



THE COMPLETE LENORMAND ORACLE HANDBOOK



**Reading the Language and
Symbols of the Cards**



CAITLÍN MATTHEWS

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LENORMAND
ORACLE
HANDBOOK



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Symbols of the Cards

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Rochester, Vermont • Toronto, Canada

*This book is gratefully dedicated to Fortuna Primigenia and to the
worldwide Lenormand community.*



Since you question me excellently, it is right that I should answer.

**CORPUS HERMETICUM,
TRANSLATED BY AUTHOR**

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"An outstanding, definitive handbook for both beginners and experienced readers that gives a 'big picture' view of the Lenormand deck! Caitlin starts where most others leave off, exploring the original cartomantic tradition and combining it with modern techniques connected to those roots. As someone who appreciates the classic wisdom of the Grand Tableau, I'm so happy to see it taught this well, step by step, so anyone can use it."

MARY K. GREER, AUTHOR OF
21 WAYS TO READ A TAROT CARD

"This book is a sublime source that will provide handy inspiration for anyone interested in the Petit Lenormand cards. The content will satisfy the novice, the journeyman, and the expert alike. Essential for your shelf!"

BJÖRN MEURIS, CREATOR OF THE COURSES
LENORMAND FOR BEGINNERS,
LENORMAND GRAND TABLEAU, AND
LENORMAND METHOD OF DISTANCE

Acknowledgments

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I cannot thank the Lenormand community enough for their enthusiasm, especially members of the Facebook sites Lenormand Cards Study Group and Real Lenormand and Fortune Telling. They have both been unfailingly kind and supportive during my attempts to publish this work. To cartomancers Mary Greer, Andy Boroveshengra, Donnaleigh LaRose, Helen Riding, and many, many others, I thank you for your wisdom and expertise. To the clients who kindly allowed me to share their readings with altered

names and details, many thanks. Thanks to Linda Marston of Global Spiritual Studies for the opportunity to share Lenormand history over the airwaves. To the Tarot Guild of Australia and to Mordreth, editor of *The Magician*, thank you for encouraging me to announce my Lenormand findings. Finally to John, thank you for reading and commenting; for scanning cards and putting up with a settee littered with decks for several years. This is what all those little cards were about!

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"The Complete Lenormand Oracle Handbook by Caitlín Matthews is a wonderfully comprehensive and practical Lenormand guide. Matthews does a thorough job of presenting the history of the oracle to give the reader a solid sense of the deck's development over the centuries. Matthews has created an inspirational manual for Lenormand that can be a companion to readers at all stages of their cartomantic career."

ANASTASIA HAYSLER, COFOUNDER OF
TAROT MEDIA COMPANY AND COAUTHOR OF
PAINTING THE SOUL: THE TAROT ART OF DAVID PALLADINI

"Caitlín Matthews brings a unique perspective to this wonderful book on Lenormand cartomancy. She is both a scholar and a shaman/magician, and at the highest level of both. Whether describing the symbols and techniques or the deeper levels of cartomancy, she is warm, witty, and always clear. This book is above all *useful*, especially in its exploration of the playing card symbols in the corners of the cards and the ways the Lenormand deck can open to deeper, even archetypal meanings without abandoning the tradition. This is a book I will come back to again and again."

RACHEL POLLACK, CO-CREATOR OF THE BURNING SERPENT
ORACLE

"Wide in its scope and detailed in its depth, this is the go-to

book for the Lenormand novice and expert alike. Crammed with knowledge and insight, examples and exercises, Matthews has created that rare beast: a clear and well-structured manual to navigate the paradox of simplicity and complexity that is the Lenormand Oracle.”

ALISON CROSS, JOINT CHAIR OF THE
TAROT ASSOCIATION OF THE BRITISH ISLES (TABI)

“Caitlin’s historical insight, exceptional practical instruction, and groundbreaking revelations of the ‘Lenormand Universe’ will ensure this book becomes a guiding light in the global Lenormand community for readers, students, and teachers in the twenty-first century.”

LINDA HENERY, PRESIDENT TAROT GUILD OF AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

The Return of the Traditional Oracle

Divination by lot is not to be despised, if it has the sanction of antiquity, as in the case of those lots which, according to tradition, sprang out of the earth . . . they may, under the power of God, be drawn so as to give an appropriate response.

CICERO, DE DIVINATIONE 18, 34

(TRANSLATED BY AUTHOR)

TABLETS FROM THE LIVING EARTH

A few years ago, I began to experience a need to shift my card reading into a deeper place. I desired a more primal, earthly oracle such as we read about in legend where a man called Numerius

Suffustius dreamed that he should dig into the ground in Praeneste, now called Palestrina, near Rome. From within a stone, he discovered tablets of oak inscribed with sayings written in an archaic script. These tablets were then kept in the temple of Fortuna Primigenia where an oracle was established. The diviner, a young child, would take the box, shake it, and remove one of the tablets at random. This was then given to the questioner, who was left to interpret the meaning for him or herself.¹ What an inspiration—to have such a simple and direct oracle!

By comparison, the new tarots and oracles on the bookstore shelves no longer appealed, most of them being too digitally photoshopped and superficial in tone. I longed for deeper, older, and more traditional ways of working. I resumed divining with my very first tarot, *Tarot de Marseille*, trying to find connection by going back to basics. But there was something still lacking. What was I searching for? What was I missing?

All my life I have been playing with cards. As a small child with few toys, my playmates were playing cards and chessmen. As a young woman in late 1960s London, I dedicated myself to learning tarot and became a collector of tarot decks. But in the twenty-first century, I felt the call of something else. And I began to consider what connects playing cards and tarot? It was time to explore not only the history of tarot but also my own connection to cartomancy (divining by cards). In order to rediscover the meaning and passion I was accustomed to, I needed to get creative. Thus began the next level of my education.

In eighteenth-century Europe playing cards were the most common sorts of cards used for divining, not tarot. They were cheap and unesoteric. Many people used just a stripped deck, or piquet pack. *Piquet* is a French word meaning a small detachment of soldiers, but it was also the title of a card game of 32 cards that used only Aces through Sevens. Piquet is mentioned by Rabelais in his 1534 epic adventure *Gargantua and Pantegruel*, and it became a highly popular game in Britain during the seventeenth century.² Similar games with the piquet deck abounded in Europe including Bezique, Skat, and Octavo.

When French cartomancer Etteilla wrote the first guide to divining with playing cards in 1770, *Etteilla, ou maniere de se recreer avec un jeu de cartes*, it was as if the floodgates opened.³ People now used the piquet deck for divining and not just gambling, turning the 32-card piquet deck into the cartomantic *Petit Etteilla*. We have no means of knowing whether Etteilla based his method upon preexistent systems. It is more likely that he created this particular technique himself, though he did report learning from a card reader from Piedmont: in eighteenth-century France, this just meant "an Italian," since Piedmont was just over the border. After this first publication, Etteilla went on to design a tarot pack that was the first of the many arcane tarots that are so common today. Following Etteilla's manual, many other little oracles began to surface at this time, and well into the mid-1800s. Many of these oracles drew upon Etteilla's reduced card deck of 32 cards like *Le Jeu Cartomancien* (ca. 1820), while others occupied a place between

the piquet deck and a full pack of cards, like the 1807 *Le Petit Oracle des Dames*.⁴

These cards began to sport not just the usual numbers, or pips, but also pictorial images, retaining the playing card icon in a corner or above the image. These new pictorial oracles could be used by people who still understood and remembered the playing card values as well as by new readers, who could also begin to make meaning from the images. Today, in some modern piquet-based oracles, the playing card is left off, leaving only the image. This is a shame because there is a lot to be learned from a spread when a pack retains it.

From my studies I learned that there were cartomantic skills that had totally passed me by, skills that I was completely charmed to rediscover. I began to realize that it wasn't tarot I was tired of, but rather the traditional skills of discerning, spreading, and interpreting that I was missing. Incorporating foundational and historical techniques, learning simple and direct methods, and getting creative helped me to breathe new life into my practice.

Petit Lenormand Cards and Their Origins

When I came to the little deck that is the subject of this book, the Petit Lenormand, I knew I had found something special. I realized that these were the same little cards that some of my European friends used, but to which I had paid no mind.

Although this 36-card oracle is named after the French celebrity diviner

Marie Anne Lenormand (1772–1843), these cards actually originated in Germany and were not of her invention. Until 2013, it was thought that the young businessman Johann Kaspar Hechtel (1771–1799) was the inventor, for he created *Das Spiel der Hoffnung* (*The Game of Hope*) published in 1800. His 36 cards were used as a board game with two dice where the cards were laid in a square and around which competitors raced to the winning post. Like Snakes and Ladders, your playing piece could advance or retreat if you landed on particular cards. *The Game of Hope* had the same numeration and images as all subsequent Petit Lenormand decks, conclusively proving that this was the deck of origin. The accompanying leaflet to *The Game of Hope* also suggested a simple question and answer whereby 36 cards laid in six rows of six might answer divinatory questions.⁵

The Game of Hope cards, while clearly based upon piquet deck cartomancy, have their own unique set of images that are ordinary and nonesoteric, entirely suitable for family use. With animals, buildings, flowers, and everyday objects like Letter, Book, and Key, these cards speak simply and concisely. *The Game of Hope* also sported the playing card insets, showing both German and French suited cards in the upper corners. This pack was the basis for all subsequent Lenormand decks, and these have captivated Europe for over two centuries.

That the images used in *Game of Hope* and Lenormand share certain overlapping qualities with lottery board games like the Italian Biribissi or the seventeenth-century European custom of

divining from coffee grounds and tea leaves has not been overlooked. Unsurprisingly, we see the images of the Moon, Dog, Clover, Clouds, and Scythe in all three places. Indeed two-thirds of the Lenormand images recur in coffee ground reading, and just over half of them within Biribissi.

Biribissi was a popular Italian game that arose when printing became available in the late fifteenth century. It was a lottery game where people bet upon the selection of tokens that corresponded to a set of between 42–70 images on a board. As with Bingo, if your particular token was drawn, you would win the stake that had been placed on that corresponding image on the board. Casanova himself was a *biribissant*, or Biribissi player, and writes about his experiences at the tables.⁶ This game is related to Biribi, or the French game of *cavagnole*, a game with a board of 70 numbers and which is the origin of the modern game of roulette. These folk games, as well as the emblem books of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, are the primary known sources of Lenormand imagery.

Emblem books flourished when the advent of the printing press made reading more accessible to the populace. These books showed woodcuts or engravings of, most often, classical images accompanied with moral or instructive verses. These intriguing images are close cousins to Personal Devices, heraldic badges not necessarily using elements of the coat of arms, but of a similar style. Andrea Alciato made one of the first emblem books, published in 1513 in Augsburg, writing epigrams to accompany each

image. This book was widely emulated and nearly every European country has its own book of emblems. We can gauge the educative intent in the subtitle of Geoffrey Whitney's 1635 work *A Collection of Emblemes, Ancient and Moderne: Quickened with Metricall Illustrations, both Morall and Divine: And Disposed into Lotteries, that Instruction, and Good Counsell, may bee furthered by an Honest and Pleasant Recreation*, which gives us the sense of these emblems' effect.⁷ This same moral and uplifting sense can be detected in the Game of Hope board game.

