a situation to your advantage

Orientation

Negative and neutral: this card is viewed first in the negative light of deception, but it becomes neutral when referring to a job or an employee

Objects and Areas

- any kind of trap or ingenious contraption
- police station

A Personal Story about This Card:

While writing this book, I began to notice a synchronicity between the card I was writing about and my life. The day I was scheduled to work on the Fox, I had to spend all day on the phone dealing with the credit card fraud department about a suspicious vendor. The whole time the bank was warning me about fraud and suggesting I start a dispute, but I was being cautious and trying to contact the vendor to understand the extra charge; the vendor denied any extra charges on his end. In the end, I discovered that the bank was pulling a “sneaky sneaky” activity with extra fees.

The way that the Fox played into my day brought out the fraud issue, the treachery of the bank, and me being cautious about believing either party and persisting in my questions. What a coincidence: Fox and fraud on the same day!

In my house, the Fox has a special tag that my oldest boy came up with: "sneaky sneaky." Whenever anyone tries to pull something, it becomes pulling a "sneaky sneaky," and each time the Fox card comes up, that catchphrase is the first thing that gets blurred out.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning states to be wary of people around you, as some will be betraying you. This card has two main roles in the Grand Tableau: a warning card as well as the main card for work.

When close to the Man/Woman card, the Fox means cautionary advice. Be careful of what and who you believe, and take advice with a grain of salt. Prudence is of the essence. Be wary of the circles you are in, and don't give your confidence easily. Someone is trying to scam you or steal from you. The cards surrounding the Fox card will shed more light on the situation of who, what, and where.

If the Fox is surrounded by positive cards, beware the art of dishonest seduction, where all the beautiful words and actions are the means to a deceitful end. The manipulation is done in a very attractive way. It can also be that your cleverness will get you what you want; it all depends on the context. If negative cards are around it, reinforce all the malicious intents, hypocrisy, and double standards.

Is Michael's plan to get his kids back from his estranged ex-wife a good plan?

Fox + Ring = yes; his devious plan will be able to reunite them

Fox + Coffin = no; his crafty plan is going to get thwarted and might backfire

Is Ryan good for Patricia?

Fox + Ring = no; he is using treachery to trap her

Fox + Coffin = no; his deception will traumatize her

If the querent is employed or looking for employment, the Fox takes on a different role or layer and becomes a key player. The Fox card is the card I look for to see what is going on with the employment condition and the general state of affairs with the querent's job. Again, the cards around it will reveal the past, present, and the future of that job.

Is Martin's job safe for now?

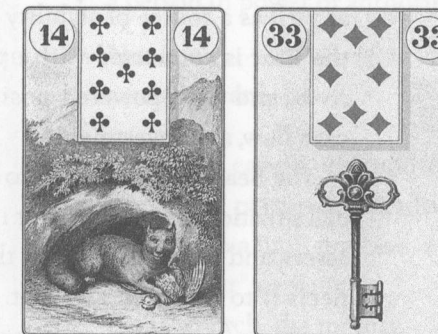
Fox + Ring = yes; his job is looking good, and there might be a contract renewal

Fox + Coffin = no; his job might be terminated soon or he is at a dead end; there will be a job change

Some Combinations and Examples:

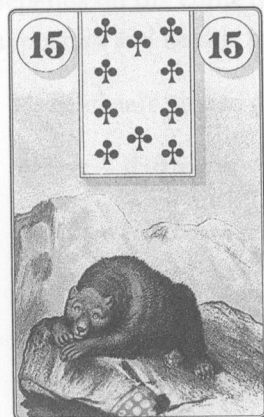
Tree + Fox = wrong prognosis, getting swindled in the medical arena (via unnecessary exams and treatments or when they give you the runaround), a health issue needs further investigation, a health practitioner or a specialist

Fox + Key = concocting an ingenious plan or solution, devising the perfect strategy, a key position or an essential role, a successful job, uncovering the lies and deceit



• • • • •
FOX + KEY

Fox + Letter = a writer, work certification, a fraudulent document or a forgery, a fake ID, a deceitful invitation, a suspicious record or article or result



Bear

Playing Card Association: Ten of Clubs

On this card we usually see a big, strong, imposing bear just going about the day in its environment. The bear is known to defend its territory fiercely and is very resourceful; a mother bear will defend her cubs at any cost. The Bear symbolizes power, strength, courage, and protection. The Bear is also the symbol of the maternal figure that guards, protects, and takes quick actions.

The Bear is the bringer of power, control, authority, and force. It expresses the intensity of muscle and might as well as a source of stability and security. That is why the Bear is connected with upper management, executives, and high-powered positions, as well as finance, cash flow, and investments.

The Bear is the card I use to check for a person's financial situation; the Bear is your income, personal finances, assets, and possessions. Also, the Bear's big appetite connects it to nutrition and diet. This card epitomizes our resources—what we can spend and what we can eat.

The Bear connotes all professional and material empowerment.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- something big
- a large sum of money
- all financial matters
- watch your food intake and your nutrition habits
- a new stability
- going to a restaurant
- a mother figure, a matriarch
- a person in power or authority figure

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- nurturing, caring, and tending
- a powerful person or an individual in power
- a person in a high position, a leader, a boss
- "mama bear" persona
- the matriarch, the mother
- strength
- on the negative side, overbearing, overprotecting, and sometimes bullying (with negative cards around)

Physically:

- strong
- big, burly, and sometimes hairy or with facial hair
- wide shoulders
- overweight or a body builder
- voluptuous, curvy, on the heavy side

Work

- need to protect and/or oversee
- make your decision or action from a position of power
- a high position
- a manager, a director or any upper management title
- a lucrative business
- a beneficial expansion
- food and beverage business, dietitian
- finance

Love

- a solid, strong, and nurturing relationship
- a secure and protective situation
- if negative cards around, indicates overprotection to possessiveness and domination

Health, Body, and Spirit

- nutrition and diet
- weight management
- food allergies and eating disorders
- stomach area
- growths of any kind
- overwhelmed, bullied (with negative cards)

Spiritually:

- the primal instinct
- work on protection and shielding
- balance between your material and spiritual world
- do some energy work
- go deep within—the answers reside within you
- eat some grounding food
- cuddle, hug

Money

- prosperity and comfort
- getting a large sum of money
- well paid, financially secured and protected
- substantial revenue, a profitable investment
- the bear's share

Time or Timing

- fifteen days
- the fifteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- sometimes between six to eight months (a bear's hibernation period)

Advice or Action

- eat
- hug, cuddle
- have no fear
- regain your authority, assert yourself
- be your own advisor
- use your strength to overcome your weakness

Orientation

Neutral: this card can be positive or negative depending on the neighboring cards

Objects and Areas

- a restaurant, a dining room, or any room where you eat
- a bank, a piggy bank, or where you keep your money

A Personal Story about This Card:

Today, writing about our Bear, he somehow found a way to manifest. I was expecting him to manifest around food, but no—it was not that simple!

While in my room working, my seven-year-old burst in the room crying that garlic was stuck in his ear. Okay—let me explain: the day before he was complaining of an earache, with no fever or other symptoms. I knew that it was pool related and could be treated homeopathically. My mom had taught me an old miracle remedy that if the pain is caught early, to put a garlic clove in the ear, but at the door only—not all the way in. Well, I had used a big piece of garlic so no accidents could happen, but today my boy decided the garlic was too big, so he broke off a small piece and stuck it in. I was horrified. I tried to use the tweezers, but I couldn't do it. I called my husband at work—he was in the middle of meetings, with escalations going on—and it was late Friday afternoon, so the doctors' office was closing; the ER was my next option. Meanwhile, my boy was in no pain whatsoever, playing like nothing was going on.

I took a deep breath and tried to calm down and think whether I should run to the ER or wait for my husband to come home. The cards were next to me, so I asked, "Are we going to

be able to get the garlic out of his ear without going to the ER?" I pulled the Sun; yay, I was relieved!

But wait—who is going to take the garlic out of his ear? So I pulled another card, knowing in my mind that if the Dog came up, that would mean a doctor. When I flipped the card, it was the Bear; my first instinct was—yes—my husband! He is big and strong, with wide shoulders and a lot of authority, but wait a minute—the Bear could also be me, mama bear, because the Bear is the mother card.

I pulled one last card to shed more light on who the Bear was: the Lilies, indicating the person is older than me and a father figure; a confirmation that my husband is going to do it.

Forty-five minutes later, my husband walked in the door; he had canceled all his very important back-to-back meetings, got in the car, and raced home. As soon as he opened the door, he ran to our boy, looked at his ear, gave me a flashlight to hold for him, got the tweezers, and pulled the garlic clove out in less than a minute. If that was not papa bear, I don't know what is! The Bear described my husband physically and professionally, as well as manifested in his reaction, responses, and paternal instincts.

I learned a big lesson—to never leave garlic unattended in a boy's ear and to always give ample warnings. My boy learned never to put anything in his ear. By the way, garlic is the best medicine: after twenty-four hours of application, the earache was gone.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning states that to keep your happiness, keep a distance between yourself and the people you know are envious of you.

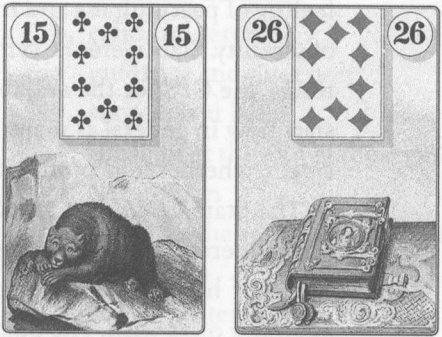
First and foremost, I look for the Bear in the Grand Tableau to access the financial situation of the querent. It also comes up as the mother figure and the mother-in-law as a secondary reading, and sometimes it can be your boss. It all depends on the cards around it and the situations going on in your life.

If the Bear is surrounded with positive cards, it will bring self-confidence, vitality, and courage, as well as promise success in upcoming plans. If negative cards are surrounding the Bear, the more negative attributes of that card will emerge as bullying, overbearing, and domineering. Expect the outcome to be upsetting and conflicting; the card will be in a position of weakness, as will the querent.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Bear + Dog = a strong friendship, a solid partner, a nutritionist, a gastroenterologist, a financial counselor, a protective manager

Bear + Book = expansive knowledge, highly intellectual, an expensive book, financial records, bookkeeping, accounts and auditing, study of market analysis



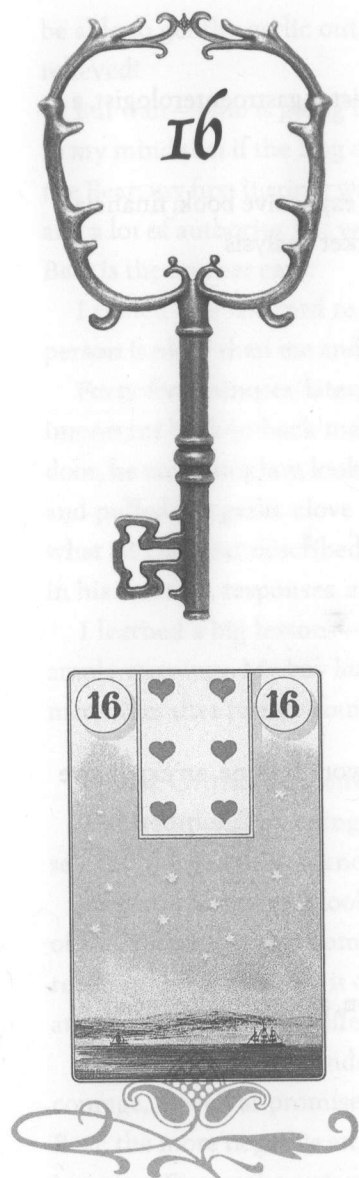
BEAR + BOOK

Bear + Book + Child = supervising and making sure homework is done, an expensive education

Bear + Cross = financial disappointment or letdown

Bear + Ring = prenuptial agreement, an expensive ring

Snake + Bear + Ring = an overbearing or constricting person, a deceitful financial arrangement



Stars

Playing Card Association: Six of Hearts

A beautiful clear night sprinkled with twinkling stars is usually the scene on the Stars card. This card gives you a feeling of peacefulness and tranquility in an atmosphere of serenity. Stars were the symbols of guidance in the old times, the GPS for the seafarers and travelers. I still see stars now in general as maps, directions, and of charting a path, whether it be professional or personal.

The Stars card is not an action card; it is more about atmosphere. It represents the doorways. This card is the omen of happiness, hope, and the encouragement of attaining one's wish. The Stars card conveys dreams and ambitions. It is about finding your way and believing in it. The Stars card represents perseverance and confidence. It is the light at the end of the tunnel.

With the Stars, think plenty, many, vast, everywhere, incalculable, spread of, beautiful, constellations, universal map, astrology, famous people, magical, and sometimes divination.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- hope and harmony
- calm and serenity
- guidance and direction
- success is at hand
- the light at the end of the tunnel
- recognition
- reach for the stars, inspiration is within reach
- a new path
- believe, listen to your instincts
- meeting under the stars or an outdoor nightly event
- spread
- help from above

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- optimistic
- well known or popular
- a perfectionist
- a guide and a counselor
- inspirational
- a life coach, a guru, a role model
- a web designer
- a dreamer

Physically:

- attractive eyes
- sometimes freckles or acne

Work

- the IT business, infrastructure architect, networking engineer, web developer
- working with crystals, gems, or beads
- an astrologer or an astronomer
- charting
- a slow and steady progression of already-set goals
- thriving and growing effects
- night shift

Love

- happiness, peaceful relations, a sincere relationship
- falling in love
- aspiring for true love
- a romantic date
- wishful thinking (depending on the adjacent cards)

Health, Body, and Spirit

- healing, hope, and recovery
- if describing an existing problem, it indicates a spreading of it
- the skin
- insomnia or sleep apnea
- nightmares (with negative cards)

Spiritually:

- open yourself to the vast connection of universal love
- break through the walls and fly
- feel the spiritual peace
- connect with the universe and the world around you
- listen with your heart
- believe in your own will power

Money

- no worries about the financial situation
- everything is balanced and going steadily
- there is hope
- a well-laid-out plan

Time or Timing

- during the nighttime
- the sixteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- around two weeks or within sixteen days

Advice or Action

- wish
- plan
- guide
- hope
- believe

Orientation

Positive: this card brings a positive vibe to the reading unless a negative card follows it

Objects and Areas

- a GPS system, a map
- a crystal or a gemstone
- glitter, bling, anything that sparkles
- fireworks
- an astrological chart
- the star sticker, a badge, or a medal
- electricity
- a magic wand
- Internet, the World Wide Web
- under the stars

A Personal Story about This Card:

I have three separate stories for the Stars.

The first is an emotional story that hit me pretty hard. My friend Rosa was undergoing cancer treatment. She asked me take a quick look to see what is going on with the cancer. I threw three cards on the question and got Tree + Stars + Woman.

Right away, that meant to me that the treatment was not working and the cancer was spreading. But if there were no negative cards, why did I read this combination that way? The main reason is because of the question: I was asking about the situation of the cancer specifically. I was not asking if the treatment was working or if her health was going to get better. If I asked either of those questions, the answer would be: "You are going to be okay and on your

way to recovery.” Since the question was specific, the cards answered specifically about the situation of the cancer. The Tree is her health, and since I did not activate any card, the Tree is talking about the cancer, and that means that it is rooted, growing, and not going anywhere; Stars mean spreading; and Woman means in her body. Of course I threw more and more cards to make sure of my reading, especially with that kind of an outcome, each time hoping to see a change...but it didn’t change. Rosa was a fighter, and she fought really hard for two more months until she decided to be free. You will live in my heart forever, Rosa.

I had to include this story to show how sticking to the question is so important in reading Lenormand to get an accurate reading.

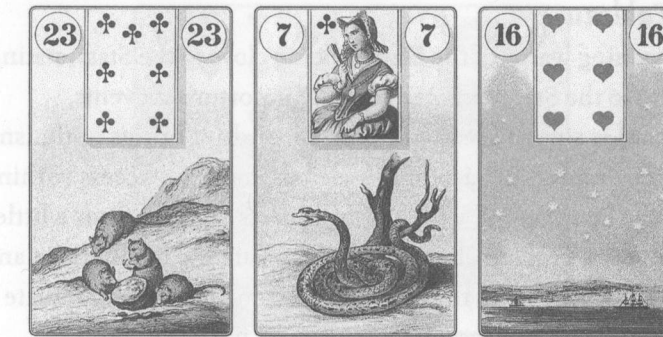
The cool part was, after a year had passed, I threw two cards as a test, asking, “Where is Rosa now?” And I got Woman + Birds + Stars = my friend’s (Woman) soul (Birds) in heaven/beyond/up somewhere (in the Stars). I pulled one card to see if she was happy; I got the Heart.



WOMAN + BIRDS + STARS

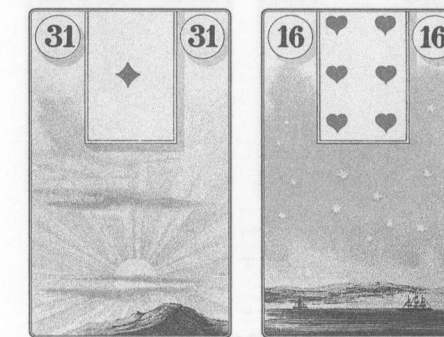
Now, for story number two, a while back in our previous home, we were having Internet trouble. No one in the house could get online. I pulled the cards to find out what was going on and I got Mice + Snake + Stars.

Later that day, the technician who came to fix the problem said that the wires in the outside neighborhood box had been gnawed through by field mice, which caused the widespread connection failures. The cards were so literal I had to take a picture and write it down. Mice literally gnawing at the wires (Snake), causing a connection failure (Stars).



MICE + SNAKE + STARS

Another story is when one of my boys pulled two daily cards, Sun + Stars, and went to play outside. Later he came home with a rash all over his body, bright red everywhere. He had some allergic reaction from playing outside, and we never were able to figure out the cause of it. But looking back at his cards we were astonished at how the cards were plain and simple, especially for only two cards: Sun (bright, breakout, being outside) + Stars (spread all over).



SUN + STARS

On another note, a total synchronicity happened while I was writing about the Stars card; my best friend Joe sent me a text video at an outdoor concert. Listening to rock stars on a stage while sitting under the stars: how perfect!

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning warns of the Clouds being close to the Stars, stating that in case of the Clouds' proximity to the Stars, expect a series of unfortunate events.

When the Stars card is surrounded with positive cards, it brings optimism and hope and accentuates the positive aspects of each of those cards, making success within reach. If negative cards surround the Stars card, it will dull the aspects of those cards a little and will bring hope and a solution to the problem, but it will not negate the attributions and properties of the cards. Sometimes, depending on the context, the Stars card can accentuate the negative by giving a warning of failure or unpleasant situations like my story above.

The Stars card is a positive card.

Some Combinations and Examples:

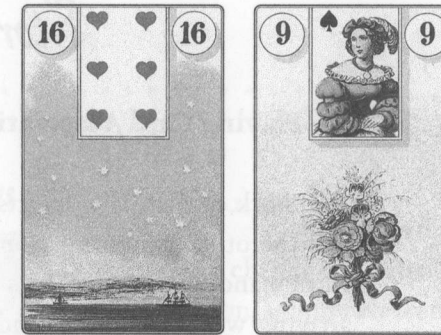
Stars + Crossroads = a new path with options and choices, multiple paths are in your future, destiny is providing you with opportunities, multiple successes



STARS + CROSSROADS

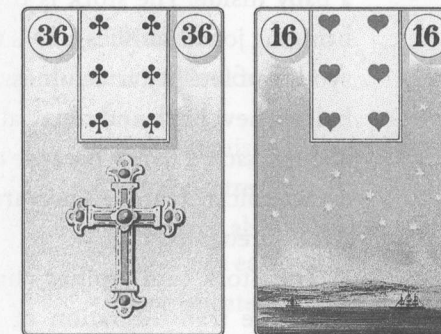
Stars + Child = an A student, an overachieving kid, a prodigy, a young and famous persona, a young luminary, a bright beginning, a successful birth, a popular first opening, a child with a big imagination

Stars + Bouquet = a famous stylist, a popular painting or piece of art, winning a prize for best arrangement or best design, a beauty pageant

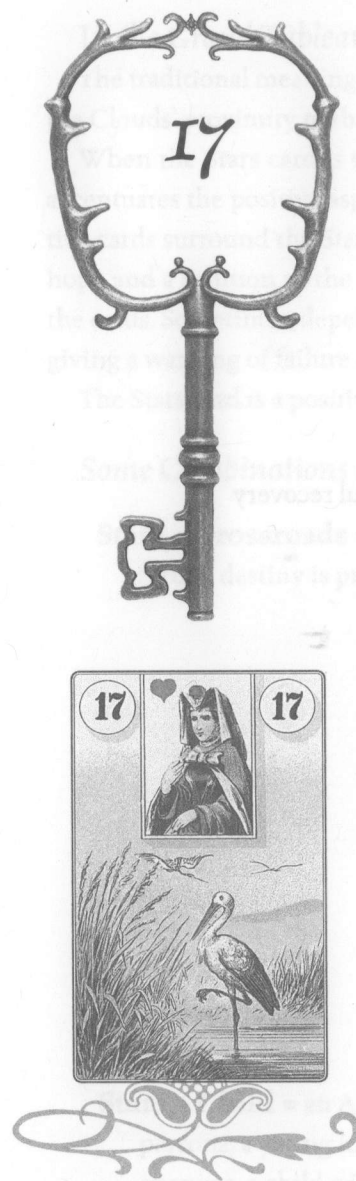


STARS + BOUQUET

Cross + Stars = faith, Abrahamic religion, hope, belief, painful recovery



CROSS + STARS



Stork

.....
Playing Card Association: Queen of Hearts

The Stork card usually depicts two storks: one is flying and the other is nesting. Sometimes you can see one stork standing in water. It is a migratory bird, always arriving with the spring, and it is a very poised bird regarded with esteem and admiration, symbolizing respect. The stork's most famous symbolic reputation is as the baby bringer: the well-known picture of a stork flying through the air holding a bundle in its beak with a baby inside. The stork is the infant delivery service, bringing joy to families across the world. The stork is the symbol of fertility, fruitfulness, and productivity. It symbolizes new birth and renewal. It is also associated with ancient sacred dance because of the way the literal bird communicates through posture, movement, and instinctive choreography.

The Stork card typifies change and movement: the complete transformation of a situation in your life. Unless negative cards surround it, it is not a harsh type of change but a positive change most of the time. The Stork is a new influence entering your life and surroundings: changing your job or your residence, a new person coming into your life, or an extra income. This card connotes all things new and improved. It announces pregnancy, birth, adoption, new activities, new projects, and new arrivals or additions, in addition to all progress, improvements, advancements, renovations, and all sorts of evolutions.

The cards around the Stork will contribute the details of whatever is being upgraded or changed and under what circumstances those changes are occurring.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a move, a change of residence
- a transition, an improvement
- an upgrade, a makeover
- moving up
- travel by plane
- an addition to the household
- a birth, pregnancy, or adoption

Nuance:

- an action card

Woman or Man

- a distinguished, elegant person
- a trendsetter
- someone always looking for greener grass, not easily satisfied
- sophisticated and refined
- might be on the flighty side
- graceful, can dance and strut

Physically:

- tall, slender, with long legs
- refined and sophisticated
- graceful
- sometimes frail

Work

- a promotion, a transfer to a better position
- a change
- the need to escape and do something different
- productivity
- a job, assignments, or additional duties

Love

- taking the next step and moving forward
- a need to make a change in the relationship
- an improvement
- need to fly away

Health, Body, and Spirit

- full legs
- an improvement and a recovery even if it doesn't look good now
- pregnancy (better to have confirming cards like the Child or the Anchor cards nearby)

Spiritually:

- reaching a higher state of consciousness
- reaching a new milestone of spiritual evolution and understanding
- taking it to the next level
- dance and awaken your own fertility and creativity

Money

- an income increase
- an overall step up or change for the better
- a renewed source of income

Time or Timing

- seventeen days
- the seventeenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- spring (storks migrate in wintertime and return in the spring)
- the coming of spring, the season change

Advice or Action

- move
- change
- look up and ahead
- improve
- dance
- renovate
- let your ambitions soar high

Orientation

Positive: this card expresses a push forward with a positive vibration, but it can be thwarted or stopped if followed by a negative card

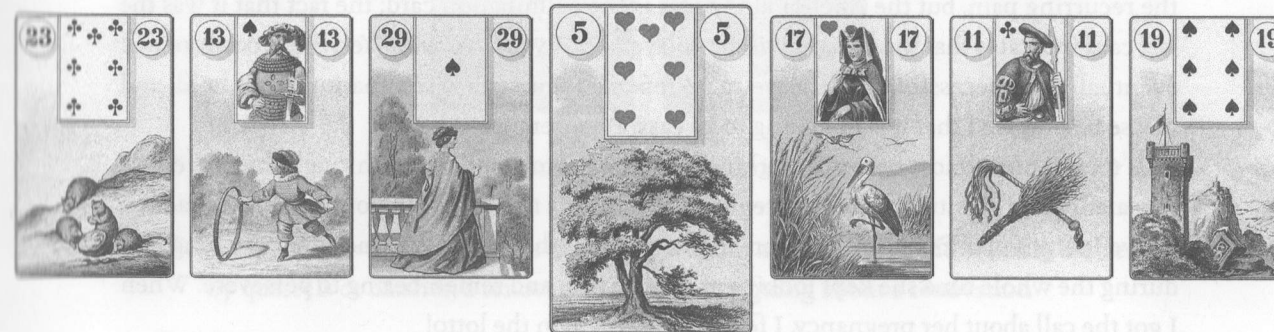
Objects and Areas

- a nursery
- a baby layette
- diapers
- a ladder or escalator
- on top of something (roof, ceiling, top of the fridge)

A Personal Story about This Card:

The Stork came up repeatedly for me while we were finishing the basement in our home when we lived in Illinois. First it would be House + Stork and I would be happy and excited, then it changed to Stork + Mountain + Mice—this is when the contractor was going over the two months' completion time into almost four months (Mountain), and the final outcome had a lot of little minor imperfections and flaws (Mice). I also got Whip + Stork + Mice, and this is when the arguments and stress started about this whole project. It was almost a nightmare, but nearly five months later we had one beautiful-looking basement. I kind of miss it.

My client Jenny came to me; she has been trying to conceive for a while and had many concerns. I set up a series of questions for Lenormand to get to all the concerns one by one specifically. The first question: Is Jenny able to get pregnant? I superimposed her health and body on the Tree.



MICE + CHILD + WOMAN + TREE + STORK + WHIP + TOWER

The first three cards, Mice + Child + Woman, show her stress and worry about having children. The card right after the activated Tree card is my answer: the Stork, which is a yes. The next two cards, Whip + Tower, are the “but” part—a repeated action (Whip) at a hospital or a medical facility (Tower). So my answer was “yes, but not without some help from the medical establishment, probably a procedure that needs you to go more than once to the hospital; some hard times or complications are involved as well (Whip).”

My next question was, “Will the procedure be successful?” I superimposed the procedure on the Scythe to activate the card.



FISH + STORK + SCYTHE + WHIP + ANCHOR

I got two repeating cards from the previous reading—the Stork and the Whip—and for me, that puts an emphasis on those cards.

The first two cards, Fish + Stork, literally speak about the insemination procedure. The next two cards, Whip + Anchor, are my answer. The Whip again furnishes the do-over energy and the recurring pain, but the Anchor at the end is the culmination card; the fact that it was the last card indicates that the success will be delayed. So my answer was: “Yes, the procedure will eventually be successful; it will have to be repeated until the insemination takes hold; and please be prepared that it is not going to be easy. Perseverance is key.”

It took Jenny almost a year of working with the doctors and going through the procedure repeatedly, and eventually she got pregnant. Her baby is two years old now. After that reading, I gave Jenny a picture of that Anchor. She went through a lot of pain and soul searching, but during the whole time she kept looking at that Anchor and remembering to persevere. When I got the call about her pregnancy, I felt like we had won the lotto!

In the Grand Tableau:

If the Stork is next to the Man or Woman card, it indicates some kind of move, be it residential, professional, or on the relationship front. If the Child card is around it, it denotes a pregnancy. If the House card is around it, it points to a relocation or a change of homes, and if the Ship is next to it, then it is travel by air.

If the Stork card falls far away from the Man or Woman card, it is an indication that the move or the relocation is pushed back or delayed for an indeterminate amount of time.

If the Stork appears at the right edge of the Grand Tableau, it announces a great and a major transformation of your life in the future. How closely the significator approaches that edge provides the approximate time frame of that change. If the Stork is at the left edge of the Grand Tableau, it indicates that you have been through this change in the past, and, depending on how far it lands from the Man/Woman card, it tells how far back in the past the transformation occurred.

Some Combinations and Examples:

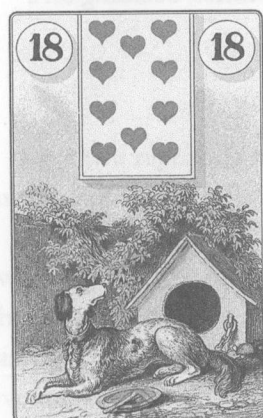
Stork + Crossroads = advancements with additional responsibilities, deciding on a choice about a move, a location change, going separate ways



STORK + CROSSROADS

Stork + Whip = disagreements and dispute about a relocation, a move being hindered by quarrels or clashes, a renovation gone bad, arguing about a renovation

Whip + Stork = leaving an abusive relationship, moving away from a problematic situation, recovering from addiction, improving after a chronic issue



Dog

Playing Card Association: Ten of Hearts

On the Dog card we always see a single friendly dog, lying in front of his house or standing alone, content and ready for action. The dog has always been known as man's best friend and companion. He is ready to protect and guard instinctively. The Dog symbolizes loyalty, fidelity, friendship, protection, and guidance.

The Dog is the sign for a sincere relationship and loyal friendship. The Dog is your significant other, your partner, your best friend, your boyfriend/girlfriend, the person you are having an affair with, your companion, your acquaintance, your soul mate, your guide, your therapist, your advisor, your counselor, your doctor, and your dog. It is the person you call when you need help or a shoulder to cry on; it is the person who will give you support and stand by you no matter what.

Sometimes the Dog shows up when help is at hand or aid is on the way.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a friend, an acquaintance, or someone you already know
- you can trust or depend on it
- a new friend coming your way
- your partner
- your pet
- a guide, a helping hand
- a guard
- security, loyalty

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- loyal, devoted, faithful
- humble
- likes to help others, a person who enjoys putting the needs of others first
- persistent
- trustworthy, dependable
- a best friend
- a guardian
- friendly

Physically:

- all shades of brown, auburn, and chestnut hair
- all shades of brown eyes

Work

- a friendly environment and perfect working ambiance
- someone is helping you or someone has your best interest at heart
- a doctor, healer, consultant, guide, advisor, nurse, or therapist
- a dog walker, a veterinarian
- an assistant
- a charity worker
- a counselor, minister, soldier (guards and protects)
- working in security, a bouncer
- on the negative side, it shows favoritism

Love

- a soul mate
- a relationship built on friendship, trust, love, and confidence
- a sense of belonging
- a reliable and a supportive relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- connected to sense of smell, the nose, and the tongue
- ask a doctor or a certified professional
- consult a healer or a counselor
- get some support

Spiritually:

- spread kindness and support your friends
- your spirit guide
- your animal guide (to find your animal guide, look for hints around you and watch for signs; if an animal crossed you or if you notice recurring animal pictures or symbols, look up its meaning and attributes)

Money

- balance and stability is maintained
- trust fund
- if there is difficulty in the current financial situation, help will come from a sincere friend
- monetary help, financial aid

Time or Timing

- eighteen days
- the eighteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- protect, defend
- befriend, be amicable
- be faithful to yourself
- be honest to yourself and others
- help others and practice kindness
- call your friend
- spend time with your pet

Orientation

Positive: this card can get highly influenced by negative cards, but alone it is looked at in a positive light

Objects and Areas

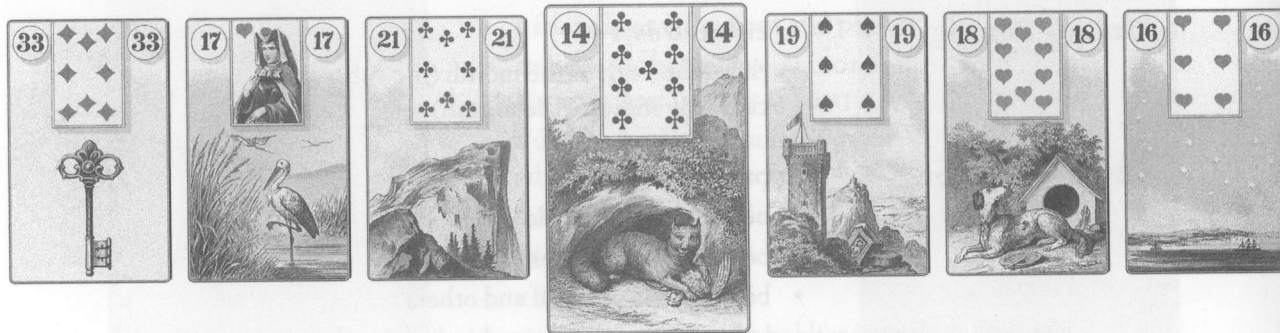
- a dog or a pet
- a pet area
- a stuffed animal
- security system

A Personal Story about This Card:

I don't know why the Dog card took two days for me to finish, but what I do know is during those two days my best friends and soul mates decided to call me, each one of them, including ones I haven't seen or heard from in ages. The Dog was surely working his charm, bringing all the people who would do anything for me to the forefront. Even my husband was super helpful and charming, coming home from the grocery store bearing gifts of chocolates and flowers. (I think subconsciously I didn't want to be done with the Dog card!)

A month ago, my client Max called me for a quick reading. He wanted to know what was going to happen to his job with the new merger his company had just announced. I superimposed his job on the Fox card while I shuffled, as that is the card I use for all jobs that fall under weekly/monthly salary.

I asked, "What is going to happen to Max's job situation after the new announcement?"



KEY + STORK + MOUNTAIN + FOX + TOWER + DOG + STARS

The job card (Fox) was flanked by the Mountain and the Tower, a big indication that Max would not go anywhere for the time being (Mountain). He seemed buried in this company. The Key + Stork revealed the announcement of the merger, which confirmed that I was on the right track and my prediction was in sync. The Mountain and Fox emphasized that there would be no movement at this time in his position. The Tower stood for his company, and the Dog proved that he had friends in high places and also that the position remained secure for the time being. The Stars card twinkling at the end offers the extra bonus of a new path, hope, and guidance. My answer was: "Your job is good for now, and you are safe. The changes are not going to affect you in a bad way. It might actually give you more visibility and add to your responsibilities (Stars)."

Recently Max sent me an email telling me that he had survived the list of employees that got laid off or transferred, and he was getting assigned to more projects. The email ended with a big thank-you for putting his mind at ease. I so love getting positive feedback!

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional Dog meanings warn against the proximity of the Clouds to the Dog; in the case of this occurrence, you need to take heed of whom you call a friend.

Also in the traditional Lenormand method, if the Dog is close to the significator (Man/Woman), it is a sign that you are surrounded with good people and you depend on real friendships. If the Dog was far from the significator, it shows that you don't give your trust to your friends.

The Dog card brings your attention to the loyalty of a friend. Depending on the cards around it, that friend could be protecting you from certain negative situations or certain negative people.

If the Dog card is close to the significator card and is surrounded by negative cards, that person is actually a good friend, trying to protect and defend against all the negative cards.

If the Dog card is far away from the significator and is surrounded by negative cards, that person is actually acting as a friend even as they bring those negative cards into your life. You have to be prudent about whom you put your trust in. The person you trust and confide in might not be a true friend.

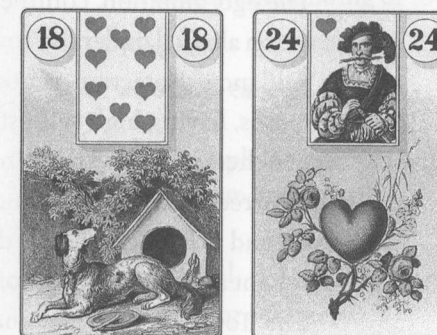
When the client is married, the Man or Woman card will signify the client and their spouse, and the Dog becomes another person in the picture—another friend or a third character in the story; hmmm! Of course, we would need more cards to indicate any deviation. The Dog usually represents someone known to the client; with the Rider it could be a new best friend, and sometimes it can just be the family dog.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Dog + Garden = a support network, group counseling or group therapy, getting together with some friends, meeting a friend or partner in a garden

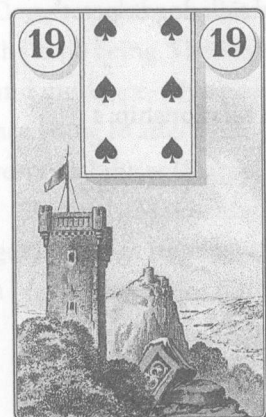
Dog + Coffin = end of a friendship, loss of a close person, a very sick dog or pet, the ruin of a friend, a separation

Dog + Heart = friendship transformed to passion; an emotional relationship; a passionate companion, friend, or partner



DOG + HEART

Fox + Dog = a friend posing as a friend, a manipulative friend or partner; as a job: an advisor, an assistant, a firefighter, a veterinarian



Tower

.....
Playing Card Association: Six of Spades

The Tower card is usually depicted as a long, straight tower with a pointed roof between old ruins, standing all alone as if a testament of some old glory or trying to make a point as if saying "I am still standing." It portrays a majestic, imposing edifice in a remote area. The Tower presents a structure that has a strong base and reaches brazenly high to the sky. The Tower is a symbol of shelter and protection as well as confinement and imprisonment.

I see the Tower as societal institutions and what falls under that umbrella: big, official entities such as governments, corporations, conglomerations—anything with authority and a wide sphere of influence, such as the judicial system, for example, or the military. In the old times and still now, towers were very important and hold major advantage points: looking from the top, reaching over a big area, guarding, and protecting.

The ego, ambition, confinement, imprisonment, and isolation also fall under the Tower. In some cases it can be as guidance, protection, schools, law, higher education, hospitals, having high self-esteem, townhomes, condos, movie theaters, office buildings, and malls—even prisons, correctional facilities, and airports; anything with a chain and many branches. It depends on the question of the client and the combination of cards.

The Tower is all legal matters, rules, regulations, restrictions, and boundaries that we are forced to follow. It signifies bureaucracy and hierarchy. It brings in the structure and guidelines factor. An important note for Tarot readers: the Lenormand Tower card has nothing in common with the Tower in the Major Arcana.

The Tower is your ambition and your aspiration, as well as your high standards and all-around status. The Tower is a neutral card; it is not a positive or negative card but takes on the attributes from the cards around it.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- big, large scale
- height
- it is going to be legalized
- going up, elevation
- having an advantage
- security
- boundaries, guidelines, structure
- feeling confined, trapped, or isolated
- being stuck or having your hands tied
- a building or structure with many floors
- an apartment building or townhomes

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- an accomplished person with a high self-esteem and stature
- a loner
- egotistical
- a lawyer or a judge
- high society
- very ambitious individual, reaching high
- a self-made person
- arrogance, conceit, condescension

Work

Physically:

- tall
- sturdy
- sometimes on the slim side

Love

- a high position, elevated
- a government job
- an environment where you can reach the top
- in a remote surrounding or a secluded area
- working in a hospital or a big corporation

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a steady, serious relationship
- sometimes it can be making things official or giving something power
- on the negative side, the relationship can be too confining, suffocating, isolated, or selfish

- the back and spine area
- medical facility, clinic, hospital

Spiritually:

- having a secure grounding and footage in the material world and reaching up to the higher consciousness
- believe in yourself and be confident; a healthy ego

Money

- in the bank
- pretty safe
- go ahead and invest

Time or Timing

- nineteen days or weeks
- the nineteenth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- establish some boundaries
- structure, organize
- elevate
- lift up your spirit

Orientation

Neutral: this is always a neutral card and can turn positive or negative depending on the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- tower
- apartment building or condo
- high-rise
- school
- office

A Personal Story about This Card:

My friend Brooke was going through a legal battle for a couple of years. When reading for her, I superimposed her legal matter on the Tower card and visualized her situation in court before every court date. The cards always came up mixed, with positives and negatives around the Tower, but the last card was always a happy, positive card. So in every reading I told her not to worry—that she is going to win the case in the end—until one reading that made me distressed because it showed a loss and a win, so I knew things were getting complicated. These are the cards of that reading: Snake + Garden + Clover + Mice + Tower + Bear + Cross + Lilies + Stars.

The first part, what is on the left of the Tower—Snake, Garden, Clover, and Mice—explained the past and current situation, the defamation, and the large group of people involved, plus the small winnings and the stress.

The cards on the right of the Tower were the prediction: Bear + Cross = a big monetary loss, Cross + Lilies = the suffering and loss might be prolonged for a period of time, and Lilies + Stars = after that long period, there will be relief and she will regain her status and shine again.

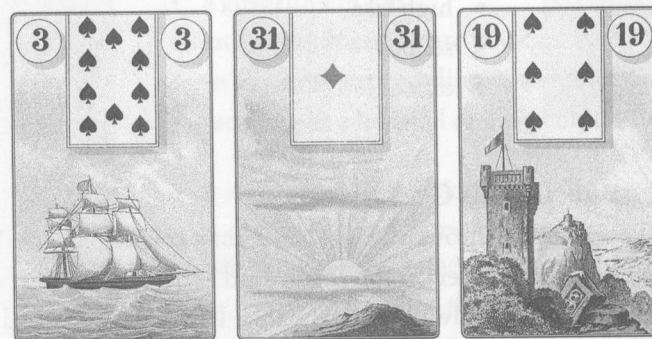
When I told Brooke all of that, it made perfect sense to her; the case had split into two and there was a loss in one of them, plus the constant lawyers fees were draining her. The case took another year and Brooke went through a lot of stress and agony, but she always told me that she believed in me and my predictions. I was worried to have that heavy responsibility, but at the same time I was happy and proud that my best friend puts her trust in me. I am lucky and blessed to have friends like that around me; it brings tears to my eyes.

The joy I felt when I received her long-awaited call about that case and the winning verdict was beyond immense—it was a major milestone for me, and my heart was jumping out of my

body, I was so happy for her and, at the same time, I was ecstatic that I came through for her. Needless to say, I felt like I received a big boost of confidence.

Here's another Tower episode that is still in my memory. Having tea with my friend Lea one day, she asked me to throw a couple of cards just out of curiosity about her job. Lea is in the corporate world; she has a stable job, and she is happy in it.

My question was a quick prediction for her job situation.



SHIP + SUN + TOWER

The Ship shows movement—a transfer or a move—but it is a good one with the Sun in the middle. I saw the Tower at the end as her corporation or even a bigger and better one. My answer was: “You are either getting transferred to a different location with a promotion (Sun + Tower) or you are moving for a new job with a better job and a bigger company.” She had a quizzical look in her eyes and shook her head: “I don’t know, and I don’t think so.”

She asked if that could be about her fiancé or her health or maybe her vacation in southern Europe. I told her my question was precisely about her job situation. If we had asked about the vacation, then yes, the Ship (the trip) + the Sun (the climate) + the Tower (the old castles and the ruins she is going to see), but it was about the job and only the job. Needless to say, she made me throw another set, and I got Rider + Tower + Bouquet. Immediately I said this is about a new job situation or a new company, and it is very inviting or attractive (Bouquet). She shrugged it off and said she’d let me know what happened.

A month after our little tea party, Lea called me, talking very fast and telling me that she had just received a very enticing offer from a major cosmetic company. The only thing was that she would have to relocate to the West Coast, and she wanted to know if she would be happy if she accepted their offer. I was very happy for her and wished her good luck, although not without succumbing to her wishes and doing a couple more readings for her.

I loved how the Bouquet was about the attractive offer and the cosmetic company together, as well as the Sun had also been about the same thing—the well-known company and the bright opportunity. The synchronicity with the Tower is that I am writing it on a governmental holiday: the Fourth of July.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning the Tower indicates a long lifespan unless the Clouds card is next to it, and then it forecast sickness and accidents.

I look for the Tower card if my client is in school; the cards around it will tell the story and the situation surrounding that area. One of the other situations to look for the Tower is if the client is in a court dispute, a legal challenge, or simply works in a big corporation or institution.

If the Tower is surrounded with positive cards, it indicates a secure, stable foundation and the possibilities of realizing your ambition.

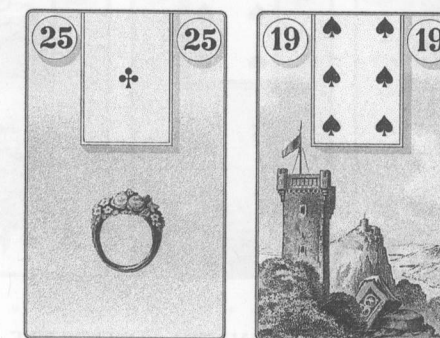
If negative cards are around the Tower, they emphasize the negative attributes of the Tower: confinement, seclusion, and isolation.

Some Combinations and Examples:

If you are doing a reading about a court hearing, the Tower is the card to energize, or charge.

With the Tower, the combinations are very important because they tell us what the Tower is about and the circumstances around it.

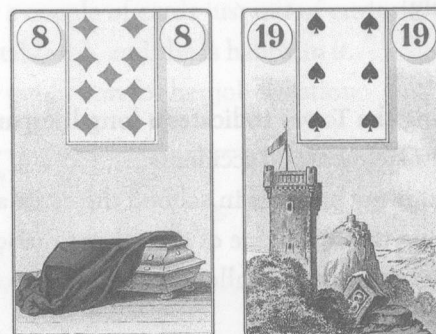
Ring + Tower = civil marriage, a legal agreement or deal that needs to be authenticated by a government official



RING + TOWER

Tower + Ring = winning a legal dispute or court case

Coffin + Tower = an isolated depressed person, prison, or a hospice



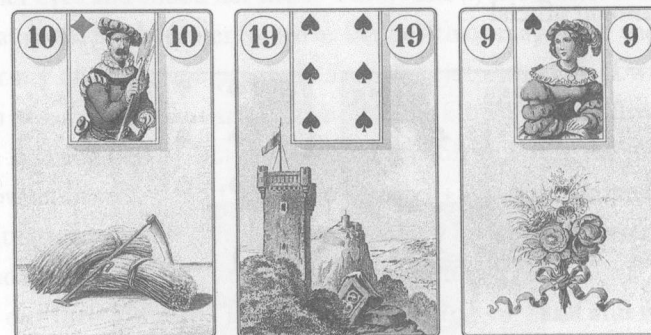
.....
COFFIN + TOWER

When doing a health reading, *always* refer your client to a healthcare professional:

Mandy needs to know about her surgery tomorrow.

Scythe + Tower + Ring = gastric bypass, a surgical procedure with a good outcome

Scythe + Tower + Bouquet = a surgical procedure with a good outcome, plastic surgery (surgical + hospital + pretty)



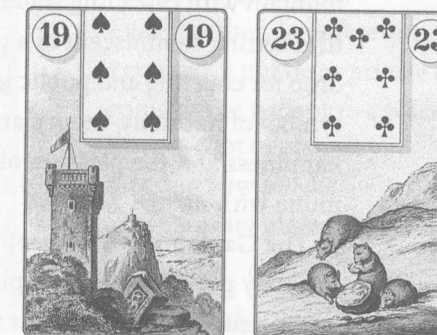
.....
SCYTHE + TOWER + BOUQUET

Where is Dylan going to meet Rola?

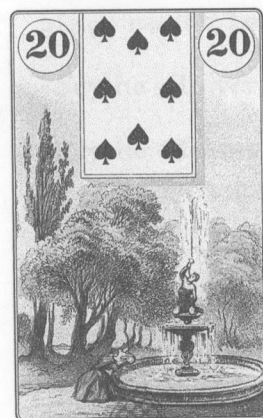
Tower + Bouquet = at the mall (big area with more than one floor, with pretty things and gifts)

How is Rhonda feeling?

Tower + Mice = her self-esteem is decreasing (ego, self-esteem + loss, stress)



.....
TOWER + MICE



Garden

.....
Playing Card Association: Eight of Spades

The Garden card usually depicts a beautiful setting with lush and bountiful greenery. Sometimes there is a lovely fountain with cascading water in the forefront—a beautiful setting reminiscent of a perfect old Victorian backdrop for courting and public gatherings. The Garden is a symbol of harmony, beauty, and relaxation. It represents happiness and the pleasure of getting outdoors to commune with nature.

The Garden involves people in groups; it could be a birthday party, a concert, a play, or going to the movies or a restaurant. The Garden is all public and private occasions, from retreats, reunions, and events to conferences, seminars, and meetings. When you see the Garden, consider a crowd, a congregation, an audience, a celebration, or a demonstration.

The Garden is the well-manicured neighborhood, the green preserve, and the groomed landscape. The Garden also stands for abundance, multitude, and fertile ground.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- any type of gathering
- a get-together, a conference, a retreat, a reunion
- a concert, a public or private event
- going to the park or to a place where there is a lot of greenery
- meeting new people
- a community place or gathering

Nuance:

- a mood card
- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- charming
- social butterfly
- popular
- nature lover
- uninhibited
- a public person
- creative, artistic
- club hopper

Physically:

- attractive, good looking, cute
- well put together

Work

- public relations
- networking, socializing
- advertising
- event planner, wedding consultant
- a good progress in the professional area toward some tranquility
- working for the community or in a slow time
- gardening, farming

Love

- playing the field
- meeting a new interest at an event
- new encounters
- not ready to settle down
- sometimes promiscuous

Health, Body, and Spirit

- connected to the immune system
- fertility
- need a spa recovery or fresh air

Spiritually:

- reach out and connect with like-minded people
- connect with nature: take a walk, jog, or hike
- meditate while surrounded by nature

Money

- prosperity
- thriving
- 401k or any contributory security involving collective investments

Time or Timing

- twenty days
- the second or the twentieth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- socialize, make friends, party
- network or schmooze, build your contacts
- use your connections

Orientation

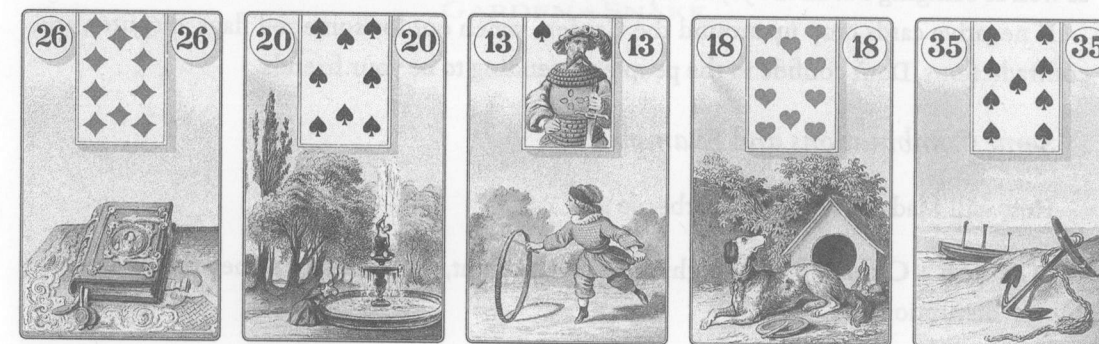
Neutral and positive: this is a neutral card in general; it turns negative when negative cards are around, but when alone it can be viewed in a positive light

Objects and Areas

- public domain
- a network
- chat rooms
- grids
- stadiums, clubs, golf courses, movie theaters, or anywhere people gather
- gardens, backyards, parks
- greens and shrubbery

A Personal Story about This Card:

My Garden story is beautiful, short, and sweet. For a long time, I didn't know that I could get out and meet and connect with people like me. I was all alone, praying to be guided to other psychics, readers, or even open-minded people. I stumbled upon a Tarot group online close to me and decided to meet with the other members. I was very worried and scared. I had never done anything like that, so questions rattled around my head: would they think I was crazy? Would they be odd? Would they accept me? Did I still have to hide or could I be myself? I threw some cards and got:



BOOK + GARDEN + CHILD + DOG + ANCHOR

Seeing those cards, I felt relieved. I read the Book + Garden as the Tarot group, Child + Dog as making new friends, and the Anchor at the end was like a sealed friendship for a long time, a stable and solid friendship. Taking that first step and going to that group changed my life completely. Not only did I find amazing people and lifelong friends but also a spring of never-ending knowledge and learning. My reading had been spot-on. I will add to the Dog + Anchor combination “a support group of friends for life.”

The sync: I am writing the Garden on my fabulous sister's birthday, all the while wishing that I was in the East Coast attending her big birthday bash celebration; alas, the Garden is happening far away from me. And today I received an email from my shaman teacher reminding me to take a quiet reflection in nature, which is another total Garden sync.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning says that if the Garden appears close to the designated person, it predicts getting introduced to grand and robust societies where new friendships will be born. If the Tower is close by, it indicates the friendship will last generations. If the Garden springs up far away from the Man/Woman card, you should be careful of phony friends and hypocrites in your social circle.

The Garden announces that you might be invited to an occasion, especially if the Letter card is around, or that you are going to meet a new group of people. The Garden connotes a happy environment with an artistic or inspirational tone. It can symbolize meeting a new person with whom friendship will spark and bring positive changes. The Garden can also be a location or a place of meeting or a venue for events. It is a place of retreat, calm, and relaxation.

If the Garden is surrounded with positive cards, it conveys delight, harmony, and sincerity, as well as bringing out all the joyful aspects of the card.

If negative cards crop up around the Garden, watch out for some red flags, disputes, and contradictions. Don't confide in the people pretending to be your friends.

Some Combinations and Examples:

How will Madison's birthday barbecue go?

Garden + Clouds = rain might mess up the event, watch out for some mix-ups or disruptions

Marc and Nicole are looking for a new house; what are they going to find?

Garden + House + Bouquet = a big house in a nice neighborhood with a landscaped backyard and front yard, very appealing to the eye

Lacy is going to meet her partner's family for the first time; what is she to expect?

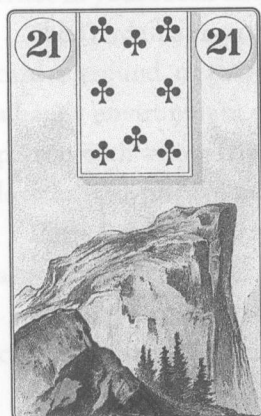
Sun + Garden + House = a happy experience, Lacy will be in a welcoming, warm and happy (Sun) big (Garden) family (House)

Edmund was having his first webinar; what can the cards tell him?

Garden + Snake = prepare for some difficulties—you are either going to have some technical issues with wires and connections or one of the attendees is there with some negative intentions to steal your ideas or copy your work



.....
GARDEN + SNAKE



Mountain

Playing Card Association: Eight of Clubs

The Mountain card usually depicts a big mountain, an enormous rock, or a distant, high peak; it's always barren, cold, and remote. Sometimes it shows a landscape of a mountainous country. The Mountain symbolizes immobility, resistance, standing still and not budging, endurance and blockage.

The Mountain stands for the big obstacle that you need time to conquer and overcome. This card predicts all kinds of challenges, delays, and opposition; it warns against traps and pitfalls. Usually the Mountain brings frustration, discouragement, and interruption, as well as burdens and heaviness. The Mountain represents an impasse but is never an absolute deterrent to action. Remember: there is always a way around or through a mountain. Think of the Mountain as a challenge to be climbed, a problem to be solved, a barrier to be skirted. The Mountain brings all sorts of delays, postponements, and procrastinations. The Mountain also sometimes warns of an enemy blocking your efforts.

The Mountain can also indicate a nice remote country vacation, a mountaintop resort, or a retreat in a faraway sanctuary.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a block, an obstruction
- anticipate resistance
- an enemy
- being stuck or paralyzed, not going anywhere
- obstacles, a challenge ahead
- stalling, being held back
- expect delays

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- strong, big, solid
- stubborn
- standoffish, formal, aloof, shy
- lonely, distant
- unfriendly, detached, unemotional, indifferent, hard hearted

Physically:

- big
- older
- white or gray hair
- blue or gray eyes
- sometimes bald or balding

Work

- a dead-end position
- expect some setbacks
- stumbling blocks hindering advancement
- a strong opposition
- a hiring freeze
- unemployment
- sometimes it can be a positive and show stability
- miner, geologist, petrologist, rock climber

Love

- a stagnant relationship, stalling
- feeling indifferent
- opposing in views and unwavering, a stalemate
- no harmony; instead, a lot of coldness and rigidity

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a blockage, immobility
- constipation
- spending a lot of time in bed
- the Mountain is connected with the head

Spiritually:

- release all blockages and hindrances
- forgive any old grudges or negative feelings
- fast for a day to release all toxins from the body
- detox
- let go, let loose, release

Money

- some difficulties and obstacles
- heavy debts
- a monetary struggle

Time or Timing

- twenty-one days
- three months
- the third or twenty-first of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- winter

Advice or Action

- stop, keep still
- stand your ground, don't budge
- persistence beats resistance

Orientation

Negative: this card will influence the cards around it with a negative tone

Objects and Areas

- a mountain
- a retreat
- an isolated place
- rocks
- stone
- a cooler
- where there is some kind of pileup

A Personal Story about This Card:

I recently had a small but funny encounter with the Mountain. My husband was frantically packing to go on a business trip. I pulled cards for the fun of it and got Bear + Mountain + Clouds. I told him not to rush—that he should expect a big delay and the flight would not be on time. He didn't listen. Upset, I asked him, "How could you be married to a psychic after all these years of insights and shrug me off?" This was personal, and my ego puffed up. I kept on him until he checked the flight. "It says the flight is on time," he snickered. This didn't stop me from repeating myself, but he was in his own world, acting like the white rabbit in Alice's story.

As soon as he got to the airport and checked in, the flight got delayed for four long hours because of weather conditions (Clouds) in the destination city. He called, furious at the delay and how it was going to affect his schedule, and quipped, "You jinxed it." Trying not to crow, I teased back, "Well, yeah. I asked Zeus to mess with your weather just to be right." We both laughed.

My ego was doing a victory dance while the loving wife in me felt bad for my husband's delay. I understand that he couldn't take the chance and be late getting to airport, but I did relish being proved right.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning, if it is close to the Man/Woman card, the Mountain warns of a great and mortal enemy just waiting to hurt you. If the Mountain is far away, it is an assurance of faithful, strong friends who will be there for you in a time of need.

I still look to see where the Mountain is and make a note of it; if it is close I make sure first that it is talking about a person, and if it is, then I will look at other indications before I declare it an enemy but without the "mortal" attribute. Usually it shows right away and there will be more than one sign that there is foul play. If none of these indications are around, then it is only an adjective describing the cards around it.

If the Mountain is on top of the significator, it shows the heavy weight the person is bearing, but if it appears underneath, it indicates some resistance, with an easier time overcoming the challenges. When the Mountain is on top of your head, you have to dig your way out, but if you are on top of the Mountain, it is more manageable to cross.

If the Mountain is on the left of the Man/Woman card, the challenges and obstacles have passed or are on the way out. If the Mountain is on the right of the person card, then these challenges and hurdles are coming.

If positive cards are around, it will reduce the Mountain to more of a hill. There will still be challenges and delays due to weather, but they will be easier to handle. But if negative cards are around, they will make that mountain heavier, taller, and bigger, depending on the negative cards.

Some Combinations and Examples:

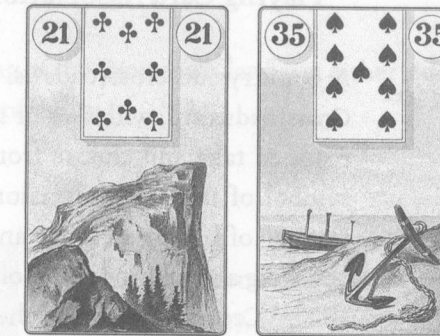
Is Zeina going to get pregnant soon?

Stork + Mountain = not until the blockage or the issue hindering the pregnancy is cleared

Mountain + Stork = yes: the obstacles have been dealt with, all clear and ready

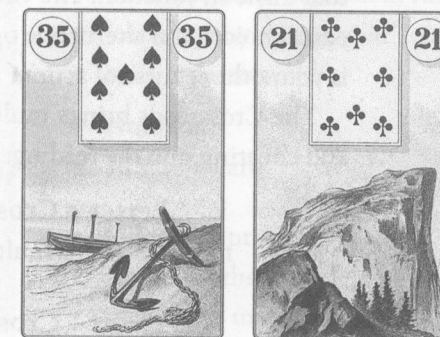
Faris is going for his interview; will he get the job?

Mountain + Anchor = yes: the wait is over, this will be a shoe-in

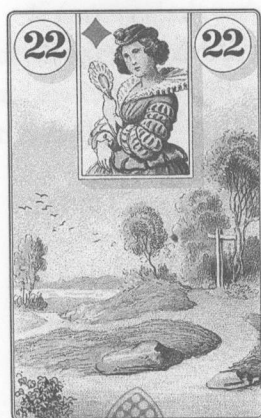


MOUNTAIN + ANCHOR

Anchor + Mountain = yes: he will either be there for a long time or be stuck in a dead-end job or there will be some delay in the starting day



ANCHOR + MOUNTAIN



Crossroads

Playing Card Association: Queen of Diamonds

A countryside crossroads is usually depicted on the Crossroads card, with two or three different options of roads to take and choose from. The Crossroads is the symbol of important decisions in one's life. It is the essence of having a choice and getting empowered by choosing and taking control of one's life direction.

The Crossroads card is the ultimate free will card. Your decision will determine the path you will be experiencing. It is the journey you will be taking or simply the street you will travel. The Crossroads is your options and multiple directions. It is the uncertainty when facing a choice as well as your doubt and hesitation in front of that difficult junction. The Crossroads also evokes your extra choices and alternative options to a predicament; it is your other course of action.

The Crossroads brings multiple factors, double lives, and cheating into the reading:

Letter + Crossroads =
multiple offers, multiple documents

Heart + Crossroads =
multiple love interests, more than one passion

Bouquet + Crossroads = multiple gifts

Stork + Crossroads = twins, multiple improvements

Fox + Crossroads = more than one job

Scythe + Crossroads = multiple procedures

In a relationship reading, if the Crossroads lands on either side of the Woman or Man card, that is your indication of infidelity.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a new opportunity, a new path
- another way, an additional option, taking an alternative solution
- a choice or decision to be made
- at an impasse trying to decide or choose
- hesitation, vacillation, dithering
- a road trip
- diversification, expansion, variation, broadening
- "eeny meeny miney moe"
- split, separate

Nuance:

- an action card

Woman or Man

- independent
- always on the move
- indecisive, uncertain
- double-talker
- diplomatic, tactful, mediator
- possibly unfaithful or leading a double life
- bisexuality comes up under the Crossroads

Physically:

- variegated, brindle, or multiple-colored hair

Work

- a job that requires being on the road a lot—bus driver, truck driver
- a job that requires finding solutions and alternative options—problem management, solution assessment
- a job that requires being in the middle of more than one party, acting as a go-between—arbitrator, diplomat, mediator, referee
- multiple opportunities or possibilities
- multiple jobs
- taking on multiple responsibilities, added responsibilities
- branching out

Love

- cheating, infidelity, adultery
- someone is being unfaithful and having an extra side interest
- doubt and uncertainty taint this relationship
- another relation
- noncommittal, unsure
- time to make that decision and hit the road
- going separate ways

Health, Body, and Spirit

- veins, arteries, and circulatory system, and all complications concerning these areas
 - seek a second opinion
 - consider other options
- Spiritually:**
- expand your horizon and look at other options
 - there is always knowledge and growth in more than one path
 - reevaluate your path and take time to reflect on it
 - try something new

Money

- more than one income
- multiple financial investments or options

Time or Timing

- the twenty-second of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- the number two is important in this card, so anything with two or any combination of two—two weeks, two months
- temporary

Advice or Action

- make a decision, pick a choice
- time to move and get on the road

Orientation

Neutral: this card gets influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

- a fork
- a voting booth
- an intersection
- a multiple-choice test
- on the road, street, or highway with many exits

A Personal Story about This Card:

The Crossroads story is very dear to my heart. A long time ago, I was spending Friday night at home alone after my date canceled at the last minute. I was moping about in my room and threw some cards, and I got:



SHIP + WOMAN + CROSSROADS + HEART + DOG

I didn't activate any card, so I thought a friend was going to cheer me up since the Dog was at the end and the Crossroads was in the middle, so it was emphasized. I wondered about that, but I was too consumed with my own wallowing; I didn't care to hear what the cards were trying to tell me. Later on, a friend of mine came over and dragged me out of bed because she needed me to drive my car; she had two extra women and her car was too small. They were all going to a club in downtown DC. While driving, I thought, "Ah, so that is what the Ship meant: my car." I figured the cards were telling me that my car and I were on the road and helping my friend. On the way back home, driving out of downtown Georgetown, my car was full of women; one of them saw a German friend in the adjacent car full of guys while we were stopped at a red light (literally a crossroads). We had to make a quick stop on the side of the road; I was uncomfortable and wanted to leave—but not before meeting my soul mate, my husband!

The cards were blunt; literally driving on the road (Ship, Crossroads), I (Woman) would find joy and love (Heart) with a devoted person/friend or a soul mate (Dog).

The Crossroads entry took me two days to finish; that was the first synchronicity. During those two days I had to change an appointment with a client two times, trying to decide on the best solution and the best time option; that was the second sync.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning put a lot of emphasis on the Clouds card and its proximity to the Crossroads card, stating that if these two were close to each other, trouble, misfortune, and unhappiness are sure to follow.

I don't make it my priority anymore to search for these two cards, but I do take note of it and inform my client if they happen to be next to each other because Crossroads + Clouds = problems brewing on the horizon, a bumpy journey ahead, taking the rough road, conflicting or inconsistent decisions, etc.

The important thing to look for here is if the Crossroads is surrounded by any negative cards, there will be some complications and difficulties. The Clouds, the Cross, and the Mice would describe a journey of difficulties or a more prolonged process, as opposed to a difficult event like the Scythe, which is an abrupt accident on the road.

If the Crossroads is surrounded with positive cards, the outcome is pleasurable and gratifying.

When the Crossroads lands on top, below, or on the right of the Man/Woman card, you need to make a very important and serious decision; the cards around it will give more clues and help with the details.

When active cards like the Rider, the Ship, the Birds, and the Stork are around the Crossroads, the decision will be made with the utmost certainty.

I also check to see if the Crossroads lands on the last column of the Grand Tableau; the eighth column tells me that the client's life will be making a big change in direction. The timing depends on how far the Man/Woman card is to that edge.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Brandy asked about a job offer she was considering. Should she wait for another job offer or take this one?

Fox + Crossroads + Rider = wait for the other job and try to stall if you can until you have both in your hand (Crossroads landing after the Fox tells me about her hesitation and the other offer she will be getting; also, the Crossroads was in the middle, emphasizing the options)

Crossroads + Fox + Rider = go with the offer you have in your hand (having the Crossroads before the Fox still tells me about her hesitation and that she applied for two jobs, not that there is something double coming; the Fox in the middle emphasizes the job at hand)

A bigger spread would give us more information.

Keith was asking about his relationship with Maro. They had gone on only one date. Will Keith and Maro go on more dates?

Birds + Crossroads = there will not be any more dates, you should move on

Crossroads + Birds = you will go on a couple more dates

Now if the question was on Maro and whether she was serious with Keith; we got:

Crossroads + Woman / Woman + Crossroads

Maro is in more than one relationship, or is dating more than one person at the moment. A bigger spread is needed to see more.



Mice

Playing Card Association: Seven of Clubs

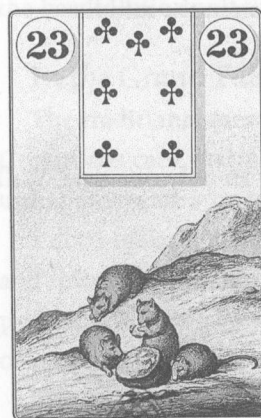
Usually the Mice card depicts three or more little mice working together or huddling together, busy, gnawing, eating, or stealing. Mice are a symbol of sickness from the time of the Plague; they are also known to steal objects and ravish a harvest. Mice have a bad rap; they are actually fast and smart. They work in groups. They gnaw at everything, and they will cause damage to structures. They multiply and reproduce quickly, and they are the reason for many devastations and infestations.

Just think of what you would do if you found a mouse in your house. Most people would panic and immediately call the pest control service.

The Mice card is the stress and worry that gnaw at your core slowly and constantly. It is the card that brings that feeling of uneasiness in your heart—the feeling of restlessness, agitation, and palpitation. It is the card of erosion and slow degradation. The Mice card brings anxiety and nervousness, apprehension and tension. Sometimes the Mice card indicates a disease or a simple bout of fatigue; other times it could be the sign of a lost item. The Mice card is taking or stealing what is rightfully not yours. It is the small problems that, if not dealt with early on, will grow into big problems and complications. The Mice is also the card for hoarding.

Mice work in groups and as a team, so sometimes this card will be about teamwork or the laborers in the industrial workforce because of the tedious and repetitive work. When positive cards follow the Mice (depending on the context), this card could signify excitement, eagerness, and agitated anticipation.

The Mice card is negative.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- stress, anxiety, loss, worry, sickness
- theft, loss
- expiring, going bad, deterioration, corrosion
- nagging
- some sort of drainage—emotional, physical, mental, or material
- unexpected expenditures, fees, charges, or bills
- small damages
- small multiple inconveniences or nuisances
- a worry that gnaws deep inside

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- a worrier, a nail biter
- always on edge
- jumpy, panicky, jittery, nervous, anxious, sometimes fearful
- picky, with an extreme attention to details, a nitpicker
- instability
- a person with a lot of baggage
- workhorse personality, a workaholic
- a nagger
- tense, uneasy, stressed, sick
- restless
- stingy, a miser, cheap

Work

Physically:

- dark gray, black, and brown coloring
- sometimes a receding hairline or thin hair
- sometimes marks, spots, stretch marks, or wounds

- small chores, odd jobs
- working in an assembly line or a factory job doing something repetitious
- a stressful work environment
- an unstable position
- unnecessary, tedious, or redundant work
- possible loss of work
- corruption, exploitation
- waste of time, depletion of resources
- a job needing exacting detailing and a thorough combing through

Love

- an unstable relationship
- an obsession
- a nerve-racking relationship
- loss of affection and love
- a secret, hidden fixation
- an unhealthy fascination
- a manipulative relationship in progress
- a situation that eats at your heart

Health, Body, and Spirit

- the nervous system
- a warning sign
- anxiety, stress, hyperventilation, nervous tension
- infection, viruses
- ulcers
- a hidden issue that usually goes undetected and creeps out when it is more serious
- exhaustion
- attention deficit disorder
- Alzheimer's
- a slow decline or worsening of a situation

Spiritually:

- rest
- breathe
- empty the chaos and chatter in your mind
- clear your heart of gnawing worries and let things be
- slowly release your tension
- look around you and see what is draining you or scattering your energy
- don't cling to so many details that you miss the big picture or vice versa

Money

- financial difficulties
- monetary loss
- a hidden theft in small amounts
- money seems to leak out; as soon as it comes in, the faster it goes
- hand to mouth
- scrutinize every amount in and out

Time or Timing

- fast timing, usually within hours, sometimes days, but always less than a month
- the twenty-third of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- be persistent
- stop worrying
- pay attention to details or its opposite: let go and see the big picture if you are too busy scrutinizing

Orientation

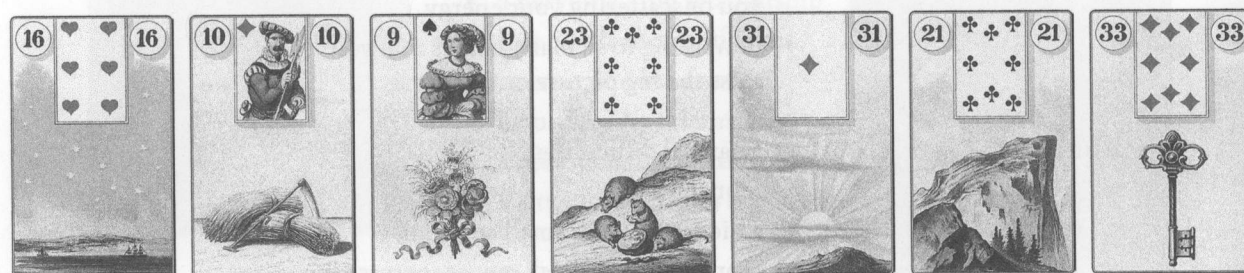
Negative: this card is always negative, but it can be neutral on rare occasions when it is talking about scrutinizing and attention to details

Objects and Areas

- every nook and cranny
- gutter
- mouse, squirrel, rodent
- vermin or any type of pest

A Personal Story about This Card:

My sister's best friend Leeloo was planning and organizing a surprise Parisian-themed party for my sister's birthday bash. Throwing the cards while focusing on the party, I decided to pull seven cards. I got:



.....
STARS + SCYTHE + BOUQUET + MICE + SUN + MOUNTAIN + KEY

Seeing the Key at the end, I breathed a sigh of relief; I knew it would all end well and be successful, but not without some tribulation. The Mice in the middle emphasize the worry, anxiety, or unexpected issues or nuisances about the event arising and needing to be dealt with fast. I read the cards as follows:

The Stars + Scythe = some sort of an abrupt accident or rupture that will cause a sudden change of plans (Stars). The Bouquet + Mice (more stress) about the decoration (Bouquet) and how it is going to look; more pressure, strain, and tension (Mice) about the presentation (Bouquet) or maybe some damage to the decorations or structure. I didn't like seeing the Sun sandwiched between the Mice and the Mountain, which predicts a short-lived success that wasn't easy to attain because of the Mice and some delays (Mountain), but having that Key was a sure success.

How the events transpired was most unfortunate and fascinating at the same time, especially looking back at the cards and the reading. A week before the scheduled surprise party, a major storm hit a vast area and knocked out power throughout many counties for almost a week (Stars + Scythe = electricity cut). Leeloo was under a lot of pressure. She was making these giant decorations, and the heat was putting a lot of strain on everything (Mice + Sun = overheating) and making it all more challenging. The party had to be postponed (Mountain = delay) because of the heat, the power outage, and the damage to the decorations caused by the melting glue (Bouquet + Mice).

Leeloo sent me a picture of a broken Moulin Rouge structure; it looked so wretched (Mice: structural damage). It was all there in the cards. The second date for the event was perfect, however; the surprise party was a big success (Key), and my sister was very happy.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning declares that you will be a victim of a theft or a loss if the Mice card was close to you; the possibility and hope of recouping what was lost depends on the proximity of the card. The farther away the Mice card is from the significator (Man/Woman card), the more unlikely the retrieval and the recovery of what was lost or stolen will be.

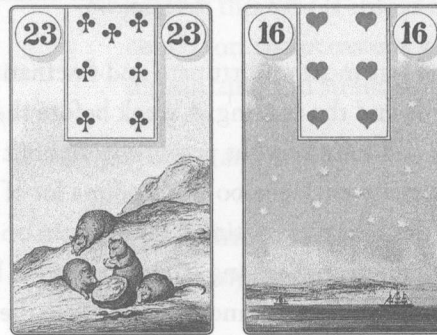
If the client has a question about a valuable lost object, then and only then will I use that strategy and look to see the location of the Mice card to the significator card. When the Mice card is close and surrounded with positive cards, the object will be found soon; on the other hand, the farther the Mice card is from the significator, the harder it is to recover what was lost. Other than that, the Mice card indicates the usual worry, stress, and anxiety.

The Mice card is the adjective to the card before it or the cards around it. If surrounded with negative cards, the impact of the Mice is strong, serious, and worrisome, but if positive cards are around, hope will be looming close, making for an easier or lesser impact.

If it is close to the House, it is a warning about a structural problem or corrosion somewhere in the house, and on the other end of the spectrum, it could be that the family is having some issues.

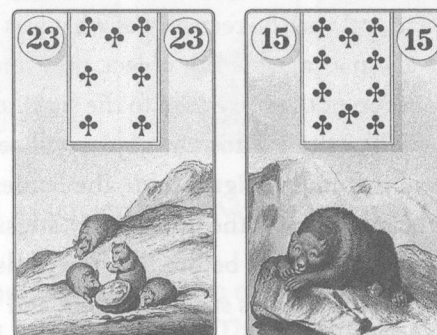
Some Combinations and Examples:

Mice + Stars = cancer, anxiety about a broadcast, stressing over an Internet project, the stress will soon disperse, something lost will be discovered, losing direction (it all depends on the context of the question)



MICE + STARS

Mice + Bear = a slow bleeding of funds, spending in small increments repeatedly without noticing that it is adding up to a big sum, worries and fears about the financial situation, a stingy person or penny pincher, a mother or an aunt (Bear) full of anxiety and worry, agonizing about weight issues (Bear) or dieting, losing weight in small doses

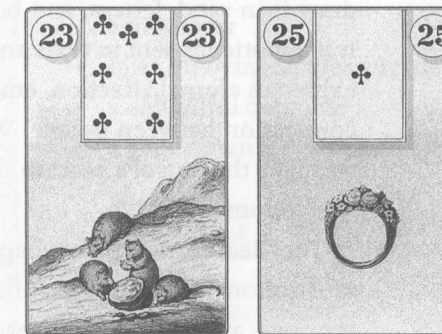


MICE + BEAR

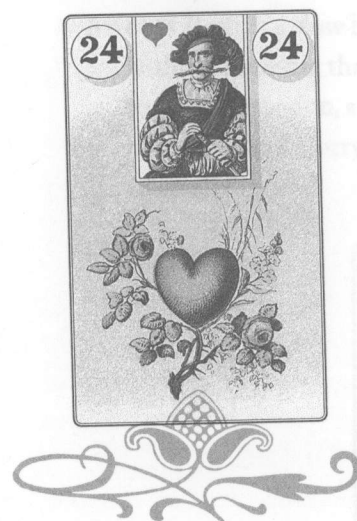
Mice + Fox = underpaid job, factory worker, stressful work, doing a menial job or odd jobs here and there, temporary work, worried about your position and/or your work situation, unstable employment

Ring + Mice = a lost ring, loss of a contract, an agreement ripped to pieces, erosion of a marriage

Mice + Ring = a constant and reoccurring anxiety, a cycle of depletion and draining, a ring of corruption, a solution to a problem



MICE + RING



Heart

Playing Card Association: Jack of Hearts

This card usually depicts a beautiful red heart; sometimes it is surrounded with flowers, roses, or a pretty floral arrangement. The heart has always been a symbol for love, passion, and devotion. Lovers carve it on trees, draw it in sand, letters, and body tattoos, and now use it in emoticons sent in texts and social media. The heart expresses eternal affection, emotion, and that feeling of connection between people. Whatever the medium is, we make the sign of a heart to show our appreciation and love to someone.

The Heart card signifies happiness, joy, contentment, satisfaction, fulfillment, gratification, flowering, blooming, love, and passion. In a reading it brings peace, harmony, delight, pleasure, and enjoyment to any aspect of human relations or any other passion in life. It conveys that feeling of elation we experience when finishing a project, the rapture of being with a lover, and the satisfaction of enjoying a friend's company. This card represents a mother's love and sibling affection. It is the simple pleasure of being alone and doing what we want. The Heart card indicates any act of kindness: charity, generosity, and hospitality toward friends and strangers. The Heart card represents all facets of love in all its forms and iterations. This card connotes all feelings and emotions in all their expressions and characteristics.

The Heart card reveals feelings, passions, desires, affections, likes, loves, and fondness, but it is never a sign of commitment. In readings you will need to examine adjacent cards to determine intentions and fidelity. The Ring, the Anchor, the Key, the House, and sometimes the Tower or the Stork may reveal the permanence and strength or the potential for stability.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- love, romance, passion
- friendship, affinity
- happiness, harmony
- a new lover
- bliss, enjoyment, pleasure, delight
- a delightful outcome
- a good omen if surrounded by positive cards

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- happy, generous, caring
- a compassionate person with a big heart
- a gentle and warm person
- passionate, loving, philanthropic, altruistic
- a romantic

Physically:

- all hair colors included except black
- curvy

Work

- all humanitarian, philanthropy, and charity work
- working and doing your vocation or your passion
- enjoying what you do and your job, being satisfied with your professional life
- being appreciated
- working in a happy environment where there is a lot of camaraderie
- an office flirtation, crush, fling, or romance

Love

- a passionate relationship with a lot of love and harmony
- heart's desire
- new romance, flirtation, a liaison
- being in love, falling in love, or will be falling in love
- all feelings of passions, affections, and desires
- a "cloud nine" feeling
- the love of a lifetime, the one true love
- happiness and hope

Health, Body, and Spirit

- anything dealing with the heart organ and the arteries

Spiritually:

- work on your heart chakra (the "I love" chakra)
- wear green or pink
- work on unconditional love, and start with loving yourself
- make sure your actions are coming from the heart
- open your heart to others
- forgive, offer, thank
- bring compassion, empathy, and trust into your life

Money

- a comfortable financial situation
- a happy monetary arrangement
- all is well and balanced in the financial and budgetary area
- generosity, charity, donations

Time or Timing

- twenty-fourth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- spring, summer

Advice or Action

- love
- spread joy
- be happy
- share
- follow your passion

Orientation

Positive: this card brings a positive vibration to the reading as long as there are no negative cards after it

Objects and Areas

- a romantic place
- any heart-shaped objects
- coronary muscle

A Personal Story about This Card:

Looking back at my journal, I picked this story from a recent "daily draw" entry:

On Tuesday morning, I pulled three cards with nothing in mind; they were:



FISH + HEART + BEAR

Looking at the cards, I felt happy; it looked like a good day was in store. What came next was a series of unfortunate mishaps, one thing after another. I spent a whole day dealing with customer service, trying to get a correct item to replace the wrong item that had been sent. My youngest ate something that made him gag and vomit. The faucet in the kitchen sink broke. The mailman left a note of delivery attempt in our mailbox without even ringing the doorbell or coming to the door; I had to wait till the next day to go to the post office and pick up the package. The last straw was when I ran out of ink while printing an important paper for my son's homework. I was in tears and wished the day would end. Taking another look at my daily draw, I heard in my head the tune "Don't Worry, Be Happy." I shook my head and went pfft while I collected the cards and put them away.

Later, when my husband came home, he took me on a surprise middle-of-the-week date with some retail therapy and a nice dinner on the town. My awful day had flipped to a perfect night as if someone in the higher-power realms heard my tears, waved the magic wand, and sprinkled the pixie dust. I came home elated at being blessed with such an amazing and generous husband. When I looked at the cards again, they made so much sense in a very literal way: Fish = shopping, Bear = nice dinner and generosity, and between them the Heart = all with love, caring, and happiness; the cards accurately predicted that my heart would be full of joy with shopping and dining courtesy of the love of my life.

Whenever the Heart comes without any negative cards around, even if the circumstances at the moment are not on the uplifting side, I know deep in my heart that things will change for the better.

The synchronicities that happened during the writing of the Heart card were amazing. First I received a text from my sister with a sonogram picture of her baby's first heartbeat. I was overjoyed to see the beginning of my nephew or niece. Then I received a beautiful surprise: a bracelet from my brother and his wife, with an attached note inscribed with a simple three words, "We love you." I wish I could stop time for a little bit and stay in that feeling of being wrapped in unconditional family love as much as I can. Suddenly I didn't want to finish working on the Heart; I wanted to work on it for as long as I could.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the old times, the new times, and through the ages, the Heart card is a sign of joy and harmony—a prediction of a life full of love, splendid romance, and plenty of satisfaction.

The Heart card is the card to look for to investigate the love life of the querent and the situation that relationship is in. It is the card that reveals the state of affairs concerning the relationship and the circumstances around it.

The cards surrounding the Heart have a tremendous effect on it. If the heart is surrounded with positive cards, all is good, happy, flourishing, and in good health and harmony. If the Heart card is surrounded with negative cards, there will be pain, suffering, and distress.

If the Heart card is close to and in the future of the Man or Woman card, there is a possibility of great love or romance, but watch for the negative cards; for example, if the Snake and Fox are around, they are signs of jealousy, manipulation, lies, and deceit.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Bonnie asked about the best way to tackle her presentation with her new group of trainees:

Heart + Key = Bonnie's love and compassion (Heart) will be the important factor (Key) to get through to the group, and she needs to open her heart and keep it present; with her heart front and center, she will unlock and reach success; she will speak from her heart; her heart is the key; her passion (Heart) will be the solution (Key)

Key + Heart = your success and all your sparks and ideas are in your heart, your kindness, and your willingness to share unconditionally

Heart + Key and Key + Heart are the same because they complement each other in either combination.

Ramzi was wondering about his relationship with Amber and wanted to see if it is worth pursuing.

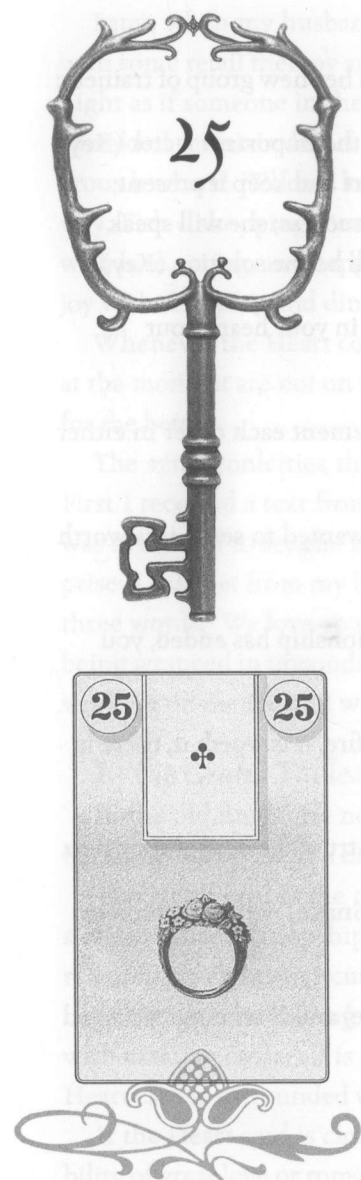
Heart + Coffin = no: you have reached a dead end, this relationship has ended, you guys are done

Coffin + Heart = yes: there is a possibility of rekindling the fire, it is worth it, there is still a chance to getting back together

Ebby was asking about a new business partner and if she should trust the new proposition.

Heart + Snake = no: the intentions (Heart) are of deceitful (Snake) nature, watch out: there are jealousies, dishonesties, and lies

Snake + Heart = no: the proposition is a lot of trouble (Snake) and it is being packaged under false pretenses with all positive (Heart) attributes



Ring

Playing Card Association: Ace of Clubs

A simple but beautiful and elegant gold ring is shown on this card. Sometimes the Ring will have a mounted precious stone surrounded with some artistic designs. The ring has always been the symbol of unity, attachment, alliance, and marriage. The ring has become the offering and the vow given when expressing deep affections and a desire for a sincere commitment.

The ring denotes all unions, commitments, engagements, betrothals, and all sorts of associations and agreements; it is the binder and the promise, the pact and the contract. The ring signifies partnership, merger, or joint venture. It predicts a strong connection, a serious relationship, and a solid tie. The ring is also a material card: valuable objects, jewelry, expensive gifts, precious items, and anything with a bling factor.

The Ring card embodies the sign of the circle, the completion, the solution, and of coming full circle; it is also running in circles, the course of a cycle, or the never-ending cycle like going over something repetitively. It is the card for confirmation, corroboration, and affirmation.

The Ring card is a positive card, but the cards around it affect it tremendously. If the Ring card appears at the left side of the Man or Woman card, it indicates an attachment. If the inquiry concerned a romantic matter, then the answer would be that the person is unavailable, already involved, or married. If Ring lands on the right side, it indicates the person in question is sincere, with an intention of commitment.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- happiness, a positive outcome
- marriage
- an acquisition or a merger
- an agreement, signing a contract
- payment
- a repeating action, it is coming again/back (looping)
- a solution, a completion
- a bond, bonding, committing
- a perfect harmony
- joining a club or a group
- accessing an exclusive circle

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- dependable, responsible
- loyal, reliable, faithful
- committed, dedicated
- attached, emotionally involved, married

Physically:

- plump, round
- light coloring
- top curves, buxom

Work

- an agreement or a contract
- a merger
- a harmonious working environment with a sense of unity
- a repeating or rotating schedule
- repetitive or monotonous work
- union
- an exclusive organization or a society
- committed to a deal
- legally bound, legally binding

Love

- happiness
- if the querent is single, new encounters
- if the querent is in a relationship, it strengthens the bond
- a proposal or an engagement, "put a ring on it"
- a tight relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- getting a routine checkup
- a repetitive procedure or continual treatment
- additional or frequent testing needed
- completion of therapy or treatment
- a successful procedure or treatment
- the lymphatic system
- (with the Bear) a gastric bypass

Spiritually:

- the circle is the perfect symbol of harmony, the eternal cycle of yin and yang
- the union of opposites
- remember: everything you put forth will come right back, as it is the current cosmic law of no endings or beginnings, only motion
- the circle is a whole
- repeat, do again, and be consistent
- take another turn at uniting or reconciling your opposite's energies to reach a state of release and peace

Money

- a stable period
- financial agreement
- joint account or combining assets

Time or Timing

- the twenty-fifth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- cyclical or continuous

Advice or Action

- commit
- promise
- close the deal
- reunite or connect back

Orientation

Positive: this card is almost always positive, but it turns neutral only in readings about contracts or arrangements; beware of any negative card that follows it

Objects and Areas

- a ring
- jewelry or any objects of adornment
- jewelry box
- a noose
- handcuffs or any other binding objects
- any items of high value

A Personal Story about This Card:

The story of the Ring comes from the archives of my teenage years in Beirut. It is a story I will never forget: the story of one of my mom's dear friends, Yasmine, and her quest for the right ring. Yasmine was at our house practically every other day. She was at a marrying age at a time where parents needed to see their daughters married before they reached their third decade; families would plan and scheme to find the perfect match. They would use guilt and pressure to compel the daughters to pick a suitor or choose the one they had picked for her. Yasmine belonged to a culture where parents asked for a girl's hand (I know: it is so Victorian, but it is still the norm in many cultures).

I remember one year the pressure on Yasmine was great, and she needed to make a decision. For that whole year she came to me once a week for a reading. It was like clockwork: every week I would throw a Grand Tableau or two for her and for different suitors, and we would check to see the location of the Ring between the Man and the Woman Card. One day I decided to do the Grand Tableau just for her and focused only on that Ring. The Ring card was pretty far away, so we began our once-a-week Grand Tableau "Ring countdown." We simply watched the Ring creep slowly toward her during the year. We counted how many rows the Ring landed away from the Woman card, and every time it jumped a row closer, there would be a screamfest in our living room. Finally it reached the Woman card at the same time Yasmine got engaged and married.

Sometimes the Ring would not budge for a month or more, but when that Ring finally reached its destination on the right side of the Woman card, it was like a big jubilee in our home. We were all so happy for her. But my job wasn't done until that Ring card stayed next to the Woman card, as Yasmine wanted to make sure that it was going to stay there, and she kept a tab on that card until the month of her wedding.

Thinking back on it, I guess it was a type of an obsession or a cycle we were stuck in, as every week we came back to it. After Yasmine got married, we started to see less of her; the war separated us, until we met again much later in the US and the Grand Tableau was happily pulled out again. I missed our Ring countdown and the time we spent together. If Yasmine ever reads this, I want to say that I know I used to roll my eyes sometimes when I had to do that Grand Tableau over and over again, but I wouldn't change a thing; those times are forever cherished in my heart.

In the Grand Tableau:

In the traditional meaning, if the Ring is on the right side of the Man or Woman card, it is a sign of a rich and happy marriage in the near future for the querent or someone in their entourage. The timing may be determined depending on how far or close the card is to the person card. If it is on the left side, it predicts difficulties.

I use the right-side meaning of the Ring but not necessarily the rich part. The Ring gets modified and altered greatly with the cards surrounding it, so for any negative prediction we need to look at the cards that are close to the Ring. If it is surrounded with positive cards, then harmony and happiness are all around. When negative cards are around, then problems, separations, and discord are to be expected, as well as feelings of being stuck or trapped. Furthermore, the negative cards can sometimes act as advice to get out of old habits or to break some routine or a harmful cycle.

I look for the Ring in the Grand Tableau to check on the querent's marriage or partnership and the circumstances around it. If the querent is looking for marriage, then I look for the Ring to investigate the possibility, the proximity, and the timing.

If the Ring is on top or at the bottom of the Woman or Man card, it usually indicates an important issue around a subject that the querent is worried about or dealing with. Look to the cards around the Ring to get a clearer picture.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Ring + Garden = a club, an association, or a guild

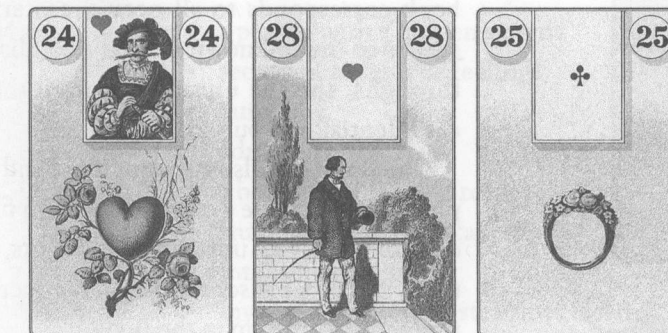
Ring+ Snake = a marriage with problems, bad marriage prospect, betrayals

Caitlin is unhappy with her job and asked about the best solution for her dilemma.

Ring + Scythe = find a way to leave that work, put an end to your unhappiness and put your notice in, quit your job

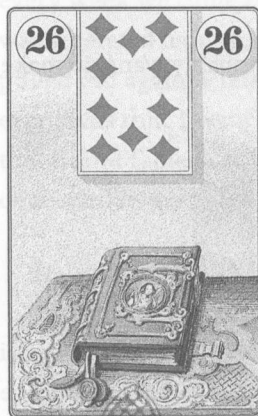
Sabrina asked about Scott's intentions for their relationship.

Heart + Man + Ring = he is very committed and sincere and probably wants to make it official



.....
HEART + MAN + RING

Ring + Man + Heart = he is already involved in a relationship but enjoys spending time with you as well



Book

Playing Card Association: Ten of Diamonds

The Book card portrays a massive leather-bound tome on a table; some decks show the book open, others show it closed, hiding its contents. The book appeals to our natural curiosity about what is hidden. The book is the symbol of knowledge and education, as well as of wisdom and intelligence.

The Book card designates hidden mysteries, secrecy, and all that is veiled. It also represents knowledge, information, facts, and data. The book connects with the memory and encompasses learning, education, intelligence, and all aspects of wisdom and proficiency. It also signifies projects, cases, assignments, designs, strategies, audits, accounts, researches, examinations, reviews, assessments, inventories, and all training, instructing, and schooling. The hidden and secretive aspect of the book corresponds to all occult, esoteric teachings. It speaks of the unknown as well as of discoveries, breakthroughs, and the unearthing of all that is concealed, confidential, and buried.

The Book can also be very literal and simply depict a physical object like a book, a journal, a file, a record, or a deck of cards. Our unrevealed thoughts, concealed emotions, and inner wisdom, plus all our secrets and clandestine actions, turn up in the Book.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- study, education
- still veiled and unknown, "shh, don't tell"
- information or news yet to be known
- hit the books
- needs more research, revision, editing, or reviewing
- examining or probing
- concealment, undisclosed information, hush-hush
- new revelations or discoveries, research
- a project
- a book, a manuscript, a script
- need to look deeper

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- a person with a hidden agenda
- secretive, hides true feelings
- quiet, shy
- educated
- a bookworm, an avid reader
- studious, scholarly, academic
- intellectual, brainy
- mysterious, discreet, stealthy, closeted

Physically:

- sometimes wears glasses or contacts

Work

- in the researching and investigating field
- teachers and academics
- publishers, writers, and editors
- a librarian
- bookstores
- bookbinding
- an accountant or bookkeeper
- private investigators and detectives, undercover work
- seminars and training
- a specialized field

Love

- a secretive relationship
- a hidden affection or emotions yet to be revealed
- a secret admirer
- a mysterious liaison
- a clandestine affair
- someone is keeping a secret or hiding something

Health, Body, and Spirit

- connects with the brain and memory
- examination and testing
- an unknown cause or symptoms
- a concealed ailment

Spiritually:

- the subconscious and what is hidden in ourselves
- what we do not show the world, the shadow self
- seek knowledge and expand your perception
- spread your wisdom and teach those around you
- listen to your intuition

Money

- study and scrutinize your investments
- look for hidden clauses and concealed charges
- revise your records and check for any discrepancies
- need further studies
- scholarships
- balance your checkbook

Time or Timing

- the twenty-sixth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)
- unknown and unknowable

Advice or Action

- study, research, read, learn
- keep quiet, don't tell, stay silent, hold your tongue
- hold back and keep it to yourself
- turn the page
- be curious, nosy, probe
- discretion is needed
- be mysterious

Orientation

Neutral: this card gets influenced by the cards around it

Objects and Areas

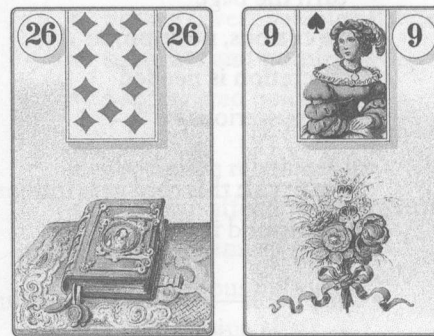
- any book—from an instruction manual to a novel or a photo album
- a journal, a diary
- computer notebooks, tablets
- files, filing cabinet
- libraries
- schools, academia
- a deck of cards
- an e-reader (Kindle, Nook, etc.)