In 2013, well-known author and diviner Mary Greer discovered the missing link connecting coffee ground reading and Lenormand cards in *Les Amusements des Allemands, or the Diversions of the Court of Vienna*, a book published in London in 1796.⁸ The book gives instructions on reading the emblems formed by coffee grounds in the cup. Here are directions for understanding the Moon, for example, in coffee grounds. "If it appears in the clear, it denotes high honors, in the dark or the thick part, it implies sadness, which will however pass without great prejudice. But if it be at the bottom of the cup, the consulting party will be very fortunate both by water and land."⁹

The 32 emblems, called "Coffee Cards," depict the images as naturalistic pictures, with an auxiliary moral beneath the image. The Moon's moral reads, "The liberality of your mind will always rather increase than lessen your prosperity; it will also daily endear you more to your friends."¹⁰ The connections between the image's meanings and the moral are not always closely related, but it is

clear from this evidence that coffee ground reading not only influenced the Lenormand cards but that this is their ultimate origin. These Coffee Cards contain three cards not found in Petit Lenormand packs: the Lion, Green Bush, and Worms, while the standard Lenormand cards of Tower, Stork, Bear, Fox, Ship, Book, and Key do not appear among the Coffee Cards.

Johann Kasper Hechtel evidently used these coffee emblems for his *Game of Hope* cards, adding four more for a total of 36. The concept of the emblem cards was swiftly taken up in the early nineteenth century and their original purpose forgotten, except in obscure chapbooks like the *Spaewife; Or, Universal Fortune-Teller: Wherein Your Future Welfare may be Known by Phisiognomy, Palmistry, and Coffee Grounds; Also the True Method of Telling Your Fortune by Cards*.¹¹

In France, Mlle. Marie-Anne Adelaide Lenormand had such a spectacular career as a diviner in the early 1800s that publishers of many little card oracles jumped upon the bandwagon of her fame in order to promote their products, which is why they bear her name and not Hechtel's: Hechtel himself died before the publication of his *Game of Hope* in 1799 and while it was his 36 cards that set the Petit Lenormand card trend, it was Mlle. Lenormand's name that graced them. Lenormand promoted herself by associating herself closely with her celebrity clients, who included the Empress Josephine, wife to Napoleon.¹² Lenormand's many books show the range of her divinatory skills, including coffee ground reading, but give no insight into her cartomantic methods.

Ironically, although the cards are named after her, she never used them at all.

After Lenormand's death, a 54-card pack called *Le Grand Jeu de Mlle. Lenormand* was published by Grimaud, created by a Madame Breteau, who claimed to be a student of Lenormand, although there are no records of this person being associated with the "Sibyl of the Salons," as Lenormand was nicknamed.¹³ This pack is illustrated by scenes from Greek classical myth, constellations, and smaller emblems from daily life and bears no relationship to the Petit Lenormand deck of 36 cards. We now understand the context in which Petit Lenormand developed and know some of the key players. Yet it is still unclear who truly was the creator or Petit Lenormand. Through luck and study, we may hopefully someday discover more about the origins of this historic little oracle.

During the last few years I have not been the only one researching this material. Many people were becoming excited about using and learning Lenormand cards, but they were frustrated that this wasn't easy, since most of the books were written either in German or French. *The Complete Lenormand Oracle Handbook* is the result of my research and practice over the last few years. In it I have included the traditional skills of playing card cartomancy that make reading such a delight, as well as some of the European styles of reading Lenormand.

In the last few years, the Lenormand cards have gone from being a European oracle to a worldwide phenomenon, with Brazilian *cigano baralho* (gypsy oracle) cards, and a variety of American,

Russian, and Australian decks. It is inevitable that many different methods and practices have arisen around this oracle. The German, Dutch, Belgian, and French styles have commonalities and differences, with each claiming their own as the most authentic.

There have been few books written about the practice of Lenormand cards in the English language. Many people now reading this oracle have been able to do so because they learned from a practitioner, an online source, or have attended classes. Lenormand has been transmitted through the last two hundred years in a largely oral and practical way. This is why we now have different styles of reading and interpretations from different countries. At the time of writing this book, Lenormand is now like tarot in the 1960s, when there were few books and decks were hard to obtain. As Lenormand method travels worldwide and expands into the English language, so new styles are developing at a rapid rate. One of the earliest nineteenth-century methods is given here.

Which Lenormand Cards?

What is the best kind of deck to learn from? There are so many on the market that it is easy to become overwhelmed by the choice. Everyone has their own aesthetic response to artwork, but if you use the same criteria as you do for choosing a tarot, you can soon lose the thread in Lenormand. Tarots often have a lush imagery, so that it is like choosing 78 very beautiful pictures for your art gallery. Throughout this book, I have used a range of cards that are variations of the traditional packs, with both the playing card and

the traditional image upon them, or with the playing card marked in the corner and the images in the center. If you are learning from this book, then you will need such a traditional deck, as we will be exploring those with the playing cards inset upon them. Decks used in this book are listed here, while you will find many others commercially available.

Bear in mind that when all 36 cards are laid out in a Grand Tableau, it is the cards' *simplicity* that will count. If you have chosen the lushly illustrated *Hawaiian Pineapple Lenormand* (I just made that deck up!), it won't matter how beautifully painted it is if you can't, at a glance, tell the difference between Tree and Garden, or Dog and Fox, or if you aren't certain which equivalent Lenormand cards the Volcano (Mountain?) or the Surf-Board (Ship?) are supposed to represent!

Themed, cultural decks are very nice if you have already laid down a baseline by learning all 36 cards, but they can also mislead beginners into reading Lenormand more like a tarot card. If the *Hawaiian Pineapple Lenormand* has assigned a circle of hula dancers to the card of the Ring, your mind will create associations with the Ring that are symbolic of dancing rather than of agreements, which is one of the keywords of this card. In this way you will inevitably bring a whole host of cultural and metaphorical associations that finally detract from, or cloud, the core meaning.

Size is also a consideration. You will notice that most Lenormand decks are very small, some smaller than poker-size playing cards. There is a good reason for this; if the pack you choose has

very large cards, then you will need an enormous table when it comes to laying out all 36 of them in a Grand Tableau!

Choose a deck where the images are clear at a glance. If it is overwhelmed with astrological emblems, words, lush images, or heavily loaded with photo-montaged cutouts, you will never be able to find your way through a Grand Tableau without confusion. Simple images enable your mind to make the connections between cards. Complex cards delay that process.

I have been very fortunate in being able to use many modern and antique decks here to reveal the variety in Lenormand cards: from the antique Belgian *Daveluy*, the German *Lilac Dondorf*, and the American *Madame Morrow* deck, to the charming German *Magisches Lenormand*, the witty French *Palimpsest Lenorman*, the colorful Australian *Japanese Lenormand*, and the elegant American *Lenormand Revolution* decks, among others. You can find references for these decks [here](#). Unfortunately, many of the antique ones are very rare but some reproduced facsimile packs are now available.

Tarot and Lenormand

If you are used to divining with tarot, or indeed any other oracle, then you should be aware that reading Lenormand is a very different practice. Many people who consider the differences between Lenormand and tarot often remark on the terse literalness of Lenormand as opposed to the intuitive flow of tarot. Here are a few differences:

COMPARISON OF TAROT AND LENORMAND

Tarot	Lenormand
78 cards	36 cards
Major and minor cards	All cards are of equal importance
Upright and reversed cards	Cards always read upright
Read based on positions in spreads	Read based on proximity to each other
Esoteric	Nonesoteric
Complex symbolism	Single, simple image
Passive Significator	Active Significator/s left in deck
Single cards read	Cards only read as combinations
Spreads of 3–15 cards	Spreads of up to 36 cards
Cards speak floridly	Cards speak directly

In tarot, cards are laid out in predecided or named positions. Take a spread like the ten-card Celtic Cross. Every position has a different meaning, as introduced by diviners as they lay cards down: “this covers you, this crosses you, this is beneath you, this is behind you, this crowns you, this is before you; one for yourself, one for your home, one for your hopes and fears, and one for what will surely come to pass.” Each position is an essential part of the reading and helps define or frame how the card laid upon each place is to be read.

Conversely, Lenormand cards work by proximity to each other,

creating meaning through juxtaposition. This is a more linguistic method. Just as we use different combinations of the alphabet to create words, so, too, do Lenormand cards work together to create different meanings, as we will see in chapter 1.

Divination or Prediction?

As a parlor oracle, Lenormand cards most often have been used in a predictive way. If you are used to reading the tarot, then you may be more accustomed to divination, where the cards are consulted for guidance. I speak both of divination and prediction in this book. To divine is to ask the gods to be shown the greater picture in which the client's question rests. Divination takes the widest overview, whereas fortune-telling seeks to predict the likely effects from the present or past. They are both useful perspectives. To make this clearer: divination works outside the boundaries of time and space while predictive fortune-telling works within them. Most cartomancers consult cards to get a little of each of these forms of guidance, looking at both the general picture and the specific details about their issue or question. An oracle can only show so much, of course, and Lenormand is oriented toward prediction.

When you program a destination into your GPS, it will chart you a clear road on the map, but you won't necessarily find that the conditions on the ground always reflect that route. You may have to avoid a spillage from an oil tanker, or drive a lot slower due to poor visibility in fog or a flock of sheep on the road. The Lenormand cards can give you navigational information that can show

some causation—a possible route, and the conditions surrounding it, as well as the likelihood of results. This is what we normally call the past, present, and future.

Every living human being navigates between the constraints of fate and the potentialities of destiny waiting to be developed. This dynamic dance requires our will and engagement. Lenormand cards show likely tendencies that are based upon the present circumstances. While we may make changes now or tomorrow that will reframe the future, some things occur as we plan and foresee. But remember, when we engage imaginatively with space, time, matter, and energy, the way in which we perceive changes what occurs. This is why you will find me speaking both of divining and predicting in this book.

Can anyone pick up these cards and learn them quickly? The answer is the same as when you pick up a musical instrument. Yes, you can get some nice sounding notes out of it in the first weeks. But the real truth is that you will need to practice your instrument every day, sometimes doing quite repetitive exercises, until you gain proficiency, and so begin to pass beyond simple tunes and scales to make really beautiful music. Be assured that, from chapter 1, you will be learning and practicing every day. So choose a deck of Lenormand cards and find yourself a journal or open a file on your computer in which to record your daily findings. There truly is no advanced level in this craft, only practice, which you alone can provide.