A Personal Story about This Card:

I was working on this book when my husband put on a 2002 movie with Gwyneth Paltrow called *Possession*, which is based on the novel by A. S. Byatt. I was amused to discover that the whole movie revolved around a hidden love story in history between two long-buried poets. The movie takes us through the investigation process amidst journals, diaries, libraries, and a genealogy search, with two intellectual scholars acting as sleuths. This movie is the best description for the Book card: an academic setting, the dedicated scholars, the investigator's researchers, the case, the diaries, the journals, the hidden historical romance and the gradual unearthing of a long-buried secret. All of these totally embody the Book card and all its

different facets. What I loved the most was the fact that the universe decided I would watch this movie on the day I wrote this section on the Book card!

The Book card comes up whenever I work with my kids on their homework or school projects. Another happy memory I have with the Book was a daily random pull of Book + Bouquet. At the time, I assumed it was about the Alamo project I was working on with my son (dealing with lots of research and making a model of the Alamo) and thought, "Yay! It is going to turn out good."



BOOK + BOUQUET

Later that day—and to my surprise—I received a new Lenormand deck from a friend. In this case, the Book was actually the deck of cards received as a gift (Bouquet). The Alamo project started out well, but the type of clay we used cracked after it dried, and the walls started to fall. I had to fix it multiple times, making for a stressful project more like Book + Snake (a project with problems and difficulties) or Book + Clouds (an unstable project with setbacks) or even Book + Cross (a project with grief and suffering). That last example may be a touch on the dramatic side, but with three boys I am allowed a whole lot of drama!

The Book stands for our curiosity and inquisitiveness—the need to know and learn.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional Lenormand meanings describe the Book card as secrets, and the location of the card will determine how deep that secret is buried and if it is going to come out into the light. The closer the Book is to the Man or Woman card, the more important the information.

I look for the Book in the Grand Tableau if the querent is working on a project. The cards around it will give us the circumstances surrounding the project as well as a prediction as to the outcome for that project.

When the Book comes up as unknown information or a hidden secret, I look to the cards around it to see if the information will be known soon like Book + Sun (secret out in the light), Book + Key (information unlocked), or Book + Coffin (knowledge buried).

I also look for the Book to check the querent's education if that is relevant.

Sometimes when the Book is directly touching the Man or Woman card, it may be describing that person's character or personality.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Book + Fox = undercover work, a spy, an accountant, an occultist, a police or detective novel, deceiving or manipulative thoughts

Ali is looking to go to go into business with Adrian and wants to see if there are any concerns.

Book + Ring = you need to recheck and do some more research and investigation into this alliance; there might be some hidden concerns or another concealed commitment

Ring + Book = this combo is the same as above; in addition, it can also mean to keep this alliance hush-hush

With only two cards, these hardly provide a conclusive answer. I would definitely need more cards; this was for the sake of an example.

Gina wanted to check on her acceptance exam to the university.

Book + Coffin = sorry: this attempt is failed (a sure negative, the Coffin modifies the Book)

Book + Sun = yes: an academic victory, examination success



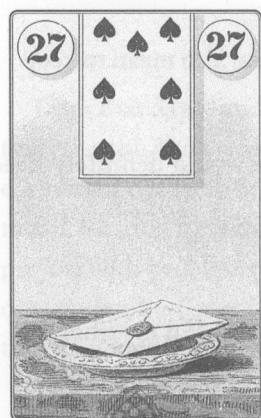
Letter

Playing Card Association: Seven of Spades

A simple sealed envelope left on a tray or on a table is usually depicted in the Letter card, the news or the message securely tucked inside, waiting to be opened. The Letter symbolizes the arrival of news and messages.

The Letter card announces news in all forms: information, written communication, and messages. It is the card of notes and memos, documents and reports. The Letter card covers all written correspondence from emails, faxes, and texts to letters, mail, and posts. The Letter card also comes up when reading about awards, certificates, licenses, credentials, and diplomas, as well as records, permits, authorizations, and warrants. Basically, all paperwork comes up under this card, including liens, titles, and contracts, as well as paper advertisements like flyers, brochures, junk mail, and all written invitations, announcements, cards, posters, and postcards.

The Letter card is heavily influenced and delineated by the cards that surround it. It is a card that needs to be read and combined with other cards for a better understanding and clearer insight.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- news, information
- documents, emails, faxes, files
- written notes and messages
- a letter, mail
- diplomas, certificates
- a newsletter, a flyer, a written announcement
- a written invitation
- a response

Nuance:

- a portrait card

Woman or Man

- eloquent
- a writer
- a good communicator
- licensed or accredited
- a blogger
- a person who enjoys writing and articulating thoughts into words
- pen pals
- social

Physically:

- slim and sometimes frail

Work

- expect new information or announcements (the surrounding cards determine if they are positive or negative)
- newspaper, post office
- office assistant
- dealing with invoices, approvals, and all paper documentations
- proposal and contract writings
- résumé
- working with information

Love

- a written response
- love letters, affectionate notes, XOs
- an affectionate written message
- a greeting card, a valentine
- romantic correspondence or news from a loved one
- an Internet relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- relates to hands and fingers
- prescriptions
- test results
- scans, x-rays, MRIs
- referrals
- insurance policy

Spiritually:

- spiritual messages
- write daily or weekly affirmations
- write your feelings, thoughts, experiences, or wishes
- putting things on paper both releases and affirms them

Money

- a check or an invoice
- bank statement
- tax forms
- payment, monetary trail or transactions
- money order, cash, bonds

Time or Timing

- the twenty-seventh of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- write, text, email
- make a to-do list

Orientation

Neutral: this card gets influenced by the cards it comes in contact with

Objects and Areas

- newspaper
- post office
- a card
- paper money
- checks
- records, files
- pictures, posters, flyers

A Personal Story about This Card:

The Letter card reminds me of the days when I was dating my husband. Those days, the Letter kept on coming up with me. I remember getting the Letter card three days in a row, which confused me for a bit until the third day, when I received my first romantic fax. Back then, the fax machine was located in my cubical, as my work required me to use it constantly. I started receiving a fax every day wishing me a beautiful morning with roses and hearts, others filled with endearments, some with a simple sentence or a romantic drawing. Even on the days when I was sick at home, I would hear the fax machine in my dad's home office and know it was for me. I would run down and watch it slowly come out, with my heart doing flips over the partial flower emerging slowly from the printer. Those daily faxes brightened my day and made me smile. For me, the Letter card was showing up as love faxes instead of love letters. I guess in today's world they are love texts, love tweets, or love statuses in social media!

The synchronicity for this card eerily mirrored the old meaning of "coming from afar" for the Letter card, for on the same day I was working on this card, the mailman delivered a Lenormand deck of cards that came all the way from Russia.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional Lenormand meaning refers to the Letter as news coming from afar. The proximity of the Clouds card to the Letter card will determine if the news is good or bad. In our fast, Internet-driven world, the distance and how far the news has traveled seems (to me) to be important only rarely.

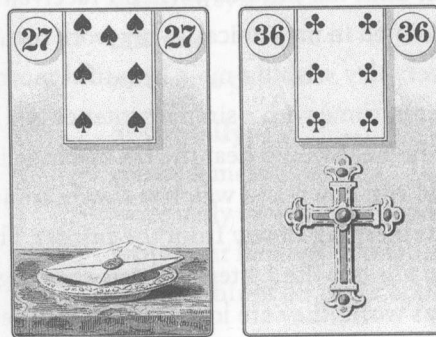
The Letter card brings news, messages, mail, or documents; the cards surrounding it will explain the nature or type and what sort of message, news, mail, or documents the querent should expect. Also, the location of the Letter card will determine the importance of this message and sometimes the time frame of receipt. If the Letter card falls close to the Man or Woman card, the news should arrive very soon and will be of importance to the querent. If the Letter card appears far away from the significator, the message will not be arriving anytime soon or it is not relevant to that reading.

Always refer to the cards around the letter for more information and clarification. For example, if the Tree card was around the Letter card, the matter concerns a health issue—either results, tests, invoices, or insurance forms.

I look for the Letter if the querent is inquiring about a proposal or waiting for an authorization, an acceptance, or any other documents.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Letter + Cross = news that will bring you pain, an unhappy announcement



.....
LETTER + CROSS

Letter + Crossroads = forwarding email, sharing blogs or newsletters, a proposal that needs a decision, a multiple choice test or form

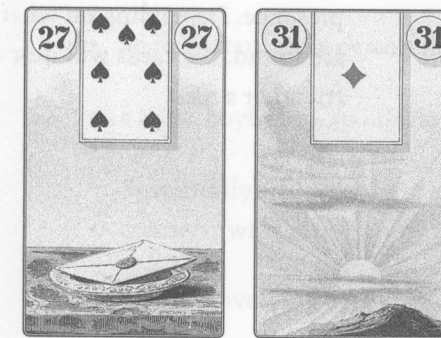
Letter + Key = a letter of authorization, a search warrant, a key card or entry card, important documents, a letter of acceptance

Letter + House = a mortgage, a lease document, a family will, family news

Letter + Coffin = a letter of resignation, a will, obituaries, hospice invoice or funeral home bill, bankruptcy announcement, failing report card, deleted or trashed email or document

Letter + Anchor = a saved document, a saved picture, a deposit slip, a visa, a stapled document, a sticker (once it came out as waxing strips); if there is a negative card, it would be a restraining order

Letter + Sun = honor roll, diploma, acceptance or approval letter, certificate, offer letter, award, letter of recognition, letter of appreciation



.....
LETTER + SUN

Bobby was waiting anxiously for news from his university of choice. What will the university's response be?

Letter + Heart = a happy response; Bobby will get his heart's desire and be accepted at the university



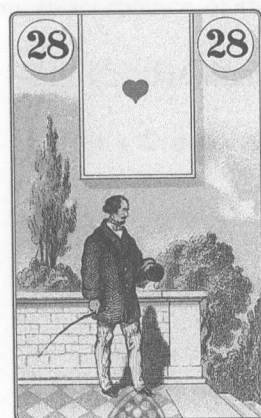
Man

Playing Card Association: Ace of Hearts

A well-dressed gentleman is usually depicted on the Man card. The man usually stands tall, waiting with a sense of pride. The Man card symbolizes the masculine energy and maleness in the querent's life.

The Man card represents the querent if the reading is for a male or if a male is doing the reading for himself.

When the reading is not done for a man, then this card denotes the male energy surrounding the female querent: the brother, lover, father, friend, spouse, fiancé, or any other important male in her life with a significant role in the reading. It is important to look at the cards around it to get more clues as to identity of this male presence. Depending on what negative or positive cards are found, the cards will describe the man and if he is a friend or a foe.



Contextual Meanings

Future

- a meeting or dealings with a man
- a new man coming into your life
- a male influence

Woman

- her partner, husband, or significant other
- brother
- male friend
- an ex
- son (if over eighteen) or stepson

Man

- the querent/client, the person card if male

Work

- an important male person in the work environment

Love

- a lover, boyfriend, spouse, or male interest

Health, Body, and Spirit

- Spiritually:**
- connects with male energy and the left brain

Money

- finance involving a man

Time or Timing

- the twenty-eighth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- use your left brain and analyze the situation

Orientation

- Highly neutral:** this card gets influenced by all the cards

Objects and Areas

- anything belonging to a male querent
- all masculine items and objects

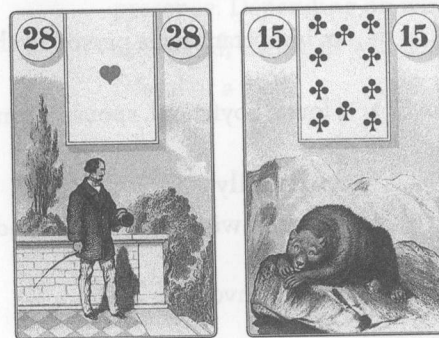
In the Grand Tableau:

Traditionally, the Man is the signifier of the male requesting the reading. This is the most important card when your querent is male. The cards around it will have a direct impact on the situation, and that impact can be gauged by their proximity. The cards in front of him (to the right) are his future, the cards behind him (to the left) are his past, and so on. The position of a signifier in the Grand Tableau is vital—literally central—to the whole reading.

When reading for a female client, the Man card is usually the significant other. In a situation where a significant other is irrelevant, then the cards surrounding the Man card will describe and give clues to the identity of that male. The cards sometimes will talk about the behavior, character, personality, social status, or some physical attributes.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Man + Bear = a manager, supervisor, or executive (Bear as authority or power); chef (Bear as nutrition and food); a heavyset or bulky man or a man with facial hair; a wealthy, well-to-do man or a man who works in finance (Bear as money); a strong, protective, caring man (Bear characteristics)



MAN + BEAR

Man + Whip = an argumentative and confrontational man or lawyer (Whip as argument), an aggressive or abusive man (Whip as violence), an athletic or buff man or a trainer (Whip as workout), an erotic, carnal, or horny man (Whip as sexual energy)

Ring + Man = the man is already attached and already committed; for a relationship question, he is married or engaged; for any other question, the attachment could be work related, such as a workaholic or already being under contract

Man + Ring = a serious and committed man (for a relationship or professional reading)

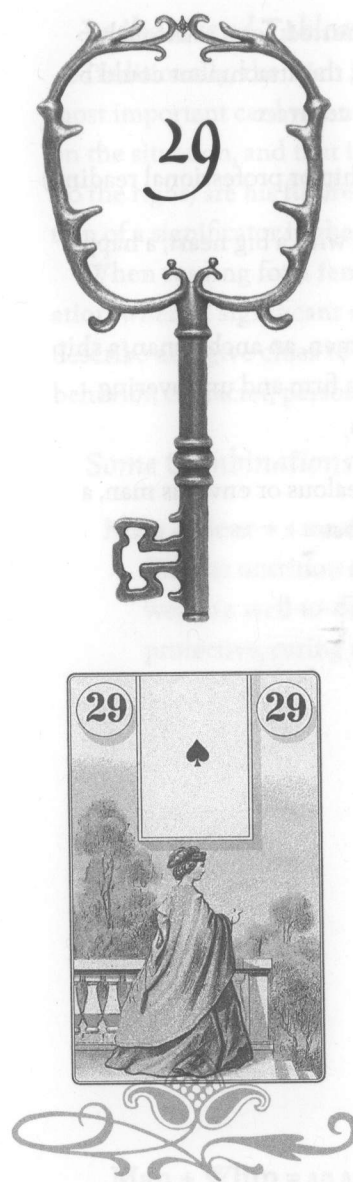
Man + Heart = a passionate man, a boyfriend, a lover, a man with a big heart, a happy man, a giving and charitable man

Man + Anchor = a man with strong attachments, a reliable man, an anchorman, a ship captain or a military man, in the boating field or industry, a firm and unwavering man, a down-to-earth man; on a negative side, a stuck man

Man + Snake = a liar, a cheater, a manipulator, an abuser, a jealous or envious man, a used car salesman, a plumber, a dancer, a gymnast, an acrobat



MAN + SNAKE



Woman

Playing Card Association: Ace of Spades

A distinguished, well-dressed lady appears on the Woman card. She is usually standing and looking out as if waiting for someone. The Woman card symbolizes the feminine energy and female forces in the querent's life.

The Woman card automatically represents the querent if the reading is for a female or if a female is doing the reading for herself.

When reading for a male querent, this card denotes the female energy surrounding the male querent: the sister, lover, mother, friend, spouse, fiancée, or any other important female in the male querent's life who has a significant role in the situation at hand. Remember to scrutinize the cards around it to get more clues that allow you to identify the female. The adjacent cards will describe the woman, and, depending on their positive or negative orientation, confirm if she is a friend or a foe.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a meeting or dealing with a female
- a new female coming into your life
- a female influence

Woman

- the querent/client, the person card if female

Man

- his partner, wife, significant other
- sister
- woman friend
- his ex or his mistress
- his daughter or stepdaughter (if over eighteen)

Work

- an important female exerting some influence in the work environment

Love

- a lover, a girlfriend, a spouse

Health, Body, and Spirit

Spiritually:

- connects with female energy and the right brain

Money

- a financial matter involving a female

Time or Timing

- the twenty-ninth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- use your right brain and your intuition

Orientation

Neutral: this card gets influenced by all the cards

Objects and Areas

- anything belonging to a female querent
- all feminine objects and items

In the Grand Tableau:

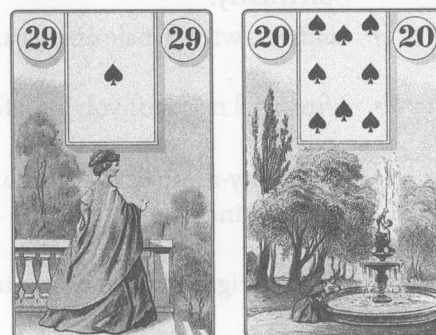
The old Lenormand meanings identify the Woman as the significator for the female querent. This is the most important card when reading for a female client. This card will focus your reading, and the adjacent cards will indicate the nature and impact of the forces affecting the situation. The cards in front of the Woman (to the right) are her future, the cards behind her (to the left) are her past, and so on. The Woman's position in the Grand Tableau is the hub of the entire reading for your female clients.

When reading for a male client, the Woman card generally depicts the significant other. In a situation for which a significant other is irrelevant, the cards surrounding the Woman card will describe and give clues to the identity of that female. The nearby cards will provide specifics about her behavior, character, personality, social status, or some physical attributes.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Woman + Book = a secretive and private woman; an unknown woman; a mysterious, guarded, or reserved woman; a curious and probing woman; an intellectual and educated woman; a left-brain woman with analytical skills and a methodical mind; a historian; a researcher; an accountant; an author, editor, or publisher; a high priestess or student of the occult; a teacher

Woman + Garden = a very social woman; a public relations specialist; an uncommitted, free-spirited woman; a woman who likes to play the field; an uninhibited woman; an event planner; a group of women; a sorority



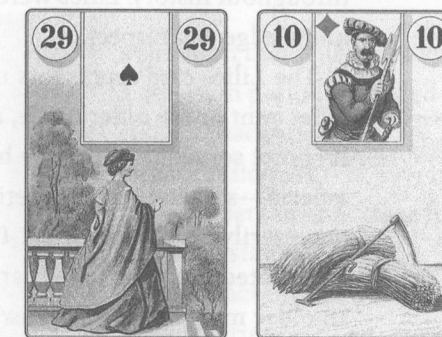
WOMAN + GARDEN

Woman + Dog = a faithful friend; a soul mate or twin flame; a close friend; a loyal companion; someone who watches, guards, and protects

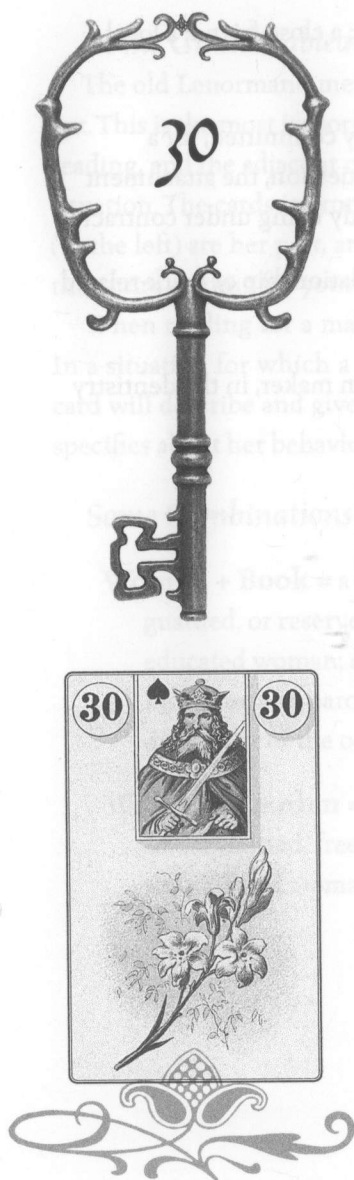
Ring + Woman = the woman is already attached and already committed; for a relationship question, married or engaged; for any other question, the attachment could be work related, such as being a workaholic or already being under contract

Woman + Ring = a serious and committed woman (for a relationship or work-related reading)

Woman + Scythe = a woman with a sharp tongue, a decision maker, in the dentistry field, a surgeon, a cold woman, ruthless



WOMAN + SCYTHE



Lilies

Playing Card Association: King of Spades

A simple branch out of which beautiful pure white lilies are shown blooming is usually what is depicted on the Lilies card. This is the flower of royalty (*fleur-de-lis*). It decorates many royal crests and armors as an emblem of noble blood, honor, and family heritage. Lilies have been a symbol of pallor, purity, innocence, and virginity throughout history. Lilies were also called the flowers of knowledge and respect.

The Lilies card represents maturity and wisdom, the older aunt or the older uncle, and our elders in general. It shows someone with gray hair that has a lot of “Om” aspects—someone with experience and sagacity but not necessarily always spiritual. It also denotes happiness and protection. The Lilies card is usually attributed to an older man, but from my experience it can also show up for an older female; my aunt always comes up as the Lilies. “Older” is the keyword. Furthermore, because the Lilies card stands for maturity, it corresponds with all things needing a gestation period or time to mature, develop, or grow: pregnancies, stocks and bonds, aging cheeses, wines, and pickles. The Lilies card stands for that long period of time.

The Lilies card brings peace, tranquility, and serenity. The card conveys the satisfaction of one’s accomplishments. The Lilies takes you to that spa or mountain retreat, to a holistic meditation center, or just to the lawn chair in the backyard. Sometimes I feel the Lilies card when I take that big sigh of relief after all my troubles and worries have been released, dropped, and vanished.

The Lilies card also comes up when talking about our history, experiences, and lifelong accomplishments and

achievements. It is also connected with lineage, heritage, and legacies. Famous and well-established families show up under the Lilies card, as well as respectable and distinguished society members.

The Lilies card attributed to a person describes their character and personality; when attributed to an event, it describes the mood, the tone, or the time frame. It all depends on context and the core of the question; for example, “Will I get my raise soon?”—with the Lilies, this would not be anytime soon. “What is the best way to diffuse the situation?”—the Lilies will tell you to let it mature, take a step back, breathe, and stay calm. And if it is describing a vacation, it would be very relaxing and satisfying. As with all the cards, context is everything.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- a situation that will take a long time
- a gestation period is needed
- restful, peaceful time
- passive action
- an older person or a father figure
- relax and stay calm
- self-satisfaction and a serene time ahead
- seek experience

Nuance:

- a time card

Woman or Man

- experienced, mature, wise, older, senior
- a mentor, counselor, or guru
- too set in their ways
- established
- calm, passive, and peaceful
- conservative or a traditionalist
- a good judge of character
- just and sincere
- protector

Physically:

- grayish or salt-and-pepper hair
- mature face

Work

- long-lasting
- seniority, tenure
- having the same job for a long time
- an old family business
- work experience
- retirement
- a veteran
- working with senior citizens or working in a spa or meditation center
- a peaceful working environment
- an old and outdated location or setting
- working in an honorable and respectable establishment

Love

- a mature and sincere relationship
- an older romance
- a longstanding association
- a long, drawn-out waiting period
- go on a couples spa retreat
- a late romance
- a romance with an older person

Health, Body, and Spirit

- aging pains
- Alzheimer's disease
- senility
- a prolonged treatment or recovery period
- you need to go on a retreat or get away for a couple of days
- Lilies are connected with vision and hearing

Spiritually:

- a spiritual alignment with cosmic harmony
- time for meditation or yoga
- releasing all unwanted loads

Money

- stocks and shares
- pensions
- retirement plans and benefits
- funds that accrue slowly
- trusts, mutual funds, any long-term investments
- retirement income

Time or Timing

- winter
- a long time
- the thirtieth of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- wait, take time to think before you act
- respect, heed the advice of the more experienced
- cultivate patience, develop a long-term strategy

Orientation

Neutral: this is usually a neutral card that is affected by the cards around it, but alone it can be looked at in a positive light

Objects and Areas

- a retirement community
- a spiritual spa
- a retreat
- any area that uses the fleur-de-lis on its flag

A Personal Story about This Card:

Every time I see the Lilies card, I remember my father and his last years on this earth. At this time, the Lilies were present in almost all my readings. My dad was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. The disease was drawn out and began a process of deterioration that always appeared as Lilies + Cross and Lilies + Mice. When my dad lost the ability to speak, I would pull cards for him and get Lilies + Cross; my heart would feel like it was being squeezed with barbed wire. My whole family went through the Lilies + Cross period during that time: grief, pain, and distress that stretched out interminably.

Around his final days, he was suffering a lot and lost the ability to eat or drink; the Lilies + Coffin showed up. I didn't know if the Lenormand was saying that my dad was going to pass

away or if my dad was going to take a long time to pass away. I was too emotionally attached to discern the difference. The last forty-eight hours we watched him suffer for what felt like a decade. It was so bad that we sat at his bedside and prayed for him to be released.

The night after he passed, I had a vision of him reassuring me. He also told me to always believe in my gift, not to let doubt take over, to use it more and cultivate it so that I would be able to reach and teach many people. At the time, I didn't fully understand that whole message, but now looking back I can honestly say that the last four years have been a major awakening period for me and my family. During those past years, I was able to see him and talk to him—on some occasions he appeared out of nowhere, and other times he came while I was in a meditative state; it was a great blessing. Now I only feel him periodically and see the messages he sends me.

No one should ever go through that much agony, pain, and suffering. My family was engulfed in a deep and heavy grief. My dad was a good man with a big heart, famous for his open, affectionate nature. The love and hugs he gave us would last more than one lifetime, and that is what we will carry forever in our hearts.

My other memorable encounter with Lilies card was when my husband lost his job. At that time, I was always reading for him. In one of these readings I asked directly, "When will my husband get a job?" I got Ring + Lilies + Fox.

I didn't want to believe it; I saw the Ring, felt optimistic, and said to him: a contract will come soon, in a mostly male environment or working with older men. I wanted to give and see only good news. Well, he did get that contract and it was in a mostly male environment, but that was eleven months later. Ahem. Yeah, the Lilies!

Looking back, I am happy that I didn't realize or know that it was going to take that much time, or the stress level in the house would have overwhelmed us. Having the hope of the prediction kept my husband calm and patient. Sometimes we only predict and say what needs to be heard at that exact moment in time.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional Lenormand interpretations tell us that if the Lilies card springs up right on the top of the Man or Woman card, it signifies virtue. If it happens to be right below the Man or Woman card, it casts doubt on the person's reputation. If the Clouds and the Lilies are near each other and above the significator, the combination foretells of a family dispute or domestic sorrow. If the two cards crop up together below the man or woman card, they predict separation or dramatic trouble.

When the Lilies card is surrounded with positive cards, the situation is on the serene, harmonious, and pleasant side. On the other hand, if the Lilies are hemmed in by negative cards, there will be some inconsistencies, insecurities, or possible distress.

During my lifelong experience with the Grand Tableau, I remember once when the Lilies and Clouds were together under the Woman card. It was a time where that woman's honor was being sullied. She was being accused of infidelity, a very serious accusation in Beirut back in the 1980s. Even if her innocence could be proven, the accusation would persist in people's eyes, clouding her virtue.

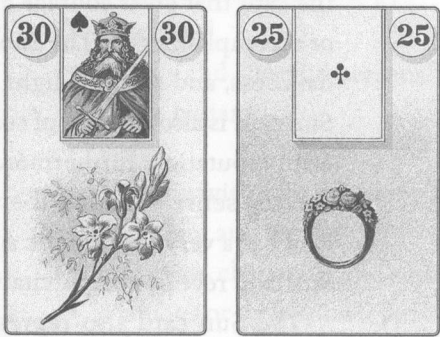
Some Combinations and Examples:

Ryder was experiencing a lot of stress and wanted to check on his upcoming trip. "How is my two-day trip out of town going to be?"

Lilies + Stars = Ryder will have a restful, relaxing time and might even enjoy some peaceful and calming nights

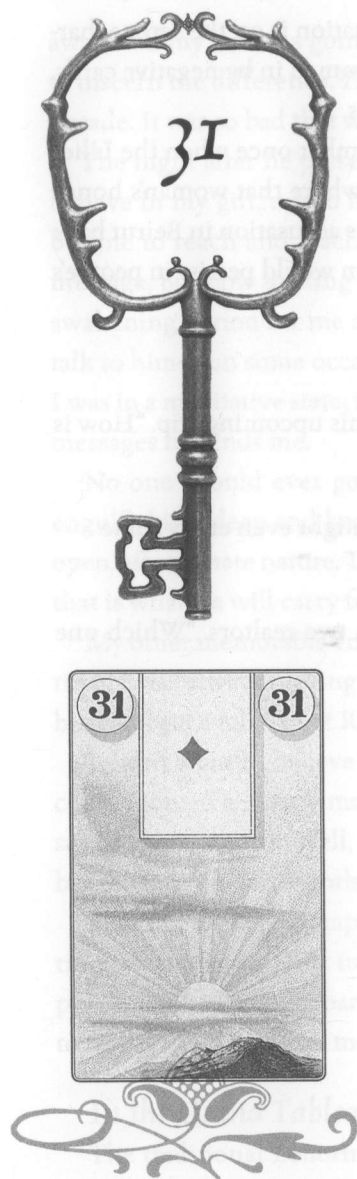
Tima was trying to sell her house and wanted to pick between two realtors. "Which one would be best for me to go with?"

Lilies (male) + Ring (commitment) = pick the male



LILIES + RING

Or, if they were both females, pick the one with more experience or the older one. If they were both close in age and experience, then pick the one that was married the longest or pick the one that was serene, calm, and more of a traditionalist, or the one that hosts meditation circles, or the one that has gray hair (Lilies) with curls (ring)...(the list can go on).



Sun

Playing Card Association: Ace of Diamonds

A bright solar disk with intense light and vivid rays shines center stage in the Sun card. Throughout history human cultures have revered, celebrated, honored, and deified the sun as the source of life. The sun symbolizes a new beginning and a bright new day. It denotes life, light, warmth, and heat, as well as success, glory, and victory.

The Sun card brings light and heat to the querent's circumstances. It brightens our skies, revives our heart, and cheers every situation. The sun is our divine light, so naturally the Sun card illuminates our path and brings about success and victory to all aspects of our lives, be it private or professional. The Sun card announces happiness and joy as well as the realization of desires. It is the card that gives courage and creates hope to achieve or accomplish a goal. The Sun card dispels ignorance and darkness, and shines a light on all that is obscure. The Sun card is also the sign of recognition, fame, and a powerful reputation; furthermore, it denotes the ego, pride, and the sense of high self-esteem. A person under this card has a very charismatic and alluring personality. The Sun card reveals energy, vitality, and power.

The Sun card also represents locations in a literal sense, reminding us of summer, sunny beaches, tropical vacations, and any other hot destination.

The Sun card brings a positive, optimistic vibration to any spread. Especially when negative cards precede it, the Sun card marks the ending of troubles and puts finality and termination to those negative cards.

The Sun card is a masculine card.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- yes
- success, victory, attaining your goal, favorable outcome
- a new day
- happiness
- recognition
- your worries are soon to vanish
- going to a warm place
- the light at the end of the tunnel
- reaching a climax

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- positive, optimistic, happy
- successful
- bubbly and cheerful personality
- shiny, radiant
- warm
- a person with a lot of energy and enthusiasm
- confident and secure
- attractive, charming, and captivating
- a famous or well-known person
- a leader
- on the negative side, can be egotistical, conceited, self-centered, narcissistic, stuck up, vain, all about appearances, boastful, an exaggerator, or a bragger

Physically:

- fair coloring with lighter hair
- blond, blondish, or strawberry blond

Work

- working in an upbeat environment
- having a visible role, being in the limelight
- a successful career
- a high position: management, director, VP, the big kahuna
- success, progression, and satisfaction
- an honorable compensation
- recognition
- working in government, the power company, or in powerful companies
- working in a company or an establishment with a sun in their logo
- powerful connections
- realization of professional ambitions

Love

- a bright and optimistic relationship
- a hot relationship
- an intense and passionate liaison
- a happy couple
- a favorable omen to a happy encounter
- a harmonious and sparkling date
- the sun is shining on this relation, a thriving relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- the vitality and energy of the body
- recovery
- get some sun
- healthy
- watch out for overheating, exertion, and dehydration
- burns

Money

Spiritually:

- work with your solar plexus chakra (the "I can" chakra)
- wear yellow, eat yellow food
- adopt a positive attitude, look at the bright side, choose to be happy
- dance
- take back your personal power and bring on the self-acceptance
- an inner light guiding you on your spiritual journey

Time or Timing

- success and financial gain
- substantial revenue
- a favorable outcome to an investment or a financial transaction
- a comfortable arrangement

- summer
- morning or daytime
- the thirty-first of the month (the subsequent card may indicate the month)

Advice or Action

- shine, burn bright
- be confident
- be strong
- make bold choices
- lead, take charge

Orientation

Positive: this card casts a positive light across the whole reading, though it might get dimmed a little if negative cards block its rays

Objects and Areas

- light bulb
- a battery or other energy source
- floodlights
- any hot area or region such as the tropics or deserts
- tanning booth (Sun+ Coffin)

A Personal Story about This Card:

I associate the Sun card with my friend Joseph. In 2009, Joseph started a new line of business in the creative arena; however, he was unsure and a bit reluctant. It was a new venture for him, so his feelings were understandable. We kept on getting the Sun card for him—Man + Sun, Moon + Sun, Sun + Star—all indicating major success and recognition. Joseph is very talented and gifted, as well as very modest; he did not want to expect much and was a little worried about being overly optimistic. He didn't want to get his hopes up. Nevertheless, I always saw that Sun as bright as ever and did not stop letting him know. In a short three-year time frame, Joseph became a well-known persona, and his work was sought after and coveted. That Sun card reminds me of Joseph's unwavering will and his relentless persistence: keeping straight and steady on the path to achievement and success!

As far as the synchronicity with the Sun card—on the day I was writing about it, other than the fact that it was the first of August (Leo/Sun), my eldest son was reading a book about the life of Napoleon Bonaparte and was going on and on about it all day—about all his successes, his victories, and his over-the-top ego. Napoleon Bonaparte embodies the Sun card perfectly, in all its positive and negative attributes: a strong, charismatic, confident leader and the famous, powerful historical figure with his ultimate hunger for dominance and supremacy that eventually led to his fall from glory and his demise. I suppose the positives were so intense that they turned into negatives.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning tells us that when the Sun card pops up close to the Man or Woman card, all troubles and pains are at an end and clarity is at hand. On the other hand, when the Sun card shines far away from the significator, it is the precursor to the fading of your lucky star.

The position of the Sun card is critical, as well as its proximity to the negative cards that may impede its blessings. If the negative cards precede the Sun card on the left side, then all will be well, and the Sun will shine and clear up all that came before it. In contrast, when the

negative cards come after the Sun card (on its right side), the reading should raise a red flag, and further examination must be done to discover the area being affected by the blocking or dimming of that Sun.

Surrounded with positive cards, the Sun card confirms and doubles the happiness and satisfaction, while having negative cards around the Sun card will darken and cast a shadow, bringing some deceptions and sadness.

Some Combinations and Examples:

The Sun card is a super positive card and the yes card.

Sara asks, "Is Shawn going to notice me?"

Sun + Moon = yes: Shawn is going to make the first move and ask her on a date

Elisa worries, "Am I going to win the contract bid?"

Sun (reaching your goal) + Moon (getting recognition) = yes: Elisa will win the contract, and her work will be on display

Here are some examples of when the Sun is dimmed by a negative card.

Tony is anxious and happy that he won a couple of rounds. "How will my tournament end—what am I to expect?"

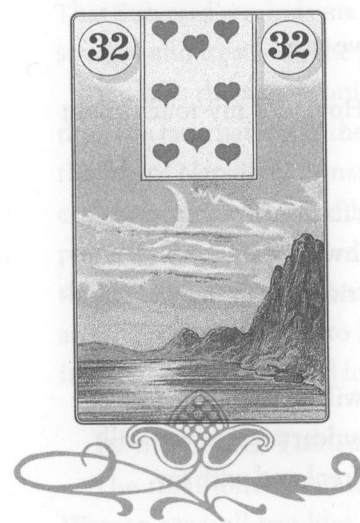
Sun + Clouds = your happiness or your excitement will soon fizzle, something is coming soon to dampen your success, your victory will be thwarted by confusion or misunderstanding, very close win but not final, a doubtful triumph, a brief and short-lived win

Clouds + Sun = after some confusions and doubts, your win will be declared; despite some slip-ups or mistakes, success is at hand; no matter the uncertainties, you will shine; your worries and anxieties will soon be dispelled and replaced with joy

Justin is nervous: "Will I be re-elected for the board of trustees position?"

Sun + Coffin = unfortunately, your days in that position are over; no, the outcome will be most unfavorable; your star will shut down

Coffin + Sun = yes, your re-election is imminent in spite of it being a close call; that position will still be yours, but only after intense opposition; a difficult success



Moon

Playing Card Association: Eight of Hearts

The Moon card shows a silvery crescent in a serene night sky—a crescent moon ruling the nocturnal life. For millennia the moon has been connected with imagination, reverie, musing, passion, and the unconscious. In many cultures the moon is associated with passionate deities and attributed to the feminine, maternal instincts, intuition, and the psyche. In Eastern cultures the moon symbolizes romance, love, and affection. It is used worldwide in romantic sonnets and prose to describe a lover or win the affection of one. The Moon card evokes a picture of a clandestine romantic rendezvous under the moonlight.

The Moon card relates to dreams, imagination, creativity, inspiration, and innovation resulting in honors, fame, recognition, popularity, and, in some instances, celebrity status. Subsequently, the Moon card connects with the emotions, the passions, and the art of seduction and romance. It speaks of intimacy, affection, desires, and fantasies. Thanks to mythology glorifying the moon with the feminine aspect, the moon also stands as a symbol of motherhood, the womb, and all things maternal and feminine—even down to menstruation, the cyclical process of nature, and hormonal disturbances. One of the most important facets of the Moon card is its attribution to intuition, instinct, perception, sensitivities, and awareness, as well as spiritualities and psychic abilities. The Moon card represents the energy of mystics, mediums, sensitives, diviners, and psychics.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- an optimistic outcome, a positive evolution of events
- getting wooed, affection, seduction, persuasion
- recognition, accolades
- being known or famous, popularity
- a creative approach, using intuition
- attracting attention
- a maternal figure
- glorious praise or admiration, getting credited
- seeking someone's favor or good will
- possible mood swings, emotional

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- artistic
- dreamer
- original, innovative
- emotional, dramatic
- seductive, enchanting, attractive
- empathic, sensitive
- might be a bit moody
- popular or well known
- spiritual, intuitive, mystical, psychic
- affectionate, charming

Physically:

- attractive
- pale or creamy
- curvaceous

Work

- professional success, praise and recognition, receiving accolades
- getting inspiration
- working in artistic and creative fields
- well-respected and in high regard while working with the public and clients
- public relations, marketing, and advertising
- a spiritual counselor or a psychic
- psychiatrist
- a dream job

Love

- poetic romance
- a dreamy date or a blind date
- dreaming of a loved one
- a romantic pursuit
- strengthening of a union
- a new romance
- the right chemistry
- attraction, affection
- candles and roses in a creative setting
- a romantic encounter, a moonlit rendezvous
- seduce, persuade, and entice

Health, Body, and Spirit

- connects with female organs, the womb
- the female cycle
- menstruation and PMS
- perimenopause and menopause
- hormones
- emotional, hormonal, or mental fluctuation

Spiritually:

- follow your intuition, listen to that inner voice
- work on the third eye chakra (the "I see" chakra)
- eat and wear purple
- strengthen your intuition and imagination by practicing visualization exercises and color therapy
- work on breathing techniques, walking meditations, yoga, and tai chi
- do some psychic exercises
- research and strengthen your psychic abilities
- attract what is needed into your life

Money

- financial fluctuation
- unstable investment
- a rise and fall or ebb and flow situation

Time or Timing

- in the evening
- moon cycle
- tides

Advice or Action

- dream, imagine
- visualize, create, chase after what you want
- use your imagination and creativity
- listen to your intuition, trust in your abilities
- show off or put on a display to attract attention

Orientation

Positive and neutral: this card is usually positive, but it can turn negative with negative cards next to it

Objects and Areas

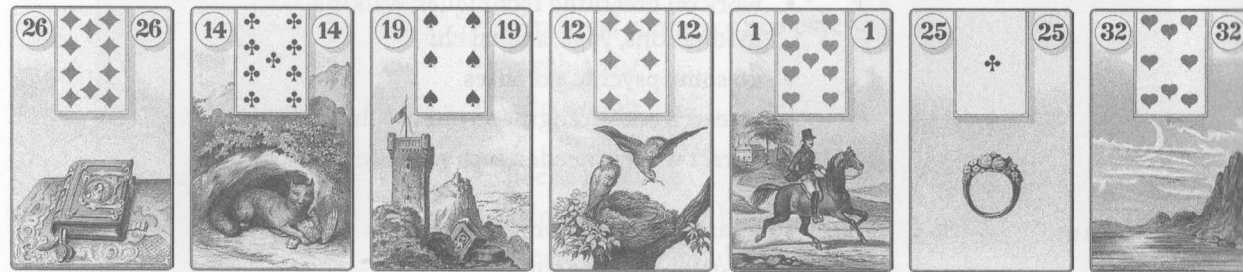
- under the moonlight
- a pillow, a magnet
- any item or object with a moon shape
- movie theaters, night clubs, circus, Broadway shows

A Personal Story about This Card:

A while back, a client and friend named Bill wanted to try out a Lenormand reading. He asked me for a reading about an upcoming interview on a radio station.

Bill asked, "How will the interview go, and how will it be perceived?"

Using the Birds as a focus card to activate for the interview, these are the cards I pulled for him:



BOOK + FOX + TOWER + BIRDS + RIDER + RING + MOON

The first three cards connects with my question and Bill's situation: Book + Fox show his expertise and his teaching status on the esoteric subject he is being interviewed about as well as his new book coming out (Book = esoteric studies, Fox = specialist or being very shrewd and wise). The Tower indicates the broadcasting tower in a literal sense. Rider + Ring suggest a smooth movement to a perfect and positive completion (Rider = action, the verb "to go," new, announce, brings in; Ring = perfect full circle, positive, satisfaction). The Moon landing at the end brings a perfect conclusion to the reading with acknowledgments and high regards. My answer to Bill was this: your interview will proceed in a positive and satisfactory manner, and it is going to be received with praise and accolades. You will be in harmony with your interviewer (Ring), and that partnership will help bring out your message (Rider) and news where they will be highly recognized (Moon).

In a separate reading, we pulled two cards asking about his book. We got Book + Moon, hinting that his book would receive high acclaim.

Bill's interview was a big success with a swarming amount of calls, emails, and praise. His book also is an outstanding success and received a flood of excellent reviews; you've got to love that Moon card!

Needless to say, Bill is now knee-deep in studies to get a sturdy grasp on the Lenormand system.

Another funny story with the Moon card was when Sue called me, frantically asking me to find her lost precious amulet. I tried my luck and pulled the Moon twice; first I directed her to look where she creates her work (in her office or studio) in a dark place or a corner, but nothing was found, so then I connected the Moon with dreams and suggested she look in her bedroom, hidden in a dark place—maybe under the bed (where sleep and dreams are invoked). She found the amulet under her pillow!

A little sync tidbit: when I finished working with the Moon card, I realized it was a full moon that evening—and, to top it off, it was also a blue moon!

In the Grand Tableau:

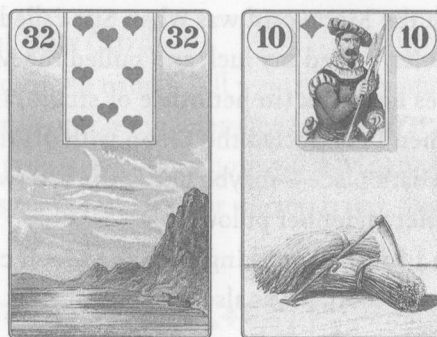
The traditional meanings inform us that the Moon is the sign of great honors; depending on its proximity to the Man or Woman card, it determines the extent of these honors. When the Moon card shines close to the person card, it indicates that the querent will receive great honor, respect, and applause. On the other hand, when the Moon card is far away from the person card, it predicts that the querent will suffer a lack of credit and appreciation. (Between the 1700s and 1800s, honors, titles, and decorations were very much in vogue.)

I see the Moon as a positive card. When it lands next to the significator, it brings a new insight or a burst of creativity. It can even indicate a romance or strengthening of a bond or family ties, depending on the neighboring cards. It also announces that long-awaited recognition, credit, acclaim, acknowledgment, and prestige are finally close at hand. Depending on its proximity to the Man or Woman card, it can express the timing of those accolades.

I only see the Moon card in a negative light when it is in a negative house number (for example, if the Moon falls in the Cross house, which adds challenges to the creativity or the romance) or when it is surrounded with multiple negative cards. In those contexts, the querent should be on the lookout for trouble, emotional or mental tensions, duplicity, defamation, or scandal.

Some Combinations and Examples:

I have had the Moon + Scythe come up as hysterectomy and abortion in health readings, where Moon = womb, uterus and Scythe = surgical procedure, cut away, as well as Moon + Anchor as confirming a stable pregnancy.



MOON + SCYTHE

Playing around with the Moon card and its advertising attribute:

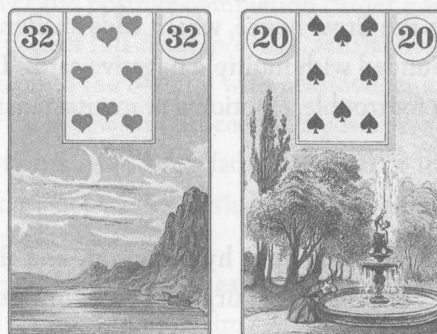
Moon + Birds = public relations, advertising by word of mouth

Moon + Letter = flyers, mail advertising

Moon + Book = newspaper, magazine ads, or promotional ads in a book

Moon + Stars = television commercials, movie commercials, Internet ads

Moon + Garden = advertising through Facebook and other Internet groups or non-Internet congregation like night concerts and psychic/tarot conventions



MOON + GARDEN

Tatiana was asking about her relationship with Aaron; she doesn't know how committed he is. Is Aaron committed to the relationship with Tatiana?

Moon + Crossroads = Aaron is emotionally unstable or indecisive at the moment; he may also have more than one emotional attachment (Moon = emotional state, Crossroads = trying to decide, extra options, multiple choice)

Crossroads + Moon = having the Crossroads always shows lack of commitment, and the Moon indicates going about it in very creative ways; even though the Crossroads falls under the neutral umbrella and is not a negative card, in a relationship reading it can bring about the negative attribute to the card next to it, as in making the Moon card deceptive and bringing about cautionary advice to this relationship



CROSSROADS + MOON



Key

Playing Card Association: Eight of Diamonds

The Key card generally shows an image of an old skeleton key with an intricate design; it's a rather beautiful depiction of a historical key, delicate, simple, and all alone on the card. The key symbolizes the power to lock and unlock, the key to happiness, the key to freedom and liberty, the key to knowledge, or the key of destiny.

The Key is the trump card in the Lenormand deck, the magic lamp or "wish" card, especially when it's surrounded by other positive symbols. The Key card uncovers and unlocks what is hidden; simultaneously, it keeps what is hidden under a secure lock. This card is the key to success. With the Key card, doors are opened to goals, wishes, and desires. The Key accelerates long overdue solutions and opens new paths and possibilities. It also finds what is lost and puts a positive end to a search. The Key predicts an important event or a significant encounter, and it reveals the main people who will participate in those encounters. Furthermore, it foretells an unexpected turn of events and brings about karmic lessons and spiritual breakthroughs.

The Key card also directs the attention to the cards next to it and emphasizes their importance. It opens the gate to spiritual initiations, visualization, and imagination. It is the access to all spiritual worlds, to karmic destiny, and to the connection to the Divine. The Key grants passage to the celestial worlds and connection at a soul level. When the Key comes up, it emphasizes spiritual resonance and karmic relations. Note the contrast with the Moon card, which stands for the knowledge of the mystical realm; consider the difference between the third eye chakra (Moon) that connects to psychic abili-

ties, and the crown chakra (Key) that permits the highest spiritual, mental, and physical connections with the universe. That leaves the other two spiritual cards: the Cross (religion and dogma) and the Tree (which encompasses all spiritual health).

Having the Key in your possession allows you to enter the mysterious realms and gives you the power of decision and the responsibility of choice over the human free will factor. It is the karmic key; it gives you the opportunity and the power to create and realize your goals and ambitions. When the Key card is close to the significator, success is in your hand; it is up to you if you want to take charge and use the key given to you by destiny. With that card, destiny has opened the lucky double door, the choice is yours, and no lock can bar your way. It is the card of miracles, talismans, and lucky charms. The key brings empowerment.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- yes, a positive outcome, success, *aha!*
- an explanation, the answer or solution
- a revelation, discovery, or realization
- announce
- total synchronicity, synchronicities
- a source
- security
- unlock, open, access
- lucky charm
- look for a sign
- important, significant, vital, essential
- you have the key to your destiny
- a most important event, a central life situation
- a soul-mate connection
- empowered

Nuance:

- an action, mood, and portrait card

Woman or Man

- a key person, an important person, an individual with a serious influence
- spiritual
- soul mate
- a person with deep thoughts and points of view

Physically:

- spry
- trim, on the slim side, with some curves

Work

- new crucial information or discovery
- control over professional undertakings
- a solution to improve or enhance the current situation
- a plan or a strategy
- a main or vital position, an influential status
- mastery over a project, a field, or a trade

Love

- an essential relationship, an important relation, a main romance
- the essence of the relationship
- a soul connection
- open your heart
- unlocking deeper understanding
- clearing any miscommunication
- a happy and sincere exchange of emotion
- the key to happiness, the key to someone's heart
- karmic ties

Health, Body, and Spirit

- a successful, happy outcome to any health question
- your spiritual connections, visions, and awareness
- points to something important: pay closer attention to the issue in question

Spiritually:

- work on your crown chakra (the "I know" chakra), your link to the universe and higher guidance
- wear and eat violet or white
- release your ego and trust that you are guided
- release fear and anxiety
- connect with your inner self, higher self, spirit guides, the source
- whichever path you are taking is the right one for you
- ask for guidance in matters you require answers for and wait for the aha moment

Money

- a stroke of genius
- enhanced financial position
- a comfortable monetary situation
- a new possibility for extra cash
- charity, aid, assistance

Time or Timing

- now
- ethereal time, the always "now" or the ever-present present

NOTE: because of the Key's immediacy,

I almost never use it for timing

Advice or Action

- go for it
- take a chance—you have the power
- use the key
- create your world

Orientation

Positive: this card brings a lot of positive vibes into the reading

Objects and Areas

- a key, key card, or access key
- a keychain
- a key rack, key holder, or where you put your keys
- a lock
- a password or passcode

A Personal Story about This Card:

The Key always shows up on the days I have booked medium sessions. When I get Key + Ship, that indicates opening the other world, and on that day the session will run smoothly. Other times I get Key + Clouds, indicating connection disturbances, and on that day the session will have interferences, meddling, and intrusions from unwanted spirits. I make it a habit to pull cards on every session before it commences and reschedule bookings accordingly.

A little tidbit happened with the Key card while I was at a metaphysical convention: I pulled Bouquet + Key and thought *wow*—I am going to have a beautiful spiritual experience. Later on, a dear friend of mine gave me a locket necklace with a gorgeous key nestled inside it. Those cards never stop shocking me in their literal interpretation. I also did have a beautiful spiritual experience.

These absolute synchronicities happened during the writing of this card: first, one of my dear friends sent me a picture of a Lenormand spread reading with the Woman card and the Key card right under her feet. Secondly, while meditating I was contacted by my mother's grandfather, whom I never knew and had never even seen. He died long before I was even born, and he was one of the most powerful seers of his time. I gave my mom a full, detailed description, and she concurred that it was her grandfather. That was a major event and a most significant encounter—a big *wow*!

In the Grand Tableau:

The old meaning states that the Key indicates success in the state of affairs, and that success depends on the proximity of the Key to the Man or Woman card. The closer to the Man or Woman card it is, the better the success; the farther away, beware of trouble and losses.

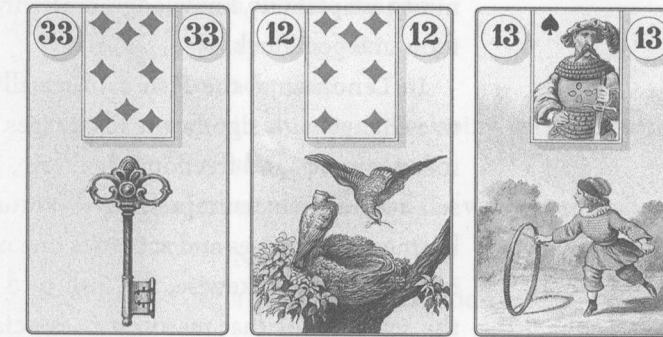
I stick to what is surrounding the Key and where it lands. If negative cards are around it, then there are some obstacles, but nothing too big or too hard, as the Key card brings the solutions: "there is no fear because the Key is here." Now, on the other hand, if positive cards are around the Key card and if it lands in a positive card house, jackpot! "What are you waiting for? Grab that bull by the horns!"

I like to see the Key card as close to the Man or Woman card as possible because it gives the querent the power to be in charge of their destiny. The closer it is, the stronger is that power, and success is at hand. In case the Key is far away from the signifier, I don't see it as a bad omen but rather as the success being a bit out of reach at the moment.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Dina found out some upsetting news about her son. She was at a loss: should she leave him be and let him learn and deal with the consequences or should she intervene?

Key + Birds + Child = it is of utmost vitality (Key) to have a talk (Birds) with her son (Child); Dina's intervention and counseling (Birds) to her son (Child) is crucial (Key)



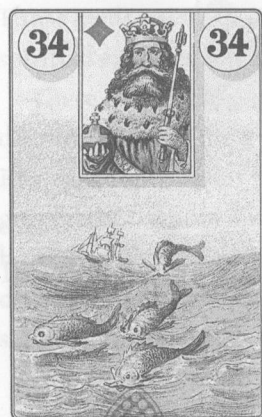
KEY + BIRDS + CHILD

Key + Book = an important book, a major secret, a Book of Shadows, a spiritual journal or spiritual teachings

Book + Key = a secret revealed, a breakthrough, you will receive the answer to your inquiry

Key + Mice = serious worries, spiritual loss and misalignment, pay attention to (Key) the stress level (Mice)

Mice + Key = found or retrieved; renewal; end of worries; release; all clear, clean, and open; connecting after a misunderstanding; recuperation and healing



Fish

Playing Card Association: King of Diamonds

In the Fish card we usually see four or more fish swimming together and playing in the strong waves of an open sea. In the distance a ship may be weathering those same waves. Throughout human history, fish have been a symbol for abundance, water, fertility, spirituality, prosperity, eternity, unity, happiness, transformation, femininity, adaptability, knowledge, creativity, freedom, intuition, and good luck.

In Lenormand, the Fish card usually brings a positive change with significant advantages. It also suggests independence and freedom; therefore, it is the card for self-employment, entrepreneurial ventures, and all other business enterprises and activities one might undertake independently. Likewise, the Fish card is connected to the sea, and for that reason it is associated with trade, commerce, import/export, and all sales, purchases, and exchanges. Consequently, it is the card for business, dealings, and transactions. The Fish card signifies abundance, wealth, and plenty.

On another note, the Fish's connection with water alludes to intuition and emotion as well as all locations where water is present, such as beaches, seashores, or lakeside areas.

Since the Fish card is associated with being independent and free, it is the card I choose to activate as a focus card when the reading concerns a small business, a client's own business, or any other consulting, independent, or entrepreneurial work.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- abundance
- shopping, trading
- spending money or receiving money
- a lot of something
- a positive change
- opening out
- adapting
- in motion, a flow, going with the current
- seafood restaurant
- areas where body of water is around

Nuance:

- a portrait and an action card

Woman or Man

- independent, self-sufficient
- a dreamer
- witty, clever
- persuasive
- a person open to ideas and possibilities
- a consultant
- entrepreneur, a businessperson with no boss
- darting movement
- enjoys travel
- slippery, hard to get a handle on
- generous, lavish, a spender

Physically:

- attractive
- dark brown to black hair
- darker skin tone including olive or tan

Work

- a positive opportunity
- a successful change or an expansion
- to be given free rein over projects or assignments
- getting accustomed to one's environment or new circumstances
- a movement or flow
- a consultant
- a personal venture
- freelance work
- entrepreneur, self-employed, independent contractor
- working in sales, import-export, international trade
- fishing business

Love

- flood or gush of emotions
- being free and uninhibited
- an open relationship
- the relationship is flowing smoothly

Health, Body, and Spirit

- the fish connects with the kidneys, the bladder, and sometimes sperm
- drink plenty of water and keep hydrated
- hangover, over drinking, alcoholism
- vertigo, heaving
- swimming or any other water exercises
- take a trip to the beach

Spiritually:

- follow your intuition
- use water for purification and prayers
- cleanse your aura and/or chakras under the shower or in the pool or the sea
- connect through water
- meditate in water
- bless water and drink it

Money

- financial improvement
- profit or payment
- satisfaction
- revenue enhancement

Time or Timing

- sunrise/sunset or around a full moon because those are the best times for fishing
- the "plenty" meaning sometimes comes into play

NOTE: I usually don't use this card for time

Advice or Action

- be independent
- trust your intuition
- let it flow

Orientation

Positive and neutral: this is a positive card in general, but it turns neutral when it is representing a small business

Objects and Areas

- fish
- fish tank, aquarium
- seafood
- somewhere where there is lot of water
- a bar, a place where you find a lot of drinking
- exchange, stock market
- where you keep your drinks
- retail, the market

A Personal Story about This Card:

My dear and precious sister came for a short visit from out of state. I hadn't seen her for a long time and wanted her to have a great time. I did a small reading to see how our day would unfold. I used my Cross spread, letting the cards decide on a main topic and the circumstances that would be surrounding it.

Birds
Clouds Fish Bouquet
Bear

The Fish came up as the main topic. Knowing my sister, I immediately knew it revolved around shopping, but the Clouds worried me a little. I did not want to have any disturbances (Clouds) with my sister (Birds), although the Bouquet at the end was a sign of happy ending.

The day started with meeting up with a friend for lunch at a nice upscale bistro, and this is where the reading started to unfold. The three of us ordered the same dish: a lobster roll. When the food arrived, two out of the three plates were undercooked; those plates belonged to my sister and me. We had to send the plates back, which angered the chef, but eventually it was all resolved—the chef made us another seafood dish, and we had a good time enjoying a fun conversation. After lunch we decided to stop by the mall before going back home. We spent a good hour at an upscale makeup counter.

The day with my sister was described by the cards in this form:

Clouds + Fish = undercooked seafood

Clouds + Birds = we were both upset, it happened to both of us

Clouds + Bear = the chef was upset and ruffled

Birds + Bouquet = all the ladies having a fun conversation

Bear + Bouquet = in the pretty, upscale bistro

The Fish also referred to our makeup shopping by reading the straight lines in a cross fashion:

Birds + Fish + Bear = my sister and me (Birds) going to a seafood restaurant (Fish + Bear)

Clouds + Fish + Bouquet = after having some issues (Clouds), we went shopping for beauty items (Fish + Bouquet)

The Fish card also comes up with me a lot in fertility readings, figuratively as the sperm and fertilization. On one occasion, the reading was about in vitro fertilization, and the cards were blunt: Fish + Ring.

In the Grand Tableau:

With the Fish card, the traditional meaning predicts a great fortune and successful enterprises, and the closer it is to the Man or Woman card, the better and bigger the success. If the Fish card pops up far away from the Man or Woman card, the undertaking of the projects and enterprises will be hard and challenging.

The Fish card brings about positive changes in daily lives; it denotes success in certain aspects and domains, and sometimes it represents vacations around or nearby the sea, ocean, or waterfronts. When the Fish card is surrounded with positive cards, the success is amplified, bringing happy developments, progress, and growth. On the other hand, when negative cards surround it, the changes will be obstructed with obstacles and troubles.

The Fish card speaks of events and movement; look for the cards around it to see where and in what area these changes are happening.

When the querent is self-employed, owns their own business, or simply is asking about starting a new venture, I look for the Fish card and what is around it to assess the situation and evaluate the circumstances surrounding that venture or business.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Carrie wondered, "Where is my date taking me?"

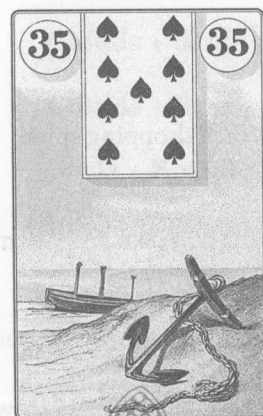
Fish + Garden = to the mall, to the aquarium, to an island resort, on a shopping spree, to a swim meet, to a seafood market

Jean and Adam are newlyweds inquiring about adding to their family: will Jean and Adam conceive?

Fish + Garden = an abundance or fertility: yes, there will be no issues there

Sophie has been having troubles and wants to find out about her real estate business. "How does my real estate business look like for the next two months?"

Mice + Fish + Mountain = there will be no change to the current situation (Mice + Fish show the slowness of business, Fish + Mountain show immobility and lack of movement)



Anchor

Playing Card Association: Nine of Spades

On this card we usually see an anchor lying on a beach with its chain, waiting to be put to use. Sometimes cards reveal a backdrop of a beach and sea; otherwise, the anchor floats in undifferentiated space. The anchor typifies stability and security; its mass and heavy weight are what keep the ships and boats securely in one area. In the middle of a sea of motion, the anchor is stationary and still.

The Anchor card is the emblem for safety and immovability in all aspects of life, as well as trust, faithfulness, and loyalty. It is a positive, advantageous card for all enterprises as long as there aren't any negative cards around. The Anchor is solid and speaks of all that is concrete, genuine, fixed, and safe. It brings a sense of gravity to the reading and adds substance, implying consistency and endurance. The Anchor announces arrival at a destination and sounds the bells for the attainment of goals. Furthermore, it gives courage and advises the querent to stay on course and persevere while navigating any difficulties. The Anchor communicates strong support and reliability. It is the "you are my anchor" note and the "I've got your back" promise.

With positive cards, the Anchor card deals with the way of life, daily life, and lifestyles. It denotes an "always positive" outlook, although with negative cards it represents pessimism and negative ways. For example, Anchor + Whip can be the chain of addiction, Anchor + Bouquet = the ever optimistic and positive, and Anchor + Garden = party all the time. The Anchor also deals with the ocean, the seas, and anything having to do with marine areas or work.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- finally arriving, reaching your goal, arriving at the destination
- almost there, dedication and endurance
- stable, anchored, not going anywhere
- heavy
- deep
- lifelong, strong ties
- determination and perseverance, committing to a longstanding situation
- will power, putting your mind to it
- persistence, insistence, steadfastness
- stubbornness, restoring stability
- for a long period of time
- beach, coast, or waterfront
- the marina or a yacht club
- cruise ship

Nuance:

- a time card

Woman or Man

- stable, secure, established
- confident
- faithful, loyal
- a person you can depend on
- serious, stern, a buzzkill
- supportive, trustworthy, reliable
- a self-sufficient person
- on the negative side, can be stubborn or too set in their ways

Work

Physically:

- tanned or darker coloring
- blue or green eyes
- heavysset but not necessarily overweight
- curved bottom

- finding a permanent solution
- success with ventures and undertakings
- a stable environment
- working for a long time, seniority
- reaching your goal
- an established business
- lifelong career, work, or legacy
- a permanent position
- naval academy
- the boating industries, working on a cruise ship
- working in and around a beach, yacht club, marina, dock, or harbor area
- a captain
- attached to your job, workaholic

Love

- a secure and stable relationship
- committed, a reliable situation
- trust, confidence, sincerity, faithfulness in a partnership
- settling down, a long-standing relationship, a solid union
- on negative side, it can mean tied down, held down, or being stuck in a relationship

Health, Body, and Spirit

- the pelvic bone and hip area
- condition is stable
- it is anchored deep or incurable (with negative cards)

Spiritually:

- work on protection and protecting your surroundings
- stay grounded, ground yourself

Money

- a stable or fixed income
- a reassuring financial situation
- stability in the monetary area
- a long-term investment

Time or Timing

- a long time—years (one-year minimum)
- lifelong

Advice or Action

- you can do it
- don't ever stop, stick to it, stick to your guns
- will it
- persistence beats resistance

Orientation

Positive: this card is generally positive, but beware of adjacent negative cards

Objects and Areas

- pier, port, or any coastal areas
- ball and chain
- a hook
- heavy weights, paper weights

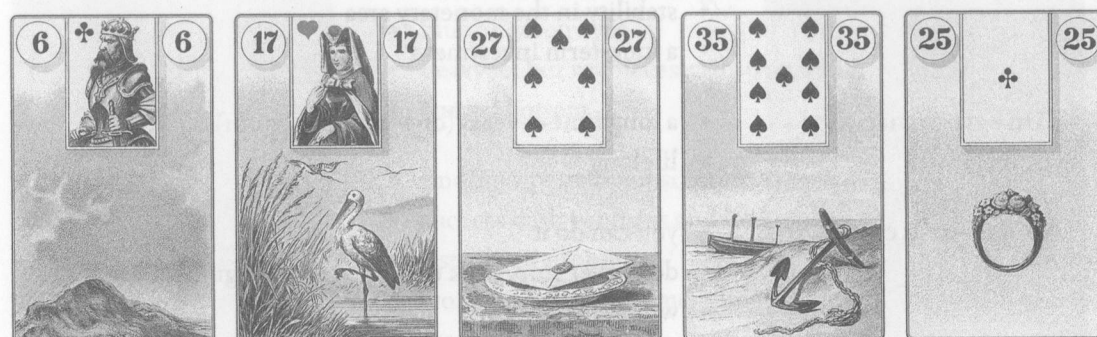
A Personal Story about This Card:

Looking in my old journals for a good Anchor card reading, I recalled an old friend to whom I had been close before we drifted apart. The Anchor card was present in more than one reading; here is one of the readings which emerged like a story when I asked, "What will become of our friendship?" I pulled Woman + Mice + Dog + Anchor + Key.

Woman + Mice show my stress and sadness over the loss of the good friendship we had (Dog). The Anchor shows that my friend is loyal; with the Key, it gave me hope of reconnecting. The Anchor card gave me the feeling that this friendship is a lasting one, and the Key at the end made it seem like a karmic connection. Furthermore, the Anchor + Key indicate a happy outcome after an extended time period.

Later, after a long period of time, my friend and I reconnected as if nothing had ever happened, and we have stayed connected ever since: lifelong friends with a definite karmic connection. The story played out exactly like the cards said, and the Anchor card came through with all its meanings and attributes, including the long period of time.

A more recent story with the Anchor was when I asked about one of my son's advanced math placement test. I got:



.....
CLOUDS + STORK + LETTER + ANCHOR + RING

The Clouds showed my worry about the Stork + Letter (advanced testing), the Anchor + Ring predicted his definite success—a shoe-in, which I am happy to say was a correct prediction.

The Anchor card also almost always comes up with me when confirming a pregnancy in these combinations: Moon + Anchor, Anchor + Stork or Stork + Anchor, Child + Anchor or Anchor + Child, and Woman + Anchor.

In the Grand Tableau:

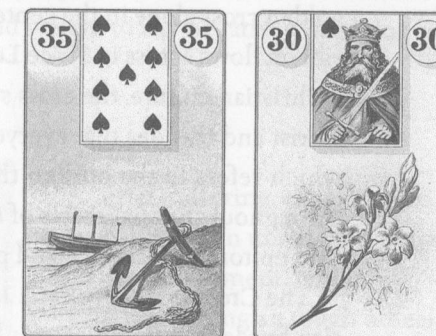
In the traditional meanings, the Anchor card denoted seafarers and work at sea, as well as being faithful in love when it appeared close to the significator. On the other hand, if the Anchor card was far away from the querent's Man or Woman card, it warned of fleeting, dangerous love and advised against travel at that time.

In general, the Anchor is a positive card. It offers safety and steadiness in different areas of our daily lives. All the positives get accentuated and reinforced when positive cards are present. On the other hand, when the Anchor card is surrounded with negative cards, obstacles and difficulties will arise; then I will use warnings or advise against travel.

Some Combinations and Examples:

Anchor + Child = a persistent child, a determined child, an anchored pregnancy, a guaranteed new venture, forever young

Anchor + Lilies = longevity, vintage, antique, an era or epoch



.....
ANCHOR + LILIES

Anchor + Ship = uprooting, evacuating, relocating, moving away, always on the go, been traveling for a long time

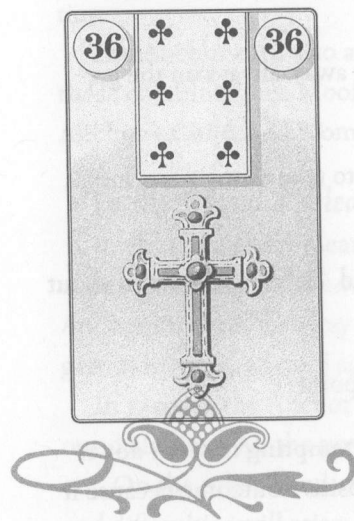
Ship + Anchor = arriving or landing, a voyage that is going to take a long time, long-distance travel

Dania had experienced previous issues with her ex. She asked, "Is my ex serious about round two?"

Anchor + Crossroads = no: the ex is noncommittal at this point

Crossroads + Anchor = maybe: there is a good chance of attempting to settle down (the reading needs more positive cards to make sure of a positive outcome because it can still mean that the ex is determined to be unfaithful)

Of course, for a question like this, more cards will give a better reading with a more definitive answer.



Cross

.....
Playing Card Association: Six of Clubs

The illustration on the Cross card is quite simple: a shiny golden cross alone in the center of the card; sometimes a ribbon flows across it. Since Lenormand originates from a Christian culture, the cross symbolizes the suffering of Christ and the idea that everyone has their cross to bear, which refers to the burden that each person shoulders throughout the challenges of their daily lives. The Cross card epitomizes sacrifice and painful rites of passage.

The Cross is a heavy card. It expresses suffering, worries, burdens, difficulties, troubles, trials, pains, hardship, and challenges. It denotes all sorts of concerns, anxiety, and trepidations. In a reading, the Cross card brings tears and triggers painful obstacles, hindrances, and impediments on many levels: emotional, physical, mental, or spiritual. The Cross card represents regret, remorse, and guilt, as well as shame, humiliation, and disappointment. It can also signify religion, faith, and belief.

The Cross card stands for all organized religions and their dogma, as opposed to the Book card, which speaks of the esoteric knowledge and the spirituality of psychics, empaths, and mediums; the Tree card, which leans toward the spirituality of the shamans, natives, and the Om at the root of creation; and the Key card, which represents the connection to all the spirit realms, karmic destiny, and the Divine.

The intensity of this card is in proportion to the gravity and intensity of the question being asked. If the reading concerns a simple driving test, for example, and the Cross card appears, it indicates that the test will be challenging or maybe that the test will have a negative out-

come requiring a retest. If the question is about a serious health matter and the Cross shows up, then the card would add weight to any negatives, implying serious pain and suffering.

Contextual Meanings

Future

- grief, suffering, chagrin, pain, troubles, emotional loss
- hardship, an unhappy event, misfortune
- disappointment, regret
- going through a tough ordeal, tests or trials, a difficult period ahead
- sorrow, despair, crying, lamentation
- fears that you carry (with Mice card can mean neuroses)
- be very prudent
- a challenge
- with positive cards can be charity, aids, and donations

Nuance:

- a mood card

Woman or Man

- religious
- sad, sorrowful, gloomy
- a negative, pessimistic person
- a burdened individual
- needy
- a person who always complains and whines
- someone in need of help, support, or counseling
- sick physically, mentally, or emotionally
- drained, weary, worn out, shattered

Woman or Man

Physically:

- tired, worn out
- broad shoulders
- straight posture (for example, standing at attention mode: chin up, chest out, shoulders back)

Work

- a miserable working environment
- getting hit with lots of obstacles and hurdles
- a period of difficult and negative outcomes
- having a heavy load, more than one can handle
- working in a religious organization
- working with the Red Cross or any other company with a cross in their logo
- being unable to find a job or work

Love

- an unhappy relationship
- a romantic let-down, a bad date
- an ill-fated romance
- a miserable union
- possible separation and a painful one
- a loaded relationship with heavy burdens
- challenges, trials, tribulations
- a stalker
- nonexistent—"just not that into you"

Health, Body, and Spirit

- aching and hurting
- pains that will wear you out
- hard to cure
- the cross affects the lower-back area

Spiritually:

- a dominant belief or dogma
- practice prayers and meditation
- reflection and deliberation
- perform holy rites, observance, or rituals
- supplications
- balance between the physical and spiritual worlds

Money

- money troubles
- financial ordeal
- severe restrictions
- late payments
- poor investments

Time or Timing

Time with this card is a bit tricky because it denotes two extremes and depends on the question. If it is a distressing, dire situation, it is immediate, but if it is more about enduring something, it speaks of patience.

Advice or Action

- don't play the victim
- pray
- dust off and get back in the saddle
- be patient
- be cautious
- ask for help

Orientation

Negative: this card brings a general negative, somber atmosphere to the reading; on rare occasions it can be neutral when it represents religion

Objects and Areas

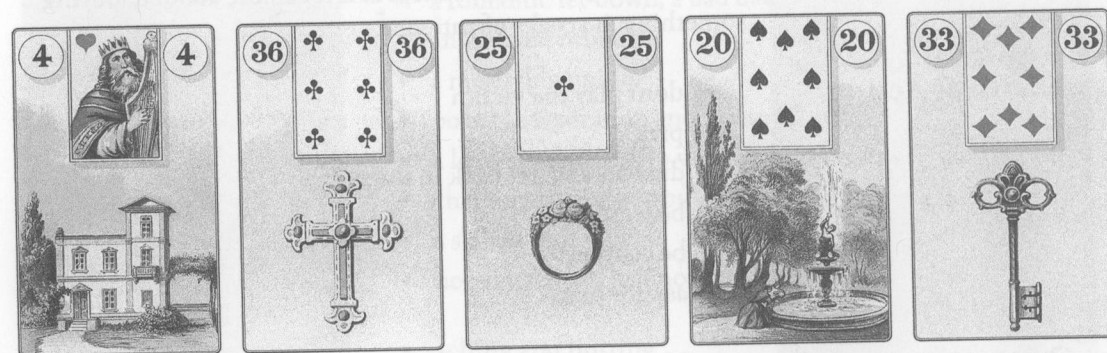
- a cross or any other religious insignia
- any place of worship
- a sword

A Personal Story about This Card:

The dreadful Cross card was always present in all the readings I did for Lara and George, a couple from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions. They were a perfectly harmonious match and deeply in love, but outside factors were causing grief, pain, and suffering in their lives.

I remember pulling three cards for them the night before their wedding and getting Lilies + Cross + Heart. I was alarmed to see the Cross in the middle, accentuating sorrow, heartache, and unhappiness, but at the same time having the Heart at the end gave me a little optimism that it was not all gloom and doom. I started probing the couple about the misery surrounding their happiest day and discovered that religion and ethnicity were playing a big role in the story. The father of the groom, the patriarch of the family, was opposing this union and fighting to prevent this wedding. The rest of the groom's family sided with the intolerant father and were using "family and religion" as the weapon of choice. (Lilies = father figure, Cross = unhappiness, misery). Now the cards made sense.

With my new insights, I reformulated the question and asked, "How will George and Lara's wedding turn out?"



HOUSE + CROSS + RING + GARDEN + KEY

Randomly getting the Ring in the center of the spread was an assurance. The House and the Cross indicated the religious zealots in the groom's family causing the ordeal. Having those cards spot-on gave me the courage and confidence to predict a successful wedding. I told George and Lara that even with all the troubles, the wedding will be successful (Garden + Key). There are some disappointments (Cross) on the family front (House), but the happiness will outweigh the sadness (Key at the end).

The wedding was a blast. The groom was a little upset because his family boycotted and shunned the wedding and his bride, but he managed to dance and enjoy the day with his new family. Now, ten years later, the couple is still happily married with three beautiful daughters—and they have good relations with the groom's family.

For George and Lara, the Cross card epitomized the trials they had to endure to be together, including harsh religious intolerance and painful family conflict.

In the Grand Tableau:

The traditional meaning states that the Cross card is a dreadful omen if it is far from the Man or Woman card and surrounded with negative cards. On the other hand, if it is very close to the Man or Woman card, it predicts the troubles and difficulties will be short-lived.

The Cross card predicts misfortunes, worries, vexations, troubles, and trials in all areas of our lives. When the Cross card is surrounded with emotional cards such as the Heart or the Moon, it intensifies the emotional tribulations and grievances. Otherwise, in all other endeavors it shows obstructions, burdens, limitations, encumbrances, and complications. When more negative cards are present, it increases the pessimism, sadness, and melancholy, and it becomes a precursor of doom and gloom. However, the troubles will be short-lived if and when the Cross card is surrounded with positive cards—*really* surrounded with positive cards, no matter if it is close or far from the Man or Woman card.

The cards around the Cross card will give clues as to what area the Cross is affecting; also, the house the Cross card has landed on will provide more hints. For example, if the Cross card lands on house 25 (Ring), those troubles are in a marriage or a partnership of some sort. If the Cross card lands in house 4 (House), then the pain and grief is in the extended family, the place of residence, or the immediate family.

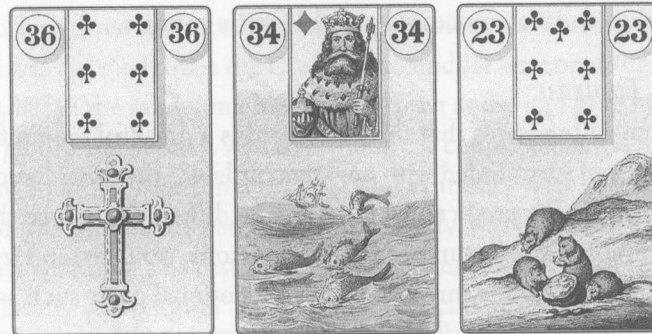
Some Combinations and Examples:

Danny is wondering about his new personal business undertaking with issues that have recently arisen. What is the forecast of Danny's new business?

Cross + Fish + Mice = he will have setbacks and difficulties (Cross) in his venture (Fish), resulting in added stress (Mice) or recklessness (Cross) causing hindrance (Mice)

Now, instead of a prediction and advice reading, turn the question into advice: what must Danny do in light of the new issues that just came up with his business?

Cross + Fish + Mice = Danny needs to be prudent and patient (Cross) while never giving up through hard work and persistence (Mice); if the Fish was not used as Danny's business, then it may be that Danny needs to put up a lot of money upfront and take in losses



CROSS + FISH + MICE

Cross + Key = difficult or painful solution

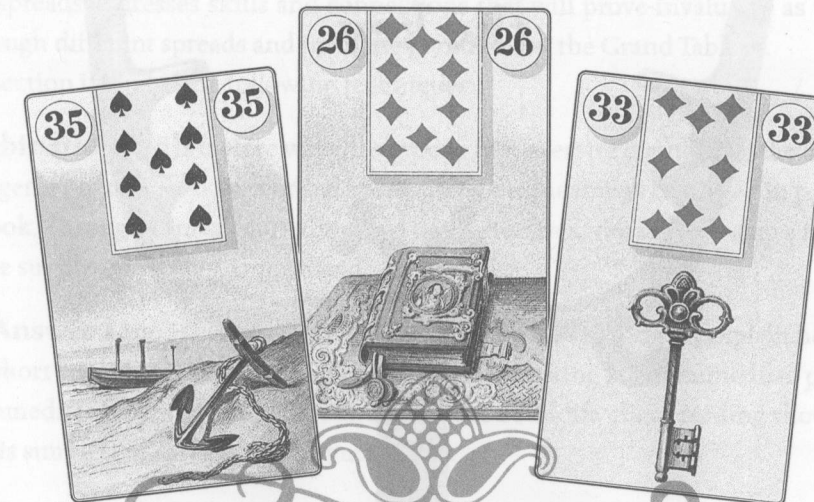
Key + Cross = a painful defeat, prayer (Key = solution, Cross = your belief)

Cross + Anchor = strong spiritual beliefs; a persistent pain; holding on to old sorrow, grief, or guilt; a sustained dissatisfaction; a prolonged unhappiness

Anchor + Cross = going through a whole heap of continuous or stubborn agony, been through a great deal of extended suffering, religious zealot

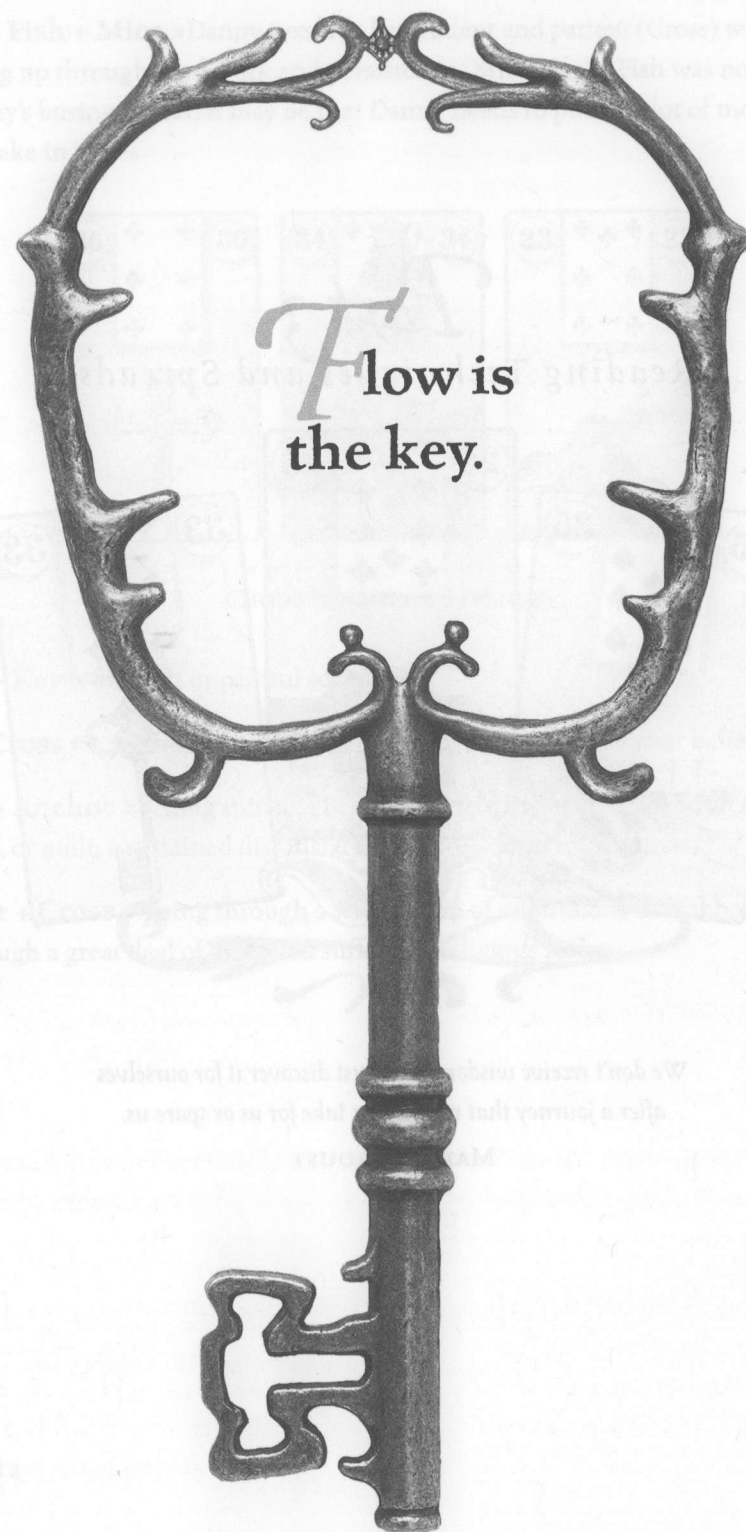
Part 3

Reading Techniques and Spreads



We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves
after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.

MARCEL PROUST



IN THIS section we will learn how the cards come together to create a prediction. In the same way that words make a sentence, we will see how all symbols flow together to give your querent clarity about the past and a glimpse of the future.

We will start with a step-by-step technique for blending the cards together. Each of the smaller spreads addresses skills and connections that will prove invaluable as we work our way through different spreads and up to the grand finale: the Grand Tableau.

This section includes the following techniques:

Combination Drills: Here we will start our first exercise connecting the cards together to make a coherent statement using the meanings cataloged in part 2 of this book. Through games, journaling, and daily exercises, you will develop a firm grasp on the supple symbols of Lenormand.

The Answer Line: The real readings begin here. This section will explain how to use a short spread of cards to get a quick answer by looking at the immediate past and immediate future of your querent. It includes a real-life client reading showcasing how this simplest of spreads can be put to work.

The Box Spread: The box spread is a square, traditional 3 x 3 matrix of nine cards that provides a snapshot of the situation. The box spread teaches contextual reading and how to identify the particulars of a situation by allowing lines to intersect with a significator or focus card. We will go into all its intricate reading formulas and end with a full real-life reading example.

The Decision Spread: We will look at how the cards can be used to make a decision between different options. This spread will help you get a handle on the way card orientation can provide practical advice to your querent.

The Astrological Spread: This spread uses the cards to forecast a year ahead of time by showing different sequencing of events in every month. This spread will help you grow more proficient with specific timing and the concept of topical houses within a reading. We will also go through a reading I did for one of my oldest long-term clients.

The Pyramid Spread: This spread emphasizes meaningful context, ideal for those moments when you are in a hurry and need a quick look at more than one area of someone's life. In terms of technique, this spread cultivates your ability to draw connections between the different areas of a client's life.

The Cross Spread: This is a fun and simple spread to play with when looking at a situation. This spread puts a spotlight on the focus card, giving that middle card its own three-card reading.

Changing a Fortune: This is not a spread but a technique I have developed after years of working with Lenormand. I really like it because it can show how Lenormand is versatile, adaptable, and a great tool to be used in any way you like. In a larger sense, this pushes your readings from prediction toward something more like magick as you help your querents achieve their goals with clarity and action.

The Grand Tableau: Last but not least, we meet the big mama of Lenormand spreads: the Grand Tableau. We will dissect this legendary spread element by element, making it easy to read at a quick glance. This massive full-deck layout will call upon all of the skills you've developed in the simpler spreads and methods that precede it and build upon them in ways that nurture your growth as a reader and a psychic. I will show you my methods and quirks and how readings work. We'll wrap up with a full reading for an actual client: a Grand Tableau using all the techniques learned, with examples and diagrams to help you follow the process.

Combination Drills

Here we will learn how to read the cards together, blending their meanings to make a coherent sentence or statement, and have fun doing it!

Getting a Handle on the Cards and Combinations

I often use flash cards to teach combinations and meanings to my Lenormand students. A very simple and effective approach, first we go through every card and assign one word to each of them. Then we pick a specific card from the deck and go through the rest of the deck combining every card with the specific card picked in a quick brainstorm manner or like a fun game of charades. This comes before the writing and recording step, which will get more intricate and elaborate.

Free Associating with Lenormand

This is a fun little exercise to get to know the cards and their dynamics with each other. It is simple, it is fun, and it will get you on the fast track to learning Lenormand. The object to this game is to get your mind going fast and blurting out the first word that comes up describing the card you see, then the first statement that comes to mind. It is like the Pictionary game where you need to quickly guess what is drawn.

After taking a quick look at part 2, take your deck; don't shuffle—it is better to put your deck in numerical order for this exercise. I recommend going through step 1 and step 2 on the same day so the information from step 1 will still be fresh in your mind for step 2.

Step 1: Assign

Start with the first card and assign one word to it; let's begin with the Rider = news. Now go through the whole deck and do the same thing: Clover = lucky, Ship = trip, House = family, Tree = health, and so on. Finish the whole deck, doing the same for all thirty-six cards without stopping; this should take around five minutes.

Step 2: Combine

Now that you have a word for each card, just like combining words, we are going to combine the cards. Take a card out of the deck and put it aside, then start dealing one card at a time to its right side, stacking the cards on top of each other so at the end you will have the card picked and a stack on its right. Do this at a fast but comfortable pace. The reason why I say fast is that I want your mind to come up with it without thinking too much; imagine you are playing Pictionary. I prefer doing this step without writing to keep up the fast pace, but you can record it if you like. For example, pull the Rider card and leave it out while going through the rest of the deck, combining each card with the Rider:

Rider + Clover = news of something lucky

Rider + Ship = news of a trip

Rider + House = news coming to the family

Rider + Tree = news of health

Going through all thirty-six cards can be done in two ways: the first way can be doing the same thing for each card, as in when you are done with the Rider, then move on to the Clover, then the Ship, and so on. The other way can be done while doing the Rider by flipping the cards like this:

Rider + Clover = news of something lucky

Clover + Rider = lucky news

Rider + Ship = news of a trip

Ship + Rider = the trip's news

Rider + House = news coming to the family

House + Rider = news of family

Rider + Tree = news of health

Tree + Rider = health news

Remember, this is only a first step. There are many nuances to every combination, as we will see in the next exercise. Also, note that not every flipped-card combination will be as similar to its previous combination—let's take the Sun and the Coffin, for example: Sun = Success, Coffin = Endings.

Sun + Coffin = success ending, a downturn of luck

Coffin + Sun = success after an ending, a resurrection

The card's location—if it is located before or after—is significant in the combination interpretation.

It is also fun to play this exercise with another person; I guarantee there will be some laughs. By the end of this exercise, you will have a grasp of how the cards interact with each other.

A *Tip on Combining*: while it isn't a hard and fast rule, start by looking at the first card as the subject or the matter and the card following it as a description modifying that subject. In other words, try treating the first card as a noun and the second card as the adjective. For example, in the combination Rider + Tree, the Tree is describing the Rider; on the other hand, in the combination Tree + Rider, the Rider is describing the Tree. Later, with more experience and practice, you will begin to treat each combination as a whole; for example, Rider + Tree can be just healthy, working out, or refreshed.

After doing daily exercises, eventually you will have a lot of "whole" combinations in your notebook. Gradually your brain will be rewired into seeing the combination and the interpretation together as a single meaningful phrase. Remember: there are no set rules here; practice

and experience are key factors, as cards sometimes combine in the oddest ways. Just like learning to read books, the more you practice, the stronger your Lenormand vocabulary becomes!

The Homework: Creating Multiple Combinations

This is where the writing part begins. Start by getting a notepad or a spiral notebook—the bigger, the better. This exercise will build upon our first game. Instead of coming up with one word for every card, now write down a description, an action, a function, and anything else that comes to mind for every card. Then we will make a list of combinations for every card. Take your time with those and compile them at your own pace.

Step 1: Chart the Cards

Take a page for every card and put down columns for action, description, function, etc. For the Rider you might put "delivery person" under person, place, or thing; "go" under action; "athletic" under description; and "a horse" under other. Make use of part 2 and add your own insights later as you practice and as your own Lenormand vocabulary matures. Put down as much as you can and make your list as comprehensive as possible.

Example:

Rider

A PERSON, PLACE, OR THING	ACTION	DESCRIPTION	OTHER
delivery person	go	athletic	a horse
a visitor	deliver	fast	feedback
a bicycle	act fast	young	arrival

Clover

green vegetables	grab the opportunity	jokester	second chance
gambler	stay positive	bargainer	sudden luck
field of grass	eat more greens	happy	reconciliation
opportunity	take a risk	lucky	winning situation

Step 2: Fuse the Symbols

I recommend you start a new notebook for this part, as it will be filled with heaps of information. Set aside two pages for each combination; trust me, it will fill up quickly, and later you will be glad you have space to add material from your daily exercises. You can also skip step 1 and go to this step directly, using the details of every card I provided in part 2.

Start with the Rider card, as your notebook will be easier to look through later if the cards are presented in order. The first combination entry will be Rider + Clover; write everything you can come up with using the lists from step 1 and part 2 of this book. You will keep adding to this list for a long time.

Here are some possible combinations for Rider + Clover:

- a delivery person happy (a happy delivery person)
- a bicycle on the grass
- a visitor taking a risk
- a visitor that is a gambler
- a young jokester
- feedback with a second chance
- a horse on a grass field
- a delivery of vegetables
- arrival of opportunity
- act fast for a second chance
- athletic and happy-go-lucky
- deliver a winning situation

For these combinations, I used only what is on the list from step 1; the more you have in the step 1 list, the more combinations you can come up with—you can really go to town with this exercise. Make a list for every card. At the end you will have your own combination compendium—your own go-to list when you get a blank moment in your reading. Have fun with it, and enjoy the possibilities!

Pulling Three Cards a Day

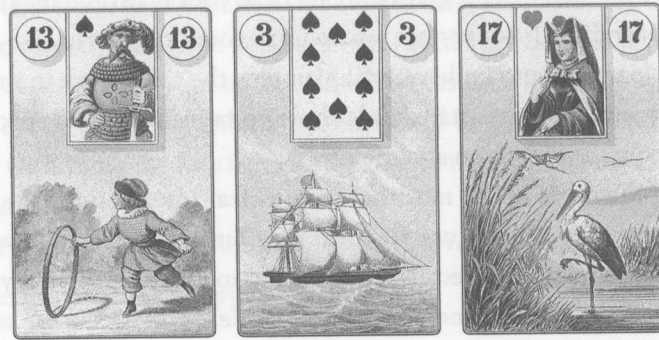
This is a simple, easy exercise to help you and the cards get in sync together. It will create a basic foundation, as the cards will be speaking to you on a personal level; doing this exercise for a period of three months will program the cards and your brain and make for a strong connection and understanding. It is a perfect way to learn combinations in an everyday situation, and also it gives a clear view and understanding on how the cards work in a realistic and practical manner. You may find that certain cards show up repeatedly for a specific subject, thus creating a special bond between you and the cards.

Start by pulling the cards in the morning with a clear intention for the cards to tell you something about your day. When I was first learning Tarot, I preferred to wait until the end of the day to do the interpretation because it was easier to reflect back on my day and see how the symbols had turned up around me. Many of my students have used the same approach for learning Lenormand. You can also keep the cards in your head during the day to keep an eye on when they do manifest.

- Make sure you are comfortable; take a deep breath, and get into your zone.
- Start shuffling the cards, taking deep breaths and setting your intention for the cards.
- Spread the cards and pick three.
- Lay the three cards down in the order you picked them.
- The cards are usually read from left to right or in dailies as a whole.
- The middle card is your randomly chosen focus card, your theme, and the last card is the evolution or the last word of the sentence. It can be the outcome or just adding another description like the first card. Sometimes the first card can be the subject and the next two cards are describing it or the situation.
- Look for cards that have a strong focus association:
 - Tree: health
 - House: family or real estate
 - Mountain: big obstacles or delays
 - Heart: love, relationship
- Document in your journal the cards pulled, the day and time, your interpretation, how you came up with your combination, and any other thoughts.

Let's look at one of my daily readings.

I had been having mental and physical blocks for a week, so when I pulled these cards in the morning I felt an immediate relief with the energy of movement and release coming from the Ship and the Stork, no matter how small (Child) it was.



CHILD + SHIP + STORK

In another reading, this combo can be a small trip or a start of a big change, especially with the Ship and the Stork both representing movement and change. For a daily reading I need to bring it down a notch, especially when I am not going anywhere anytime soon: Child (small or a start) + Ship (movement) + Stork (improvement). The reading indicates small movement that will improve the situation. That day I actually was able to work a little, even though I only did a small part (Child)—but it was the plug that opened up (Stork) the week and got me on a roll.

NOTE: when doing daily readings, keep in mind that the cards can be very mundane and literal; also, the gravity of the negative cards and exuberance of the positive cards can be greatly dimmed. For example, in a Grand Tableau for a big reading Snake + Garden can be a warning that someone in your group is deceiving you; on the other hand, in a daily reading it can be as mundane as getting bitten by a mosquito in your backyard or it can also be talking about a hose in your garden. Mice + Coffin can come up simply as misplacing the remote control, the Sun + Whip can be just describing a cranky morning, and Clouds + Stars may forecast a rainy night.

Record everything in your notebook. You will see that eventually a pattern will emerge that is relating only to you, and this is how the cards will speak to you personally. They do speak, loud and clear, but sometimes we are not ready to take it. After all, we are human beings. Going back and looking through your notes can be an amazing experience because you might see things you were not ready to see at the time. I discovered so many things looking back at

my own notes that were there right in front of my eyes, but I didn't predict it—I didn't even see it. I also realized that even if I had seen it back then, I would have been shattered because I wouldn't have been able to accept it. You will be amazed at what the cards reveal.

The Answer Line

The Answer Line is a fast spread that will give you a quick answer to your question or predicament. This spread is perfect for fortunetelling. It is a linear spread usually read from left to right that puts the focus on the middle card, with the final card being the last word. Everything to the left of the focus card can be the past or current events leading up to the present, and everything to the right of the focus card is a prediction of what is to come.

The Answer Line can also be viewed as a snapshot of a situation. What I like about the Answer Line is that the forecast is typically immediate, within days or weeks. It usually predicts a shorter time frame than the Grand Tableau, and it is the method to use when:

- you don't need the Grand Tableau
- you need a quick answer to your question
- you want a speedy turnaround to your prediction

There are two ways I use this spread. In one, I activate a card in the deck with the context I have in question as a significator/focus card, then pull the few cards that are before it and the few cards that are after it. I like this method when I have a concrete significator/focus in mind and need direct information on it. In the second way, I will let the deck choose the card for me by shuffling and dealing randomly. This is the one I use more commonly, because I like the cards to show me what is important.