A Handbook for the Lenormand Learner

In this book, I strive to give a traditional method of learning, encouraging you to use the cards with an eye to practical application, so each chapter gives practice examples to read and case histories for you to interpret for yourself. I also provide some new and different ways of looking at the cards, which have arisen from my own practice. The key to these practices will be found here, but do try them for yourself first or you will only be cheating yourself. Your own findings may be different in detail from mine, but don't be deterred. Your comprehension will grow from paying attention to the context of the questioning and the case histories that coincide with each example. Variations, deeper nuances, or insights will help you intuitively find your way through the practices.

In chapter 1 we explore the language and basic methods of Lenormand. In chapter 2 you will find the foundational keywords and understandings of each of the 36 cards. Chapter 3 looks at pairing and triplets, which are the basis of all reading, while in chapter 4 we expand the story into five cards to make statements and small divinations. Chapter 5 begins to work with the small tableau or layout of nine cards, preparing you to move on to the Grand Tableau, which uses all 36 cards, by chapters 9–11. Before we get to the Grand Tableau, we examine the basics of cartomancy in chapters 6–7 to help integrate the playing card aspect of the cards into your reading. Chapter 8 offers my original research and findings about the Lenormand Universe, which looks deeper at the mythic blueprint underlying this simple deck of cards. I discovered

these techniques by playing endlessly with the cards and perceiving their patterns, but it was really the playing cards themselves that held the blueprint. It is couched in the mind-set of the late eighteenth century, containing some politically incorrect comparisons for our twenty-first-century world. I urge you to consider Lenormand in its historical context.

In chapter 12 we explore the issue of timing, place, lost objects, and description of people, while we extend your vocabulary. In chapter 13 we consider the ethics of divining for others, unlock dilemmas and paradoxes in divining, and deal first hand with sensitive case histories. In the appendices you will find the answers to the self-tests and practices as well as other quick reference guides.

Throughout the book I speak about the person for whom the cards are being read as the client, although I realize that you may never wish to read cards for other people. I also stress the need for you to utter your interpretations aloud, since it is by means of your vocalization of the cards that they will speak to others.

The study sections contain essential information, which will help build your skills and practice, and without which you cannot read. All of chapter 2 is an essential study section that you will return to again and again, and even add to it, I hope.

I wish you *bona fortuna*! Fortuna, the goddess of luck, was closely associated with the goddess Felicitas (happiness) and the goddess Spes (hope). So, in translating my good wishes for your progress into Lenormand cards, may I wish you: Clover + Sun +

Anchor!

CAITLIN MATTHEWS



Clover + Sun + Anchor
(from the Enchanted Lenormand deck)

PART ONE

Learning the Craft of Lenormand

The person, who is desirous to know the future, after shuffling the cards ad libitum, cuts the pack into three parts. The seer, then, taking up these parts, lays the cards out, one by one, face upward, upon the table, sometimes in a circular form, but more often in rows consisting of nine cards in each row. Nine is the mystical number. Every nine consecutive cards form a separate combination, complete in itself: yet, like a word in a sentence, no more than a fractional part of the grand scroll of fate.

ROBERT CHAMBERS,

THE FOLKLORE OF PLAYING CARDS

Learning the Language of Lenormand

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age, I always did it for half-an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

LEWIS CARROLL, *THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS*

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND LENORMAND

The Lenormand Oracle has its own unique language that helps you to read the cards in ways that are quite unlike other oracles. Although its images look simple, the range of topics covers every aspect of life. You will never need to learn esoteric, astrological, or Kabbalistic meanings. The images and their keywords are eloquent in much more direct ways. You also won't need to learn the significance of reversed cards, since they are always read upright. Nearly every card is what we call a "speaking card" and of equal importance in the deck. Only two cards, Man and Woman, are mostly spoken about, as we'll see below.

Let's jump right in and look at the same Lenormand card through three different depictions. This is the Dog card. The first card we see is from a traditional nineteenth-century Belgian deck, *Daveluy Lenormand*. The second is from the early American deck

Madame Morrow, and the third is from a modern German deck, *Magisches Lenormand*. Here you can see that each card, regardless of deck, has a number to distinguish it, rather than a written title. In this case, the Dog card is number 18. Each card has a dog as the primary image and the 10 of Hearts inset (this inset is the secondary information that we'll consider in detail in chapter 6). Each example above has exactly the same meaning, for this is a generic oracle.



Dog (left to right: Daveluy, Madame Morrow, Magisches)

To read the card Dog, we need to know the keywords that relate to it. These include friend, companion, acquaintance, faithful, reliable, instinctive, helper, coworker, supportive, and dogged. These words accord with and are drawn from the image of dog as man's best friend and faithful companion.

Lenormand cards are rarely, if ever, read individually. It takes

two sticks to generate fire, so we usually look at Lenormand cards as pairs or combinations. It is our goal to access the dynamic burning at the heart of the issue. So let's draw another card to set next to Dog: Clover.

Clover is number 2. It has the 6 of Diamonds upon it and an image of a clover leaf. Its keywords are: luck, easy, short-term fortune, momentary or fleeting, surprise, spontaneity, charming, risk, gamble, a single person, a gamer, brief, and a window of opportunity. These words are derived from the fundamental understanding of the four-leafed clover as lucky.

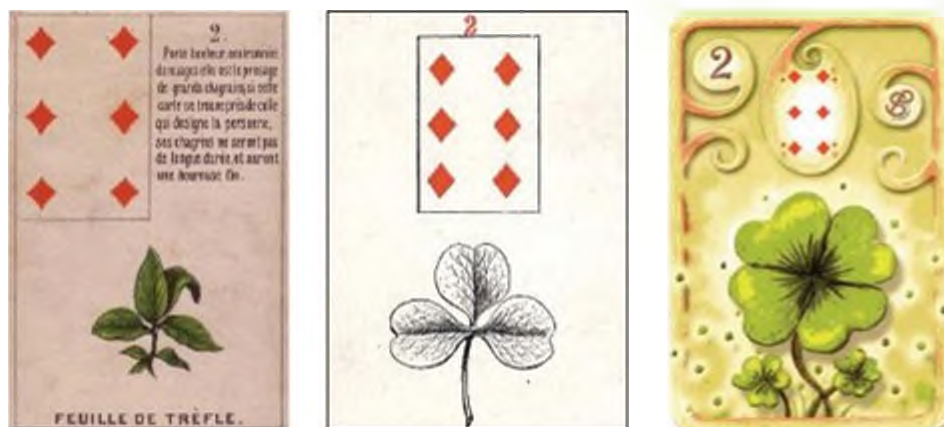


Fig. 1.2. Clover (left to right: Daveluy, Madame Morrow, Magisches)

Treating the first card Dog as a noun or subject and the second card Clover as an adjective, adverb, or qualifier of the first, how might you read this? Cover the next paragraph with your hand and try to make a phrase or two from the keywords I've provided earlier.



Dog + Clover (Magisches)

Possible readings of Dog + Clover might include: a lucky friend, a short friendship, a charming companion, a fleeting acquaintance, easy to be faithful, momentarily helpful, or a gambling companion.

This is how we start to read Lenormand cards, *by juxtaposition*. We will look more closely at the playing card aspect of Lenormand in part 2, after you've gained some proficiency with the primary images. Now, to prove that you have already started reading, let's switch the cards around and say you've drawn Clover first and then Dog. How would you read this pair now? As before, your first card is the noun or subject and the second card is qualifying or describing it. What new phrases can you find? Cover the paragraph below and try it for yourself. And no, they will not make the same phrases.



Clover + Dog

Possible readings can include: a friendly gambler, a reliable window of opportunity, an instinctive gamble, companioned by Lady Luck, a faithful bachelor, or doggedly charming.

I hear you say, “But these phrases are all so different, how will I know which one to choose?” Of course, you are right. Randomly drawn cards don't speak as plainly as the ones you draw when you need to know something. So the next important process is to *read within the context*.

The context of any reading is set by your intention. What do you need the cards to do for you? To help you, advise you, open a way forward, reveal pitfalls, inspire your planning, keep you on track, bring you comfort or reassurance, prepare the way, or help complete the next chapter of your life? These questions and many more are how you ground the cards in a reading—through your

intention.

Setting the Context by Questioning

Divination is a means of asking for guidance. All over the world, and from many different approaches, people have divined by all manner of cards, stones, omens, oracles, or rituals. For prediction to give you exact answers, it needs initial coordinates.

The first rule of all divination is if you don't want to know the answer, don't ask the question. That might seem basic, but it is remarkable how many people come to divination only to shy away from what it tells them. The second rule is to ask the right question. Without a context, trying to divine or predict is like whistling in the wind. As soon as you set a context by framing a succinct, specific question, you invite the whole universe to become a potential answer to you. Ideas and solutions can turn up in dreams, visions, or very literally in your daily life. The cards that are drawn after posing your question can speak to you clearly. When using cartomancy, it is helpful to look at the direct relationship between your question and what you see in the spread before you. Whenever you don't see an answer in the cards, always revert back to the question. How do the cards reflect an answer?

Take time to set a question that clearly frames your issue in the most helpful way. Let's see how the following questions offer certain results:

☞ **Will I come back here? Results in a yes or no answer,**

but no further guidance

- What are the consequences of coming back here? Results in a nuanced, complex answer
- How can I best sell my car? Results in helpful advice
- Give me clarity about the problems at work. Results in an overview

Some questions are intrusively like surveillance and this raises ethical issues:

- What is he thinking about now?
- How can I get her to come back to me?
- Why does my son follow that wretched girl about?

Questions involving other people need careful handling so that you avoid being nosy, coercive, or intrusive. By all means ask the cards for help about an issue with a person, but make the question about yourself, not them. See more on ethics in chapter 13.

Other questions say rather more about the attitude of the questioner. These ones need to be reframed in ways that will be more helpful:

- Should I meet Mandy?
- Why can't I find a girlfriend?

Conditional questions using “should” suggest that you have given up your own motivational powers or that your question is dependent upon another's agency. You might reframe the first question as, “What will come out of meeting Mandy?” Questions framed in the negative rarely result in good responses, because they are often prejudged by a negative attitude. Try reframing the question in the positive: “How can I find a girlfriend?”

Some questions do not work because they are assumptive or confusing to the oracle:

- ❖ **How shall I spend my lottery winnings? (When you've not yet bought the ticket!)**
- ❖ **Shall I back Caroline or Ernest in the marathon sponsorship?**
- ❖ **Tell me about leaving Manchester, learning market-gardening, and reuniting with Jonathan.**

Assumptive questions do not serve us because something in the question hasn't arrived yet and so the current perspective cannot be the basis for our asking. Either/or questions need separate spreads for each option. Multiple issues need multiple questions (although you will learn in chapters 9–11 how one spread can do a lot of work).

The best possible platform for any question is erected by the needs of the present moment. Cartomancy can give you a great deal of information to help with your decision making. However, it

doesn't last forever, nor is it written in stone. Every decision we make influences the next moment. The cards speak to us by responding to a well-framed question, so when you've arrived at your question, write it down and look at it. Does it do what you want it to do or does it fall into any of the traps above?