Option 1: Choosing a Focus Card in Advance

- Take a deep breath and center yourself.
- Decide what card is the card intended to be the focus card for the issue.
- Start shuffling, all the while concentrating on the issue and the card picked to represent the issue as the focus card.
- Decide if you want a five- or seven-card spread. In this step, either (1) look for the focus card in the deck, then pull out the two or three cards that are before it and the two or three cards that are after it, totaling five or seven cards, or (2) spread the cards facedown and start turning the cards over one at a time and putting them in a pile

until the significator card appears, then keep the two or three cards that came before the significator card and pull two or three new cards, totaling five or seven cards. I like to keep an equal amount of cards on each side of the focus card, with a total of an odd number of cards.

- Check the two or three cards that are on the right side of the focus card and make sure they match the situation at hand and resonate with the question asked. If by any chance those cards do not make any sense, I simply reshuffle and start over.
- Read the first two or three cards as what is leading up to the focus card; these cards should be in agreement with your question as events that have already happened or things that pertain to the situation. Then read the last two or three cards as things to come or evolve.

When the cards on the left do not make any sense to you or the querent, don't be afraid to reshuffle and deal fresh cards. Typically, during the reading, the querent will say something that would link the previous cards to the reading. Almost always the cards are connected to the issue even if the client cannot connect them. Either way, the client is happier when they actually see the connection. It does happen on rare occasions that the cards do not match, and I have found that when it does, either I am unfocused or I have more than one question in mind.

In case the card chosen as the significator or focus came up as the first card, I still pull three cards after it and read them. If I am not satisfied with the depth of my answer, I reshuffle and redo. On the other hand, if the card chosen to be the significator/focus shows up at the end with no cards after it to predict an outcome or to give more insights, I would keep in mind the two or three cards right before it and reshuffle my deck with a strong intention to focus clearly on my question.

I start over from the top: reshuffling, focusing, and locating my significator/focus card in the deck to see where it has landed, then taking it out with the few cards before it and the few cards after it. Follow your gut and do what feels right for you; when in doubt, re-center yourself, focus, and start over so that you can find the flow. There are no cartomancy police! No "musts" or "shouldn'ts" need apply. Keep it easy and simple.

Option 2: Letting the Deck Choose the Focus Card

- Take a deep breath and center yourself.
- Start shuffling, all the while concentrating on the issue and formulating the question.
- Decide if you want a five- or seven-card spread.
- Pull one card out of the deck and place it facedown. Shuffle again, then pull another card out of the deck and place it facedown next to the first card; repeat until you have all five or seven cards in a line in the order pulled. Put aside the rest of the cards.
- Flip over the middle card first. This is the card that will get the extra attention as a focus card. Usually it will speak of the main issue, what is needed, or what is important to the question.
- Flip over the rest of the cards.
- Read the focus card with the cards that are flanking it first as a three-card focus.
- Then read the first two or three cards as what is leading to the focus card or as the whole with the focus card. Finally, read the last two or three cards that are on the left of the focus card as things to come or evolve, or read the two or three cards on either sides as a description or more information connected to the focus card.

I like to use both options and alternate between them depending on my whim and mood. If I want to know the outcome of a specific situation, I usually go with option 1; if I just want a feel or a general reading on a situation, I generally opt for option 2 and let the cards tell me what I need to know or what is important for me to focus on.

Both methods are read in a linear fashion like a paragraph; it is also necessary to have an odd number of cards to be able to have a main focus card.

The Answer Line in Action

Example A: Using Option 1

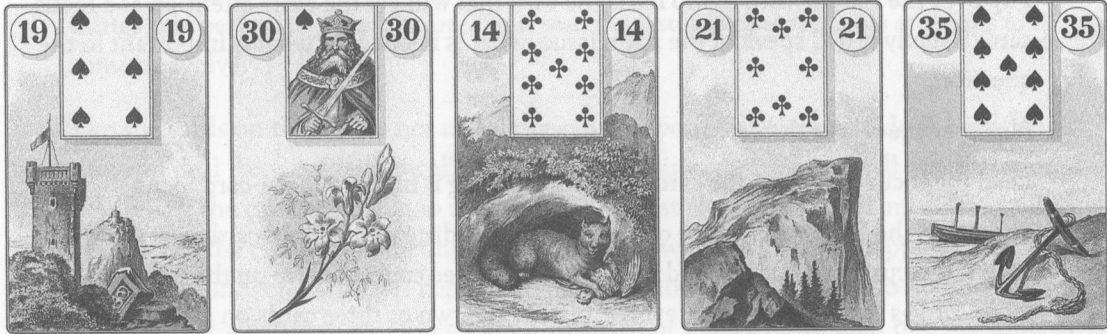
James came to me worried about his position at work. His company was restructuring, and he didn't know if his job was safe. James is a director at a large corporation and manages a team.

I focused on his position, as well as the Fox card, and asked a specific question: "What is the future of James's work with his company?"

I shuffled and looked for the Fox card in the deck. Then I pulled out the two cards that came before the Fox to see if it related to James's situation: Tower + Lilies.

Those two cards definitely relate to his situation. The Tower signifies the large corporation he works at, and the Lilies card tells me that he has been working with them for a long time and shows his experience. After getting confirmation on its connection to the first card, I proceeded to pull out the next two cards that came after the Fox card to predict the future of his job: Mountain + Anchor.

Read together, this combination of cards indicates that James is going to be at that company for a while. The cards specifically answered the question asked. He will be stuck (Mountain) and anchored (Anchor), so Mountain + Anchor = not going anywhere.



TOWER + LILIES + FOX + MOUNTAIN + ANCHOR

After relaying the prediction to James, he was still unsure about his role with the new reorganization his company was in the process of implementing. So this time I focused on James and his Man card while I asked the specific question: "What is going to happen to James with this new reorganization in that specific corporation?"

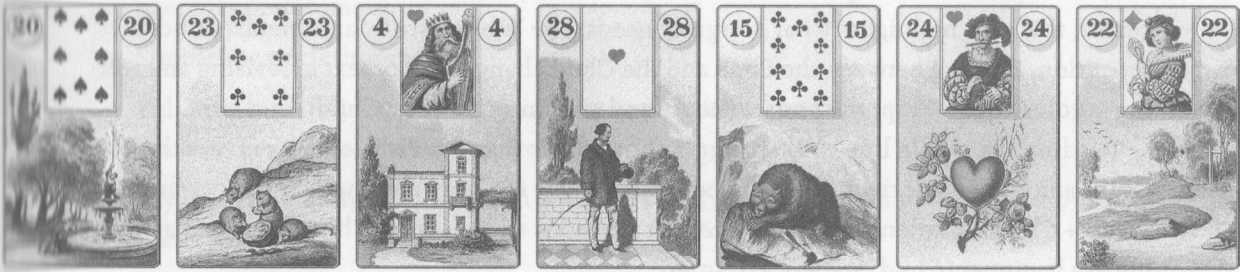
Going through the same routine of shuffling and pulling the cards, I pulled until the Man card came up. I stopped and looked at the three cards prior to make sure they related to James and the specific question: Garden + Mice + House.

This combination relates to James worrying (Mice) about his team (Garden), the loss of some of his team or responsibilities (Garden + Mice), his stability (House), and the whole house restructuring (Mice + House).

Then I pulled the next three cards: Bear + Heart + Crossroads.

This combination was a bit tricky because it ended with the Crossroads, and sometimes this card comes up when someone is leaving. However, with the Heart and Bear coming right before it and no other indication of leaving, I had to use the "multiple" meaning for that card. My prediction was that James would be given a bigger role with more duties to manage

(Bear), it will be to his satisfaction and he will enjoy it (Heart), and it will also come with more responsibilities such as added teams or areas or branches (Crossroads).



GARDEN + MICE + HOUSE + MAN + BEAR + HEART + CROSSROADS

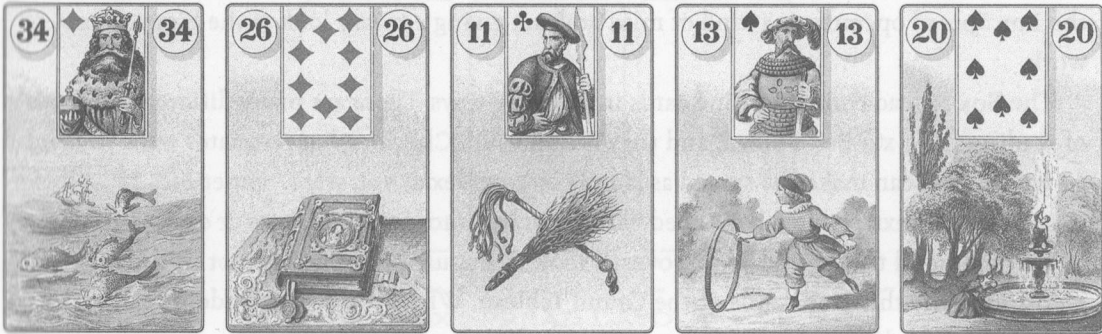
James went home satisfied that night, and it was nice to see him a bit more relaxed. Three weeks after that reading, I received a beautiful basket full of chocolates with a note attached: "Thought you might like to know you were correct on all counts. I will be contacting you again. Thank you."

And that's how you grow a base of repeat clients!

Example B: Using Option 2

Margaret came to me worried about her book project. She was not sure what to do next and felt blocked. What does Margaret need to focus on for her to finish her project?

I shuffled, then pulled five cards out of the deck, shuffling between each pull. Then I laid them down in the order they were pulled out.



FISH + BOOK + WHIP + CHILD + GARDEN

Getting the Book in the spread emphasized the context and reassured me that the cards dealt are connected specifically with the issue asked.

In this spread the Whip is the focus card, chosen by the deck because it has fallen in the center; this card highlights what Margaret needs. The Whip = strife, arguments, difficulties, repetition. Landing between the Book and the Child changes its context to revising and editing—going over (Whip) the project (Book) and trimming it down (Child).

Reading the whole line to Margaret, I showed her that the Fish + Book express the vast (Fish) amount of information in the book, making it too unwieldy (which she confirmed). Whip + Child + Garden convey the need for revisions and editing (Whip) to make it accessible to a beginner (Child) audience (Garden).

Margaret agreed and was happy with the reading. She said the advice was something she knew all along but totally forgot; the reading had put her back on track.

The beauty of the cards is that they tell you exactly what you need to hear at the right moment.

The Box Spread

This spread produces more of a general reading and represents the impression and the atmosphere of the circumstances surrounding the querent. You can get a lot of information about someone with this spread. In my own practice, I mainly use the Box Spread as a teaching tool to practice for the Grand Tableau or sometimes to investigate a person or situation.

The Box Spread is not what I use for a quick, specific answer to a question. When I want a speedy response, my go-to spread is the Answer Line, described previously, which reads like a clear sentence, and if I want more information, then I will throw out the Grand Tableau. But the Box Spread operates as a kind of mini tableau, giving a meaty look at the bigger forces at work.

The Box Spread combines nine cards in multiple ways. There are many different methods of reading the 3 x 3 Box Spread, and they are all valid. Choose what resonates with you and go with it. You can make the spread as simple or complex as you want. Sometimes I just look at it as a whole, extracting what I need without going into any techniques or extra methods.

I recommend this spread for an overall look at a situation if you are not in the mood to go through the thirty-six cards of the Grand Tableau. When you feel confident reading this spread, the Grand Tableau will become very easy and simple.

- Center yourself and use deep breaths to ground your energy.
- Concentrate on the situation, a general outlook for the month, or an overview of the querent's predicament.
- Shuffle the cards thoroughly.
- Pull nine cards anyway you choose; I like to pull them from all over during shuffling: the top, the middle, the bottom, etc.
- Lay them randomly in a formation of a 3 x 3 box; I like to lay them in the order I pull them, like this:



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BOX SPREAD LAYOUT

Box Spread Reading Steps

The following are the methods I use for reading the Box Spread. Each offers a slightly different perspective on the querent's situation and the circumstances around it as well, and you will eventually use each of these steps for the Grand Tableau. Sometimes I employ them all, and at other times I just stick to the Cross and the X for quick answers. Pick and choose from them or do them all. I prefer the easy, quick "scan look" because often the message will manifest instantly.

1: Past/Present/Future (Time)

Reading the cards horizontally from left to right gives you a sense of what has just ended and what is coming up next around the situation.

A	B	C
+	+	+
D	E	F
+	+	+
G	H	I
= Past	= Present	= Future

Card E can be the significator card or a preselected focus card for the main issue in question, or what needs to be examined.

2: Concern/Situation/Undercurrent (Awareness)

Reading the cards horizontally from top to bottom will reveal the thoughts and worries hovering over the situation as well as the assumptions and facts that are its roots:

- cards A + B + C = the concern—what worry the querent has or what is weighing heavy on their mind
- cards D + E + F = the situation—what is being dealt with at the moment or current events
- cards G + H + I = the undercurrent—what is accepted, what is known, or what is under control

3: The X (Indirect Influences)

Reading the cards diagonally will let you identify the indirect forces surrounding the subject and the passive influences they may be having.

- cards A + E + I and C + E + G are read as the theme, the conclusion, and the general atmosphere or vibration of the reading

4: The Cross (Direct Impact)

Reading the column and row that are forming a cross over the central card catalogs the direct forces on the situation involved. These are the active influences having an unambiguous impact on the querent or their concerns:

- cards B + E + H and D + E + F = the main focus

5: The Diamond (Summation)

Connecting the four cards that form a diamond around the significator or focus card will sum up the reading. This step is probably redundant because by now enough information has appeared, but sometimes more insight or an added confirmation is needed. I think of this as a bow that ties the reading together.

- cards B + D + H + F + B

The Box Spread in Action

Lisa came to me asking for direction about what she needed to do and what to look for in the near future. She had just hit a major obstacle, with some bad news and the loss of a promised position. Also, she was trying to decide between a job opportunity abroad that would let her pursue her degree at significant financial and emotional cost versus staying put in a happier and more relaxed environment but with unsatisfying income. Lisa had concerns about the foreign location, which required her to move to a cold region with lots of snow and leave the subtropical area that she so loved.

I concentrated on Lisa and let the cards decide the focus card in the middle. I shuffled the cards well, spread them all out facedown, and pulled nine cards. I then laid the nine cards in a 3 x 3 formation.



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BOX SPREAD FOR LISA

I: Past/Present/Future (Time)

- A + D + G = Past

Rider + Lilies + Anchor show that she has been relaxing, taking her sweet time (Lilies) at the beach (Anchor); this trio also shows that she has been waiting for a long time (Lilies) for news (Rider) about her next destination (Anchor) and long-term employment (Lilies + Anchor).

- B + E + H = Present

Tower + Stork + Coffin portray the present dilemma that she is living now: getting her degree and her career advancement (Tower + Stork), which require a painful change and a major reassessment (Stork + Coffin).

- C + F + I = Future

Cross + Bouquet + Heart denote the pain and suffering that is coming in the near future; there will be disturbances and worries, but not for long (Cross + Bouquet). Things will soon open up, and a happy outcome with relief and some assistance will be coming her way (Bouquet + Heart).

The Stork was chosen by the cards as the main focus of the reading, which is very appropriate considering the dilemma about the move as well as the change of the living situation that she has been contemplating. This confirms to me that the change will soon occur; it also solidifies the reading as it pertains directly to the situation.

2: Concern/Situation/Undercurrent (Awareness)

- A + B + C = the concern, or what is weighing heavy on the mind

Rider + Tower + Cross represent the bad news she got from the establishment of the loss of the promised position, which is grieving her tremendously and is continuously on her mind.

- D + E + F = the situation, what is being dealt with at the moment, or a sequence of coming events

Lilies + Stork + Bouquet indicate a long overdue change or move resulting in a fruitful, satisfactory outcome. It is also intriguing that the card associated with cold and snow, the Lilies, is right next to the Stork, pointing out that this move will bring good tidings with the Bouquet at the end. Another interesting little tidbit is the fact that the lily is on the national flag of that region.

- G + H + I = the undercurrent, what is accepted, what is known or under control

Anchor + Coffin + Heart reveal that Lisa knows the lifestyle she has been leading needs to end (Anchor + Coffin), and a major change needs to occur for her to recover physically and

emotionally (Coffin + Heart). It is also worthy here to note that the Anchor is associated with beach areas and beach time, ending with the Coffin and resulting with a recovery. Lisa already acknowledged her destructive lifestyle, which showed up in the combination of Anchor + Coffin, the need to do something about it and get back to feeling happy and satisfied with herself (Heart).

3: The X (Indirect Influences)

- A + E + I and C + E + G provide the theme, the conclusion, and the general atmosphere or vibration of the reading

Rider + Stork + Heart show that her move abroad is a good thing and will have a beneficial outcome.

Cross + Stork + Anchor indicate that there will be some challenges and pains with uprooting and moving, but that change will end in a stable condition. The painful move is good for her long-term goals and career.

4: The Cross (Direct Impact)

- B + E + H and D + E + F

Tower + Stork + Coffin indicate the focus on the move brought by the ending of a position: an advanced position (Tower + Stork) was lost (Coffin).

Lilies + Stork + Bouquet reveal that the change or move will be an improvement to the present situation and will bring a satisfactory, positive outcome (Bouquet).

5: The Diamond (Summation)

- B + D + H + F + B

Tower + Lilies + Coffin + Bouquet + Tower herald the ending and new beginning of a cycle, with the involvement or the cause of an older person or a male in upper management (Tower + Lilies) that ended her promised position (Coffin), from which sprang a new opportunity (Coffin + Bouquet) for higher education and employment at the same time (Tower).

You can see how the 3 x 3 Box Spread reiterates the same information over and over to make sure nothing is missed. After practicing this spread, you will develop your own method of reading it at a glance and will probably opt to do the Grand Tableau if time and space permit.

When in doubt, simplify!

The Decision Spread

If you are trying to decide between two options, situations, or choices, this spread will work wonders. I love it and use it all the time. It is simple and fast, and your answer will pop out quickly.

- Relax and center yourself.
- Shuffle while focusing on the question very clearly.
- Spread all the cards in front of you facedown.
- Now focus on the first choice as option A and pull three cards, keeping them facedown.
- Now focus again on the second choice as option B and pull three more cards, keeping them facedown.
- Open both option A and option B faceup.
- Look for negative cards and positive cards before you do any reading.
- Assess how many negatives and positives are in each option and compare the two.
- Go with the option that looks more appealing and has the most positives.

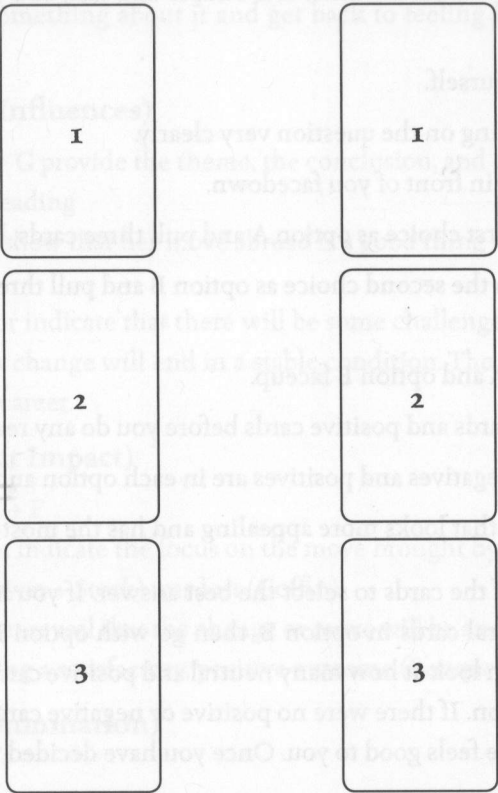
Use the orientation of the cards to select the best answer. If you have one negative card in option A and three neutral cards in option B, then go with option B. If you have a negative card in both options, then look at how many neutral and positive cards are in each column before making your selection. If there were no positive or negative cards, see what combination looks better or which one feels good to you. Once you have decided which option to go with, then read the three cards.

Option A

Option B

3 cards for question A

3 cards for question B



DECISION SPREAD LAYOUT

The Decision Spread in Action

Choosing the Right Home

Allan came to me for a reading, trying to choose between a house with a big yard (option A) and a house that is closer to his work (option B). I focused on the house with the big yard and pulled three cards, and then I did the same thing for the house closer to his work.

- option A has two positive cards (Bouquet, Ring) and one negative card (Scythe)
- option B has two negative cards (Mountain, Mice) and one neutral card (Letter)

Option A

Option B

Big yard

Closer to work



DECISION SPREAD FOR ALLAN

Without question, option A is the one to go with. Two positives beat two negatives anytime. You can stop and be done, and if you want to be sure of your answer, go ahead and do the reading if you like.

Reading option A: even though Allan will need to put work into the yard (Bouquet+Scythe=cutting grass, working the field) he will be happy, complete, and satisfied (Ring)

Reading option B: the house next to Allan's work looks like there is a big problem hidden (Mountain + Mice=big infestation, or a big hole) and that it will cost him a pretty penny (Mice + Letter= unexpected bills, loss of money)

Choosing the Right Man

Nicole came to me a little embarrassed; after I made her feel comfortable, I figured out her dilemma. Nicole likes two guys very much, and she is finding it difficult to decide between the two of them; their names are Bruce and Patrick. See the spread on the opposite page for the card options.

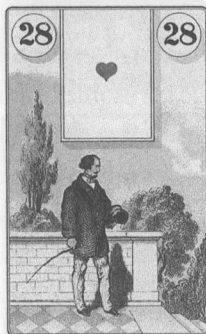
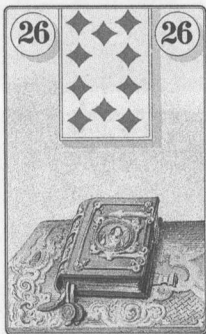
- option A has one positive card (Heart) and two neutral cards (Book, Man)
- option B has one positive card (Anchor) and two neutral cards (House, Ship)

Both options appear to be good. When this happens, we need to look deeper and compare the two positive cards. Heart and Anchor is a choice between passion and security; this is what it's boiling down to. I would advise option B because that row seems more secure (Anchor). Nevertheless, let's do a reading on the three cards and make sure.

- option A: Bruce is passionate (Heart) but he is hiding something, some kind of secret (Book +Man); he doesn't look serious and is more on the discreet side
- option B: Patrick is secure and stable (House); he might travel a lot or be away a lot (Ship), but he is in it for the long run (Anchor); he is serious about Nicole and looks like he wants to settle down

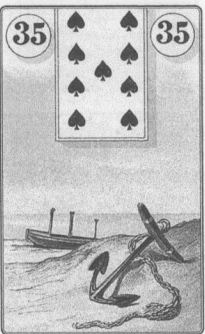
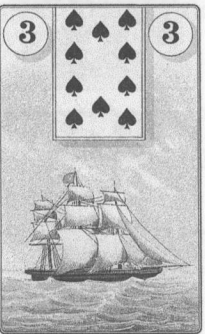
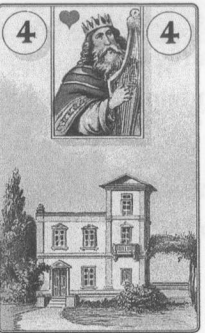
Option A

Bruce



Option B

Patrick



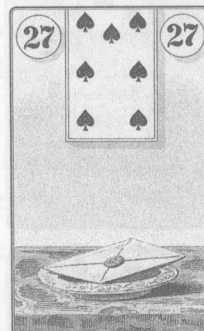
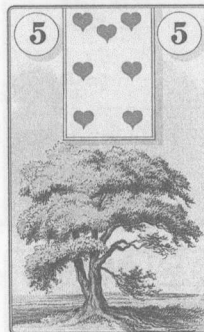
DECISION SPREAD FOR NICOLE

Choosing the Right Action

Nadine's reunion is coming up, and she is trying to make up her mind if she should attend.

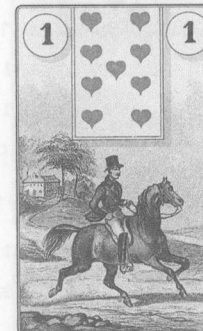
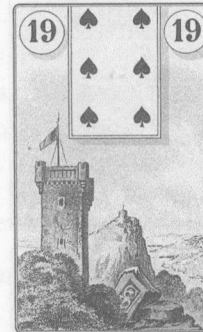
Option A

If Nadine goes



Option B

If Nadine doesn't go



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DECISION SPREAD FOR NADINE

- option A has two neutral cards (Tree, Letter) and one positive/neutral card (Fish)
- option B has two neutral cards (Tower, Rider) and one neutral/positive card (Garden)

Here we have two options that are very similar; even the Fish and the Garden both speak of abundance and multitude. First I get a feel for the cards and see what combination looks better. My first instinct was option A—I liked it more, and I thought it flowed smoother. However, I want to make sure, so I will read the cards.

- option A: if Nadine goes to the reunion, she will reconnect with some roots (Tree) and maybe get invited to more functions in the future or increase her connections (Letter + Fish = correspondence with a group)
- option B: if Nadine chooses not to go, she will be confining herself (Tower) and feel isolated after she hears all the news about the reunion (Rider + Garden = news from or of a gathering)

The Decision Spread is always meant as a guide and advice; it's never a must. I always bring the choice back to the client for them to make the final decision and explain to them the importance of using the reading only as a tool.

Have fun with this spread. Document your experiments and practice, practice, practice—just make sure to enjoy the process!

The Astrological Spread

This spread is based on the astrological wheel of the year, which divides the sky into twelve houses. It is a very easy, simple spread to follow. There is no need for any prior astrological knowledge, only good Lenormand combination insight. You just need to put the cards down following the astrological wheel and—voilà!—you have a prediction that examines large areas of concern in a person's life. It is not as detailed as the Grand Tableau, but it is a good way to start making categoric connections in your readings. This spread is good for birthday and New Year's readings because it conveys a sense of the energy surrounding each area of your querent's life.

The astrological spread is based on the twelve houses of the zodiac; every house is related to a zodiac sign and therefore takes on the attributes, characteristics, and qualities of the specific sign. Each house covers a particular area of an individual's life, such as personality, home, knowledge, personal resources, creativity, responsibility, and health.

Keep in mind that Lenormand is best read in combinations, and Lenormand already has predetermined cards for health, home, work, etc. When laying out Lenormand cards in a spread with meaningful positions, you will want to use two or three cards per slot.

I use the essence and the energy of each house without going too deep into the vast sea of astrology. Of course, if you are an astrologer it would be a major benefit to delve into the depth of astrology. You can also use any other oracular tool to add to the depth of this spread. When I want to take a reading to the next level, I add one or two Tarot cards to every house with the Lenormand.

A Quick Look at the Twelve Astrological Houses

Astrology is a colossal topic, so this can only be a cursory introduction. Practicing astrologers will have their own ideas about this spread, but beginners can get fabulous results as well. The following is a brief overview of the astrological houses: their attributes, qualities, and the areas and aspects of our lives they influence.

House #1, Aries: the self, the physical body, physical health, what you show to the outside world, how you come across, the mask you wear. The cards here show what will be a concern to you and how you will show it to the world.

House #2, Taurus: property and finances, possessions, personal resources, what you surround yourself with, the approach you take toward money, what you value. The cards in this house will show your financial forecast. The cards can also be a warning or a cautionary deterrent.

House #3, Gemini: communication, knowledge, siblings, relatives, close friends, short trips, cars, what you give to the world, your creativity. These cards describe which aspect of the house you should pay attention to.

House #4, Cancer: the mother, home, family, where you come from, your roots, your foundation, your private life, the sense of belonging, what you nurture. The cards here might talk about events happening in your home or private life, or they can also be about real estate.

House #5, Leo: creativity, pleasure, risk, love, romance, children, success, attention, what you enjoy, what makes you feel good. These cards indicate which characteristic of the house to pay attention to; also watch for negative cards, as they will be warning signs.

House #6, Virgo: work, personal responsibilities, skills, service, general health, attention to details, the work you do, pets. Most of the time, the cards here will talk about your job, your health, or the service you do to others. If negative cards are around and they are hinting at health issues or illness, it is usually connected to the work you are doing.

House #7, Libra: the main relationship; marriage and partnership; business partnership and commitments; what you are willing to share, negotiate, or compromise. The cards here will talk about your primary relationship and how you connect with others.

House #8, Scorpio: joint resources, money, death, sex, taxes, rebirth, transformation, psychic abilities, the occult, what you have to accept and cannot change. Look at the cards for clues about the main topic in this house.

House #9, Sagittarius: higher education, religion, philosophy, spirituality, ambition, long-distance travel, teaching, legal matters, how you integrate your experiences in your life. The cards here usually will talk about educational pursuits or distant travel.

House #10, Capricorn: the father, career, reputation, society, status in the world, authority, your working life, bureaucracy, what identifies you. The cards will indicate your social and public identity, and they will indicate the future progress of your goals and aims; they can also talk about your authoritarian parent or parenting.

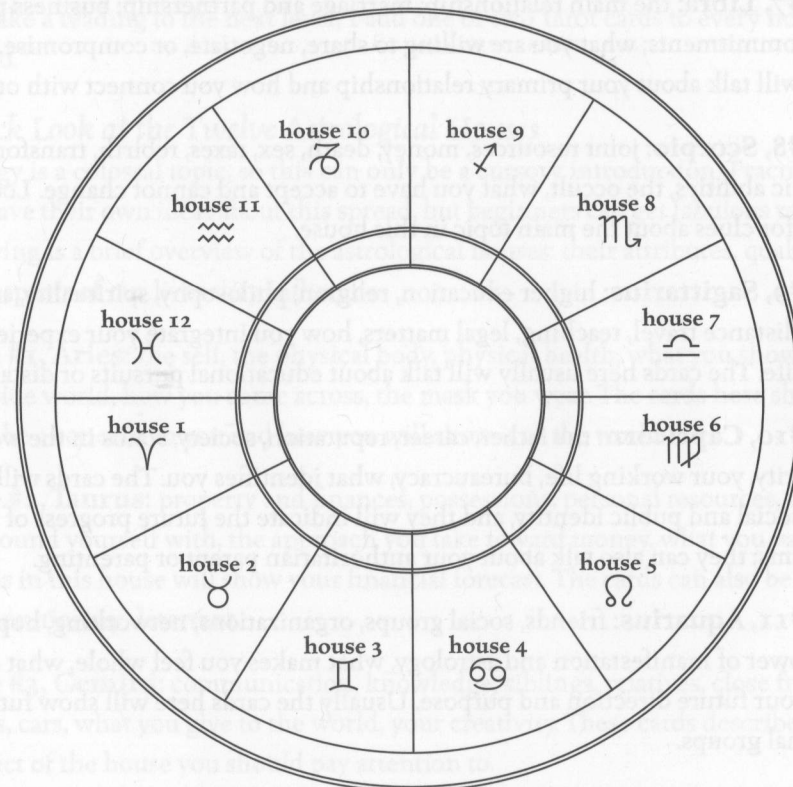
House #11, Aquarius: friends, social groups, organizations, networking, hopes, wishes, the power of manifestation and astrology, what makes you feel whole, what completes you, your future direction and purpose. Usually the cards here will show future cliques or social groups.

House #12, Pisces: intuition, fears, the unknown, secrets, institutions, hospitals, karma, the unconscious mind, what is hidden and concealed. The cards will indicate the subconscious, old issues resurfacing that will need to be dealt with; they can also talk about mystical experiences and spiritual happenings or events.

A Side Note:

- many houses deal with different types of relationships: the fifth and seventh address romance and marriage; the eleventh speaks to friendship; and the third, fourth, and tenth deal with families, siblings, and parents

- three houses deal with health issues: the first, the sixth, and the eighth
- three houses shed light on different areas of work and finances: the second, the sixth, and the eleventh
- three houses deal with mystical aspects, psychic abilities, instinct, and intuition: the fourth, the eighth, and the twelfth



THE ASTROLOGICAL HOUSES

Shuffle the cards and deal them in a wheel shape or a line format. If you deal them in the astrological wheel shape, start with first house at the nine o'clock position and go in a counterclockwise direction, then deal three cards in every house facedown or faceup; I do it both ways, depending on my mood. If you prefer the line format, then just deal three cards in twelve separate column for the twelve houses, starting with column one for house number one, and so on.

The Astrological Spread in Action

The following reading was for Mary, a widow with three grown children who manages her own business. Mary was excited because she was expecting her first grandson.

House #1, Aries: The Self

Fox + Bouquet + Coffin: an issue or a person (Fox) will arise with a promising gift or an offer (Bouquet) that might give Mary some drama and trouble (Coffin), where she will have to keep showing her positive persona while dealing with the finality of it (the three cards together). There will be some underlying sadness (Coffin).

House #2, Taurus: Material Property and Finances

Stars + Ship + Ring: Mary's financial forecast (Stars) is of a positive expansion (Stars) and movement (Ship) toward her desired goal (Ring). I also found out that Mary will be traveling overseas for shopping, which these cards are literally describing (taking a trip overseas to buy shiny items).

House #3, Gemini: Communication, Siblings, and Short Trips

House + Clouds + Mice: Mary needs to pay attention to family/siblings (House) miscommunication causing doubts, stress, and uncertainties (Clouds + Mice); it is also advisable to back up all her electronic devices (Clouds + Mice in the house of communication).

House #4, Cancer: The Mother, Home, and Family

Garden + Key + Heart: this shows that a very important (Key) and happy (Heart) gathering (Garden) will be happening in Mary's life, connecting and networking (Garden) with family. This will bring her much joy and significant satisfaction (Key + Heart). Mary informed me that she is planning a baby shower for her daughter.

House #5, Leo: Creativity, Pleasure, Risk, Love, and Children

Stork + Lady + Tower: the cards here spoke to me in a very literal manner about Mary's daughter giving birth (Stork) in the hospital (Tower). I thought it was really amazing that the birth of her grandson fell in the house of children.

House #6, Virgo: Work, Responsibilities, Skills, and General Health

Scythe + Cross + Snake: these cards are a big neon warning sign (Scythe) for Mary to take it easy in her daily work and make sure not to overwork or overstress herself (Cross + Snake). These cards indicate a critical matter not to be taken lightly. An immediate reevaluation (Scythe) is needed in a work-related situation to ease the workload or avert a health issue

(Cross + Snake). Mary revealed that this part resonated with her, especially the part about overworking that was leading to migraines.

House #7, Libra: The Main Relationship and Partnership

Lilies + Anchor + Birds: this combo indicates that Mary has lifelong established (Lilies + Anchor) relationships/partnerships and/or friendships (Birds). It can also indicate a possibility of an old established firm (Lilies + Anchor) negotiating (Birds) a partnership with Mary. During the reading Mary confirmed this by explaining that her business partner as well as her best friend have had a lifelong relationship. Later, Mary called me, verifying that a prestigious company had contacted her and that she was negotiating a contract with them.

House #8, Scorpio: Joint Resources, Money, Death, Sex, Taxes, and Transformation

Bear + Mountain + Fish: there is a lump sum of money either being held or blocked (or will be held/blocked; Bear + Mountain), but it will eventually clear and come forth (Fish). It can also mean that a lump sum of money (Bear) will be paid that is challenging (Mountain) at the moment but eventually will be cleared (Fish), both concerning Mary's work. Having both the finance card (Bear) and the business card (Fish) in this house, it was an indication to me that it is about taxes. Mary acknowledged that there are two separate issues in her work that are perfectly relevant to this prediction.

House #9, Sagittarius: Higher Education, Religion, Philosophy, Spirituality, Ambition, Long-Distance Travel, Teaching, and Legal Matters

Dog + Sun + Whip: a guide, a teacher, or a counselor (Dog) is leading Mary or helping her reach higher grounds (Sun) but with some difficulty, a bit of confrontation, or simply in a repetitive manner (Whip). I also saw the Dog + Sun + Whip as Mary guiding or bringing light and getting some resistance. Mary disclosed that she is training in astral travel and astral projection, as well as attempting to reach higher planes with the help of guides and teachers. After what Mary said, I took another look at this combo with wide-open eyes, and I couldn't believe how literal they came up. She also confessed to working on helping and broadening the perspective of some close-minded friends and family that she holds dear.

House #10, Capricorn: The Father, Career, Reputation, Society, Status, and Authority

Tree + Letter + Child: Mary or Mary's small business reputation (Letter + Child) is solid, reputable, and will keep growing steadily (Tree). Also, looking at this combo, I can't help but think of a birth announcement or a family addition (all three cards together), especially know-

ing that Mary is expecting a grandchild within six months of this reading. Mary later called me to announce the happy and unexpected news of a granddaughter in addition to the new grandson. She also confirmed the amazing progress of her small business. (I was very happy to get that call!)

House #11, Aquarius: Friends, Social Groups, Networking, Hopes, Wishes, the Power of Manifestation, and Astrology

Clover + Man + Crossroads: Mary will have a lucky or a positive encounter with a male (Clover + Man) of like-minded persona, but it will be fleeting and short-lived (Crossroads). It is a person she will immediately click with, and she will probably meet him twice, considering all the twos in this combo. I couldn't help but see also the possibility of a male helping Mary mediating (Crossroads) with a certain issue in a "stroke of luck" way (Clover). Mary immediately confirmed my last words; she hoped it would work out and that it was a truly lucky encounter and a great opportunity. She also added that this all pertained to the predictions of house #8 (Scorpio).

House #12, Pisces: Intuition, Fears, the Unknown, Secrets, Institutions, Hospitals, Karma, the Unconscious Mind

Rider + Book + Moon: newly uncovered knowledge or a new discovery (Rider + Book) triggering Mary into a heightened sense of intuition, sensitivity, and awareness (Moon). Getting both cards of secrets (Book) and intuition (Moon) in the house of secrets and intuition only strengthened the fact of her newly acquired (Rider) insights and abilities. It can also indicate that Mary will be undertaking a new path of esoteric studies.

Mary was very satisfied and happy with her reading. She spread the word and brought me all her friends!

Play around with the astrological spread. Start out by using one or two cards per house and work your way up to the full three cards. Remember to take a picture and document it in your journal so you can go back and look at it again. Astrology adds an optional layer of complexity that can be daunting at first. Don't give up on the first try; keep practicing. Only with constant practice will you uncover the depth of Lenormand.

When the grasp of Lenormand is within your hands with all its nuances, power and possibilities are limitless.

The Pyramid Spread

This is a quick and easy spread that can be adapted to many different areas or multiple subjects. You can add, substitute, or subtract for your precise situation and need.

- Take a deep breath and center yourself.
- Decide on the topics you need insights on and choose three (career, marriage, school, pet, etc.).
- Specify a time frame to examine: weekly, monthly, or whatever time you choose.
- Shuffle the cards, all the while concentrating on the topics.
- Number your topics and/or write them down, so you know what topic goes where in the spread.
- Lay the first three cards down on top, the second three cards under the first set and to the left, and then the last set of three cards to the right, making a pyramid shape.

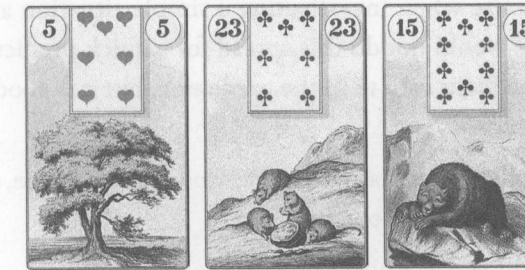
The Pyramid Spread in Action

This reading is for Paula, who wanted to know about the month of December. You may choose your own topics related to the reading you will be doing. In this one I am using the following topics:

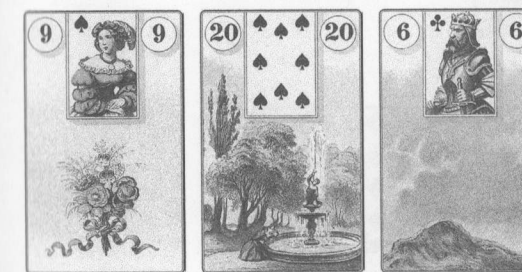
- health
- relationship
- finance

Prediction for Health: getting the Tree card (health) in the health context emphasizes health physically as well as spiritually. Tree + Mice + Bear indicate a warning of trouble caused by some stress (Mice) affecting the digestive system (Bear). The Bear under the Health context is connected with all food intake, nutrition, and the tummy area, so if Paula is trying to lose weight, then Mice (loss) + Bear (heavy, big) would be a positive prediction. On the other hand, if this is not the issue, then this combination would be a warning of a health decline (Mice). Paula needs to pay attention to any food allergies or food-related sickness (Mice + Bear).

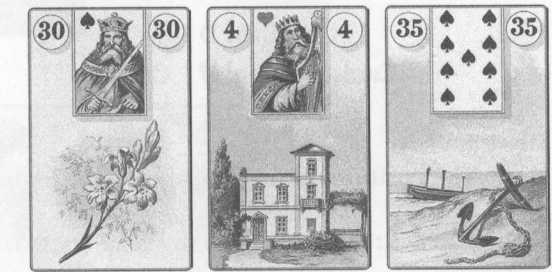
Health



Relationship



Finance



THE PYRAMID SPREAD FOR PAULA

Prediction for Relationship: having the Garden land under the context of relationship indicates popularity as well as smelling more than one flower. Bouquet + Garden + Clouds signify that Paula will enjoy the company of more than one partner (Bouquet + Garden), but that will cause some distress, with confusion, hesitation, and doubt, as well as bring instability to Paula's life (Clouds). She will need to tread very carefully in this area.

Prediction for Finance: Lilies + House + Anchor indicate a sense of contentment (Lilies) and a secured stability for the time being (House + Anchor). It can also mean that Paula's investments (Lilies) are solid and strong (House + Anchor).

This spread is simple enough to be malleable and flexible. Play with it, add to it your favorite oracle or Tarot deck, and see how they all work together beautifully. Create your own, have fun with your cards, and enjoy predicting!

The Cross Spread

This is an easy spread to use when investigating a simple situation and the circumstances surrounding it. Usually I would not do this spread for a quick predictive answer because it put more emphasis on the focus card than the prediction, but it is good for daily draws and a general overview for an issue.

- Shuffle the cards while concentrating on the issue, if there is one, or if you are doing a daily draw, just shuffle thinking of your day.
- Spread the cards facedown in front of you.
- Pull three cards across: A B C
- Pull two cards (D E) and lay them down as follows:

Card D
Cards A Card B Card C
Card E

The positions in the spread have the following meanings:

Card A: the cause, how the issue started, or a description of the issue

Card B: the focus, the main situation and the circumstances around it

Card C: the outcome

Card D: what drives the issue/the main situation

Card E: the underlying current with the issue/main situation

Remember that the cards are read in combinations:

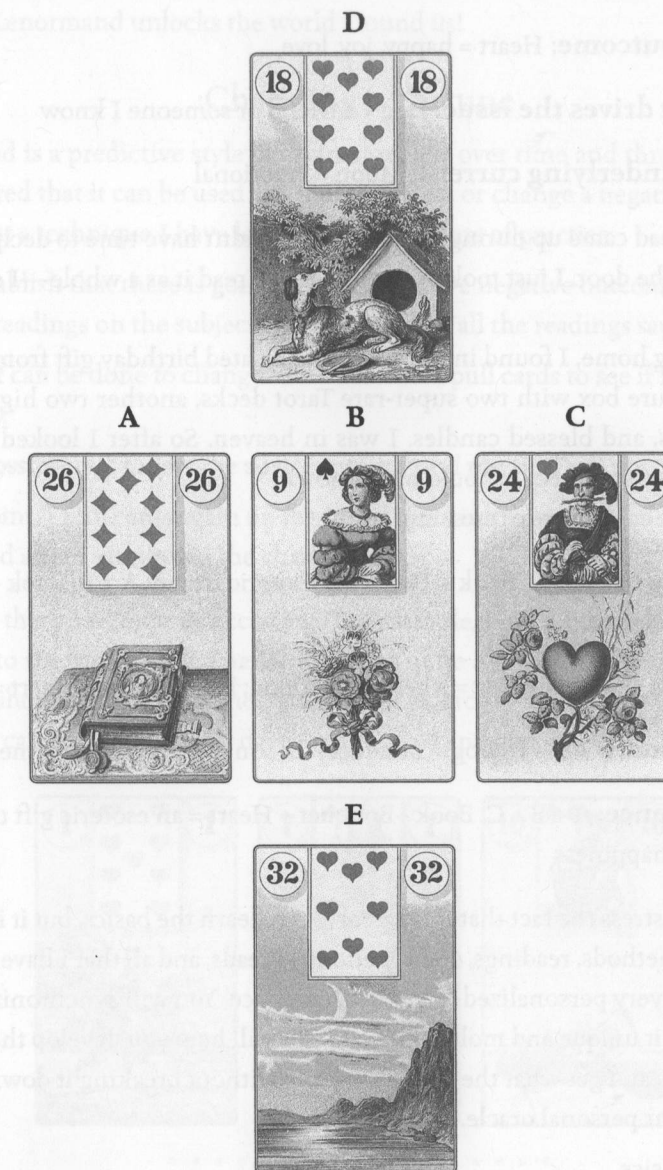
What is going on: A + D, A + E

Ending in: D + C, E + C

The main focus is revealed by: D + B + E

The last sentence sums up the reading: A + B + C

The following is a sample reading from one of my daily draws during the writing of this book:



CROSS SPREAD EXAMPLE

Card A, the cause: Book = it is hidden or unknown

Card B, the focus: Bouquet = something happy, a gift or a nice gesture

Card C, the outcome: Heart = happy, joy, love

Card D, what drives the issue: Dog = a friend or someone I know

Card E, the underlying current: Moon = emotional

When this spread came up during my morning, I didn't have time to decipher it because I was running out the door. I just took a quick look and read it as a whole—I saw it as a happy reading.

Upon returning home, I found in the mailbox a belated birthday gift from my best friend. It was a real treasure box with two super-rare Tarot decks, another two highly sought-after Lenormand decks, and blessed candles. I was in heaven. So after I looked at my morning spread in detail, I was amazed. I should have known.

This is what the cards were expressing:

What is going on: A + D, Book + Dog = my esoteric friend; A + E, Book + Moon = with esoteric accolades

Ending in: D + C, Dog + Heart = a generous friend; E + C, Moon + Heart = elation

The main focus: D + B + E, Dog + Bouquet + Moon = friend sending me a creative gift

The last sentence: A + B + C, Book + Bouquet + Heart = an esoteric gift that will bring me joy and happiness

I really want to stress the fact that it is important to learn the basics, but it is also important to know that the methods, readings, combinations, spreads, and all that I have included in this book will become very personalized to you with practice. You will synchronize with your Lenormand, making it unique and molded to you. This will help you develop the insight to look at a cluster of cards and get what they are projecting without breaking it down; you will see it as a whole—as your personal oracle.

- Master the basics.
- Stay focused. Don't confuse yourself and clutter your interpretation.

- You will develop a predictive method that is yours alone, fed by your intuition, personal insights, and anecdotes.

I love how Lenormand unlocks the world around us!

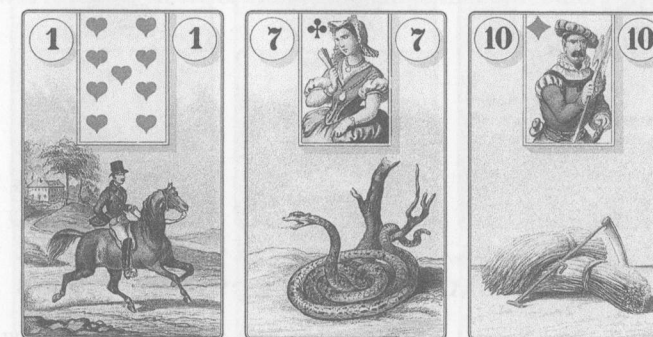
Changing a Fortune

Yes, Lenormand is a predictive style of divination, but over time and through trial and error I have discovered that it can be used as a tool to deflect or change a negative outcome. This is not a spread but a technique I have learned through years of practice.

- First I establish that there is going to be a definitive negative outcome by doing multiple readings on the subject and making sure all the readings say the same thing.
- I ask what can be done to change that outcome. I pull cards to see if it is even a possibility.
- If it is a possibility, I follow the advice intently and physically if possible.
- At that point, I pull cards again on the initial question to see if the negative outcome was altered after I attempted the change.

I have done this on numerous occasions. For example, I did a simple reading for a planned family outing to the outlet mall. The location was quite a drive away, and it was strictly for a before-school shopping spree (clothes, jackets, shoes, etc.).