🔮 *Practice 1: Pairs Together*

- Randomly take two cards from your pack and do exactly as we've done above, placing them side by side and reading them. Then try reading them by switching the pair of cards around, so that the second one is now in the first position. Use the quick reference here or look in chapter 2 for some keywords to help you.
- Now repeat the last practice, but this time ask a question before you draw any cards. How do the cards relate to your question? Sharpen up the words you use by attending to the present issue. Switch the cards' position. How do they relate to your question now?

INTRODUCING THE SIGNIFICATOR

We see into the unique relational quality of the Lenormand Oracle by way of the Significator. A Significator is a card that is chosen to represent the client or querent (the questioner of an oracle). In tarot, the Significator is often taken out of the pack and placed under the first card of a spread. In such a method, the Significator card becomes merely representational and inactive, and

furthermore, that card becomes unavailable as a possible spokesman of the deck. In Lenormand there are two dedicated Significator cards, as well as a variety of other cards that might be used to represent a person or a topic. The two main Significators are the Man and Woman cards, sometimes also called the *Gentleman* and *Lady*. These can be selected and laid down in a passive way, but most often the Significator is shuffled in, thus creating dynamism.

The Man and Woman cards themselves have few meanings beyond their representational quality of a male or a female client, although they can also convey qualities of masculinity or femininity. In this sense they are not speaking cards but cards that are spoken about or described by other cards. There are occasionally ways of seeing them as active (see [here](#) for further suggestions). In the examples below, the Significators stand in for the querent.

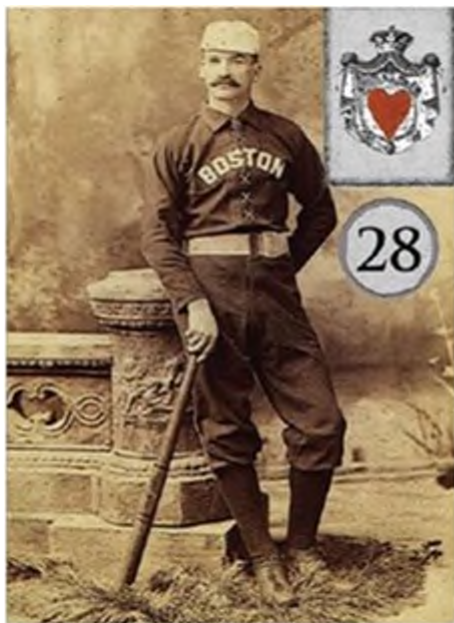
As we have seen from our card pairing above, cards speak through juxtaposition. When cards appear in the vicinity of, or touching, the Significator, they have an instant effect upon, or relevance to, the client. Let's see how Stork and Woman work together.



Stork + Woman (Daveluy)

Stork can mean: change, movement, restlessness, spring cleaning, birth, migration, relocating, and seasonal. Because the Woman has the Stork in front of her, we can read in forward narration as card one followed by card two. (See more about cards and reading order in chapter 3.) Here are a few possibilities: changes for a woman, a restless female, the woman is relocating, a woman who comes and goes periodically, a migrant, or a pregnant woman.

Let's see how Man and Tower work together.



Man + Tower (Vintage)

Tower can mean: official, ambitious, institutional, authorized, lofty, bureaucratic, administrate, executive, and ruling. We could read this combination as: an executive, a social climber, a man who lays down the rules, a tall man, or a bureaucrat.

Significators are colored by the cards around them. These can represent influences upon the client, things they are dealing with, or merely describe the client at the present time. (For more about how other kinds impact on Significators, see chapter 3.) Sometimes the Significator fuses with another card to make an occupational title like Man + Tower (official) = executive. We will start using the Significators in greater depth from chapter 5 onward.

🔮 Practice 2: The Significator Is Revealed

- Shuffle your cards and turn them face up, looking through to see which two cards are on either side of the Man and Woman cards. I know that looking through the face-up cards seems like cheating, but I'm going to ask you to do a lot of this, so just dive in! Draw all three cards out and read them as pairs with each Significator. Let's say you drew the following: Bear, Woman, Book, House, Man, and Mice.



Bear + Woman + Book (Victorian)



House + Man + Mice (Palimpsest)

- If you drew out Man and Woman right next to each other, then cruelly separate them and reshuffle for the purposes of this practice. Read your cards in pairs like the following and include more than one option, by all means.

Bear + Woman = a powerful woman; an overbearing mother

Woman + Book = a knowledgeable woman; a female teacher

House + Man = a househusband; home owner

Man + Mice = a loss of masculinity; a burglar

- In the first three examples, I kept to the rules I gave you, but in the last one I used the Man card to stand for the masculine. Here, Man and Mice indicate man + theft/thief, which makes a compound word for burglar. Significators can be speaking cards sometimes, so if you begin to notice these kinds of compounds or concepts, please note them down.

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

Lenormand cards can be read in a variety of ways, with each of the speaking cards spanning a wide gamut of possibilities. They can appear as:

Literal: Ship as a ferry; Bouquet as a bunch of flowers; Book as a book you're reading

Metaphorical: Book as mystery; Paths as decision; Bear as power

Symbolic: Clover as luck; Child as innocence; Heart as love

Suggestive: Snake for bowels; Fox for a ruddy color; Fish for fluid

The literal interpretation of a card to represent what is depicted on it happens more often than you might think. We can see the symbolic level in the Lily card, as it stands for peace. The metaphorical level is less easy to see sometimes, especially when we learn that Book means secrets or mysteries. However, this meaning becomes clearer if we consider how, in the late eighteenth century, reading or higher education was a closed book to many people. In the Rod card we observe its suggestive manifestations in that beating is a repetitive action. This repetitiveness lends itself to diverse meanings like dancing, sexual congress, and arguing.

While you will not immediately understand or remember all the nuances of Lenormand language at first, you can begin with basic keywords and increase your vocabulary a little at a time. Remember that there is no such thing as advanced, only practice!

Keeping a Lenormand Journal

Record keeping and checking over your readings is the best way to measure how your learning is maturing. Use a blank book as a Lenormand Journal to record your daily readings. You can also keep a photo diary by photographing significant spreads on your

tablet or phone for future reference.

It is only by looking back over readings we have done that we begin to see into patterns, cause-and-effect, and the level of predictive accuracy. Record your question, the date, the spread, the cards, and your findings in a clear way. Leave space to go back and make remarks or notes about how things actually came to pass. It is only by pragmatic recording and checking that we learn how and what we are doing, and whether it was effective or not.

Drawing just 3–5 cards for the day ahead is useful, without any other intention than “What will today bring?” Here is a rather dramatic record I made while away on holiday in Orkney.

May 15, 2012

Mice + Sun + House = *A loss of confidence or happiness at home.*

Weather good, so going to South Ronaldsay on a long trip today.

Later: The rental car had a puncture on the way out, which delayed the trip and ate into the day. Then I had a call late afternoon on the way back that our lovely lilac tree had blown down at home! So the cards were saying more particularly: A loss today at home. My husband John was quite spooked by his near miss of being in the garden, since he moved away from the tree moments before it fell over!

In this instance the cards clearly foresaw something unexpected

and where it was happening. The Sun card was revealing itself as today but I had read it as confidence or happiness. Mice is a card that often diminishes or gnaws away at its neighbor. It can also be read as a card of loss, so although it described the day as being eaten into by the punctured tire, it also covered the loss of the tree.

Your daily drawing of cards needs to be done early in the day, so that you can look at it later that evening. Write your new findings about the morning spread next to your entry in order to grow your predictive skills. Regard your daily draws as speaking about what will occur around you that day. This might include people you meet or events you attend. Sometimes cards speak to events in your locality and sometimes they speak about larger events in your country, just as dreams do. Because we live in a systemically connected world, cards can illuminate the personal, family, social, and universal. Be aware that the most extreme meanings are unlikely to be the ones you select for a daily draw! (See here for how to scale the effect of your cards.)

Practice 3: Pick a Card

We do not generally consult just one card in the Lenormand method, but as you are beginning and still have to study each card, here is a practice for you to start your daily draw. Pick a card now for the rest of the day. Look at it, write down all that you notice or experience as you choose it. Work with one card every day until you begin to learn their basic keywords. Here is a real-life example for you.

March 27, 2010

Today I draw Ship. Keywords are travel, overseas, yearning, and foreign. I don't think I'll be making an overseas trip, but tonight I do have to collect a key for a church hall that I rent for a class tomorrow. None of the key holders are usually in and I'm hoping that I don't have to make a voyage around Oxford to get it! I feel a bit rushed because it's the end of the week.

Later: I was halfway through supper when I received a prearranged call from a shamanic client whom I'd completely forgotten about, and I found myself having to take a shamanic journey through a woman's life circumstances. When I put down the phone I caught sight of the Ship card I'd left out by my computer and realized that I still hadn't gone for the key to the hall! Two trips for the price of one card!

As you can see, the voyage element of Ship did not entail me getting onto an ocean-going liner, but merely a trip further than I had envisioned.

STUDY 1: LEARNING THE LENORMAND ALPHABET

When we begin to read, we first learn the alphabet. This helps us form our words by sounding them out, and it comes in very handy later on when we want to look things up because we already know the sequence of letters. It's never too early to begin learning the cards' sequence. Not only will you navigate this book in a better

way, but when you come to the later chapters, you will already be equipped with knowledge of the Houses on which the randomly shuffled cards can fall. When all the cards are laid out in order in lines of the Grand Tableau (see chapters 9–11), the positions 1–36 on which they fall are called “Houses.”

Houses are fixed placements. The first House is that of the 1 Rider, while the last House is the 36 Cross. When all 36 cards are randomly shuffled and laid out in tableau, each will fall on a certain House, which gives the divination a deeper dynamic meaning.

Here's a mnemonic, nonsense verse to help you remember the sequence of the cards, with the keywords in *italics* and the card numbers opposite each line. The fourfold lines below are arranged that way because there are four cards in each. There is no other significance to this arrangement and it doesn't relate to any kind of spread, merely the cards in their sequence from 1–36.

He <i>rides</i> through the <i>clover</i> , takes <i>ship</i> for the <i>house</i>	1 2 3 4
The <i>tree</i> it <i>clouded</i> , the <i>snake's</i> in the <i>box</i>	5 6 7 8
The <i>flowers</i> are <i>cut</i> while the <i>rod</i> scares the <i>birds</i>	9 10 11 12
The <i>child</i> with the <i>fox</i> runs, the <i>bear</i> with the <i>stars</i>	13 14 15 16
<i>Stork</i> and <i>dog</i> visit the <i>tower</i> and <i>garden</i>	17 18 19 20
The <i>mountain path</i> leads to the <i>mice</i> at the <i>heart</i>	21 22 23 24
The <i>ring's</i> on the <i>book</i> , there's a <i>note</i> from the <i>man</i>	25 26 27 28
<i>She</i> welcomes the <i>lily</i> by <i>sun</i> and <i>moonlight</i>	29 30 31 32
The <i>key's</i> inside <i>fish</i> , while the <i>anchor's</i> <i>crossed</i> tight	33 34 35 36

If you don't care for this method, then please create your own easy way of remembering the sequence. The most important thing is that you have it visualized so that you begin to have a Pavlovian response to each card and placement. To begin to have a sense of their order, spread all the cards face up in numerical order, so you can remember where they are in relation to one another. You can lay them out in one of two possible ways.