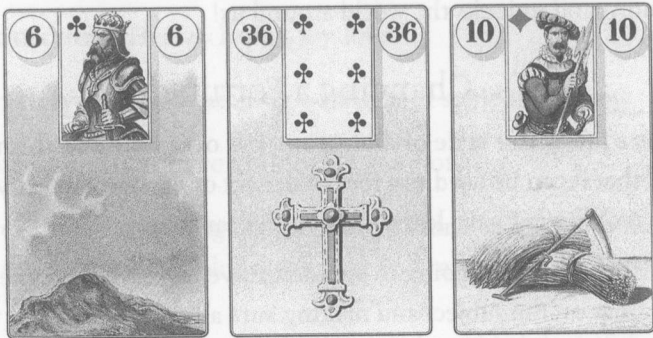
I pulled the cards to see how our day would unfold and got:



RIDER + SNAKE + SCYTHE

Right away I saw this combination as an accident about to happen—especially with the Snake + Scythe. I was not sure what kind of an accident it would be. Was it a physical accident

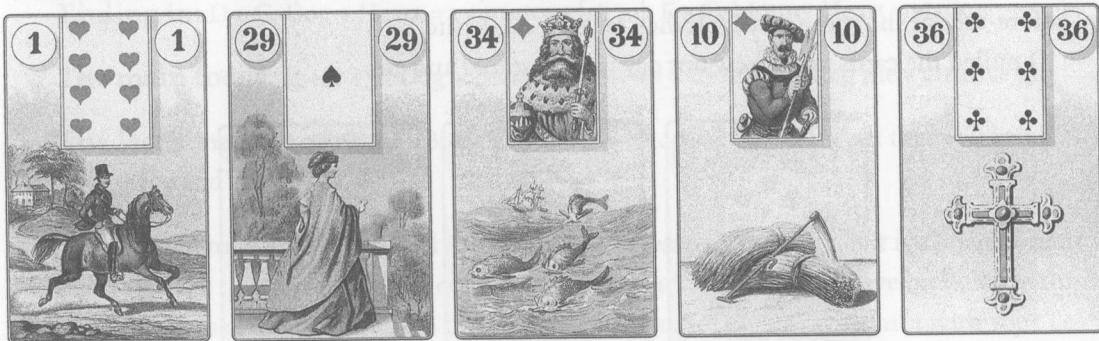
as in legs (Rider) or more of a vehicle accident along the way (Rider)? With this information, I shuffled the cards, pulled three cards again on the same question, and got:



CLOUDS + CROSS + SCYTHE

Again, these cards carried the same energy—the same feeling of trouble. It was a complication and a sharp cut like an accident at the end, which left me feeling uneasy.

I shuffled again, and this time I decided to do a five-card spread to get more detailed information to the where, who, and how of what all these negative cards are talking about. This was becoming serious, and this time I got:



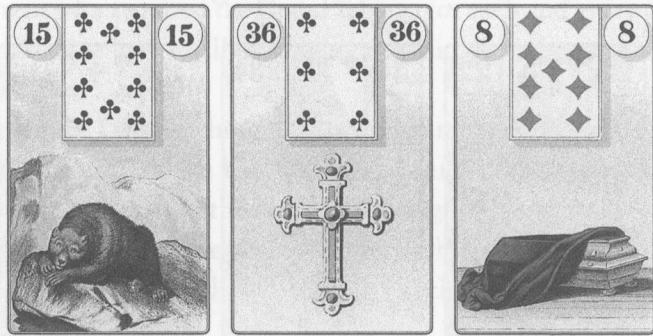
RIDER + WOMAN + FISH + SCYTHE + CROSS

Since I was the only female in the family, I knew this was about me (Woman). The cards showed focus on the shopping (Fish), and those last two cards were the same again. Hence while the woman is walking, shopping, or on the way (Rider + Woman + Fish), some accident or an abrupt mishap (Scythe) will cause pain and grief (Cross). (On a different note, the Rider

card and its association with the feet and legs gave me the idea to wear sneakers instead of heels, just in case.)

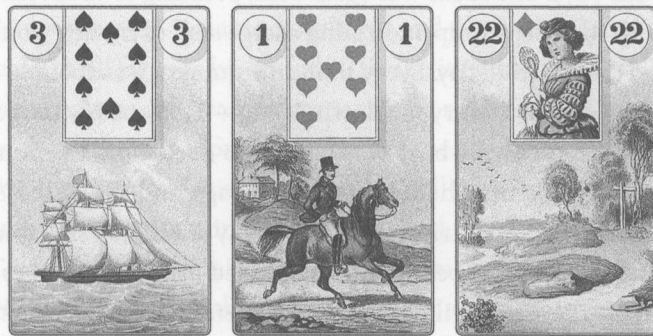
I then pulled cards for everyone in my family, each one of my boys and my husband. The boys' cards were all fine; only my husband got the Cross in his spread. This made sense to me: if something was to happen, it would fall on both of our shoulders.

The boys were really looking forward to shopping, and I had set that date a while ago; I didn't want to change our plans. By now, I had everyone around me looking at the cards—one of my boys took the cards, shuffled them, and asked the same question about our shopping day. He pulled:



BEAR + CROSS + COFFIN

He immediately said, "Mom, we are staying home; that is it." The warning was clear! My next step was to ask what we could do to change that outcome. I got:



SHIP + RIDER + CROSSROADS

This combination advised that I change the trip or use an alternate route (Crossroads)—something about movement, taking a new course, or a route that needed to be altered. So we all decided to not drive all the way to the outlet; instead, we intended to go to our local mall that is just twenty minutes away. My eldest boy wanted to pull just one card for advice, and he got the Crossroads again. I took the deck from him, gave it a good shuffle again, and asked him to select a card—and what do you know? The Crossroads came up again! The Lenormand has a way of repeating cards when it is trying to say something; I like that the cards are persistent. We decided to stay local.

Before we embarked on our full day of shopping, I asked my son to pull some cards for peace of mind. He asked, “How will our day of shopping turn out?”



WHIP + CROSSROADS + FISH + BEAR + SHIP

Taking one look at the cards, I said let's go. The Whip shows arguments, which is normal when shopping with boys. The focus was again Fish, pointing to the retail aspect of our outing, and ending with the Bear + Ship, indicating a large sum of money would be spent.

We remembered the Whip all day. Every time an argument was about to explode, someone would say “the Whip” and cool everyone down. Whip + Crossroads showed a few arguments about choices of certain items my boys were trying to decide on. Eventually, everyone was happy with their choices, coming home with lots of bags, and the Bear + Ship was right on. One thing to mention is that I did trip, but thanks to my sneakers I was able to avert a bad fall on cinder blocks. In conclusion, I believe the deck saved us from the Cross and the Scythe.

This is an example where free will is exercised. Often I have been able to avert small incidents like that, but not everything can be avoided. In other instances, the cards kept coming out the same no matter how I spun the question. No matter how I changed the situation, the outcome persisted. Free will does exist, but sometimes it can be limited. Exercise your free will whenever possible and create your best life wherever you can.

The Grand Tableau

The Grand Tableau, which translates from French literally as “the big picture” or “the large canvas,” is the most known and used technique for Lenormand. I grew up mostly using the Grand Tableau for readings. Later I evolved into small, short line spreads for quick inquiries and fast answers. For a couple of years I strayed from the Grand Tableau because clients wanted quick input on specific questions. They enjoyed knowing the immediate future and didn't care about distant events. The immediate satisfaction was a big hit, and, to be truthful, I rather delighted in this fast gratification process myself. For a period of time I only used the Grand Tableau on special cases, certain clients, and in my teaching sessions. My dear husband was the only querent who required the Grand Tableau for each and every one of his readings. He enjoys the impressive look of all thirty-six cards laid down because, as he says, “It looks grand and serious!”

Later, during the time I was teaching Lenormand to my Tarot friends, I realized the impact and fascination the Grand Tableau had for them. Friends, clients, and fellow readers alike started asking for it, thus closing the circle and bringing me back to my roots. My whole approach evolved to incorporate the Grand Tableau with many other small spreads and quick throws. Over the years, the process has matured to a rock-solid technique, which I use professionally with tremendous success.

The Grand Tableau displays a “big picture” snapshot of the querent's life and circumstances, like opening up and unfolding an interactive map with clickable areas of interest that offer more details. The substantial advantage of the Grand Tableau is that it can answer many questions in a single spread, look at many subjects, and draw all the connections between the subjects, areas, and settings. The Grand Tableau gives a comprehensive synopsis of the querent's life at that one moment in time. Because of its scope and depth, the Grand Tableau can present a meaningful puzzle, thrilling to solve and addictive in its subtlety.

As with all spreads, there are several approaches to reading the Grand Tableau; there are no absolute rules. As with many spreads, I always repeat this advice: “Choose the one that resonates with you the most and stick with it, as it will turn into a trusted, spot-on, reliable technique.” In divination, I believe in whatever is tested, tried, and effective.

Because the Grand Tableau contains so much information, the initial challenge is to find the guideposts within it and follow them to find your answers. Start with dissecting one focus or issue at a time; let the cards connect, flow, and speak together. Eventually the issues will connect and intersect, as they do in life, and you will see the Grand Tableau as an open map with clear directions. Identifying markers, directions, and goals will make the right path apparent.

My System

The following is a blend of what I had learned early on and what eventually evolved through many years of practice and readings. My system is direct and gets answers. I am sure after practicing and playing around with the spread, many will add their own spin and expand on it. I encourage everyone to experiment: own your spread, own your technique, and own your reading!

Time Frame

In my experience, the minimum time frame for readings using the Grand Tableau spread should be a month or three weeks at a minimum. My usual intention is for the Grand Tableau to show me the next three or six months. Doing a Grand Tableau spread once a week or more tends to repeat the information, making it redundant or unnecessarily muddying the message and complicating the solutions. At times, anxious clients have had me doing the Grand Tableau once a week, and I obliged because I understood their anxiety, but the readings tended to repeat themselves. Nevertheless, everyone should experiment with time frames; experience and discovery are what give the best results.

Tip: while shuffling for the Grand Tableau, put the intention of a time frame in your mind: "Show me the next three months."

Cast the Cards

Once all thirty-six cards are laid down like a canvas, the first thing to do is to start identifying the client's significator and any focus cards. These are the cards that the reading will center on, as we will see in the following steps. Remember that by activating these cards for particular topics or concerns, you cast the card for the reading to follow the way you might cast a particular actor in a role. When doing a reading about the querent's daughter, you might activate the Child card for her. But if the daughter is a young woman and the querent is male, the Woman might take her role in the reading. Let your intuition guide you toward the best possible card to play each important part.

The client's significator card will be the Man card or the Woman card, depending on the querent's gender. It is important to see that card's location—if it is on top or the bottom, how far from the edge it falls, what cards are adjacent, etc. Then look for the rest of the focus cards pertaining to specific topics within the reading—for example, find the Heart for relationship diagnosis; the Ring for marriage and partnership analysis; the Fox to look at work, job, or employment situations; and the House to assess the state of affairs of the client's entourage, family, or real estate, and so on.

Tip: if more than one person is involved in the reading, it is best if you assign the cards to the characters involved while shuffling; that way, you will know who's who in the story. For example, if your client is a married female, she gets the Woman card, her husband gets the Man card, the ex-boyfriend or special friend gets the Dog card, and so on.

The Division of Time

My Grand Tableau is divided into three vertical sections from left to right: the past, the present, and the future. These three sections are designated by the location of the querent's significator. What falls to the left of the significator is the past, and what falls on its right is the future, and what falls on the same axis as the querent is the present. My Grand Tableau method is the same for female and male clients. It is also the same no matter what direction the man or woman depicted on the actual significator card is facing.

I use the spaces between cards as time signs, representing time periods. This is a personal technique I acquired while very young when trying to determine the approximate timing of an event or situation. A single time sign can be an hour, a day, a week, a month, or a year; two time signs can be two hours, two days, two weeks, two months, or two years. Eventually I learned the correlation between the past and the future and linked them together to gauge a better timing of what the Grand Tableau reveals.

For example, let's say I see the Bouquet two spaces to the right of the significator card; then I will tell my querent there is a happy event or joyful moment that will be happening within two days, two weeks, or two months, depending on the initial time frame intended for that specific Grand Tableau.

For instance, if the Man card is followed by three cards and then the Rider card (making the Rider card the fourth card), I would then say that a message or a new encounter will arrive in the future in about three or four time signs (a time sign being an hour, a day, a month, or a year). In the Grand Tableau it is most likely three or four days, weeks, or months, depending on how long the initial intent of the spread.

To determine the time sign:

- find the significator card and the card that is denoting an event happening in the future
- count the number of empty spaces between cards from the significator to the event card; that number is your approximate time sign, plus or minus one
- this also applies when you examine the past to the left of the significator

Let's say you see a situation the client has been through; you can measure the time approximately by saying, "I see that you have been through [...] either two or three days/weeks/

months ago.” The time frame indicated will give you the set time signs. If it describes days, then the Grand Tableau is talking of days, and that duration will carry forward; the future cards will represent days, not months. If the time frame was weeks, the same would go for the future. For instance, if the querent said, “Oh, this happened two weeks ago,” then that means the time signs should be deciphered as weeks, not days or months, throughout the tableau. Looking at the past and trying to gauge the time will help unlock the time for the future.

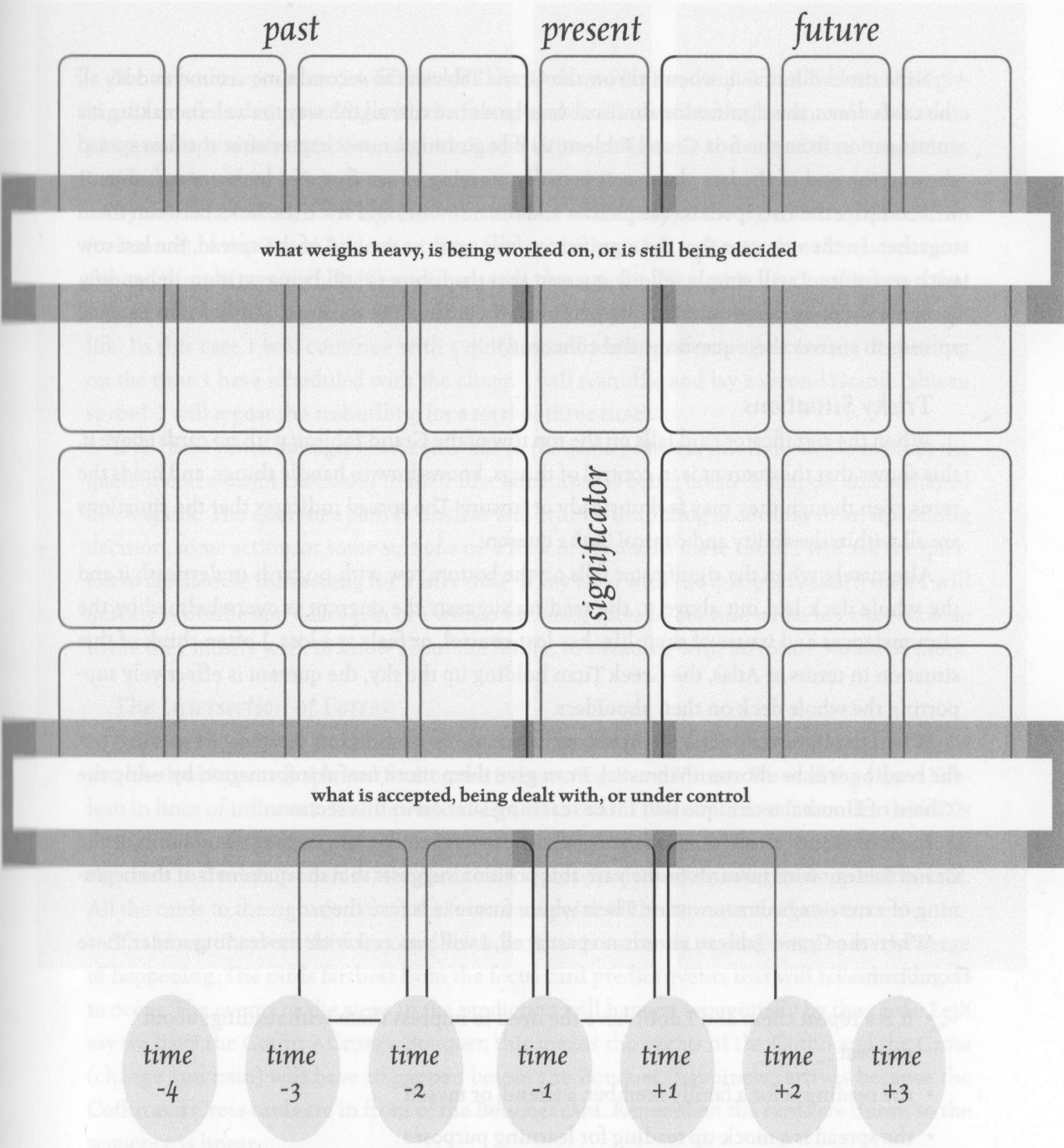
Regrettably, not all time signs are that easy to figure out; occasionally, the best way to estimate the time the Grand Tableau is expressing is by deciding upon a time frame before the reading begins. When the time you have preselected is three weeks, then more than likely the time signs will indicate weeks or days, not months, and when the intended time frame is three months, the period being covered in the tableau would be weeks or months. See the illustration on the next page for a visual interpretation of this.

The Horizon of Awareness

I also divide the Grand Tableau into horizontal bands above and below the significator card. The cards at the top of the spread, above the card, reveal what occupies the querent’s mind, what weighs heavy, what’s being worked on, and what is still being decided on or is in the works. The cards below the significator indicate what is accepted, what is being dealt with, and what is under control.

Looking at the significator card in its horizontal position and location will indicate how far the client is from ending a life chapter. Locate the person card and determine how far from either edge of the Grand Tableau it has fallen; if it is to the far right, close to the last row, it indicates that the client is close to ending a life chapter because all the cards in the spread are mostly showing the past/current journey, with little future cards ahead on the right of the significator card. On the other hand, if that significator card fell in the second row from the left, all the way at the beginning of the Grand Tableau, this indicates that the client is still at the beginning or recently began a new chapter or a new phase in life.

Now, if the significator ends up on the last row to the right, where there are no future cards, this heralds a big change in the querent’s life in which the querent stands on a threshold and (depending their choice) the future will then open up. This is where free will plays a big part and appears in the cards. When this happens, I will still give a quick reading of the Grand Tableau, but nothing too detailed. I usually snap a picture of the spread with my phone’s camera so I can look back at it later, then I throw another Grand Tableau.



THE GRAND TABLEAU WITH HORIZON OF AWARENESS,
DIVISION OF TIME, AND TIME SIGNS

Nine times out of ten, when I throw the Grand Tableau the second time around and lay all the cards down, the significator almost always lands in a row all the way to the left, making it a continuation from the first Grand Tableau, as if beginning a new chapter after the first spread showed the end of the last chapter. It is really amazing to see that. If I have enough time, I will compare the two spreads (the picture and the new one) and trace the links between them together. In the rare case that the significator falls again at the end of the spread, the last row with no future, I will simply tell my querent that the future is still being written, depending on some action or decision that is happening in their life at the moment. (I will resort to small spreads to answer their questions and concerns.)

Tricky Situations

When the significator card falls on the top row of the Grand Tableau with no cards above it, this shows that the querent is in control of things, knows how to handle things, and holds the reins even though they may feel unsteady or unsure. The spread indicates that the situations are all within the ability and control of the querent.

Alternately, when the significator falls on the bottom row with no cards underneath it and the whole deck laid out above it, the reading suggests the querent is overwhelmed by the circumstances and issues of their life, has lost control, or feels at a loss. I often think of this situation in terms of Atlas, the Greek Titan holding up the sky; the querent is effectively supporting the whole deck on their shoulders.

When the significator falls in those two locations, I will still carry on with the reading, but the reading will be shorter than usual. I can give them more useful information by using the "Chain of Houses" technique that I'll be teaching later on in this section.

In the instance that the significator falls all the way to the left, in the first column of the Grand Tableau with no cards in the past, this position suggests that the querent is at the beginning of a new stage or a new start. Their whole future is before them.

When the Grand Tableau reveals no past at all, I will proceed with the reading under these conditions:

- it is a repeat client and I don't have the need to impress them with readings about the past
- the reading is for a family member, a friend, or myself
- the spread is a mock-up reading for learning purposes
- my gut and intuition give me the go-ahead

For any other situation, I will reshuffle the cards and lay a second Grand Tableau after giving the querent a mini reading with the first spread. I still consider the first spread valid, take a picture of it, and refer to it if needed when and if time permits. In the case of time constraints, I will simply redo the spread.

By the same token, if the significator card falls all the way to the right in the last column (column 8) of the Grand Tableau with no future, this position indicates that the querent is at the end of a chapter in their life and things are about to flip. Sometimes it can also mean that the querent is stuck in past issues, unable to move forward, or that the past hinders the client's life. In this case I will continue with a quick, small reading of some past issues, depending on the time I have scheduled with the client. I will reshuffle and lay a second Grand Tableau spread. I will repeat the reshuffling for a total of three times.

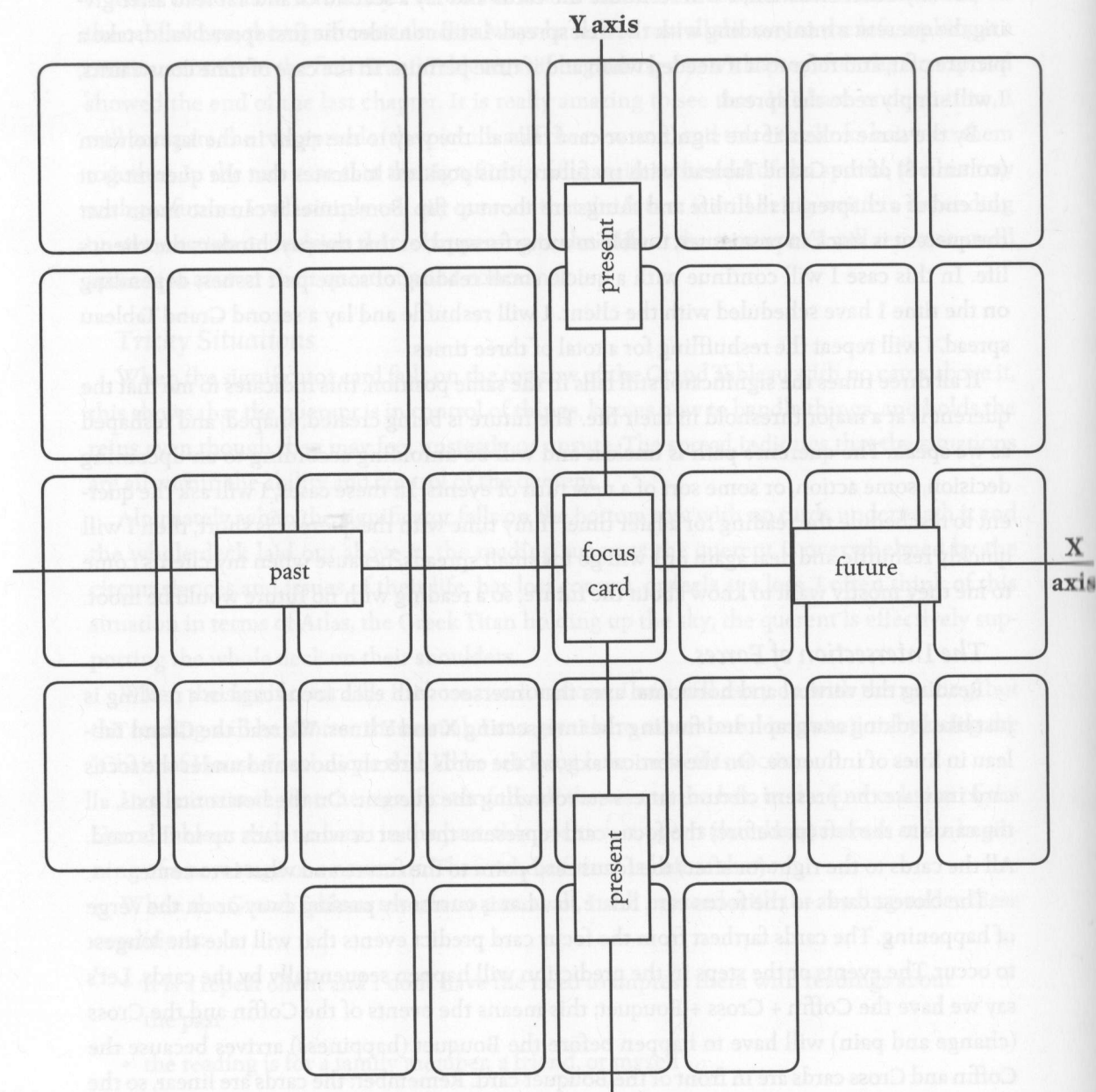
If all three times the significator still falls in the same position, this indicates to me that the querent is at a major threshold in their life. The future is being created, shaped, and reshaped as we speak. The querent's path is unclear and will be unfolding according to an upcoming decision, some action, or some sort of a new turn of events. In these cases, I will ask the querent to reschedule the reading for a later time. If my time with the querent is short, then I will quickly reshuffle and deal again or I will go for small spreads, because when my clients come to me they mostly want to know about the future, so a reading with no future would be moot.

The Intersection of Forces

Reading the vertical and horizontal axes that intersect with each focus card in a reading is just like looking at a graph and finding the intersecting X and Y lines. We read the Grand Tableau in lines of influence. On the vertical axis, all the cards directly above and under the focus card indicate the present circumstances surrounding the querent. On the horizontal axis, all the cards to the left (or before) the focus card represent the past or what leads up to this card. All the cards to the right (or after) the focus card point to the future and what is to come.

The closest cards to the focus card relate to what is currently passing away or on the verge of happening. The cards farthest from the focus card predict events that will take the longest to occur. The events or the steps in the prediction will happen sequentially by the cards. Let's say we have the Coffin + Cross + Bouquet; this means the events of the Coffin and the Cross (change and pain) will have to happen before the Bouquet (happiness) arrives because the Coffin and Cross cards are in front of the Bouquet card. Remember: the cards are linear, so the sequence is linear.

This is one of the most important steps in reading the Grand Tableau; sometimes doing just that will suffice. Every so often when I've read for family, friends, or myself, I will just look at



THE INTERSECTION OF FORCES

the intersection and that would be it—I will have received my answer. So let me break this process down a bit more. You have all thirty-six cards down; now what?

- First locate the significator/focus card—either the Man or the Woman card, depending who the reading is for (if the reading is for me, I would look for the Woman card).
- Then, using the Answer Line reading technique, read the horizontal axis the significator is in. That is the X line/axis.
- Start with the focus card and look at its neighbors. The cards touching it directly are affecting the present situation the most. All the cards on the left side, before the focus card, are read as the past. All the cards on the right side, after the focus card, are read as the future and things to come. It is read in linear, sequential order.
- Now locate the vertical axis that intersects with the X line through the focus card. That is the Y line/axis. The Y axis is read as the present as a whole; this is what the querent faces at the moment.
- Read the vertical line (the Y axis) starting with the focus card and radiating outward. The cards above it reveal what occupies the querent's mind; the closer the card is to the querent, the more pressing the issue or concern. The cards under the querent's card are what they have under control or can deal with and have a handle on.

That is it! The same technique applies to any other significator or focus card for a particular topic within the reading. For example, when reading about a relationship, you find the Heart card and you read the X and Y lines that intersect through it; if you want to know about the querent's husband, you look for the Man card and read the X and Y lines that intersect through it. If you want to see what's going on with the family business, locate the Fish card and read the X and Y lines that intersect through it. Any significator or focus card will reveal its past and future and the relevant concerns and undercurrents in the intersection of the X and Y lines passing through it. Simply read them using the individual techniques explained at the beginning of part 3. The illustration on the facing page shows an example intersection of forces.

The Knighting Technique

The knighting technique elicits additional detail and background about a given card by pairing and combining it with cards positioned at a slight angle. Effectively, you move outward from a chosen card in the same manner the knight on the chessboard moves. This move copies the knight's L-shaped jump in all perpendicular directions: two spaces plus one or one

space plus two. The original card is then combined with the “knighted” card to extract more details.

By pairing the knighted card with the original card (the starting point for which you sought more information), more specifics can be squeezed from murky cards in the Grand Tableau. Sometimes I enjoy playing around with this technique after I am done with my reading to expand upon subjects and themes that already have been covered in the initial reading. See the illustrations in the example reading below for more clarification.

The Lenormand Houses

In Lenormand, the positions of the Grand Tableau are referred to as houses. The houses are defined by the cards arranged numerically from one to thirty-six. Each house rules a certain subject, or mode, and these correspondences/meanings relate directly to the card native to the house and their meanings.

To map the houses, imagine a Grand Tableau spread in order: the first card is the Rider, the second card the Clover, the third card is the Ship, and so on, with the last card being the Cross. Those numerical positions are house numbers; The Rider occupies house 1, the Clover occupies house 2, the Ship would be in house 3, and in the thirty-sixth house would be the Cross.

The houses and their numbers never change, and their attributes mirror the meanings of their native cards. For example, the first house (like the Rider, its native card) concerns things that are moving, news, and information. The second house reveals luck and opportunities (like the Clover), and so on, giving the last house a sense of hardship, challenges, and difficulties (Cross). See the illustration on the opposite page and also appendix E for a full overview of the houses and their attributes.

Reading with the houses blends the meanings of a card and the house that it occupies, a method similar to combining the two cards. The house number gives the card that lands on it a certain vibration, defining it a bit more. Houses are never read together; a house is only read with the card that lands on it. The relation between the card and the house/position it occupies is actually a bit more static than a combination; it's more like a situation or a state. Houses add extra information to the main reading.

For example, the Ship card (#3) means travel or change, and the third house in the Grand Tableau concerns movement and change. Any card that occupies the third house will be influenced by the idea of movement and change. If the Fox card lands in the third house, then the card indicates a job situation (Fox) that is changing (Ship). So in a Grand Tableau, each house defines the environment of the card that appears in it. Again, it's helpful to think of the cards

HOUSE 1 Rider	HOUSE 2 Clover	HOUSE 3 Ship	HOUSE 4 House	HOUSE 5 Tree	HOUSE 6 Clouds	HOUSE 7 Snake	HOUSE 8 Coffin
HOUSE 9 Bouquet	HOUSE 10 Scythe	HOUSE 11 Whip	HOUSE 12 Birds	HOUSE 13 Child	HOUSE 14 Fox	HOUSE 15 Bear	HOUSE 16 Stars
HOUSE 17 Stork	HOUSE 18 Dog	HOUSE 19 Tower	HOUSE 20 Garden	HOUSE 21 Mountain	HOUSE 22 Crossroads	HOUSE 23 Mice	HOUSE 24 Heart
HOUSE 25 Ring	HOUSE 26 Book	HOUSE 27 Letter	HOUSE 28 Man	HOUSE 29 Woman	HOUSE 30 Lilies	HOUSE 31 Sun	HOUSE 32 Moon
		HOUSE 33 Key	HOUSE 34 Fish	HOUSE 35 Anchor	HOUSE 36 Cross		

HOUSES

as actors cast in a role (either by you or by chance); the houses provide a set upon which a certain card plays its part in the reading.

When a card falls in its own position, or in its own house, the native position emphasizes that card as if highlighting it, emphasizing and amplifying its meaning. For example, the Snake card landing in its native house (the seventh house) warns of a grave problem or a dangerous foe hidden in your surroundings.

Likewise, when two cards copy or mirror each other by occupying each other's houses, the positions emphasize the combination of those cards and stress the matter the cards are dealing with. For example, if the Ring card was in the seventh house (Snake) and the Snake card was in the twenty-fifth house (Ring), the two cards speak to major trouble in the marriage or a crucial hindrance in the contract.

Tips:

- You don't have to have a question to use a Grand Tableau; in fact, it is sometimes better *not* to have a question, as everything will be shown and answered. My preference is to go at it without any questions.
- If you do have a concern or a question, you don't need to read the whole tableau; just the cards that are around the focus card and the lines/axes that cross it should be enough.

The Chain of Houses

This method adds tremendous depth and power to a Grand Tableau reading. It plumbs the details of a situation and gives a sequence of future events in others. This is an advanced technique, and it is best to tackle it after being very comfortable with the cards, their meanings, and their combinations. If you are not yet at that point, it's better come back to it at a later time—there's no need to rush.

This technique is an extra step that can provide additional information, clarification, and confirmation of the initial reading. As with the previous techniques, it is optional. I like it because it provides extra oomph in my readings.

Begin by determining the start of the chain, which will be the card you need more information on. After identifying the house it occupies, follow a chain of symbols by locating the corresponding card of that house and the house corresponding to the card placed there. This process repeats until you are back to the card you started with. This sounds more complicated than it is, so let me break the process down.

The Chain of Houses works by connecting the cards to their houses and the houses to their cards in an unbroken line of symbols that will reveal incredible detail about a given situation.

- First, identify the significator card—the card you need more clarification on—and identify the house it occupies (refer to the numbered tableau on page 313).
- Locate the card native to that house (that shares its number) and find it in the Grand Tableau.
- Interpret the connection and resonance between the symbols of those two cards.
- Next, identify the house number of the card you've just located and locate the native card for that house (i.e., the card sharing that house's number).
- Build upon the information you've already discovered by adding these successive symbols (in cards and houses) to the overall reading.
- Repeat this process—going card to house, house to card—until you arrive back at the original significator.

Following the Chain of Houses will lead you around the entire scope of the Grand Tableau and reveal subtle details that might not emerge from a straightforward reading. This technique is also useful when there aren't enough future cards in the line readings.

For example, if you are trying to identify the person symbolized by the Dog next to the significator and the cards don't reveal enough, simply follow the Chain of Houses to get your answer. Starting with the location of the Dog, determine the identity of the Dog or shed more light by painting a descriptive picture of the card in question.

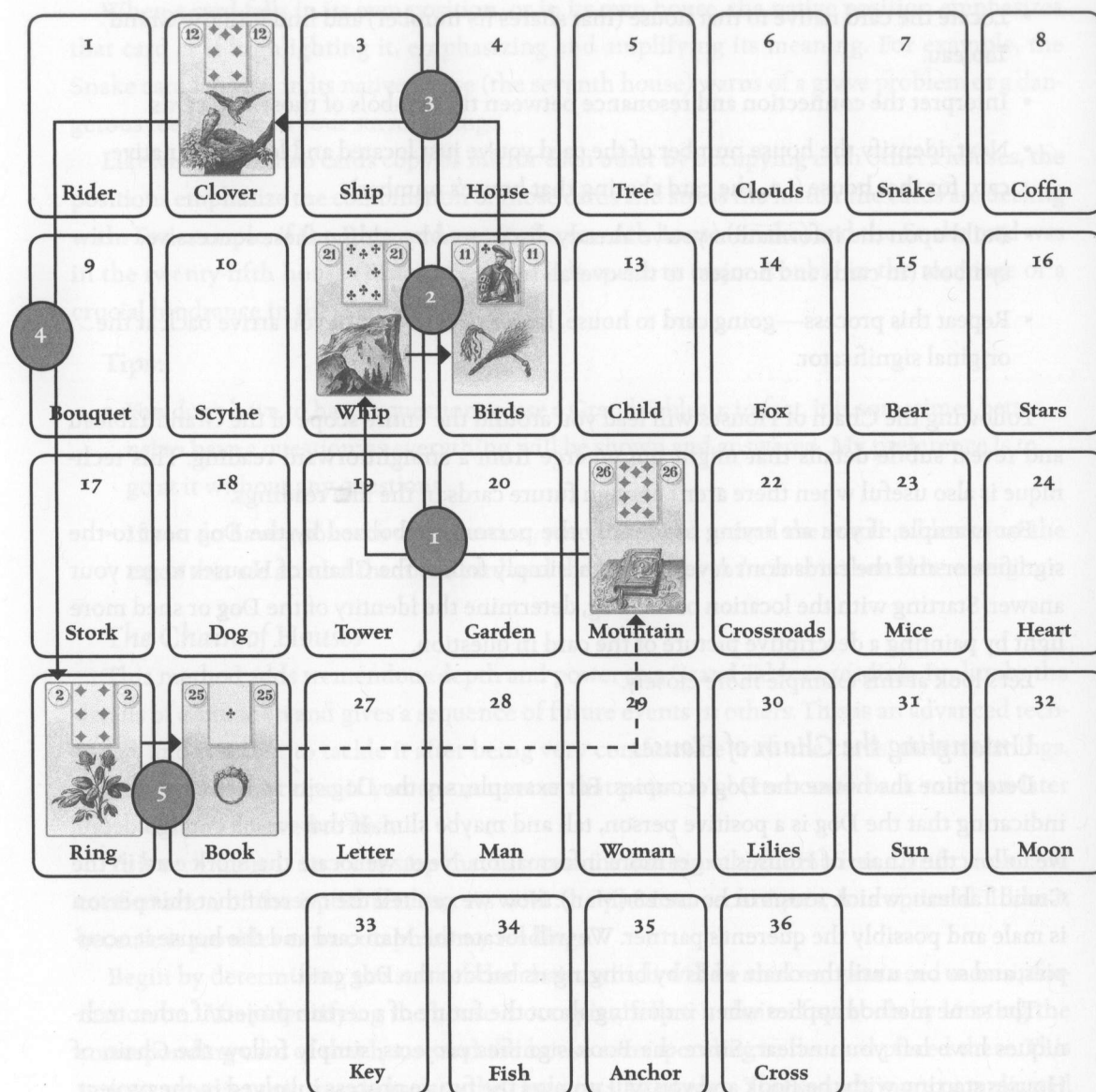
Let's look at this example more closely.

Untangling the Chain of Houses

Determine the house the Dog occupies. For example, say the Dog sits in house 17 (Stork), indicating that the Dog is a positive person, tall and maybe slim. If that wasn't enough detail, we follow the Chain of Houses to get more information. Next, we locate the Stork card in the Grand Tableau, which roosts in house 28 (Man). Now we can tell the querent that this person is male and possibly the querent's partner. We will locate the Man card and the house it occupies, and so on, until the chain ends by bringing us back to the Dog card.

The same method applies when inquiring about the future of a certain project if other techniques have left you unclear. Since the Book signifies projects, simply follow the Chain of Houses starting with the Book and you will unravel the future process involved in the project.

In our example (which is illustrated on the following page), if the Book in house 21 (Mountain), then there is a challenge or an obstacle for that project.



UNTANGLING THE CHAIN OF HOUSES

1. We then locate the Mountain card in house 11 (Whip), which indicates arguments or some work that needs to be repeated or revisited about this project.
2. Next, we find the Whip card in the twelfth house (Birds), which predicts negotiation will follow the debate or argument.
3. We locate the Birds card in the second house (Clover), so we can tell that the negotiation will be followed by a lucky turn of events.
4. Hunting for the Clover, we find it in house 25 (Ring), which seems to seal the deal.
5. The Ring appears in the house of the Book, thus ending the chain.

By following the Chain of Houses, we can see how the sequence of events for that project will play out all the way from the current standstill to the negotiation and ending with the completion of this project, heralded by the Ring.

Most of the time, the intersection technique will give you the future of the project just by reading the cards in the lines that intersect the focus card and the houses they land on. Using the Chain of Houses in tandem confirms and deepens the prediction. At other times when the cards in the horizontal line are too neutral or the significator has no future cards, the Chain of Houses can untangle your readings.

Crowning

Sometimes when a reader wants a little extra specificity about a large question involving many smaller issues, I use a technique I developed that I call “crowning,” which permits a high degree of interactivity between reader and client. I use this technique when I don’t have time to follow the full Chain of Houses and I want to do a quick Grand Tableau with a little extra pizzazz. Crowning can expand the specifics of certain key areas in much less time.

I lay the Grand Tableau as normal all the way down to the thirty-second card, but then I keep the final four cards to the side, unrevealed. After I read the entire tableau for the question, I place the four last cards in front of the querent facedown. I ask them to choose four positions in the spread that signify four issues for which they want further clarification. I then have them “crown” those four positions in the Grand Tableau with the last four cards.

Next, I turn over each crown and read it in combination with the card below and the house it occupies (see page 320). This can create a powerful sandwich of meaning that expands on the larger message of the Grand Tableau, and it also confirms minor details that can be of major concern with the nuts-and-bolts problems involved.

For example, I did a swift Grand Tableau for Damon, a client who was preparing to attend a conference and wanted a general overview, but I sensed that he wanted nitty-gritty specifics about the challenges involved. The reading indicated tremendous opportunities, positive connections, and a passionate reaction from his fans. After we'd gone through the thirty-two upper cards, I asked him what areas he wanted to know more about. He chose:

- Sun:** for his fame/success at the conference
- Garden:** for the conference and networking opportunities
- Ship:** for travel to and from the event

Key: for the success of the conference and the necessary solutions

Then I had him place his last four cards randomly, without turning them over, on these areas. The results were flabbergasting! The crowning cards echoed everything in the spread and added the kind of granular details that set his mind at ease and gave him a plan of action for the big event.

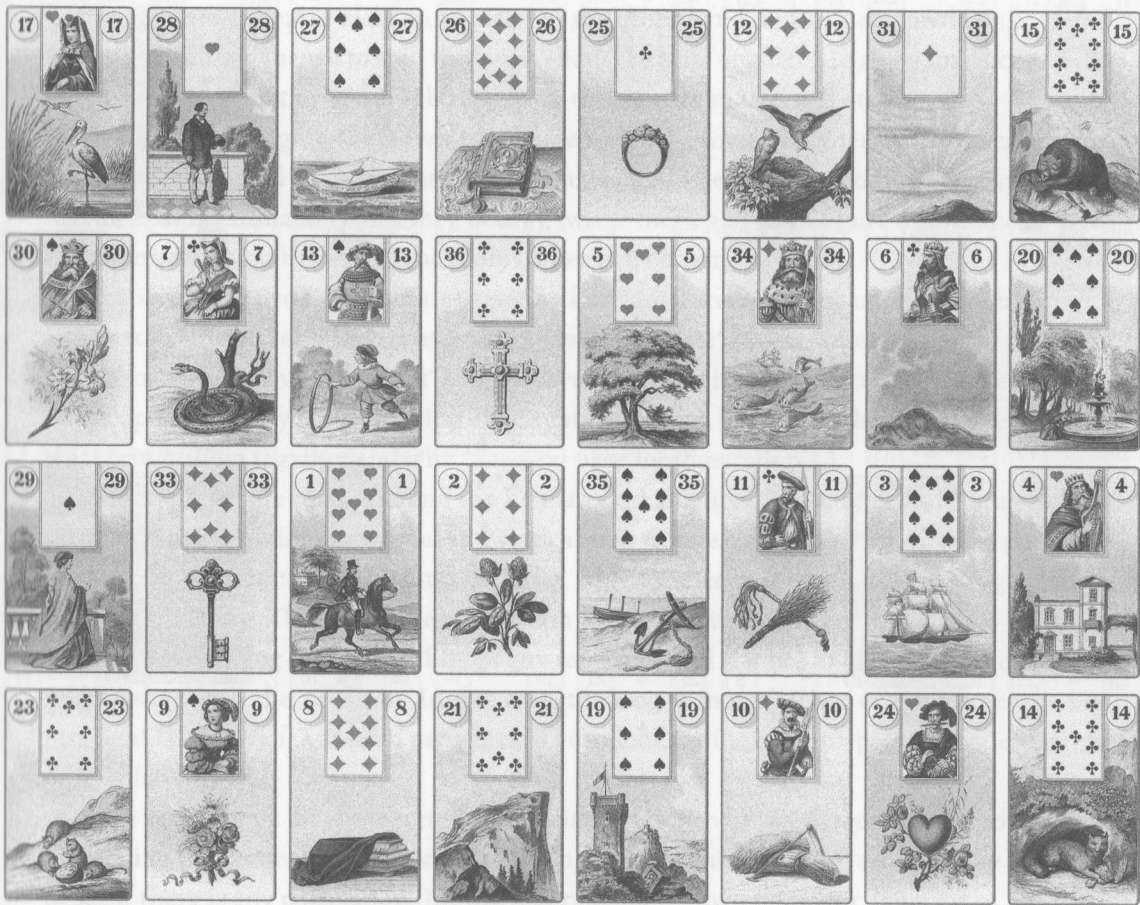
The Sun was crowned by the Stars: his success would be explosive and widespread. And since the card and its crown fell in the house of the Snake, the inevitable envy would be overshadowed by the two celestial bodies.

The Garden was crowned by the Crossroads: multiple types and groups of fans clamoring for his work and attention, and/or multiple venues and multiple projects benefiting from his attendance, doubling opportunity. The Garden and its crown fell in the house of the Stars, so networking and expansion would be exponential.

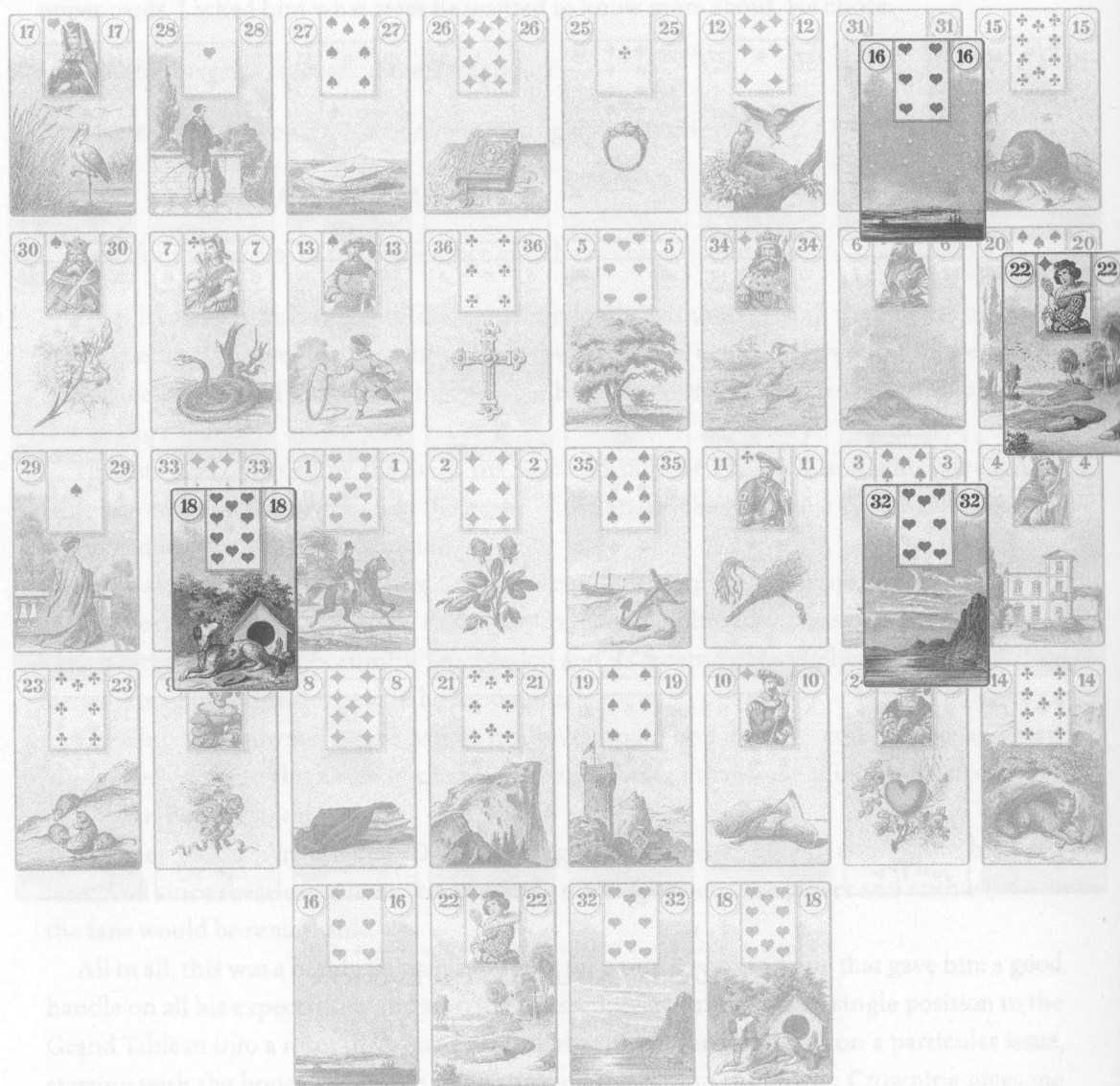
The Ship was crowned by the Moon: his travel would be a dream—comfortable and easy. Since these came in the house of the Mice, they indicated that some minor nuisance would be present but manageable.

The Key was crowned by the Dog, meaning that the success would come from his loyal fans. And since these cards fell in the house of the Dog to boot, the power and enthusiasm of the fans would be remarkable.

All in all, this was a highly favorable outlook for a conference and one that gave him a good handle on all his expectations and worries. In essence, crowning turns a single position in the Grand Tableau into a mini three-card reading that offers vertical depth on a particular issue, starting with the house and building up through the card to the crown. Crowning gives me the kind of detail I pull from the Chain of Houses but in a tenth of the time.



THE GRAND TABLEAU FOR DAMON



CROWNING CARDS FOR DAMON

The Meeting Points Method

This is a technique I employ when faced with a relationship question in which the cards seem to be hinting at a complication or secrets. This technique can only be used when the cards are diagonal to each other. In the Grand Tableau, diagonals indicate indirect influences.

If the two significators are in line with each other, either horizontally or vertically, the connection between them is clear and overt. On the other hand, indirect diagonal connections offer the reading a chance to spill the beans about the state of affairs. In these instances, I will look at the points in the Grand Tableau where these cards “meet” each other.

Essentially, I imagine these two people meeting in a room together but not facing each other. To understand the relationship between them, I need to figure out what brings them together. In Lenormand terms, they occupy two corners, and I can figure out what else is in the room with them by finding the room’s other two corners.

Identifying the two significators, I extend a horizontal and a vertical axis from each of them and look for the places where those axes intersect to create the two other corners of an imaginary room. Those “meeting point” corners give me a peek inside the situation between those two people. They may not be looking directly at each other, but those other two corners reveal what brings them together and why. (See next page for illustration 1.)

In this spread, the Man card and the Woman card are directly diagonal, indicating a close relationship. Extending horizontal and vertical axes from each reveals two meeting points in this very small room: the Snake and the Ring, which indicate trouble in the marriage related to lies and betrayal. That being the case, I want to see if a third party is involved.

I look for the Dog card to see if it has any relevance and if it has an indirect (i.e., diagonal) relationship with the situation. In this case, the Dog is in the House of the Mountain: big problem! The relevance of third party means I can look for the meeting points that define this other relationship.

Once again, I look for the meeting points that connect these two diagonally placed cards by identifying the corners. First I connect the Dog to the querent card (in our case, the Woman) to see if there is any correlation. Failing that possibility, I would then connect it to her partner’s signifier (the Man). I am trying to determine the likelihood of a third-party involvement and the person involved with that third party.

In illustration 2, we can see that the Woman and the Dog cards share their “meeting points” at the Bouquet and the Book. Bingo! The room being shared is a romantic one and involves a beautiful, secret liaison between my client and that third party.

If I want to dig deeper for the client, I can add the houses to reveal further specifics to give the reading extra oomph. I use this technique on any significator/focus card to gauge its import and impact on the querent, especially those that might not be clear at first glance.

When you're trying to figure out the vibe between two people, the Meeting Points technique can reveal incredible detail about any relationship.

Steps for Reading a Grand Tableau

I start by centering myself, taking deep breaths and connecting myself to all that is around me. Then I focus on the person this reading is meant for.

Then I choose my deck. Usually for the Grand Tableau I like to use a simple deck so the symbols pop out easily and there is no clutter or confusion. When the deck is too busy it will deter the reading, as the symbols will not be easy to pick up quickly.

I start shuffling while concentrating on the querent and/or an issue or a question.

- When a second or a third party is involved, then I mentally assign them to specific cards. For example, let's say the querent's significator is the Man card; his wife will be the Woman card, and his mistress will be the Dog card. (I generally use the Dog card for a third party because I prefer to keep the other cards with strong negative and positive attributes in the deck to help with the reading; in a case where there is a fourth player, I will use the Rider card to cast him or her.) In most instances I just focus on the client.
- I make sure I put a time limit on the reading—a month, three months, six months, or twelve months. It is always important to set a time limit with the Grand Tableau, as sometimes it tends to stretch out across a vast period of time.
- The bottom four cards of the Grand Tableau will usually provide a powerful message, so I decide what I want the last four cards to represent—what kind of advice or information the querent seeks, a last word or an important message. If you don't assign an intention to them, always read them as the last line of the reading—rather like the last scene in a movie that wraps things up.
- All my activating of specific cards and any decision of intent occurs during the shuffling process—*before* the cards are dealt.

After a good shuffle and after I feel the cards and I am ready, I cut the cards and proceed to lay them down faceup in four rows of eight cards, leaving the last four cards to land in the bottom middle. This version of laying out the Grand Tableau is called the 8 x 4 + 4 spread. It is my preferred spread because it has been fully ingrained in my brain. This layout is my trusted

and reliable spread; it works, it gives me great results, and I get wonderful feedback with it, so I've stuck with it. I also enjoy having the last four cards on the bottom as the finale.

While laying down the cards, I take notice of the first three or four cards, as they usually indicate the energy, the feel, the subject, or the dynamic of the reading. They are my own little quirk. With those cards, sometimes I can tell if it's going to be a positive reading, a heavy reading, or a not-so-happy reading. These cards are my little peephole into the bigger story.

First, I spot the significator: the Man card if the querent is male, or the Woman card if the querent is female. Then I define the location of the card—if it is on top or the bottom, in the beginning or the end. The position gives extra clues to the circumstances in the querent's life (see the Division of Time and the Horizon of Awareness sections for more about this).

Then I read the two lines that intersect at the significator; everything to the left of the card is past, everything to the right of it is the future and what is to come. On top of the significator card is what the querent is worried about, thinking about, or what is weighing heavy on their mind. On the bottom of the significator is what is being taken care of, under control, or accepted.

Next, I "box" the client's significator and read the cards that directly touch it in a 3 x 3 fashion (see the Box Spread earlier in part 3). At this point, I may use the Meeting Points method to see where the querent "meets" the main issues of the reading.

I look for the negative cards to see how far or how close they are to the significator and how strong or immediate their influence is. I also look to see if they are in a cluster because this will indicate an important issue to focus on. Let us say they are all clustered around the house; in that case, I will stress the importance and urgency of the difficulties in the querent's family that need addressing.

Next, I proceed to find the other significant focus cards: e.g., the House card for real estate, home, or family; the Ring card for marriage or contracts; the Heart card for relationships; the Dog card for a friend or a pet; the Tree card for health; the Bear card for the financial situation; the Book card for projects; the Fox card for the job and employment situation; the Fish card for consulting, business, or personal enterprises; the Tower for corporations, legal matters, schools or universities; and so on.

Each of the focus cards that are relevant to the client are processed in the same fashion as the significator. That requires going through all the steps as above, using the Intersection of the Forces technique as well as the Box Spread.

When I am done with this part, I ask if there is an area the querent would like to know about that I missed. I then proceed to locate the card that most signifies that area and read about or around it in the same fashion—first the intersections, and then the box.

If, after all this reading, something remains unclear or uncertain, or if I need additional reassurance, then I will use the Chain of Houses technique to combine the cards and the houses where they have landed. This technique will shed more light on the reading and give a sequential prediction, as if we were looking at an old movie reel and seeing the events unfolding frame after frame (see the previous section on the Chain of Houses for more details).

As I'm wrapping up, I take a deep look at the last four cards. They are the conclusion of the reading, the last words from the deck. Sometimes I offer them as advice for the client if that intention was put forth during the initial shuffling stage. Those final four cards are what you end the reading with—the final message from that tableau.

The last two steps are done on rare occasions—only if something is still nagging me:

- I might take a look at the cards located in four corners of the Grand Tableau layout (in the 1, 8, 25, and 32 positions) for an extra insight. Read together as a line, they usually can button up the reading.
- Next, I go on to the knighting technique. It is seldom that I reach this stage because normally all questions and inquiries should have been answered within the previous steps. Occasionally someone will still need an extra affirmation, which is when this technique comes in handy.

This may look like too much to take in at once, but once you start, you will see how it unfolds petal by petal. Follow my illustrated example below for all the steps and for more clarification of all the ins and outs of the Grand Tableau.

The Grand Tableau in Action

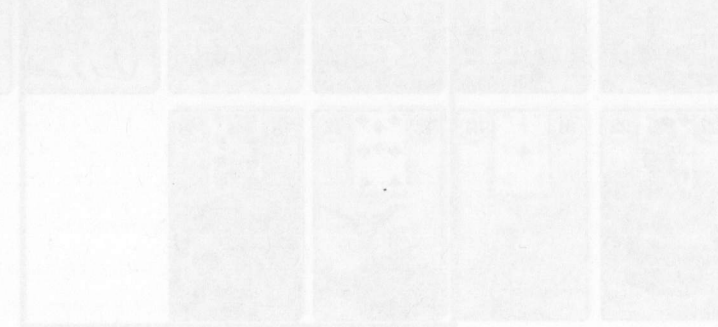
This Grand Tableau is a reading I gave for Diane, one of my clients.

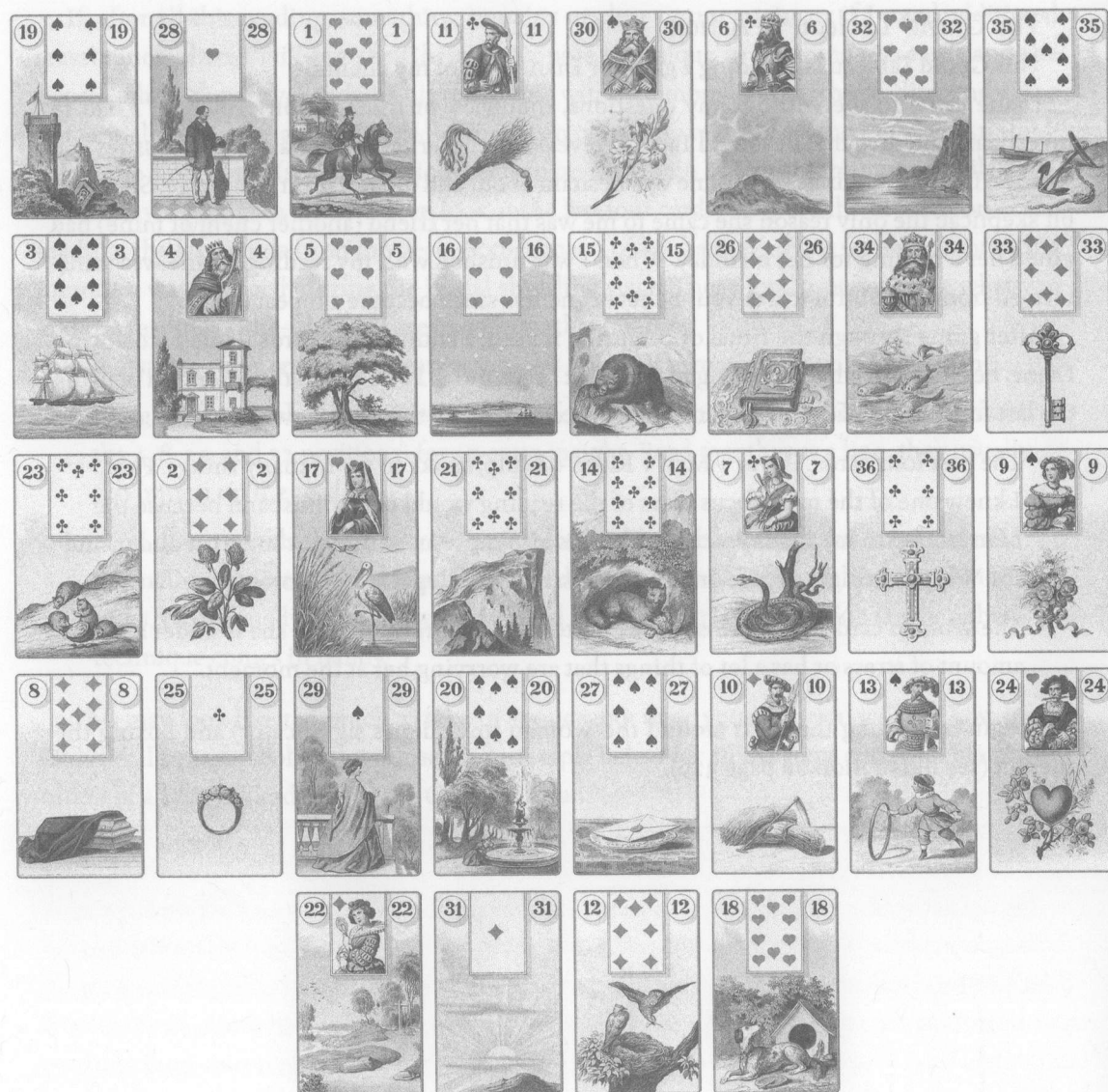
Diane came to me without any questions, inquiries, or information provided; I had to investigate and dive in. The Grand Tableau revealed her marital dilemma and other issues and worries, including things that Diane was hesitant about and did not want to divulge. She was a bit skeptical; the only reason she came to me was that her friend (another client of mine) had gifted her a reading for her birthday. When I was finished with my reading, Diane was transformed from a doubtful to a devout believer and has since become a repeat client.

After going through the ritual of centering myself, I shuffled the cards while focusing on Diane, her life, and what is coming for the next six months; I also put in the intention of using the last four cards as advice for her. I then proceeded to lay the cards down.

- The first four cards, Tower + Man + Rider + Whip, spoke to me of many things. First, I knew one of the main focus areas of the reading would be her husband because the Man landed in my first four cards. There is also movement brought in by the Rider, and the Whip is bringing strife or dispute, possibly with legal issues (Tower).
- The Woman card appears close to the bottom, which indicates that she is under a fair amount of stress or has a lot of things that are worrying her at the moment.

I begin by reading the cards around the Woman (my client's significator) and boxing the querent (see illustration on page 329).





.....
 GRAND TABLEAU FOR DIANE



.....
 BOXING THE QUERENT

Using the Box Spread, we find:

Clover + Stork + Mountain: Diane is thinking of a move or an opportunity to change something, but there is a block or a hurdle

Ring + Woman + Garden: she is married or in a committed relationship; she also enjoys her social life

Crossroads + Sun: having the Crossroads so near to the significator usually alludes to an affair, but I wanted to get more proof before I said anything; the Crossroads with the Sun looks like her happy place or an optimistic choice

Because of the last few cards, I decided to read the cards in a diamond shape around the Woman card to make sure of my initial notion.

Stork + Ring + Crossroads + Garden + Stork: a change in the commitment, a division or an extra social affair are possible factors

Clover + Ring: Diane had a good, positive marriage in the past

Stork + Woman + Crossroads: right now she is thinking of moving or changing a situation but is still undecided

Mountain + Garden + Sun: there will be a weight of some social hindrance or interference, but she will overcome it

As an added confirmation, I used the Meeting Points technique to connect Diane with the Dog in its role as the third person significator. This helps to shed light on their relationship, so that I can get a more complete picture before I mention anything to her.

The corner cards connecting the Woman (Diane) and the Dog (the unknown third party) are the Crossroads (a choice or a double/duplicity) and the Scythe (suddenness or danger). This mysterious Dog is obviously an important player with influence over a serious risk or a harsh decision in her life.

Reading the two intersecting lines for the significator card, we find:

Rider + Tree + Stork: at the moment there is someone new, some movement, or a new situation causing Diane to have serious thoughts about changing her life and possible uprooting

Woman + Crossroads: she knows she needs to make a decision

Coffin + Ring: recently there has been trouble in her marriage, a stale or a stagnant relationship, and there were possibly attempts at reviving it

Garden + Letter + Scythe + Child + Heart: in three or four months the news of the separation will be public, which will give her little joy by the end of the sixth month

Reading about the marriage was my next step, so I located the Ring card and read around it. The Ring card is in house 26 (Book), the house of secrets, and the Coffin is in house 25 (Ring), the house of commitments and contracts. I read this as strong indication of marital troubles.

Mice + Clover + Stork: this trio shows the marriage is under some stress and a possible fast change

Coffin + Ring + Woman: these suggest the marriage might have another chance with a possibility of ending up in the same dead end

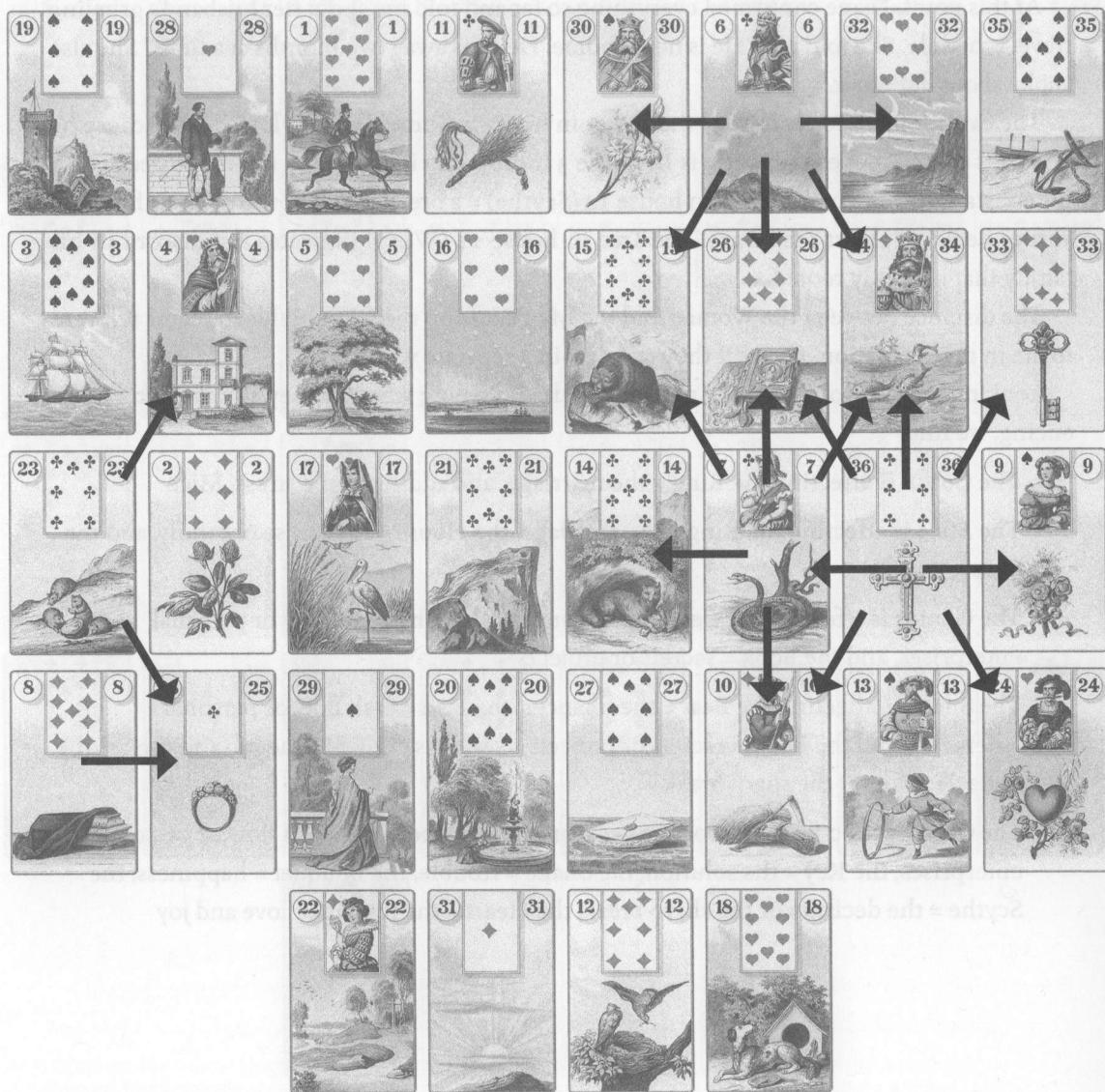
The future for the Ring is on the same future line of the client, which confirms the separation because the Scythe is in this future sequence.

Man + House + Clover + Ring: this indicates that Diane's husband is in charge of the house and feels nothing is wrong with his marriage and that everything is a happy, lucky situation

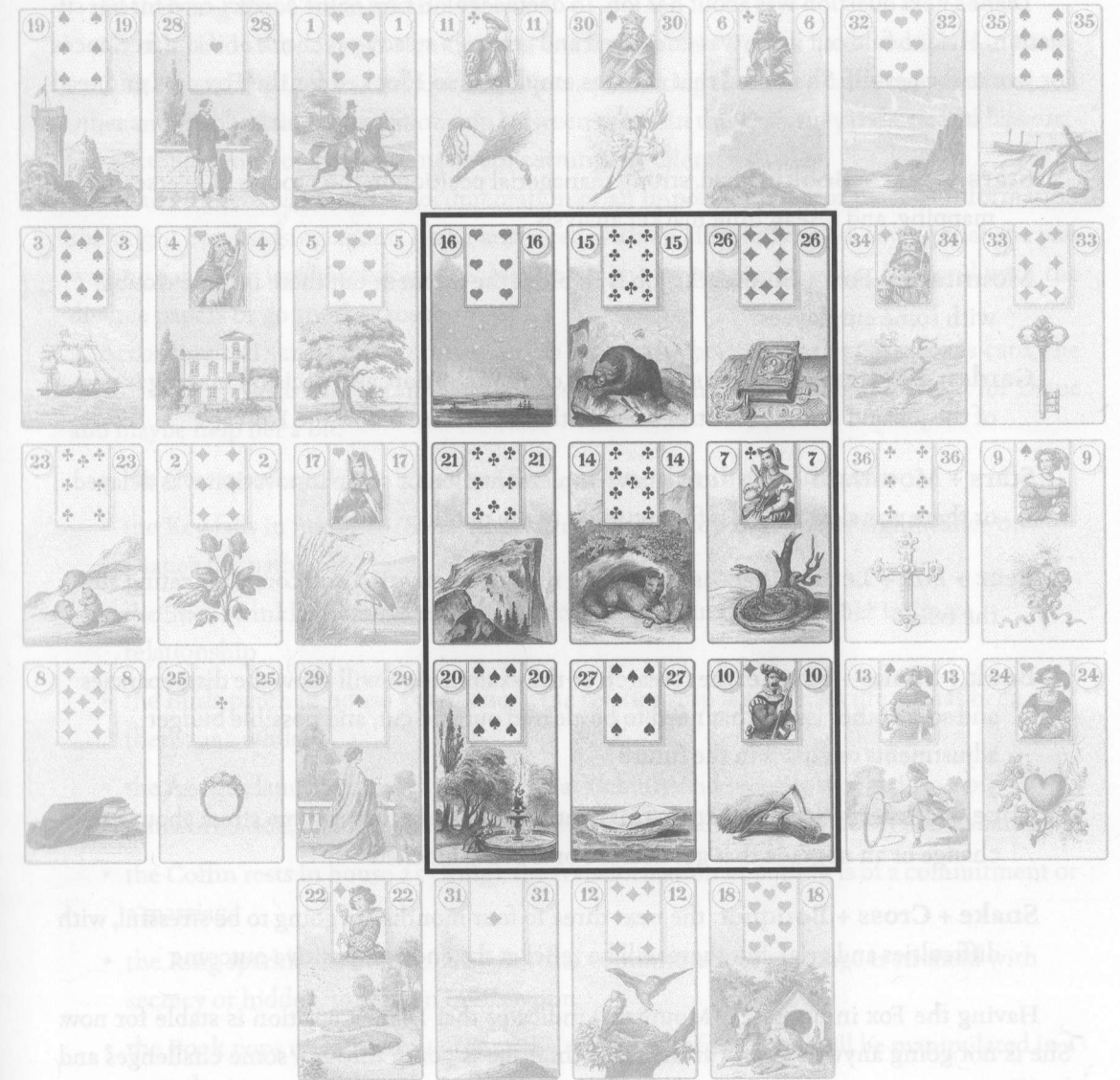
The different views and perceptions between Diane and her husband prompted me to proceed next to the husband and read the cards around the Man card.

Tower + Man + Rider: indicates a man with authority who is always on the go and possibly alone a lot

Ship + House + Tree: this shows that he travels for his stability and his family, or his home is between travel and family



.....
INFLUENCE OF NEGATIVE CARDS



.....
BOX READING AROUND THE FOX

Diane's next question was about her job. To decide which card is the correct card for her situation, I had to find out if she was employed and getting a steady paycheck or if she freelances or works for herself. She stated that she was employed, so I looked for the Fox card and read around it.

Stars + Bear + Book: a good, strong managerial position in the process of overseeing, mapping, and researching market analysis

Mountain + Fox + Snake: the job is stable at the moment but there is some trouble with some employees

Garden + Letter + Scythe: networking, communication, and decision making is part of the job and is under control because those cards are below the Fox card

Stars + Mountain + Garden: a new implementation or some innovation was delayed or there was slow progress for getting it to the public

Bear + Fox + Letter: Diane is overseeing the documentation and communicating all the issues

Book + Snake + Scythe: the research or the examination will show the discrepancies and some other issues that need to be cleared out and cut, and possible budget adjustments or cuts is in the future

Mice + Clover + Stork + Mountain: indicates that there was some stress about a new change or an upgrade that got delayed or is being blocked

Snake + Cross + Bouquet: the next three to four months are going to be stressful, with difficulties and grief, but there will be relief at the end or a positive outcome

Having the Fox in house 21 (Mountain) indicates that Diane's position is stable for now. She is not going anywhere, and at the same time she is going through some challenges and hurdles.

Diane started explaining about her job as a project manager, and the problems and issues she is encountering at the moment with some employees that she might have to let go. She also confirmed problems with a new upgrade her company was trying to implement.

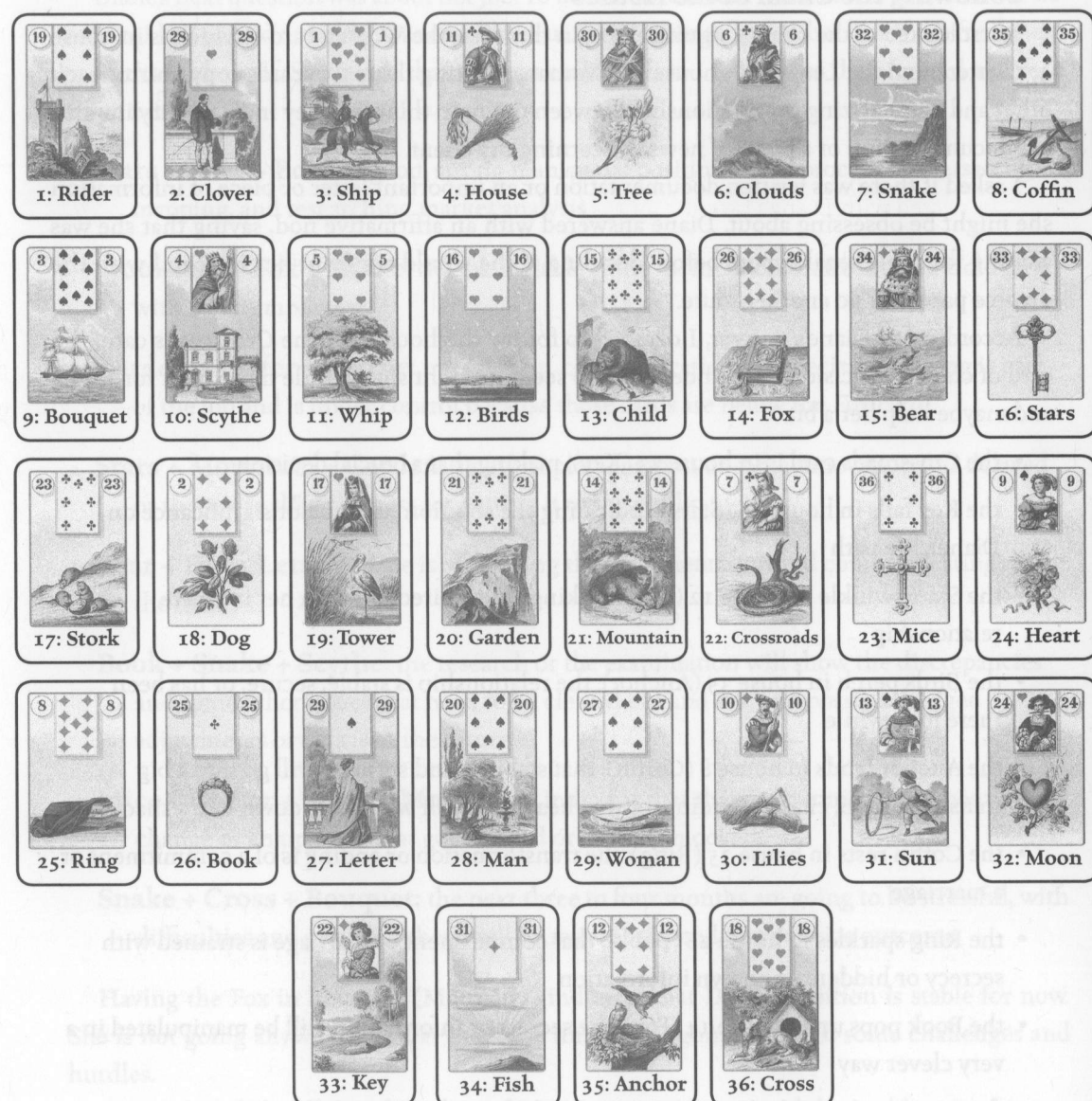
Following the Chain of the Houses

I first looked at the client's significator—in this case, the Woman card—which is in house 27 (Letter), and the Letter is in house 29 (Woman), making those two cards copy/mirror each other and emphasizing the relationship between them. In this case, they indicate very important documentation or a piece of news concerning my client.

I asked if there was written documentation or an important letter or piece of information she might be obsessing about. Diane answered with an affirmative nod, saying that she was waiting for some legal papers before deciding if she would confront her husband with the divorce papers or go another route.

According to Diane's answer, I decided to follow the houses for the Crossroads card, the card of choices, decisions, and indecision, to see if it might shed a little more light for Diane and maybe help her a bit.

- the Crossroads card is in house 33 (Key), making that a crucial decision
- the Key falls in house 16 (Stars), indicating the solution has a major significance on Diane's life path
- the Stars twinkle in house 12 (Birds), taking a new direction with her intimate relationship
- the Birds perch in house 35 (Anchor); the relationship is stable, secure, or has been there for a while
- the Anchor lands in house 8 (Coffin); that stability and security will go into a big transformation, change, ending, or that heaviness will weigh her down like a shackle
- the Coffin rests in house 25 (Ring); the transformation or ending is of a commitment or a marriage
- the Ring sparkles in house 26 (Book); that commitment or marriage is strained with secrecy or hidden, unknown information
- the Book pops up in house 14 (Fox); the secrets or information will be manipulated in a very clever way
- the Fox crouches in house 21 (Mountain); that manipulation will be blocked or thwarted and might cause isolation
- the Mountain looms in house 20 (Garden); the isolation or blockage will come from a certain group of people or a certain circle of friends or society



GRAND TABLEAU WITH HOUSES

- the Garden blooms in house 28 (Man); a group of people Diane's husband either supervises or has significant influence over, or otherwise this group is important to him
- the Man stands in house 2 (Clover); Diane's husband will either get another chance or will see an opportunity
- the Clover sprouts in house 18 (Dog); that opportunity or the second chance is connected with Diane's lover
- the Dog waits in house 36 (Cross); Diane's lover will suffer some pain and grief
- the Cross appears in house 23 (Mice); the pain and grief will spread, adding anxiety and stress
- the Mice have crept into house 17 (Stork); the stress and pain might dissipate, indicating a small recovery
- the Stork lands in house 19 (Tower); a positive outcome in a legal matter, moving into a high-rise or a condo, or getting the upper hand legally
- the Tower rises in house 1 (Rider); fast movement in legal activities or acquiring a new apartment
- the Rider turns up in house 3 (Ship); the news of moving ahead or separation, or the new apartment is in a location where travel is required
- the Ship sails into house 9 (Bouquet); the separation or the new location will bring joy, a happy turn of events
- the Bouquet waits in house 24 (Heart); the happy turn of events will bring joy to the heart
- the Heart beats in house 32 (Moon); Diane's heart and joy will flourish with romance
- the Moon floats in house 7 (Snake); the romance will be tinted with some envy or trouble, or Diane's reputation will suffer attacks from malicious people; connecting the Snake in house 22 (Crossroads) with the house we started with indicates the difficulty of this decision

When I finished following the chain of houses with Diane, the entire reading resonated with her and made a lot of sense, especially the part about her husband belonging to a certain club with strict standards. In case of a divorce, the husband would receive a substantial amount of money, which was the legal issue that worried her, along with her anxiety about

moving into the city. Diane was pleased with the reading and said that seeing her situation laid out step by step would help her make choices with clear vision.

Diane then asked to check on her finances, so I looked for the Bear. I used the Chain of Houses technique again:

- the Bear rears up in house 13 (Child), which indicates there has been a negligible profit or a slight increase/decrease of capital
- the Child appears in house 31 (Sun), so the small profits or the small investment will soon turn into a success
- the Sun is in house 34 (Fish); the success will increase the cash flow, and ending with the Fish in house 15 (Bear) predicts that even though there might be a little bump, finances will eventually flourish

If we had boxed and crossed the Bear in the Grand Tableau, the cards look like they would have given the same answer.

While shuffling, I had intentionally activated the last four cards to offer concrete advice for Diane. I always decide what the last four cards will be used as at the initial shuffling stage, and in this case, Diane had come asking for specific guidance.

Crossroads + Sun + Birds + Dog: make the decision that will take you into the light and stay true to yourself, your soul, and your relationship. Decide on the positive path, and stay optimistic, with a positive attitude toward your friends and your dear ones, speaking only with encouragement and constructiveness.

My final advice to Diane was to keep the peace and keep it all in a positive light, to take the high road whenever possible, and to stay pleasant in all future communications.

I believe the following two steps are overkill, especially if we have already gone through all the previous steps and gotten all the information needed, but let's go through them for the sake of demonstration.

Four Corners

Sometimes I just take a peek at the four corners for a last look, a summary, an extra insight, an affirmation of some sort, or when I am in a hurry and not planning to follow the Chain of Houses.

At the four corners of Diane's Grand Tableau, I see Tower + Anchor + Heart + Coffin (+ Tower).

These cards relate a long-term loneliness or isolation that has stifled the love in the heart, the passion, or the relationship. The change or transformation has resulted alongside some serious foundation restructuring (Coffin + Tower), and legal matters seem to be involved.

Knighting

Knighting is fun to play around with if you omit some of the previous steps or don't feel like going through them.

In this case, knighting the woman shows:

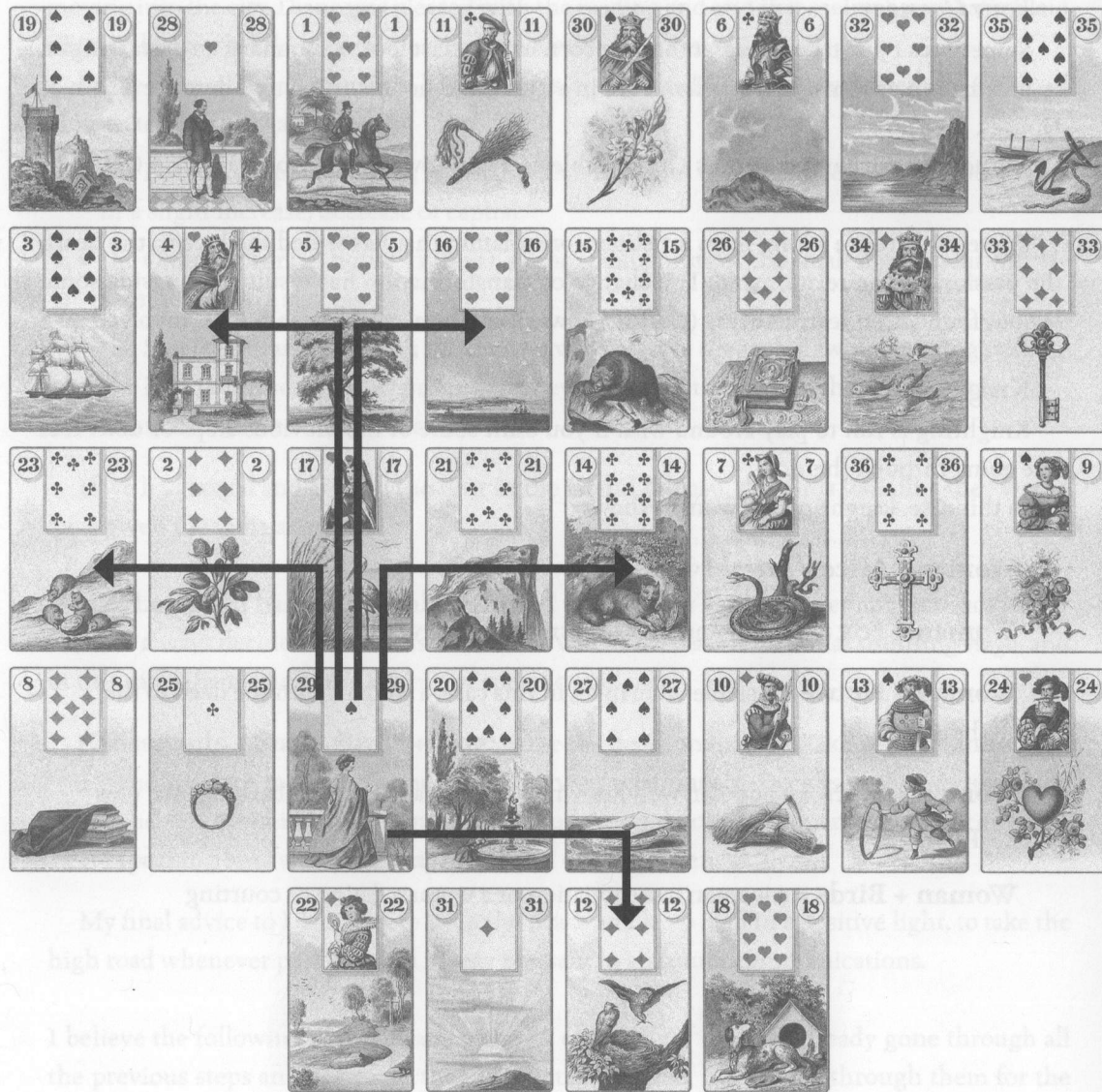
Woman + Mice = stressed woman

Woman + Fox = a clever and a bit of a "sneaky sneaky" woman

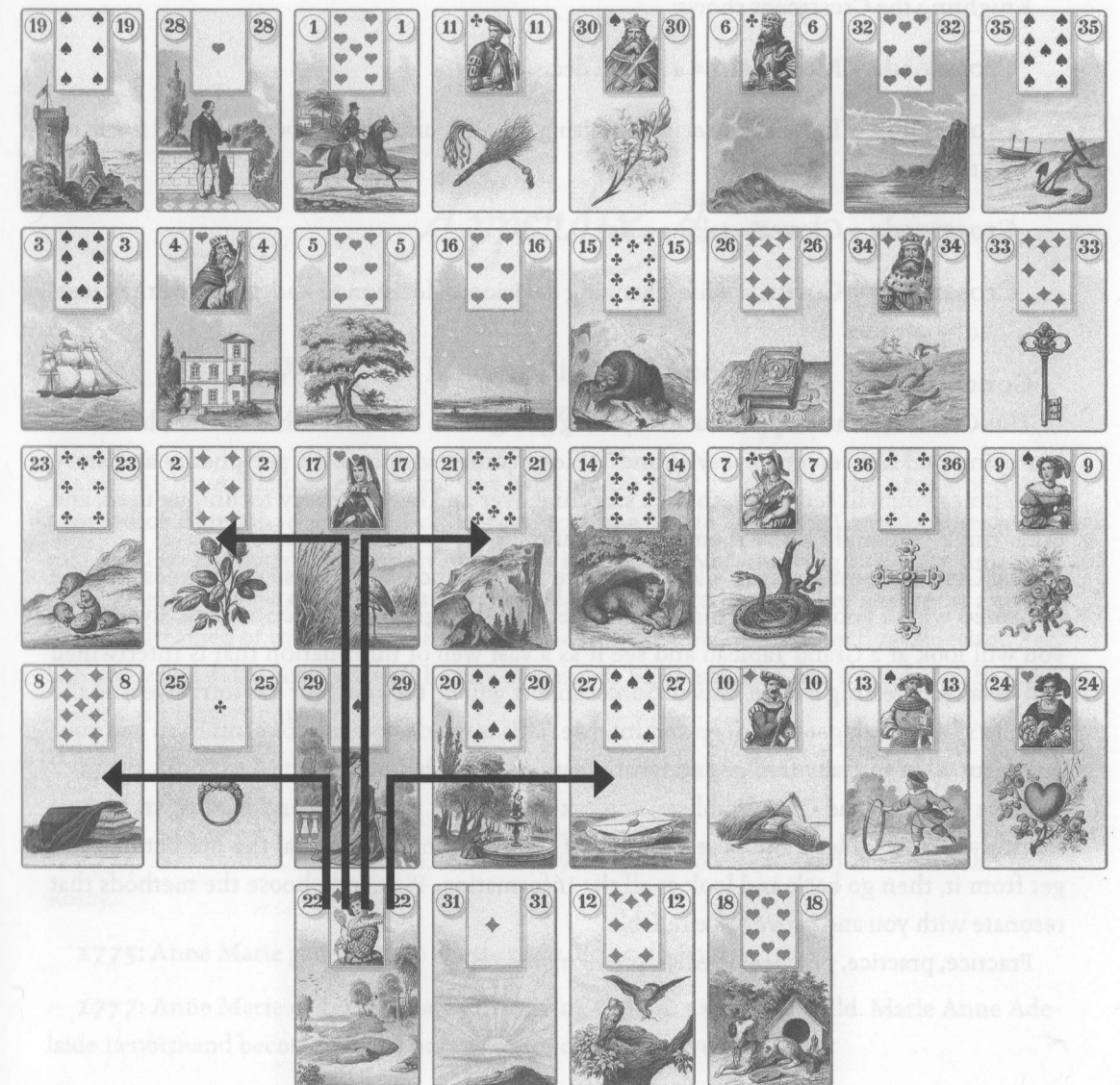
Woman + House = a stable woman or, in this case, a woman with the deed to the house

Woman + Stars = a popular, well-known woman or a woman embarking on a new path

Woman + Birds = a woman in negotiation or a woman dating or courting



KNIGHTING THE WOMAN CARD



KNIGHTING THE CROSSROADS CARD

Knighting the Crossroads shows:

Crossroads + Mountain = a stalled decision

Crossroads + Letter = a decision waiting for a document or a document will finalize the choice

Crossroads + Clover = taking a risk

Crossroads + Coffin = a life-changing decision, a decision to end, might be the cause of some loss

Conclusion

This Grand Tableau mapped out everything going on in Diane's life: her worries, her stress, her pains, and her secrets. Every Grand Tableau comes with its own personality and story. Sometimes you will see it rehashing a storyline over and over in every technique used, and other times you might find a theme and a light nudge toward some issues.

The Grand Tableau requires a lot of practice and patience. With these techniques you will be armed with a good system that, with time, will strengthen your confidence. Eventually you will look at a Grand Tableau and see it as a vast web of information that is intertwined and detailed, creating a large canvas. Sometimes it will be too much or too intrusive into the querent's life. It can get very deep and intense. This is where you use your intuition and your gut about what you can divulge and what the querent can handle.

Have fun with the Grand Tableau, and take your time practicing and reading it. Make a monthly Grand Tableau and take a picture of it, document and journal the predictions you get from it, then go back and look at all the information. Pick and choose the methods that resonate with you and prove to be reliable.

Practice, practice, practice! Predict, predict, predict!

Appendix A

Who Was Mademoiselle Lenormand?

A Chronology

MARIE ANNE Adelaide Lenormand was baptized on May 27, 1772, at the parish of Saint-Léonard of Alençon, the second child born to Anne Marie and Jean Louis Lenormand, a middle-class family with a lucrative business in drapery. Not knowing the exact time and date of her birth gave the young astrologer a blank canvas to imagine her destiny as a celebrity. She dreamed of the theater, the world of the Comédie-Française, which mesmerized her. She knew she didn't have enough beauty or grace to be on stage, so she intended to become famous as a playwright.

1773: After the birth of her younger sister, Sophie, her father dies at the age of thirty-seven of fever and sickness.

1774: Her mother, Anne Marie, with three young kids to care for and raise, wedded Isaac Rosay.

1775: Anne Marie gave birth to another son, François-Louis.

1777: Anne Marie died three days after giving birth to a stillborn child. Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand becomes an orphan at the tender age of five.

1778: Her stepfather, Isaac Rosay, a savvy businessman, expanded her parents' business. Opening a store in Paris, he married seventeen-year-old Marie Jeanne Cannu, who became a big sister to the kids. Unfortunately, Marie Jeanne died giving birth in that same year, and her newborn daughter soon followed her.

1779: Undeterred, Isaac Rosay wedded eighteen-year-old Louise Henry, a beautiful girl from a bourgeois family who is described as a wicked stepmother in Lenormand's memoirs.

Marie Anne went into obsessive detail describing constant humiliation and being put to hard labor at seven years of age by the third Mme. Rosay.

1780: Marie Anne discovered the theater, stealing away to indulge her creative dreams. She felt she had found her vocation. Her godfather, realizing the state she was in, decided to send her to study with the Benedictine de Monsort, an esteemed convent school for girls.

1781: While still a new student, Marie Anne prophesied the destitution of the mother superior and her church imprisonment. Lenormand also predicted the successor would be a redhead with the initials C and F. Even after being punished and beaten, Marie Anne refused to recant. Marie Anne was expelled and sent to the older, more modest convent of the Vistadines. The news traveled from one convent to another, and six months after the arrival of the little Lenormand girl, scandal exploded at the Benedictines when their mother superior was accused and arrested for financial corruption and replaced by auburn-haired Catherine Françoise. Lenormand's prophecy created a scandal; the Vistadines refused to harbor a "sorceress," so she was expelled from a convent for a second time. Lenormand's early prediction was recorded and talked about for centuries.

1782: Marie Anne was sent to work in a seamstress *atelier* to learn to sew. During her stay at the *atelier*, she discovered her destiny when she observed another apprentice using a deck of cards called the Tarot of Mr. Etteilla to predict the future. Intrigued, the girl pulled two cards for Marie Anne: Sun and Strength. The girl predicted that Lenormand would be rich and famous. Marie Anne tried to get her hands on an Etteilla deck of her own but couldn't afford it. Instead, she bought an ordinary deck of playing cards.

1784: The *atelier* closed after two long, frozen winters, crippled by the rise of unemployment and a major food shortage.

1786: At fourteen years old, Marie Anne left her town for Paris by convincing her stepfather to employ her in their shop as a cashier. She carried with her a bundle containing three items: a white dress, her playing cards, and Homer's epic *The Iliad*.

Marie Anne loved numbers and proved to be a very good cashier and saleswoman. The customers loved her, as did her coworkers, one of whom proved to be a key ally in her rise to fame. The salesman introduced her to Kabbalah and the work of Pythagoras, provided her with esoteric books, and took her to meet Johann Kaspar Lavater, who predicted an unusual death for the king. She tried to meet the famous Etteilla, but his lowest price for card consultation was 24 livres (close to \$1,000 in modern currency). Nevertheless, she was at last able to buy his deck and a small booklet about the ordinary playing cards that she had coveted.

1787: She met Jacques-René Hébert, a childhood neighbor who became a well-known journalist. This was also the year Marie Anne, at the age of fifteen, was first arrested by the police for holding séances and doing rituals by herself on the banks of the river Seine.

1789: Around January, she met and became the apprentice of Bonaventure Guyon, a highly esteemed astrologer who taught her to cast horoscopes. During that year she heard of a Doctor Franz Joseph Gall, a physician and necromancer who developed phrenology (reading the human skull). She wished to meet and study with him but only knew that he would be in England by the end of spring. Determined to come up with money to make that trip, she checked with her astrologer and bet all her savings at the Royal Gardens Lottery, winning 12,000 francs, a spectacular sum equal to one hundred times her annual salary.

Fate seemed to conspire on her behalf. Marie Anne packed her bag for London, where she met Doctor Gall, who declared that she had the skull of a great seer and compared her to the legendary Sybil of Cumae.

By August of 1789, Marie Anne had already set up shop in London in the very elegant Portman Square with the sign "Mademoiselle Lenormand of Paris, Astrologue." French fortunetellers were in vogue at this time in London. Within a year, she became rich and famous, working long hours and giving readings for aristocrats and royals. Marie Anne predicted that the King of France, Louis XVI, would be overthrown and removed. Missing her home, she decided to return to France in the middle of the Revolution. She had already predicted a long life for herself, so she was not worried.

1790: Marie Anne returned to Alençon a rich woman. She helped her sister with a good dowry and secured a promotion for her brother in the army.

1791: Marie Anne returned to Paris, where she discovered that Etteilla had disappeared, leaving everything behind. Her friend Hébert had become famous for his writings. She tried to gain entry to the theater world, but her plays were never accepted. At twenty years old and unhappy, she reverted to what she knew best and set up shop at 9 Rue de Tournon. Later she acquired number 5 and added the sign engraved "Mademoiselle Lenormand, Libraire."

1792: Her friend Hébert wedded Françoise Goupile in a lavish reception where Lenormand met high society, including the painter Jacques-Louis David. It wasn't a very happy event for her since she had feelings for Hébert.