SHAPES OF THE GRAND TABLEAU

Piquet Tableau

4 Rows x 8 Cards + 4 Extra

Card 1	Card 2	Card 3	Card 4	Card 5	Card 6	Card 7	Card 8
Card 9	Card 10	Card 11	Card 12	Card 13	Card 14	Card 15	Card 16
Card 17	Card 18	Card 19	Card 20	Card 21	Card 22	Card 23	Card 24
Card 25	Card 26	Card 27	Card 28	Card 29	Card 30	Card 31	Card 32
	Card 33	Card 34	Card 35	Card 36			

Grand Tableau of Nines

4 Rows x 9 Cards

Card 1	Card 2	Card 3	Card 4	Card 5	Card 6	Card 7	Card 8	Card 9
Card 10	Card 11	Card 12	Card 13	Card 14	Card 15	Card 16	Card 17	Card 18
Card 19	Card 20	Card 21	Card 22	Card 23	Card 24	Card 25	Card 26	Card 27
Card 28	Card 29	Card 30	Card 31	Card 32	Card 33	Card 34	Card 35	Card 36

Deck Care and the Behavior of Cards

You don't need to perform arcane actions to protect or cleanse your cards beyond keeping them clean. Clean hands are more important than silk cloths or sleeping with the cards under your pillow, although it is true that many Lenormand readers are so enraptured by their favorite deck, it does become more of a friend than a pack of cards! Use a spread cloth so that unfortunate coffee rings, stickiness, or stains don't transfer to your cards from a table. After use, return your cards to a neutral order by dealing them into six piles of six cards each and then stacking each pile randomly together to give them a new order. This is especially useful if you have a returning card that keeps leaping out over and over. It is worth noting such cards when they recur in your daily draw. If you continually draw the same card every day, then it's often worth asking what, for instance, the Letter card is trying to show you, and using one of the short spreads in this book to discover what you need to learn from the card.

Jumpers are eager cards that skip or flip out when you're shuffling. Some people like to record the cards that reveal themselves in this way (see [here](#) for a combination that leapt out on me spontaneously). You can choose to read the cards as you retrieve them, note them down for a look later on, or just shuffle them back in.

Because Lenormand cards are so small, they are easier for people with smaller hands to shuffle, but if you aren't much good at shuffling, then you can swirl the cards around on a table to mix

them. Just remember that you don't read any cards as reversed. Some readers like to shuffle for the client, but I prefer clients to shuffle for themselves while thinking of their question. Shuffle for as long as you need to ensure that the question is *in* the deck. This is about fixing your intention. Your intention alone is sufficient to set the question. Reshuffling or mixing the cards clears them very simply. If you like to cut cards, then cut them into three piles and pick up each pile in a different order. I often look at the cards at the bottom of each pile as a triplet in order to see the general mood of a session.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 1

- Read cards by juxtaposition and in context.
- Frame a good question and put your intention *into* the cards.
- Woman and Man cards are not speaking cards but Significators that are spoken about.
- Pairs of cards can be read as subject + qualifier, but they can also create compound words together.

Self-Test 1 (See appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What are the names of the first six cards in House sequence?
2. Using House sequence, what three cards come after the Woman card?
3. When is the best time of day to do a daily draw? Why?

Lenormand Lexicon

A Key to the Cards

Once the pictures of your life are in front of you . . . you can discover the art of living and, in this art, the elements, principles, and magic of your life.

ETTEILLA, LA SEULE MANIERE TIRER LES CARTES

THE LEXICON IN TRANSLATION

In this chapter, you will find all 36 cards listed in order. The whole chapter can be regarded as an ongoing study section, since you will be returning to it again and again, and doubtless adding to it. The most important thing to remember is that the examples of card combinations shown here are *just examples*, not fixed and unalterable. And certainly not the only ways to read them! Always consider cards in the context of the question or the issue being read for. Each entry in this chapter is broken down as follows:

Title and Playing Card: Each card has its own dedicated number in the Lenormand sequence, its named title, and the playing card with which it is associated.

Rhyme: Many traditional European decks come with their own

rhymes upon the cards, reminding you of their common interpretation. I give a four-line mnemonic verse of my own to help you remember the main gist of the card.

General: The main entry gives you the approach and flavor of each card, speaking about how it behaves in a reading, and the kinds of people or occupations associated with it. It also offers comparisons and contrasting themes so that you understand the nuance of each card.

Effect: Cards are often interpreted as either challenging, fortunate, or neutral. Remember that a challenging card can have a positive effect and vice versa. For instance, Mountain + Mice indicates that an obstacle is diminished, while Stars + Garden can refer to public exposure.

Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs: These parts of speech give the linguistic keywords for each card so that you can find ways of creating statements and sentences. Please add your own findings here as your vocabulary builds. These words are not exhaustive, merely a selection of the usual meanings rendered into convenient forms.

People: Some occupations and the kinds of people associated with the card are given here.

Timing: This refers to when you can expect a prediction to occur. See chapter 12 for more on timing.

Lenormand Universe: A nontraditional, mythic title that has arisen from my own practice. See chapter 8 for more on the Lenormand Universe.

Combinations: Here are some example pairs, triplets, and cards on House positions (see chapters 9–11). Remember that these combinations are not the only possible interpretations. Always work out what cards mean keeping in mind *the context of your question* rather than overly relying on what is recorded here. You can do this through both visual and linguistic means. What do the cards look like together? What symbols or metaphorical meanings do you see or think of? How do the major keyword meanings combine? Where cards have a different effect depending on whether they face right or left, some are printed in this form to indicate their direction: Clouds L or Scythe R means dark clouds touch what is to the left and the scythe's blade cuts right.

THE CARDS IN ORDER



1 Rider 9 House

He comes with speed to bring the news to you.

A courier with vital information.

Fresh opinion in news and vital communication.

Will he bring change, or form a situation?

Rider 9 House

General: Rider brings news, announcements, and messages. Rider can also be a visitor, a witness, someone with news, a go-between, a courier or mail carrier, or an attractive young man. Toward which card is the Rider facing? This sometimes tells you what the message is about, thus Rider + Rod, could be bringing you the exercise bike you were waiting for. Rider comes quickly or speedily, and as the first card in the pack, he initiates a whole train of events. As a

person, Rider can indicate “the other man” or the lover of a gay man, but he might be just an eligible young man. Rider is mobile while Tower is rigid. Rider and Cross can make a complementary pairing of “initiate” and “ordain.” While Rider is informal, the card is not as unconventional as Paths can be.

Effect: Fortunate. Rider *generally* brings good things.

Nouns: News; message; visitor; haste; act; delivery; progress; invitation; mail; parcel.

Adjectives: Speedy; versatile; athletic; active; updated; progressive; informal.

Verbs: Arrive; witness; inform; send; announce; ride; initiate; approach; invite; run.

Adverbs: Speedily; athletically; actively; hastily; progressively.

People: Equestrian; go-between; courier; agent; eligible young man; initiator; forerunner.

Timing: Rider is speedy in effect and denotes soon.

Lenormand Universe: Deliverer of Destiny.

Combinations:

Rider + Tree: Health news; make haste slowly; a rose-tree arrives.

Rider + Rod: Inflammatory news; aggressive visitors; a repeated news bulletin.

Rider + Garden: Public announcement; openly witnessed; social news.

Rider + Heart: Longed-for news; matchmaker; loving initiation.

Rider + Sun: Happy news; holidaying in haste; optimistic message.

Rider + Garden + Ring: Engaged for public appearances.

Rider on House of Heart: The message is about love; a romantic visitor.



A clover leaf is small, / A single leaf is small, / But many leaves are found, / And many leaves are found, / In every field and garden, / In every field and garden, / And many leaves are found, / And many leaves are found, / In every field and garden, / In every field and garden.

General: Clover is about luck or short-term fortune that is momentary or fleeting in nature, unlike Sun, which is more long-term. Clover provides a very small window of opportunity for you to take advantage of or enjoy. It can also mean spontaneity and sometimes a bit of risk or a gamble, but nothing so dangerous a risk as Scythe. Clover + Garden can mean a group opportunity. A reading for Clover as light and carefree would be the complete opposite of a reading for Anchor as heavy and serious.

Effect: Fortunate, but remember Clover's fortune is brief!

Nouns: Luck; small gain; ease; humor; good-luck charm; game; lottery; gambit; fun.

Adjectives: Fortunate; opportune; spontaneous; carefree; happy-go-lucky; easy; light; play; ephemeral; brief.

Verbs: Risk; gamble; win; chance.

Adverbs: Fortunately; fleetingly; easily; humorously; opportunistically.

People: A chancer; a single person; a gamer; gambler; opportunist; clown; stand-up comedian.

Timing: Now or immediately.

Lenormand Universe: Luck.

Combinations:

Clover + Snake: Short-term complications; rivals in the game; a tempting chance.

Clover + Tower: Official lottery; high good humor; an ambitious gamble.

Clover + Stork: Migrating opportunistically; changes for the better.

Clover + Child: Opening gambit; naive humor; childish spontaneity.

Clover + Letter: News of a small win; list of chances; results of the game.

Clover + Lily + Ring: Carefree elder weds; lucky winter connection.

Clover on the House of Fox: A brief opportunity feels wrong.

[illegible][illegible]

67028 *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. Bot. Gard. New York*

இந்த, மாதிரி, எல்லாம் உண்மை.

Se relung, cu i arsură, Așezându-se alături de soțul lui în vârstă

1994 274 282

General: Ship stands for travel, movement, and going overseas. It implies distance, going away, abroad, or over, and usually implies a long journey that is beyond your immediate region. This card can also stand for any vehicle, conveyance, or form of transport. Ship + Birds could be a plane while Ship + Ring could be a bicycle. Ship also represents the soul and, by extension, wishing or yearning for

something. Ship + House would be yearning for home or homesickness. Ship conveys the meaning of distant travel, as opposed to Paths, which would indicate local distances, like a commute. Ship shows us how to read the directions when it is paired with Bouquet (East), Sun (South), Scythe (West), and Lily (North), although Stars can also show up as North in its own right. A Ship definition of “overseas” contrasts with Mountain for “inland.” A pairing of Ship + Fish (commerce) can indicate trade.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Overseas; journey; voyage; transfer; soul; motivation; trade; away; over; trip; vehicle; wish.

Adjectives: Foreign; wandering; strange; international; transient; distant.

Verbs: Travel; translate; yearn; navigate; pilot; export; go; transact; motivate.

Adverbs: Yearningly; movingly; distantly; strangely.

People: Stranger; foreigner; sailor; marine; traveler; immigrant; emigrant; rover; travel agent; exporter.

Timing: Within months.

Lenormand Universe: Foreign Service.