1793: One night three men came to Marie Anne and asked to be read together because their destinies were tied together. She immediately recognized them as Marat, Robespierre, and St. Just, the architects of the Revolution. She made all three of them shuffle and cut the

same deck. She pulled one card for each and placed them facedown. She then made them pick twelve cards of the Etteilla deck. She turned the personal cards over one by one and stopped in her tracks, which made the men furious. They started laughing, and then Marat threw the money on the cards, not knowing that it is a big no-no for the money to touch the cards before the completion of their session. She went on, telling them, "If you really want to know, you will all meet your death violently within the year." She turned to Marat and said, "For you, *monsieur*, you will precede your colleague, and the people will turn against you." Marat angrily told her, "Your oracle is mistaken and slanders the people; if the Revolution devours us, the three of us will perish together." All three left her house mocking her and laughing at her prophesy.

In the middle of this year Marie Anne attended a royalist dinner where a plot to save Queen Marie Antoinette was being concocted. The next day she saw the police seizing some of the guests that were with her at that dinner. The fear of being arrested led her to roam the streets and meet a modest fortuneteller, La Gilbert, with whom she ended up collaborating. La Gilbert gifted Marie Anne a revolutionary deck of cards full of allegories of liberty and figures dressed in the Republican working-class attire more likely to please her new clients, the people of the Revolution. Disguised with a turban and feathers, she began reading cards on the Bridge of Pont-Neuf for commoners.

On May 7, Marie Anne gave a reading to man on the bridge and predicted that he would lose his head in ten days. Ten days later that man returned with his head still intact, dragging the police with him to arrest her. After two days in prison and a fine of 10 livres, she stayed in hiding for four months until the queen was executed. She then returned to her salon at Rue de Tournon.

On July 13, Marat was assassinated; Robespierre and St. Just went back to see Marie Anne a second time. She simply confirmed to them their violent fate. Robespierre became a regular; she detested him, and in her memoirs described the man who terrorized the nation as shaking at the sight of the Nine of Spades.

Later that year Lenormand opened the door to a young officer with a Corsican accent. She predicted great honors and glory for him and a widow at his side. The Corsican officer accused her of losing her mind and demanded that she direct him to an astrologer. She happily gave young Napoleon Bonaparte the address of Bonaventure Guyon, who repeated her predictions, expanding them to include royal dominion. Bonaparte left angrily, thinking that he had been taken by two charlatans.

1794: In the month of March, Hébert, Marie Anne's close friend, was arrested and executed during the Reign of Terror.

On June 17, Marie Anne was arrested and taken to La Force prison, where she met and consulted with lots of well-known names from the aristocracy and the revolutionaries.

On July 28, Maximilien Robespierre and Louis Antoine de St. Just were guillotined, marking the end of the Reign of Terror.

On August 5, Marie Anne was released after a dreadful incarceration.

1796: Friendship bloomed between Joséphine de Beauharnais and Marie Anne. Mademoiselle Lenormand advised Joséphine to marry the young General Bonaparte. They wed on March 9, 1796.

1796–1801: Mademoiselle Lenormand became a household name, sought after by a broad clientele ranging from aristocrats to more modest working-class families. Her tools and talents spread and expanded beyond Tarot, astrology, cartomancy, numerology, ooscopy (divining by using an egg), cheiromancy (palmistry), hydromancy (divination by using water), catoptromancy (divination by means of a mirror), physiognomancy (divination by facial features and mannerisms), tasseography (divining with coffee grounds), alectromancy (divination using a rooster), lampadomancy (divining by candles or lamps), and much more. She also wrote some plays produced for the public.

Her expenses and her debts grew, so she raised her fees. For 5 francs (around \$100), Marie Anne would expand on the past, talk a little bit about the present, and throw a little light on the future. Her clients would be so impressed that they would book a longer session for 20 francs to learn more about the future or get their palms read. A full, detailed astrology chart cost around 400 francs; an ooscopy session was 100 francs. She charged 40 francs to answer an exact question using the game of Piquet by pulling seven, thirteen, or seventeen cards; a coffee reading was 120 francs. She charged exorbitant fees for her time—and she got them.

Marie Anne's friendship with Joséphine Bonaparte also blossomed during this time. She predicted the crown for her on many occasions. Marie Anne Lenormand was seen often at Joséphine's residence, Malmaison, which did not please Napoleon.

December 1801–January 1804: Marie Anne was incarcerated in the Madelonettes prison for charges of conspiracy against Napoleon. During her time in prison she had a vision, just as she had when she was little. The vision was of the letter B and the letter E over a crown. The letter B was suspected to be for Bonaparte, but no one knew to whom the letter E belonged.

March 1804: The Duke of Enghien was executed by the orders of Napoleon Bonaparte for the charges of leading a plot to assassinate Bonaparte. With Mademoiselle Lenormand's vision explained and materialized, her clients doubled, and so did the police surveillance. It is not known if she had insider political knowledge or if it was a real vision.

December 2, 1804: Napoleon Bonaparte crowns himself emperor and crowns Joséphine empress.

December 1809: Marie Anne gets arrested again for twelve days, just until the divorce between the Emperor and Joséphine became public; after that, she was set free. She had originally prophesized about the impending separation, and it was said that Napoleon did not want her to talk about it before he actually went through with it. When they separated, Marie Anne said that Napoleon lost his magical talisman (Joséphine).

"Qui pourrait deviner que je suis en prison, moi, Mlle. Lenormand, l'oracle du jour, la Sybille à la mode, personne ne voudra le croire? Rien cependant n'est plus vrais. (Who could have guessed that I'm in jail, me, Mademoiselle Lenormand, the oracle of the day, the Sybil in fashion (in demand), nobody wants to believe it? Yet nothing is more true.)"—Marie Anne Adelaide Lenormand, *Les Souvenirs Prophétiques d'une Sibylle: Sur Les Causes Secrètes de son Arrestation* (December 11, 1809)

March 1814: Paris falls in the hands of the coalition army. Napoleon is exiled to Elba, and Marie Anne rejoices at the return of the Bourbon King, Louis XVIII.

May 1814: The Russian Tsar Alexander visits Joséphine, who recommends Marie Anne. Tsar Alexander's interest in the occult leads him to Marie Anne's salon.

May 29, 1814: Joséphine dies of pneumonia in her Malmaison château.

January 1815: Marie Anne's book *Les Souvenirs Prophétiques d'une Sybille* is published after being censured during the Napoleonic era. Marie Anne managed to send a copy to every dignitary she knew, including the new king.

March 1815: Napoleon came back in Paris with his army, and the king flees. Marie Anne predicts an eleven-week reign for him and the return of the Bourbon King. She was criticized for not predicting the return of Napoleon.

June 1815: Napoleon is defeated at Waterloo, later exiled to St. Hélène, and the Bourbon King, Louis XVIII, returns.

During the last months of 1815, Marie Anne was involved in a public altercation with the press about her writings, which turned her into a big celebrity of the times. Eventually she bought a printing company so she could print as many books as she wanted. The bad publicity and all the critiques only helped grow her fame.

1817: Marie Anne's sister, Sophie, dies, leaving behind a boy and a girl. Marie Anne takes in her niece and nephew.

1818: Marie Anne gets persuaded to go to Aix-La-Chapelle (Aachen, a city in Germany bordering Belgium) because of a summit the Russian tsar was attending. On the way back, she stays in Brussels and visits with the exiled revolutionaries.

1820: Mademoiselle Lenormand suffers the loss of her niece to tuberculosis. Her nephew, Alexander Hugo, becomes her only living heir.

Her book *Mémoires Historiques et Secrets de l'Impératrice Joséphine* (Historical Memoirs and Secrets of the Empress Joséphine) becomes an overnight success, as well as gets attacked and contested.

February 1821: Stressed out and tired of fighting with the press, Marie Anne settles in Brussels. A couple of months later she gets arrested and sent to prison, accused of conspiring against the state as well as of fortunetelling and sorcery. She was badly treated for six painful months.

October 1821: Marie Anne is back in Paris.

1822: Marie Anne goes to England by invitation, where she stays for two years.

1824: She returns to Paris and her previous place at Rue de Tournon, back to writing and publishing more books.

1831: Marie Anne loses her brother, who dies from wounds after a small battle. Mademoiselle Lenormand continues to give readings and writes nonstop.

June 27, 1843: Lenormand dies as one of the most famous clairvoyants of her time. She leaves behind a set of prophecies and predictions for a future of air and space travel and a German war in 1915. Her fame was resurrected after the manifestation of her predictions, and her name is etched in history. In Dicta Dimitriadis's *Mademoiselle Lenormand: Voyante de Louis XVI à Louis-Philippe*, we read the following as it was printed in the newspaper of that day:

"The crowd waiting for the convoy to depart toward Père-Lachaise. As to the route, the procession grows and we can hear:

Is this a queen?

No, this is Mademoiselle Lenormand, the famous psychic.

This is the friend of the Empress.

This is the seer of the Emperor.

... What a spectacle Marie Anne offers to bid farewell to the world! All day, the Parisians lay flowers on her grave. Never did the florists sell as many white flowers."

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Appendix B

Focus Cards

Cards Activated as Focus Cards or Significators

Every card can be activated for myriad situations, subjects, issues, and topics. This is my list of activation examples for when you decide to choose a specific card for a certain situation or subject matter. Of course, this is a preliminary list that will only get expanded by your continual practice.

I prefer not to activate all the cards as focus cards or significators; some are better left alone to come up in the reading. These cards are important for the reading because of their descriptive value. They add much-needed and essential information that speaks directly to the question, so I usually leave them alone, without activating them. For example, I believe the Snake should be left alone to appear by itself without activating it because it brings important information to the reading. Also, if you activate it, you will not be able to tell if the card is pulling double duty, trying to describe a situation while also being a significator. When a card is activated, its purpose is fixed; it will perform in the role the reader gives it. For clarity, I have noted each of these cards in the list below.

These are the cards that have come up for me in certain situations as the main focus card and the association I give them if and when I decide to use them as a focus card. I do not always use an activated card. I alternate, often allowing the deck to choose the focus card for me. When I do intentionally activate a focus card, here is my list of the thirty-six cards along with the topics and subjects I have intentionally activated them with at one time or another. Note that this list is always expanding. Cards marked with an asterisk are ones I prefer not to activate.

Rider: bicycle, motorcycle, horse, an extra man if needed

***Clover:** a bet, a lotto ticket (the Clover card is better left alone because it is a very positive card that needs to stay in the deck and be left to come up naturally in the reading)

Ship: transfer, vacation, trip, travel, car, truck, bus, anything with an engine

House: house, apartment, real estate, a home business, family

Tree: health (physical, spiritual, and mental), past lives

***Clouds:** weather (the Clouds card is better left alone as it is an important card in the deck, with a strong vibration of issues and predicaments that needs to come out naturally)

***Snake:** pipes, drains, wires, repair work (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because the Snake is an important card in the deck—it gives a strong description in the reading that is useful if there is lying involved)

***Coffin:** box, basement (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because the Coffin is an important card in the deck—you need to know if something is ending)

***Bouquet:** gift (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because the Bouquet is an important card in the deck—it has a happy vibe that I like to see come up naturally in a reading)

Scythe: a decision, surgery, sharp object

Whip: exercise regimen, sexual orientation, dispute

Birds: interviews, meetings, conversations, calls, negotiations, dates, talks, visits

Child: child, baby (otherwise left alone)

Fox: the daily job or any work with a daily, weekly, or monthly salary

Bear: matriarch, mother, finances, diet, restaurant, your boss if you are already using the Man or Woman card

***Stars:** electricity, map, directions (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because the Stars card is the card that brings hope, so it is good to have it come up naturally in a reading)

***Stork:** change, a move, pregnancy (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because it is valuable to know that things are improving)

Dog: your doctor, assistant, friend, lover, a known person, your pet

Tower: the company, the establishment, the institution, the corporation, schools

Garden: groups, seminars, conventions, any gathering, a celebration

***Mountain:** a mountain location (I prefer to leave this card unactivated as it is an important card in the deck—you need to know about those obstacles and challenges)

***Crossroads:** choice, roads (I prefer to leave this card unactivated, as it gives the description of duality that brings important information to the reading)

***Mice:** theft, lost item, anxiety (I prefer to leave this card unactivated—it has a strong descriptive job and is important to keep in the deck)

***Heart:** your relationship or romance (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because you want the Heart to come up and give you good news without being asked)

Ring: your marriage, partnership, ties, contracts

Book: projects, studies, secrets

Letter: diploma, award, results, test, exam

Man: the male querent

Woman: the female querent

***Lilies:** father, parents or grandparents, older person, a long-term investment (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because of its time meaning—I need to know if something is going to take a lot of time)

***Sun:** confidence, energy, courage (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because it is the most positive card in the deck, and I like to see it come up as spontaneously or naturally as possible)

***Moon:** creativity, reputation, psychic ability (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because it has an important descriptive value)

***Key:** solution, answer (I prefer to leave this card unactivated—this card gives you the solution, so it is imperative to keep it in the deck)

Fish: consulting job, freelance employment, personal business, small business, sales, shopping, trades

***Anchor:** goals (I prefer to leave this card unactivated, as this card has a strong sense of certainty that I feel is needed in a reading)

***Cross:** your grief, guilt, or religion (I prefer to leave this card unactivated because of its strong descriptive job—it brings a certain mood of chagrin to a reading)

Appendix C

Quick Interpretation Guide

THE CARDS will astonish you. Add your own discoveries and insights through your journey, but this list will get you started.

Rider: news, visitor, delivery, feedback

Clover: hope, luck, chance, opportunity

Ship: travel, transfer, journey, distance

House: residence, family, entourage, real estate

Tree: health, growth, solid, spirituality

Clouds: hesitation, doubt, indecision, trouble

Snake: betrayal, jealousy, lies, problems

Coffin: end, sickness, loss, death

Bouquet: satisfaction, gift, joy, beauty

Scythe: rupture, decisive, surgery, danger

Whip: arguments, physical, chronic, sex, addiction

Birds: communications, a couple, negotiations, meetings

Child: young, small, new, innocent

Fox: manipulation, cunning, employment, work

Bear: power, finance, food, strength

Stars: success, hope, new path, guidance

Stork: change, improvement, a move, pregnancy

Dog: loyalty, guidance, protection, friendly

Tower: institution, corporation, isolation, ambition

Garden: networking, congregation, gathering, party

Mountain: obstacles, enemy, delays, blockages

Crossroads: choice, double, alternate, options

Mice: stress, theft, loss, deterioration

Heart: passion, love, desire, generosity

Ring: commitment, contracts, marriage, promise

Book: secrets, studies, knowledge, projects

Letter: documents, tests, results, mail

Man: the querent, the significator

Woman: the querent, the significator

Lilies: maturity, tranquility, wisdom, satisfaction

Sun: triumph, optimism, energy, stamina

Moon: creativity, seduction, honor, emotions

Key: openings, solution, answers, importance

Fish: abundance, shopping, independence, consulting

Anchor: stability, achievement, fortitude, persistence

Cross: pain, grief, burden, sacrifice

Appendix D

Positive, Negative, and Neutral Cards

GENERALLY I divide the deck under the umbrella of negative, positive, and neutral cards. Having said that, there are no absolute positives and no absolute negatives in Lenormand. A positive card might turn negative if it is surrounded by lots of negatives, e.g., turning positive Sun into a burn or an over-the-top ego. Conversely, a negative card might indicate a positive, like a Coffin representing an ending to a bad situation. The meaning always depends on the reading, the context, and the adjacent cards.

The Positive Umbrella

Clover: brings luck and happy glow to a reading

Bouquet: brings joy and a reason to be grateful

Stars: gives hope and guidance

Stork: indicates improvement and usually good change

Dog: a good, protective, and loyal friend, but when the negative cards are around you need to determine if the Dog is protecting you from them or is one of them

Heart: expresses passion and happiness

Ring: denotes completion and engagement

Sun: announces success and victory

Moon: accolades and seduction (but turns negative when negative cards are around)

Key: the solution and the aha moment

Anchor: stability, security (but if negative cards are around can be weighed down, a shackle, or a heavy weight)

Fish: indicates abundance, plenty, and multiplication when it is not talking about your consultant job, home business, or entrepreneurial project. CAVEAT: when the Fish card is surrounded by negatives, the “plentiful” Fish can actually multiply the negatives. The Fish card is neutral in the context of consulting, work, or trade.

The Negative Umbrella

Clouds: always brings trouble, confusion, or misunderstandings

Snake: the lies, deceit, and betrayal card

Coffin: brings ending and sadness

Scythe: the danger, breakup, and accident card (but can be neutral when it is representing a decision)

Whip: brings aggression and discord; in its neutral state can be talking about exercise, cleaning, or sex, all of which can be enjoyable or disagreeable/painful

Fox: when it is not related to employment/employee/job/work issues, then it refers to manipulation and sneakiness (it is neutral in the work context)

Mice: stress, always nibbling away, rotting, decaying, nagging

Mountain: the blockage, the hindrance, the challenges and obstacles (it is only positive when you want to be stuck or not go anywhere)

Cross: pain, grief, burden (can be neutral when it represents faith and religion)

The Neutral Cards

These are cards that take on characteristics of the cards around them.

Rider: his news can be positive with positive cards and negative with negative cards, or he can be just a visitor

Ship: the voyage, change, transition; it depends on the cards around to characterize it

House: the family will turn dysfunctional with negative cards, but with positive cards this card indicates a happy home or just real estate

Tree: your health depends on the positive and negative cards around this card

Birds: expect defamation when negative cards are next it; with positive cards, the chatter of the Birds can be praise

Child: the difference between a happy child and a difficult child hangs on the cards next to this card

Bear: the positive cards will bring out a nurturing figure, but with the negative cards beware of a bully or an overbearing person

Tower: with negative cards can be isolation or tax assessors; with positive cards can be winning a court case or getting your degree

Garden: with positive cards it can be abundance and fertility; with negative cards it can mean a bad crowd or bad publicity

Crossroads: this depends on the surrounding positive and negative cards to give more description or clarification whether it is a good choice or a bad choice, a good outcome after that choice or a bad one; it can be just a choice, which can be positive or negative

Book: a good little secret or a malicious one—the cards around will tell you if it is positive or negative; it can be just a book or a project

Letter: the communication can be elating with positive cards or disappointing with negative cards

Man: a liar or the love of your life (depends on the Snake or the Heart); it can be just the significator

Woman: with positive cards she is pleasant, but beware when negative cards are around; it can be just the significator

Lilies: positive cards bring out joy and contentment, but negative cards can indicate Alzheimer's

Appendix E

The Houses and Their Attributes

IN THE Grand Tableau, the thirty-six houses subtly influence the cards that inhabit them. They can also be “chained” to gather more in-depth information about a card (see part 3).

House #	Name	Attribute
1	Rider	movements and news
2	Clover	opportunity and luck
3	Ship	travel and change
4	House	family, home, and security
5	Tree	health and growth
6	Clouds	doubts and passing difficulties
7	Snake	lies, betrayals, and problems
8	Coffin	endings and painful transitions
9	Bouquet	happiness and beauty
10	Scythe	danger and separation
11	Whip	conflict and repetitions
12	Birds	conversation and couples
13	Child	children and reduction

14	Fox	employment, shrewdness, and trickery
15	Bear	finances and strength
16	Stars	blossoming and dispersion
17	Stork	change and improvement
18	Dog	loyalty, protection, the "friend" or third party
19	Tower	structure, restriction, institution, and hierarchy
20	Garden	networking and large crowds
21	Mountain	blocks and obstacles
22	Crossroads	dualities and choices
23	Mice	loss and stress
24	Heart	relationships, love, and joy
25	Ring	looping, marriage, and commitments
26	Book	secrets and projects
27	Letter	correspondence and communication
28	Man	male querent
29	Woman	female querent
30	Lilies	satisfaction and maturation
31	Sun	success and flourishing
32	Moon	recognition, creativity, and seduction
33	Key	opportunity, solution, and importance
34	Fish	self-employment and abundance (material/spiritual)
35	Anchor	stability, habit, and lifestyle
36	Cross	burden, trials, and challenges

Appendix F

Court Cards

SINCE THE Lenormand deck derived from the playing card deck used in Piquet, in the past all Lenormand packs featured playing card inserts on the cards. The Lenormand includes all the sixes through the tens, the aces, and the royal cards of each of the traditional playing card suits. All the original versions of the Lenormand deck and many new editions follow this practice. These playing card associations date back 150 years; the original source of the attributions is unclear.

Personally, I see the distinct advantages of either featuring playing card symbols for extra information or eliminating them so they don't obscure the primary symbols. In particular, I go to my decks with the playing card inserts when I am doing a reading that requires determining a gender. In this instance, I just pull cards and only look at the court card depicted to establish the gender in question. For example, if I pull out a queen, the gender is feminine, and if I pull out a king or a jack, then the gender is masculine.

The following are my interpretations of the court cards:

The King of Hearts is located on card number 4 (the House). He is a mature older man usually depicted with a golden crown and a white beard and holding a musical instrument. He is a protector.

The Queen of Hearts is located on card number 17 (the Stork). She is sincere, demure, and devout, and likes to lend a helping hand.

The Jack of Hearts is located on card number 24 (the Heart). He is an attractive and sincere young man.

The King of Spades is located on card number 30 (the Lilies). He is older, strong, wise, and powerful, and is usually depicted with a gold

crown on his head and a white beard, brandishing an unsheathed sword in his hand. The energy of “older” is strong in this card.

The Queen of Spades is located on card number 9 (the Bouquet). She is a youngish lady usually depicted as being lavishly dressed and adorned.

The Jack of Spades is located on card number 13 (the Child). Usually depicted with a moustache, he has a tendency toward malice and duplicity.

The King of Diamonds is located on card number 34 (the Fish). He is usually depicted as bearded, with a scepter in one hand and a globe in the other. He is a powerful man with substantial resources who controls important decisions.

The Queen of Diamonds is located on card number 22 (the Crossroads). She is a young lady usually depicted as being elegantly dressed, with an air of superiority.

The Jack of Diamonds is located on card number 10 (the Scythe). He is a swift young fellow who is a bit on the cold, detached side.

The King of Clubs is located on card number 6 (the Clouds). He is usually depicted wearing an armor and ready for battle, with a frown on his face, a gold crown on his head, a sword by his side, and a dark beard. He is intelligent and influential.

The Queen of Clubs is located on card number 7 (the Snake). She is a woman of resourcefulness and a worthy foe.

The Jack of Clubs is located on card number 11 (the Whip). He is young, smart, and fit. He gives the strong impression of youth and vigor.

CARD #	CARD NAME	COURT CARD	GENDER
4	House	King of Hearts	Male
6	Clouds	King of Clubs	Male
7	Snake	Queen of Clubs	Female
9	Bouquet	Queen of Spades	Female
10	Scythe	Jack of Diamonds	Male
11	Whip	Jack of Clubs	Male
13	Child	Jack of Spades	Male
17	Stork	Queen of Hearts	Female
22	Crossroads	Queen of Diamonds	Female
24	Heart	Jack of Hearts	Male
30	Lilies	King of Spades	Male
34	Fish	King of Diamonds	Male

Appendix G

Lenormand and Tarot

IN THIS section we will see how Lenormand can interact with any other oracle you have and how it can adapt to any form or spread. I will also provide an example reading with a detailed explanation.

There are many ways of combining Lenormand and Tarot or Lenormand with any other oracle of choice. You can add Lenormand to clarify your oracular tool of choice or you can add your oracular tool of choice to lend another dimension to the Lenormand reading.

I believe Lenormand and Tarot complement each other synergistically. They are like a pot and its cover. Tarot would be the pot full of the conscious, the unconscious, the subconscious, the hidden shadows, the archetypes, and the vast nuances of different underlying energies. On the other hand, Lenormand would be the perfect lid to that pot—the straight, clean shot on the surface that covers all of the hidden things and deals only with what is in front of you, what is at the surface: the tangible, day to day, everyday activities, happenings, events, and actions. Working in tandem, the two decks give direction and precision to each other.

Lenormand can get limited if confined in a predetermined Tarot spread. My recommendation is anytime you want to use a Lenormand deck in a Tarot spread, just make sure to have two or three cards in every slot instead of the usual one Tarot card. A spread can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish it to be. However, that doesn't mean we cannot play around and push the envelope.

5 Lenormand + 3 Tarot

One of my favorite methods of reading on an issue is doing a regular five-card spread with a Lenormand deck, then adding three Tarot cards on the bottom to get the psychological aspect or to see underlying factors and energies. The Tarot card will shed a different light on the Lenormand reading.

- I center myself and shuffle the Lenormand deck while concentrating on my question.
- I pull five cards out and lay them faceup in the order I pulled them: 1 2 3 4 5.
- Then I shuffle my Tarot deck while concentrating on my question.
- I pull three Tarot cards, A B C, and lay them down under the Lenormand line, like this:

1 2 3 4 5

A B C

I sometimes use the three Tarot cards as:

- the advice—I find that Tarot is very good at giving advice
- the reason—Tarot is good at getting under the situation and finding out the underlying energies
- the mood—Tarot is great at conveying an atmosphere or a general mood to a reading

Just make sure while shuffling to decide and specify what you want the Tarot cards to tell you.

This is a reading I did for my son's first week of high school. I pulled five cards randomly, letting the cards decide the issue.

Snake + Whip + Letter + Coffin + Cross

At first glance, those cards were alarming, but putting them into a context of a student going to a new school, a new grade, and high school, to top it off, rather makes sense in a way. The Letter in the middle is the focus card randomly chosen by the cards; it indicates a possible issue with the scheduling of classes; Whip + Letter could be a class he is fighting to get into but was not on his schedule (Snake); instead he got a heavy load (Coffin), and he will not be happy about it (Cross).

I took my Tarot cards and shuffled while focusing on the “why,” pulling three cards for why is my boy going to have such a rough first week?

2 of Disks + Knight of Swords + 10 of Wands

The Tarot confirmed the Lenormand reading and focused it on a precise matter/subject as to why my boy will have to endure frustration and disappointment. The main focus is the Knight of Swords, which is all about conquering and charging forward with courage and resolution. My son will be fighting to stay ahead, overcoming obstacles, and going after what he wants at the same time he is trying to juggle and adapt to his new situation (2 of Disks), as well as assuming the heavy responsibility, burden, and heavy load (10 of Wands).

Putting the two readings together, I predicted that my boy would feel overwhelmed with the new schedule and the whole experience, and would need extra time and support to adapt to his new environment. I assumed that this might be caused by some sort of change in class scheduling, confirmed by the Letter, Whip, 2 of Disks, and Knight of Swords.

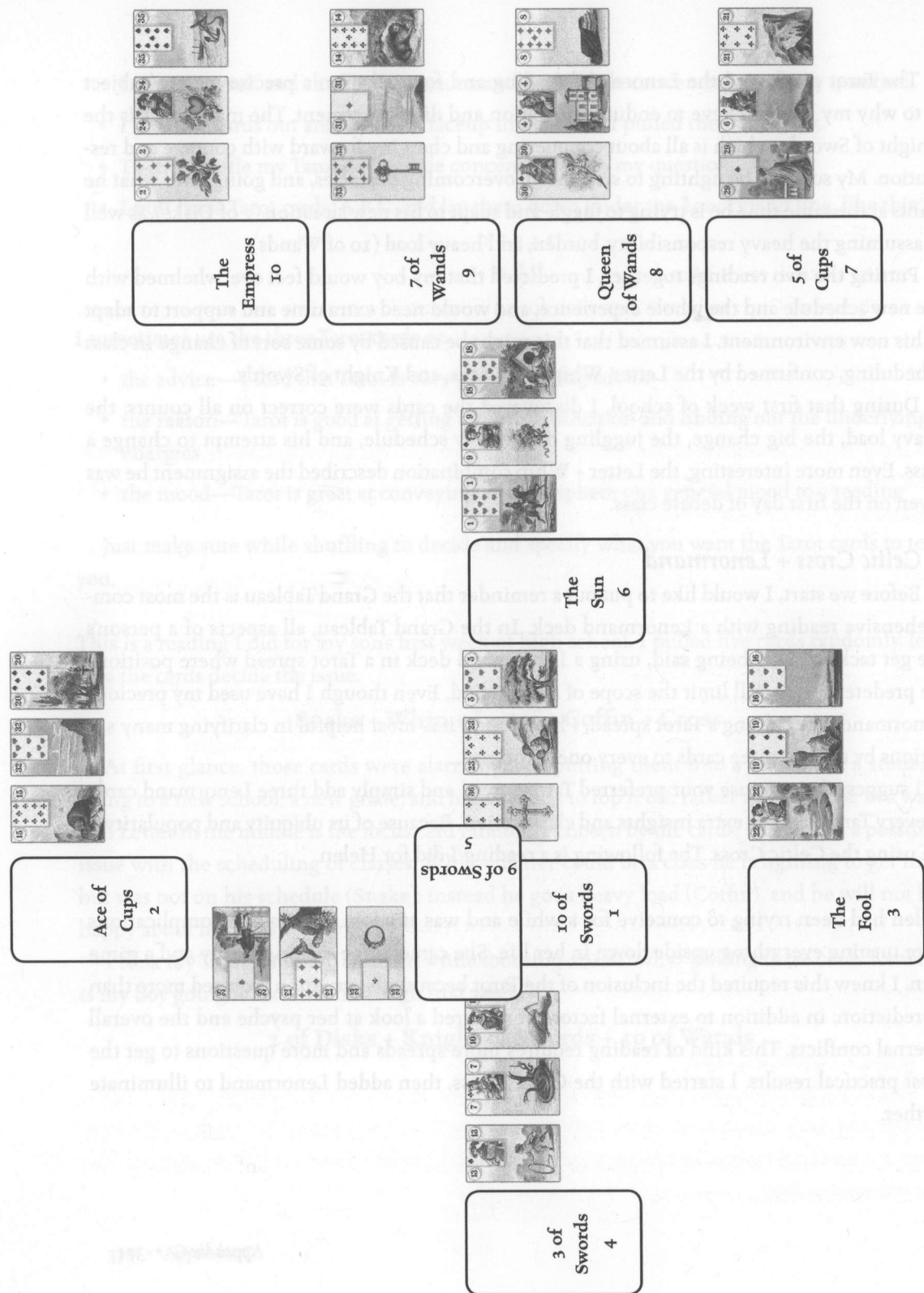
During that first week of school, I discovered the cards were correct on all counts: the heavy load, the big change, the juggling of the new schedule, and his attempt to change a class. Even more interesting, the Letter + Whip combination described the assignment he was given on the first day of debate class.

Celtic Cross + Lenormand

Before we start, I would like to put out a reminder that the Grand Tableau is the most comprehensive reading with a Lenormand deck. In the Grand Tableau, all aspects of a person's life get tackled. That being said, using a Lenormand deck in a Tarot spread where positions are predetermined will limit the scope of Lenormand. Even though I have used my precious Lenormand when doing a Tarot spread, I have found it is most helpful in clarifying many situations by adding three cards to every one Tarot card.

I suggest that you use your preferred Tarot spread and simply add three Lenormand cards to every Tarot card for extra insights and clarification. Because of its ubiquity and popularity, I am using the Celtic Cross. The following is a reading I did for Helen.

Helen had been trying to conceive for a while and was at a loss. Drama and complications were turning everything upside down in her life. She came to me seeking clarity and a game plan. I knew this required the inclusion of the Tarot because the question required more than a prediction; in addition to external factors, it required a look at her psyche and the overall internal conflicts. This kind of reading requires more spreads and more questions to get the most practical results. I started with the Celtic Cross, then added Lenormand to illuminate further.



..... LENORMAND + TAROT SPREAD FOR HELEN

The Celtic Cross positions include:

1: The State of the Client

Tarot: 10 of Swords represents Helen reaching the end of her wits, physically and mentally drained and done. **Lenormand:** Cross + Mice + Tree = the grief is eating away at her health and mental state.

2: On the Client's Mind

Tarot: Ace of Cups indicates her wish for fulfillment, joy, fertility, and new beginnings. **Lenormand:** Bear + Moon + Garden = her strength as a woman, her fertility, and her place in society and how she is perceived.

3: What the Client Has Under Control or What the Client Is Accepting

Tarot: The Fool represents Helen's undying will in trying new things and starting over. **Lenormand:** Crossroads + Tower + Stars = believing in the medical establishment and having no fear with trying new things and taking new paths.

4: Recent Past/Events or Situation

Tarot: 3 of Swords shows pain and grief. **Lenormand:** Child + Snake + Scythe = the loss of the fetus, the abortion procedure or miscarriage, the cause of the pain.

5: What Is Crossing/Opposing the Client?

Tarot: 9 of Swords indicates her fears and worries are working against her. **Lenormand:** Ring + Birds + Man = anxiety affects her marriage and her relationship with her husband.

6: Immediate Future

Tarot: The Sun brings a bright, happy, and optimistic outcome. **Lenormand:** Rider + Bouquet + Dog = happy visit of a friend, good news from your doctor, or joyful news about some help or assistance. (It was a doctor calling her with a positive update.)

7: Hopes and Fears/How the Client Perceives Things

Tarot: 5 of Cups symbolizes her disappointments and regrets. **Lenormand:** Woman + Clouds + Mountain = Helen feels confused and unstable, not knowing what to do, as if blocked or choked.

8: Outside Influences, Family, Friends, Etc.

Tarot: Queen of Wands represents a strong-willed person in Helen's life who is exerting a strong influence. **Lenormand:** Lilies + House + Coffin = an older person very close to Helen, in her close family or her close circle, negative and/or deceased. Helen confirmed a negative mother-in-law with a toxic impact on her marriage.

9: Advice (Very Important and Can Change the Outcome)

Tarot: 7 of Wands points out the need for Helen to stand her ground, face up to the situation, and assert her position. **Lenormand:** Key + Sun + Fox = a fundamental, vital strategy through staying confident and positive and believing in her strength and power, as well as knowing how to manipulate the situation to her advantage by using her wit and charm.

10: Final Outcome

Tarot: The Empress predicts pregnancy and creation and abundance. **Lenormand:** Clover + Heart + Anchor = a lucky twist of fate in achieving her heart's desire, accomplishing her goals, and reaching stability.

Lenormand + Tarot: Fused

This technique showcases how Lenormand and Tarot can augment, complement, and focus each other when reading for a querent. When the Lenormand is added to a Tarot card, it brings it down to earth and gives it a tangible direction and meaning; at the same time, when a Tarot card is added to a Lenormand card, it focuses the card on a specific interpretation, value, and context. Together they are like the bow and its arrow. A good reader can hit the bull's-eye easily!

For a simple daily draw with Lenormand and Tarot, I shuffle my Tarot cards and randomly pick and lay down three cards, A B C. Then I shuffle my Lenormand, pick three cards randomly, and place them on top of the three Tarot cards in the order they were drawn: 1 2 3. I treat this spread as if reading them in houses, or you can read them depending on which card you prefer to be on the bottom or which card has a stronger message. If you have a mini Tarot deck, then you can put the Tarot on top of the Lenormand, and of course you can choose the number of cards you desire, as long as they are equal in number so they can be paired. You could also put them next to each other to be read as a sentence.

A B C—Tarot

1 2 3—Lenormand

Basically you are combining A + 1 + B + 2 + C + 3

I shuffled my Tarot focusing on my upcoming weekend and pulled:

2 of Swords + Ace of Disks + 8 of Wands

Then I shuffled my Lenormand and overlapped the Tarot cards with:

Lilies + Rider + Tower

Then I spread them out in a line to read like sentence:

2 of Swords + Lilies + Ace of Disks + Rider + 8 of Wands + Tower

When I pulled the first line of 2 of Swords + Ace of Disks + 8 of Wands, I assumed this referred to a hectic weekend right before school starts. Monday was the first day of school, and I needed to make sure all three boys were ready; also on Monday my eldest turned fourteen and I had not even begun preparing for his birthday. Everything was there: the 2 of Swords epitomized my hesitation and not doing anything for his birthday, the Ace of Disks connected with his gift and its cost, the 8 of Wands portrayed me running around trying to get everything done at the last minute. But when I combined the two systems, the issues became clearer and more precise.

The 2 of Swords stands for an impasse, a standstill, or a decision that needs to be made about the Lilies, or something that has been taking a long time—an investment or something about an older man or a father figure. Having the Ace of Disks next narrows down the previous options to a monetary context, and the Rider indicates I will be receiving news about it soon. The news will also be a prompt to fast action being needed: the 8 of Wands means the urgency is dealing or connected with laws or taxes or governmental institutions, which is the Tower.

I got an unexpected call about an old investment that my late father had made, which required urgent attention: collecting certain documents from a governmental office. The prediction was on the nose, even though at the time I was baffled.

For me, Lenormand and Tarot are like yin and yang, male and female, analytical and creative. They complete each other and take the reading to a new height of skills, understanding, and knowledge.

Go ahead—play around and have fun with Lenormand and Tarot. Come up with your own spreads, combinations, and methods; practice with them, and let them open the doorways to new possibilities, fresh insights, and extra levels of expertise!

Glossary

Action Card: a nuance card that denotes movement or an act. For instance, the Ship brings change and movement; the Scythe indicates a decisive action to be taken. See also nuance card.

Activated Card: a card identified in advance and preselected to represent a person, a topic, or a situation in a reading by using intention and visualization. This card is cast in a role for the purposes of a particular reading; for example, deciding that the Dog card will be a missing pet or that the Book card will signify the project in question. See also focus card, signifier.

Box: both a layout and a technique of reading the cards laid out in a square shape, where three cards are drawn in three rows for a total of nine cards. This technique gives a small snapshot of a situation or the circumstances around the querent and uses many techniques that become important when you read the Grand Tableau. It is also called the 3 x 3.

Cartomancy: any divination and fortunetelling that uses a pack of cards as a predictive oracle. The practice originally began with playing cards and now includes any form of cards used for divination: Lenormand, Tarot, oracle decks, etc.

Chain of Houses: an exploratory reading technique that links the thirty-six house positions in a Grand Tableau layout by connecting a card to its current house, and then that house to its native card, and so on, tracing the connections around the Grand Tableau in a chain of symbols that will eventually lead back to the original card. It's a powerful way to learn more about a card with an elusive or unclear meaning. See also houses, native card, and the full Chain of Houses section in part 3.

Client: the querent, the person who comes to you for the reading. A client seeks advice, answers, and predictions to make sense of their past and help guide their decisions. This word often connotes a professional setting or a reading for payment. *See also* querent, question.

Combinations: the process of taking two or three cards and stringing their individual meanings and symbols together in context. The process of synthesizing separate symbols to come up with a deeper understanding, a new significance, or a clearer idea. Because each Lenormand card contains a single simple symbol, the reader must combine meanings contextually to gather useful information and insight.

Court Cards: the twelve cards in a deck of playing cards that include faces or royal figures. In Lenormand they are the card inserts that depict human figures: the King, the Queen, and the Jack (also known as the face cards). Traditionally included in most decks, though not all modern Lenormand decks include them. They are useful for determining gender. *See also* appendix F.

Divination: the art of predicting the future or communicating with the unseen world.

Focus Card: an important card to look for, as it targets a primary topic in a spread. Sometimes the reader preselects the focus card and cards are laid down around it; other times it is chosen by the deck. When chosen by the reader, the card's symbol should relate directly to a primary topic of the reading; e.g., the Heart card denoting a relationship or the House card representing a piece of real estate. When randomly provided by the deck, this card is usually the one landing in the middle of a spread with an even number of cards on either side. The focus card is sometimes called a key card, a charged card, or an energized card. *See also* activated card, significator.

Grand Tableau: one of the oldest spreads in cartomancy. The Grand Tableau (or the GT) uses the entire Lenormand deck, laying down all thirty-six cards in four rows of eight cards each and adding the last four cards under the last row in the middle, making a short fifth row at the bottom of the spread. The Grand Tableau's thirty-six positions are also known as the thirty-six houses, and these positions affect the meaning of the cards appearing in them. This spread is also referred to as the GT. *See also* houses.

Houses: the position of every card in the Grand Tableau. Each of the thirty-six positions is called a "house" and expresses a specific value and meaning depending on its number and location. The house meaning subtly influences the card occupying the house in a reading. *See also* native card and Chain of Houses.

Inserts: the playing card images added to each Lenormand card. Every deck is different: some come with a playing card image on the card, others have poems or pictures of people. Some decks do not include these inserts.

Intersection: one of the core techniques used when reading Lenormand cards. By examining the vertical axis of awareness and the horizontal axis of time, the reader can see the forces having a direct impact on the situation in the reading. This meaningful intersection reveals what is known and unknown, what has happened already, and what lies ahead. These two lines pinpoint the significator or focus cards; the cards that make up those two lines of intersection allow the reader to extrapolate meaning through combinations and other techniques. *See also* combinations.

Knighting: a technique of reading combined meanings for a card by looking at slightly distant cards in the same way knights move in chess: two away and one over. The L-shaped jump away from the knighted card leads you to other cards that add shades of meaning by combining pairs: your chosen card + its knighted counterpart. This method is used in a Grand Tableau layout or any other layout that allows enough cards to form the knight's characteristic chessboard L-leap.

Lenormand Deck: a deck of thirty-six cards named after a legendary French fortuneteller of the pre-Enlightenment Era. Each card is adorned with a simple symbol or image; those images are combined for coherent fortunetelling and divination.

Mademoiselle Lenormand: a legendary, highly revered French fortuneteller of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. She worked during the times of political unrest during the Revolution, the Terror, the reign of Napoleon, and the return of the monarchy. She circled high society and gave readings to many heads of state, including Robespierre, Empress Joséphine, and Tsar Alexander. In her day, Mlle. Lenormand was considered influential on many aspects from politics to fortunetelling and was a true celebrity in her own right. *See also* appendix A.

Mood Card: a nuance card that expresses a certain atmosphere. For example, the House card gives a family tone, while the Clouds card gives the impression of a charged ambiance. *See also* nuance card.

Native Card: the Lenormand card that falls in a given house if the cards are laid out numerically in a Grand Tableau. The Rider is native to house 1; the Dog is native to house 18. These native cards provide the general meaning and character of the house. *See also* houses, as well as appendix E and the Chain of Houses technique described in part 3.

Negative Card: a card with a symbol that generally denotes negative characteristics. Usually this card will cause the cards around it to be viewed negatively; it can also be viewed as a warning. *See also* positive card, neutral card.

Neutral Card: a card with a symbol that is generally neutral, without strong negative or positive characteristics. This card is highly affected by the cards around it. *See also* positive card, negative card.

Nuance Card: a card that sets the tone for a reading. Nuance cards are divided into four categories: action, portrait, mood, and time. The use of these categories works best in small spreads and for more direct questions. These cards (and categories) flavor a reading and tend to steer its advice into a specific mode. This is a technique I've developed on my own, and over time you will probably discover your own categories.

Orientation: the relative positive or negative charge of a given card based on the card's meaning and character. Some cards brighten or darken a spread by their presence. Some cards are essentially neutral and are influenced deeply by positive or negative neighbors. Also, for simple yes/no questions, orientation provides a quick way to get an answer. *See also* appendix D for a comprehensive breakdown.

Piquet: a highly popular card game played with a deck of thirty-two cards. The deck is composed of all the sevens through the tens, the aces, and the royal cards of each of the traditional playing card suits. We have a historical reference to this game from the late 1500s; it reached its popular zenith during the 1700s and died down in the early twentieth century. This parlor game was also used as a divination tool with many fortunetellers of the time and was one of Mlle. Lenormand's preferred methods.

Portrait Card: a nuance card that is descriptive and evokes a certain image that colors a spread strongly. For example, the Fox gives the impression of slyness; on the other hand, the Dog connotes loyalty. *See also* nuance card.

Positive Card: a card with a symbol that generally denotes positive characteristics. Usually this card will cause the cards next to it to be viewed in a positive light or it will lessen the effect of a negative card. *See also* negative card, neutral card.

Querent: the person getting the reading by the card reader. It's worth noting that built into the word is the idea of asking. Remember: a querent is someone who comes to you because they are curious about a situation and want an answer with practical value. Female querents are generally represented by the Woman card and male querents by the Man card. *See also* client, question.

Question: a request for information, clarification, or advice by the client that should be phrased carefully to get the best results from your cards. Great readings begin with the right question. Some clients do not know how to ask what they need or want to know, so you will want to take time to make sure you're looking for the information they seek. Not every querent will have a question, in which case a general reading may reveal the questions they cannot or will not ask. *See also* querent, client.

Reader: the person reading the cards. An interpreter of the Lenormand symbols who combines meanings to provide answers and advice to a querent. *See also* querent, client.

Significator: this is the card chosen to represent a specific person in the reading, the card designated as a female client (Woman) or a male client (Man) or anyone else of import. When reading without a question, it can also serve as a general focus card. For best results, you should activate this card for the querent in advance of the reading to strengthen the symbolic association. The phrase is also occasionally used for other non-person cards activated with an intent or a topic (because the card signifies that subject) for a reading. The significator card may also be called a person card, a querent card, or a client card. *See also* activated card, focus card.

Time Card: a nuance card that expresses a time factor in a reading. For instance, the Rider is fast timing; the Tree is slow timing. *See also* nuance card.

Time Sign: a personal technique I picked up when I was very young to decipher a time period in the Grand Tableau layout by counting the blank spaces between each card. Each space acts as a time sign. Locating the significator card and the card of a particular event, I count the spaces between them to calculate the approximate time involved. For instance, if there were three distances between the two cards, it would be interpreted as three time signs—indicating three hours, three days, three months, or so on. The specific duration would be determined by context. *See also* part 3.

Timing: using the cards to help work out a time period with some degree of specificity. This can be the most challenging task for a reader because time is always in flux. One of the most common requests in fortunetelling is to predict a time frame, and eventually you'll develop a system that works for you. *See also* time sign, time card.

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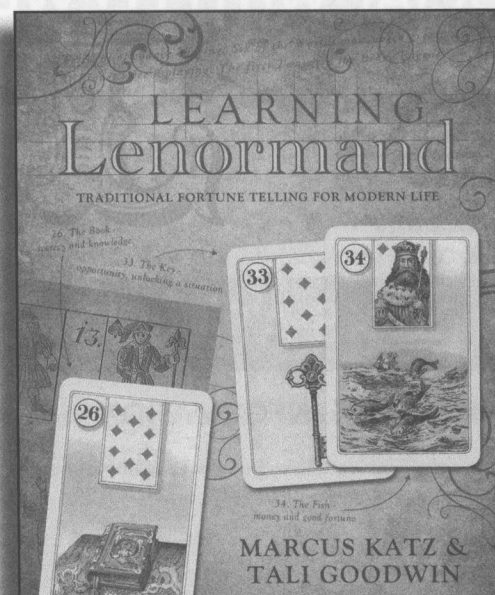
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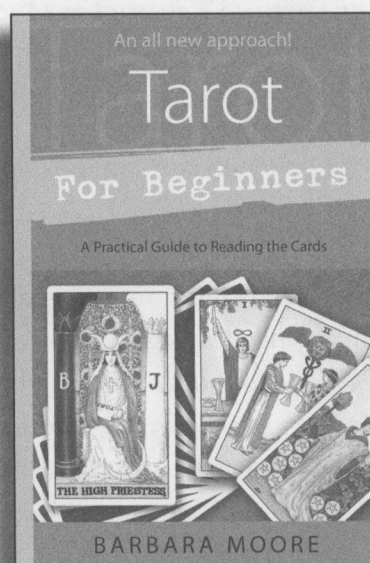
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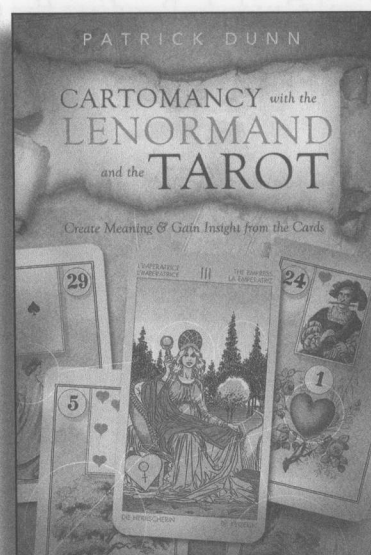
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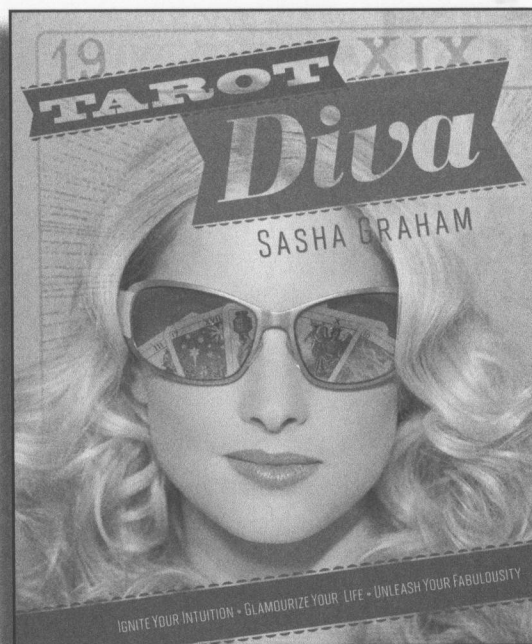
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