Combinations:

Ship + House: Homesickness; based abroad; houseboat.

Ship + Rod: Repeated trips; abusive transaction; marathon run.

Ship + Paths: Bus; choice of journey; alternative vehicle.

Ship + Heart: Wanderlust; favorite vehicle; affectionate motivation.

Ship + Lily: Veteran marine; old vessel; winter shipment.

Ship + Cross + Bear: Moving into a critical period of power.

Ship on House of Woman: Journey for the female querent.



A House is a place
Wherever you wander, there is a place like home
A shelter and refuge, with lock and key
Secure, your household's safe's heart is within
Wherever you stand, need to stand is not there

From the Crowley-Thomson

General: House is one of those cards that can be endlessly useful to describe different kinds of buildings and dwellings of a smaller or domestic nature, although for larger or official buildings you can use Tower. From a tent to a mansion, House will work for your home or shelter. It extends to cover the family or people who live in your house and those whom you welcome there. It can stand for the structure of your body itself, or the skin you are in, as well as your homepage on social networking, or your base of operations. Compare the family aspect of House with Tree, which can indicate extended family or family tree, or with Lily, which can mean protection of the family. House is at home, inside, or indoors, as opposed to Paths, which is wandering, outside, or outdoors. When paired with Key, House gives us the key to the door, which is an expression we use when someone is standing on their own two feet in their own place.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Home; household; comfort; headquarters; foundation; nuclear family; brand.

Adjectives: Domestic; familial; internal; in-house; local; inside; homely.

Verbs: Dwell; reside; shelter; inhabit; found; settle; base.

Adverbs: Residentially; domestically; comfortably.

People: Resident; householder; homeowner; homing pigeon; realtor; landlord.

Timing: December; morning.

Lenormand Universe: Hearth of Destiny.

Combinations:

House + Stork: Changing the brand; moving house; restlessly uncomfortable.

House + Garden: Tent; communal living; open house.

House + Bear: Powerful family; extending your house; protecting family values.

House + Cross: Church; synagogue; mosque; holy place; retreat center.

House + Letter + Moon: House deeds recognized; license to work from home.

House + Paths + Fish: Living between two places in order to earn more.

House on House of Tree: Domestic health issues; bodily health; home system.



5 Tree 1 Hearts

The tree grows tall and strong beneath the sun.

Brown and dark in leaf, green in vitality

Yet health flows from the age as the roots

Cherish common roots, feed your roots and shoots

From the earth to the sky

General: Tree stands for health and well-being, growth, and even life itself. It is not a card you want to see in the vicinity of Mice or Coffin, as then it shows diminished vitality. It can mean the beginning of a downturn in health in Tree + Mice, or a serious health condition with Tree + Coffin. Because Tree can also stand for long lasting, it can represent memory in systems like seeds, blueprints, and DNA, as well as boredom, ennui, and extended time. It also shows up as ancestral or genetic memory, in this context. Tree covers the systemic family tree of many generations or ancestors, although House is the nuclear family unit in a dwelling and Lily means family well-being. Tree covers all networks and systems and can indicate the well-being of a group or system as much as of the body's own system. Tree as "growth" contrasts with Mice as "decay," while Tree is ordinary, everyday well-being to Moon's celebrity fame.

Effect: Neutral. **Nouns:** Patience; DNA; well-being; blueprint; time; ancestral memory; network; life; system; ancestors.

Adjectives: Slowly; boring; long-lasting; healthy; genetic; living.

Verbs: Grow; slow down; endure; heal; extend; bear; systematize.

Adverbs: Healthfully; lastingly; patiently; memorably; systemically.

People: Patient; doctor; therapist; tree specialist; extended family; ancestors.

Timing: Very slowly.

Lenormand Universe: Destined Connections.

Combinations:

Tree + Scythe R: Tree surgeon.

Tree + Scythe L: Health danger.

Tree + Fox: Lying about your health; misdiagnosis; deceptive health.

Tree + Heart: Loving patience; emotional period; favorite tree.

Tree + Stars: Shamanism; wisdom of ancestors; clean bill of health.

Tree + Mountain: Blocked growth; a long delay; a clogged network.

Tree + Tower + Birds: Nervous about going to hospital.

Tree on House of Dog: Rooting about; faithful to the ancestors.



Clouds bring change
Light or dark, it will be as it
When you cannot guess what
Change or change, it is not to grow?
A hope she shows in fate
What she is not to do

General: Clouds brings confusion, lack of clarity, and trouble. This trouble can be about unclear or ambiguous motivations that have not been worked out properly, avoidance, or about someone not making up their mind. It can show depression or moodiness and

different expressions of mental weather or health (see here). Clouds has a light or dark side in every deck. You need to note which side yours falls upon because it makes a difference to the reading. Traditional decks tend to have dark Clouds on the right. Below, I shall be placing an L or R after each definition to indicate that the dark clouds are on the left or right side. Cards that fall next to the dark side of the Clouds will be most troubled. Cards that fall next to the lighter side of the Clouds are about things that are clearing up. Contrast Stars for clarity and Sun for sunny. Opposing motivations are often arising when Heart joins Clouds in the spread. Clouds will often speak about head-trips or cerebral muddles, while Heart will define an emotionally based decision. The most obvious of contrasts is the literal, with Sun for sunny and Clouds for rainy or overcast.

Effect: Challenging on its dark side. Improving on its sunny side.

Nouns: Confusion; intransigence; head-trip; thoughts; suspicion.

Adjectives: Overcast; depressed; ambiguous; cloudy; cerebral; crazy; troubled.

Verbs: Avoid; hide; question; doubt; muddle; suspect.

Adverbs: Madly; confusedly; doubtfully; ambiguously.

People: Moody or ambiguous person; eccentric; depressive; theorist; pessimist; suspect; widower.

Timing: November.

Lenormand Universe: Fateful Confusion.

Combinations:

Clouds R + Bouquet: Surprise depression; designer confusion.

Clouds R + Fox: Vigilantly doubtful; kleptomaniac; taking advantage of confusion.

Clouds L + Stork: Changes clarified; confusions about adoption improve.

Clouds L + Paths: Alternative questions; bipolar condition; of two minds.

Clouds R + Heart: Battle between heart and head; manic condition.

Clouds L + Stork + Anchor: Confusions due to a move begin to settle down.

Clouds on House of Mice: Forgetfulness; doubts disperse.



Snake is a... the... where...
...
...
...
...
...

General: Snake brings complications. It is the means or method by which Snake gets things that cause the complications. Snake can be self-possessed to the point of self-absorption or selfishness, which creates an atmosphere for upset, rivalry, and jealousy. When Snake represents a woman she isn't necessarily a deceiver. She could be intelligent and self-possessed rather than a jealous rival, but she will certainly be high maintenance because she knows what she wants and will get it. Snake can also be impressive and showy, if not a little proud. Snake can also stand for a lesbian

partner. When Lily shows up with Snake, it can indicate family complexities, often between separated people. A Snake reading of “exclusive” makes a contrasting pair with Ring for “inclusive,” and when next to Lily, Snake can be read as virtuous man and scandalous woman. When the King and Queen of Clubs (Clouds + Snake) land as a pair together, they classically reveal a long-term couple in a spat, but see whether the King or the Queen comes first to see who is dominant in that struggle.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Difficult woman; rivalry; treachery; betrayal; envy; upset; hypocrisy; pride; complexity.

Adjectives: Jealous; complex; sophisticated; exclusive; shrewd; clever; exotic; devious; impressive.

Verbs: Complicate; meander; twist; poison; fascinate; tempt; manipulate.

Adverbs: Jealously; treacherously; venomously; exclusively; cleverly.

People: A rival; siren; mistress; iconic bitch; divorcee; widow; separated woman; the other woman; a sophisticated, intelligent, or career woman.

Timing: February.

Lenormand Universe: Consequences of Fate.

Combinations:

Snake + Fox: Manipulative deceit; a whistleblower; lying divorcee.

Snake + Tower: Official complications; bureaucratic betrayal; female executive.

Snake + Mountain: Inaccessible complexities; remote mistress.

Snake + Woman: Fascinating; career or professional woman.

Snake + Sun: Merry widow; complications melt away; successful rival.

Snake + Bouquet + Bear: An intelligent woman receives award as a matriarch.

Snake on House of Paths: Betrayed by choice; tempted by alternatives.



A Coffin is like a death
As you grow old, you will find a great
The best is that, you can't see it in the dark.
And as you grow old, you will find a great
And as you grow old, you will find a great

General: Coffin means endings, things gone past their sell-by-date, and also illness. Coffin calls a halt and can bring you up short by its finality. When it comes up in a reading, a sense of deadness or numbness comes with it. There is no dynamism, just a muffled echo of nothing there. Within the proper context of a question, it can show up as a death or a funeral, but don't rush to read this as "the death card" because it rarely reveals this; it is much more often showing an end or a completion. Many decks show a coffin draped with a pall-cloth. Some readers see the head of the coffin as having a different effect than the bottom or undraped end. When read this way, it is the card facing the drape that is ending,

while the card facing the head of the coffin signifies the new beginning or opportunity. Take note that this is not a universally agreed upon reading. Coffin often indicates an ongoing illness. Coffin read as “forgetful” is contrasted with its opposite Book for “remembering.” Note that both Coffin and Book can be opened and closed, which is why Coffin is used for any kind of box or container, including a musical instrument.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Bankruptcy; nothing; death; funeral; finality; deadline; silence; misfortune; rest; musical instrument.

Adjectives: Mortal; completed; sick; depletion; redundant; final; numb; deadened; lugubrious; void; ill; unlucky; closed; stale; boxed; empty; deaf.

Verbs: End; discontinue; decline; forget; block-out; extinguish; refuse; stagnate; excavate; silence.

Adverbs: Deathly; forgetfully; depletedly; declining; sickeningly; silently.

People: Archaeologist; ghost; undertaker; coroner; someone from your past.

Timing: Midnight; a few months off.

Lenormand Universe: Unluckiness.

Combinations:

Coffin + Tree: Poor health; a long drawn-out end; depleted vigor.

Coffin + Bird: Anxious about a deadline; voicelessness; a rumored death.

Coffin + Paths: Paths of the dead; no through road; dead end;

choices void.

Coffin + Cross: Critical illness; relinquishing your faith; accepting your fate.

Coffin + Man: Lugubrious fellow; mortician; an ill man.

Coffin + Birds + Clouds: Problems arising from bad wording.

Coffin on House of Mountain: The conclusion is delayed.



9 Bouquet Bouquet
A gift as this appears to be
Found at the end of the journey
As a sign of achievement and hope,
For me and abundance in me
and so

General: Bouquet is a surprise, a gift, or something pleasant. It is a card that brings happiness, cheer, and something unexpectedly nice. It relates to an array of aptitudes or a palette of skills and in that sense can read as “a selection of ” or “a variety,” as in Paths + Bouquet which is a variety of ways. Bouquet is about beauty, grace, and charm and is a word that describes design, art, color, perfume, and fashion. In that sense it can indicate one’s self-image, personality, or the face we show to the world. Bouquet is an invitation, but Letter is news. These two can also contrast each other as “deeds” and “words.” Bouquet + Man (inviting man) make a contrasting pair with Coffin + Woman (declining/refusing woman).

Effect: Fortunate. Bouquet brings us nice or pleasurable things.

Nouns: Gift; selection; enjoyment; palette; deeds; aptitude; talent; repertoire; perfume; color; fashion; self-image.

Adjectives: Surprising; skilled; various; artistic; pictorial; illustrated; delightful; pleasurable.

Verbs: Give; design; enjoy; charm; invite; do; make; beautify; decorate.

Adverbs: Skillfully; pleasurably; invitingly; charmingly; colorfully.

People: Designer; model; beautician; interior decorator; florist; makeup artist.

Timing: Spring.

Lenormand Universe: Gift of Service.

Combinations:

Bouquet + Clouds L: Smudged paintwork; unclear design; clouded pleasure.

Bouquet + Scythe R: Sudden invitation; strikingly beautiful; collecting a gift.

Bouquet + Paths: Choice of gifts; many perfumes; alternative selection.

Bouquet + Book: Charm school; secret aptitude; teaching art.

Bouquet + Key: Important skill; chief pleasure, certainly perfumed.

Bouquet + Man + Ship: A gift from a stranger or foreigner.

Bouquet on House of Letter: A delightful invitation.



10 Scythe 1045 Clouds L

Face up in your dreams, cut your loss

The verdict is in, no clear win the draw

The universe is sudden, feel the pain

General: Scythe acts quickly, suddenly, and sharp. It can be surgical or irrevocable in effect, so Dog + Scythe L can mean a ruptured friendship. Like Clouds, Scythe has a directional meaning, depending on whether your deck shows the blade pointing to the left or right. If it points to the left then it will sever, cut, or have dangerous effect upon whatever is before it. If the blade points to the right, then it will sever, cut, or irrevocably affect what follows it, so please remember that this will affect your reading. The handle of the Scythe toward the left or right means that the card facing it might be gathered in, collected, or sorted out toward the card on that side. Bear + Scythe L could be cutting out some food or dieting while Scythe L + Bear could be power gathering. Scythe + Man (daring man) make a pair of complementary opposites with Rod + Woman (active woman). Where Scythe cuts off connections, Letter stands for communication.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Break; accident; surgery; operation; rupture; wound; scar; disconnection; division.

Adjectives: Curtailed; sudden; sharp; succinct; concise; irrevocable; dangerous; risky; decisive; resolute; military.

Verbs: Cut; sever; divide; reap; gather; harvest; rake; sort; collect; remove.

Adverbs: Dividedly; quickly; accidentally; collectedly; dangerously.

People: Surgeon; dentist; risk assessor; farmer; tailor; dressmaker; war victim; amputee; soldier.

Timing: Sudden; autumn.

Lenormand Universe: Dangerous risk.

Combinations:

Scythe L + Bouquet: Selection of knives. Scythe R + Bouquet:
Breaking the gift.

Scythe L + Fox: Vigilant pruner. Scythe R + Fox: Stealthy violence.

Scythe R + Paths: Irrevocable decision; alternative operation; road accident.

Scythe R + Heart: Heart-break; severed affections; dangerous love.

Scythe R + Anchor: Stability endangered. Scythe L + Anchor: Safely harvested.

Scythe L + Lily + Birds: Collecting the sayings of elders.

Scythe on House of Heart: Sudden affection; danger of enthusiasm.



19 பிப்ரவரி 2024 இல்

ကဏ္ဍ ၁ မြေယာဇာရီ၊ အထွေထွေအချက်အလက်၊ မြေယာဇာရီ

1991 2000 2009 2018 2027

The next hour is yours. The speaker is _____.

General: Rod, sometimes also called Whip, has a wide variety of meanings that can be confusing at first. It can be disputive and argumentative, like a lawyer or student proving his or her thesis, but it could also indicate slanderous statements, vilification, and verbal abuse, as well as a discussion, conversation, or debate. Some meanings arise from the fact that historically the birch, as it was known in Britain, was used to discipline children and criminals. Rod is repetitive. It describes sexual activity, exercise,

discipline, violence, aggression, or abuse. Rod has the effect of repeating whatever it describes, so Ship + Rod would be repeated trips abroad, or Letter + Rod could be spam or a mailing list that irritatingly keeps appearing. The searching nature of Rod also applies to research, investigation, or scrutiny, so Book + Rod could talk about going through the books or even refer to a proofreader. Compare the sexual meaning of Lily, which can be sex between married couples, with Rod, which is definitely more athletic, or repeated sexual activity outside marriage. Rod + Woman (active woman) make a complementary pair with Scythe + Man (resolute man). Rod is the pen, while Book is the page.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Dispute; argument; research; sexuality; a physical workout; discipline; violence; assault; aggression; conversation; questions; coercion; rhetoric.

Adjectives: Repeating; sexy; abusive; rough; investigate; persuasive; active.

Verbs: Discuss; argue; exercise; practice; punish; run; vilify; criticize; strike; dance.

Adverbs: Sweepingly; repeatedly; abusively; violently; argumentatively.

People: Critic; canvasser; sex worker; whistle-blower; troublemaker; repeater; lawyer; advocate.

Timing: September; over and over.

Lenormand Universe: Fateful Discrimination.

Combinations:

Rod + Rider: Speedy rhetoric; agent provocateur; news of aggression.

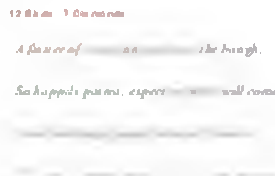
Rod + Ship: Sex between strangers; foreigner's question; repeated travel.

Rod + Dog: Investigative policeman; lawyer for the defense.

Rod + Moon: Night exercise; working in research; honorably persuasive.

Rod + Bouquet + Woman: Repeatedly seeking for a gift for your girlfriend.

Rod on House of Rod: Repeated practice of a discipline.



General: Birds signify what is orally related, so that can cover phone-calls, tweets, rumors, the word on the street, or gossip. Some Lenormand packs show Owls rather than Birds, but they do the same job. Birds are interested in things, and so the curiosity that fuels conversation and rumor is part of its pattern. Birds announce a pregnancy, since now there are two rather than one. Birds also can mean a pair of anything, so Lily + Birds means two old men while Moon + Birds could be two jobs or two nights. Compare with Letter for what is written down or Rider for messages that are sent to you. The nervous quality or performance anxiety of Birds is about expectation, which is different than the

daily worries of Mice, the grave challenges of Cross, or the doubts of Clouds. Birds (chattering) contrasts with Lily (discretion). While Birds stands for an unattached couple, Ring indicates an attached or committed partnership.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Gossip; phone call; anxiety; disquiet; busyness; announcement of pregnancy; rumor.

Adjectives: Talkative; nervous; curious; garrulous; stressful; hectic; vocal; oral.

Verbs: Excite; spout; chatter; phone; state.

Adverbs: Excitedly; anxiously; restlessly; curiously; orally.

People: Recording engineer; talk-show host; telephone operator; siblings.

Timing: Currently; now; twilight.

Lenormand Universe: Speculating Luck.

Combinations:

Birds + Coffin: Concluding talks; ending the call; termination of a pregnancy.

Birds + Bouquet: Fashionable talk; popular achievement; pleasurable tattle.

Birds + Child: Childish babble; baby talk; naive phone call.

Birds + Garden: Panic attack; agoraphobia; performance anxiety.

Birds + Mice: Understated; libelous; interference on the phone.

Birds + Mountain: Tongue-tied; dumb; speech impediment.

Birds + Moon + Anchor: A reliable evening lecturer.

Birds on House of Stars: Speaking with inspiration.



Child *child*
... meaning up a few sh
A child nares and innocent runs free
New ... and

General: Child stands for things that are small, new, or beginning, as well as literally meaning a baby, child, or young person under eighteen years old. It includes meanings that convey a child's worldview such as simple, innocent, and wondering. It can also mean naivete, immaturity, a faux pas, or being unprepared. When Child shows up next to a Significator, it can convey a sense of infantilization or smallness. In a reading where the Child stands for the querent's son or daughter, you will need to look at the adjoining or surrounding cards that describe it contrasting child we have Lily for mature, Bear for big, and Snake for sophistication. Child + Sun (innocent and day) make a contrasting pair with Fox + Moon (guilty and night). (See [here](#) for more information on contrasting pairs.) Child also can mean asexual when contrasted with Heart for romantic.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Novelty; beginning; innocence; wonder; faux pas; debut; small.

Adjectives: Young; new; immature; naive; simple; asexual; inexperienced; vulnerable; fragile; little; uncomplicated.

Verbs: Start; wonder; trust; begin; infantilize.

Adverbs: Trustingly; innocently; naively.

People: Small person; student; learner; rookie; newbie; a minor;

simpleton; debutant or beginner; a child or baby.

Timing: August. **Lenormand Universe:** Simplicity of service.

Combinations:

Child + Clover: Playful student; carefree infant; a lucky start.

Child + Clouds L: Depressed child; overcast beginning; confused trust.

Child + Bouquet: Surprise baby; small gift; beginner's award.

Child + Bear: Empowering the children; a powerful beginning.

Child + Birds: Twins; siblings; gossiping about a child.

Child + Paths + Ship: Beginning of an overseas venture.

Child on House of Fox: Something is wrong with the beginning.



14 Fox 4 Child

The end for weeks for [unclear] gap.

I [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

With [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

General: Fox refers to something that is wrong or going on behind your back. Foxes, by their nature, learn to survive by ducking and diving, thieving and stealthy observation, so this card is what you use to convey survival or getting by. It can also mean manipulating or taking advantage of someone. When Fox comes before a card, it will affect what follows more severely, so Fox + Fish means that something is seriously up with your money, whereas Fish + Fox is saying you received the wrong change. Fox + Moon (guilty and night) make a pair of complementary opposites with Child + Sun (innocent and day). When Fox and Mice get together they are thick

as thieves.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Trickery; theft; stealth; self-employment; lie; scam; larceny; mistake.

Adjectives: Wrong; cunning; guilty; clever; underhanded; deceitful; fraudulent; predatory; vigilant; streetwise.

Verbs: Survive; cheat; steal; manipulate; take advantage of; dodge; outsmart.

Adverbs: Trickily; cunningly; manipulatively; fraudulently.

People: Imposter; con artist; trickster; predator; detective; black sheep; cheat; vigilante.

Timing: Noon; a few months off.

Lenormand Universe: Fateful Survival.

Combinations:

Fox + Bouquet: Taking advantage of the gift; a stealthy gift; surprisingly cunning.

Fox + Scythe L: Cutting to the chase; sleight of hand trick; shocking theft.

Fox + Clouds L: Smokescreen scam; camouflaging a trick; covert lie.

Fox + Book: Secretly underhanded; educational scam; arcane larceny.

Fox + Cross: Comeuppance for a thief; deceitful doctrine; priestly imposter.

Fox + House + Mice + Fish: A burglary; a doorstep scammer comes to take your cash.

Fox on House of Lily: Deceiving an elder; an old lie.



15 Bear 16 Circle

Bear is grand large with his claws on

Bear is a really powerful animal from

Bear is a strong power that can not be overthrown.

General: Bear represents power, strength, and resources. She can speak about your personal power as an individual and your resources, capital, or accumulations. Bear represents mother, grandmother, or matriarch, and can mean big, fat, or well-built when it comes next to a person. It shows that someone is the big boss or dominant one, a man of influence or a woman of power. Bear can also be overwhelming, mighty, or a large or powerful man who is overly protective of his wife. Bear comes up a lot when people are dieting or have food addiction issues. Note that Bear is a gourmand while Fish is more of a liquid *bon viveur* who enjoys his wine or beer. Compare Bear (force) with Key (subtlety), and Bear (power) with Paths (freedom).

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Strength; power; force; benefits; capital; affluence.

Adjectives: Strong; overwhelming; big; large; fat; uxorious; dominant; obese; well-built.

Verbs: Protect; empower; resource; accumulate.

Adverbs: Strongly; overwhelmingly; resourcefully.

People: Director; patron or matron; benefactor; boss; mother; grand mother; lawyer; judge; entrepreneur; older woman.

Timing: Not for a long time.

Lenormand Universe: Force of Fate.

Combinations:

Bear + Ship: A traveling stage manager; a foreign power; transport baron.

Bear + Child: A naive benefactor; small strength; an inexperienced boss.

Bear + Mice: Slimming; reducing in strength; undercutting power.

Bear + Fish: Benefactor; patron or matron; financial investor.

Bear + Cross: Force majeure; overwhelming burden; critical resources.

Bear + Stars + Sun: Large supernova; philanthropist gives largesse.

Bear on House of Mountain: Obstacle to power; delayed benefits.



16 Stars 6 Hours

Laid up: The stars in the distance,

on a life from fate as troubles ease

They promise clarity, harnessing each chance.

General: Stars give us precision and clarity, and they help us align with our direction through guidance and inspiration. This card generally improves things. Stars also has the signature of wireless Internet and electricity, and signifies north, an ascription that comes from the Pole Star of the Northern Hemisphere constellations that unwaveringly points north. Stars give us clarity that brings good judgment. Stars is also the card for esoteric, other-worldly, and metaphysical things, including philosophy. Compare

the direction-finding nature of Stars with Paths: by aligning your wishes and hopes with Stars you can map your route better, and while there may be many Paths, you cannot navigate without this inner map. Contrast the clearness or cleanness of Stars with the spoiling or dirtiness of Mice. Stars indicating the heights contrasts with Fish meaning the depths, as they comprise sky and sea. While Mountain stands for national, Stars show up as universal.

Effect: Fortunate. Stars indicate things that are clear, clean, and blessed in their intent.

Nouns: Inspiration; wishes; precision; science; direction; hopes; harmony; good judgment; universe; prophecy; dreams; potential; exposure; divine providence; creative intelligence; electricity.

Adjectives: Clarity; northern; antiseptic; clean; wireless; celestial; psychic; metaphysical; innovative; tolerant; equitable; visionary; idealistic.

Verbs: Guide; show; bless; clarify; improve; aspire; align; divine; envision; expose.

Adverbs: Blessedly; clearly; hopefully; electrifyingly; inspirationally; intelligently.

Timing: Night; forever.

Lenormand Universe: Destiny.

Combinations:

Stars + Clouds L: Without guidance; blinded; in a dream or fog.

Stars + Clouds R: Inspiration emerges; an emerging science; electricity restored.

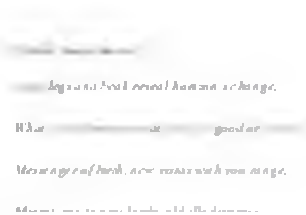
Stars + Mountain: Blocked guidance; hermetic vision; remote

outer space.

Stars + Heart: A blessed love; affectionate guidance; passionately inspired.

Stars + Anchor + Moon: Electrifying the security system at work.

Stars on House of Birds: Guidance through talking or psychotherapy.



General: Stork brings change and movement, as well as restlessness. It often expresses itself as birth, migration, or relocation, as well as a need for spring cleaning or to make preparations for a change. The direction in which the Stork is flying may indicate the nature of the changes, so look to the card that follows. It governs things that are seasonally periodic like migrating birds or fish, or the return of the Easter fun fair or any annual festival. Stork is a court card and we can see the Queen of Hearts as a warm, simpatico woman who likes to nurture or care for others. Stork's appearance can welcome changes and improve things, but sometimes it just brings change by itself. Stork read as movement is contrasted with Anchor's stability. Stork as "migrating or moving away" also contrasts with a reading of Garden as "gathering together."

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Migrant; alteration; birth; nurture; season.

Adjectives: Changeable; moving; improving; restless.

Verbs: Alter; relocate; return; ameliorate; transfer; care; nurse.

Adverbs: Periodically; seasonally; restlessly.

People: Nurse; foster parent; midwife; migrant; immigrant; nomad.

Timing: March.

Lenormand Universe: Destined Movement.

Combinations:

Stork + Rod: Continual changes; aggravated by movement; repeated return.

Stork + Dog: Birth companion; faithful return; compliant with the changes.

Stork + Fish: Financial changes; a fluid movement; transactional changes.

Stork + Tree + Mountain: Moving for a long time to reach the border.

Stork + Child + Lily: New winter season stock; elder becomes a grandparent.

Tree + Mountain + Stork: Health hold-ups improve.

Stork on House of Cross: Moving through or beyond crisis.



A bird of prey and a stork are seen,
A companion in flight is flying a "V" over a
A stork is seen with a red heart on its side.

General: Dog is your friend, companion, or acquaintance; a

faithful, reliable, instinctive helper or coworker who is supportive. A friend who acts so as to benefit you. When Dog appears in less friendly ways, it can mean dogged as in Anchor + Dog (dogged perseverance) or even Paths + Dog, which might indicate a stalker. Dog can refer to the police, in the sense of being faithfully of service and a guardian of the peace. Dog represents the companion who supports and never judges you. When describing a relationship, the Dog could indicate a male friend who is in the vicinity of the woman, or a man who is a supporter, or it could mean that they are friends and occasional lovers. However, the other man card is most often Rider. Dog as “help” contrasts with Cross as “hindrance.” Another contrast is Dog as “friend” and Tower as “official.”

Effect: Fortunate. Dog is well disposed and helpful to cards near it.

Nouns: Friendship; trust; help; loyalty; instinct; smell; follower; senses.

Adjectives: Faithful; trustworthy; warm; dogged; dependable; patient; familiar.

Verbs: Keep faith; support; comply; obey; acquaint; guard.

Adverbs: Friendly; obediently; helpfully; supportively; instinctively.

People: Friend; intimate; brother; stalker; pet; peer; companion; confidant; police; chaperone.

Timing: Not soon.

Lenormand Universe: Loyal to Destiny.

Combinations:

Dog + House: A family friend; in-house support; brand loyalty.

Dog + Rod: Police investigation; forensic technician; argumentative friend.

Dog + Fox: A frenemy; deceiving friend; manipulating the friendship.

Dog + Stork: Changing friends; some proactive help; birth of a friendship.

Dog + Garden: Social network friends; openly friendly; public support.

Dog + Lily: Protective custody; help in winter; elderly friend.

Dog + Sun + Cross: The end of a happy friendship.

Dog on House of Mice: Friendship is diminished.



19 Tower of C Spades
The tower is a symbol of power and authority.
It is a place of great strength and power.
It is a place where the law is made and the rules are set.

General: Tower is anything that is official, ambitious, institutional, lofty, or tall. Tower is defined by the traditional, bureaucratic, administrative, executive, or ruling. This card is also the guardian of the rule of law, as well as the state, government, civilization, or town. The ambition or motives of an institution can appear in a reading if you are asking about the firm you work for, but it can also describe the personal motives or ambitions of an individual. Near cards about a relationship, Tower can indicate a hardening of attitude or a separation. Because of its lofty and official stance, it can reveal loneliness, especially when it appears to the right of

someone. This is not the same as the isolation of Mountain, which can be chosen or imposed. Tower can be a little rigid, formal, or traditional, and we can contrast this with Rider, which is mobile, informal, and flexible. While Dog is friendly, Tower is official.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Institution; office; firm; business; institutional building; policy; conventions; tradition; law; ambition; state; government.

Adjectives: High; lofty; tall; official; ruling; proud; legal; lonely; political; alone.

Verbs: Promote; retain; rule; certify; authorize; strive; aim; control; oversee; serve.

Adverbs: Institutionally; traditionally; officially; ambitiously.

People: Lawyer; official; mayor; legislator; executive.

Timing: Coming soon.

Lenormand Universe: Tradition of service.

Combinations:

Tower + Garden: Public duty; municipal building; communal apartments.

Tower + Book: Publishing house; institutional directory; doing it by the book.

Tower + Ring: Bound to bureaucracy; contracted to the institution, company groupie.

Tower + Sun: Confident government; successful business; happy official.

Tower + Bird + Rider: An official announcement is sent out.

Tower in House of Cross: Paying your debt to tradition; institution

IN CRISIS.



You are _____ garden _____ garden.

Can he or _____ friends _____ a public place.

_____ recreation is for me.

General: Garden shows us community, things that are sociable, public, open to all, or inclusive. This card can also mean obvious because Garden is open to understanding. It can also speak of countryside, suburban, open country, or the world at large. Group events, parties, festivals, or street gatherings are here too. In some decks, this card is called Park, based upon the first municipal parks and public gardens that sprang up in the mid-nineteenth century all over Europe as places of public recreation. Garden also tells us, when it's to the right of a card, that it is expressing itself as many or plural. Fox + Garden is many thieves, just as House + Garden is many houses. Garden provides group opportunities as opposed to Clover, which is more about personal chances. While Stork is migrating out or away, Garden is about gathering in and together. The sociability of Garden is that of community at play, while Lily speaks of social service or the protection of a community.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Event; community; the world; venue; marketplace; group; teamwork.

Adjectives: Public; sociable; obvious; communal; accessible;

mutual.

Verbs: Open; gather; party; celebrate.

Adverbs: Openly; publicly; inclusively; obviously; commonly.

People: Gardener; party animal; groupie; socialite.

Timing: Afternoon; in the coming month.

Lenormand Universe: Community Service.

Combinations:

Garden + Stork: Change of venue.

Stork + Garden: Lots of moves or changes.

Garden + Tower: High society; officialdom at play; office party.

Garden + Ring: Public engagement; booking a venue; bound to appear socially.

Garden + Book: A book in public domain or out of copyright; book group.

Garden + Man: Gardener; a men's club; humanity.

Garden + Fish: Casino; green investment; public funds; financial world.

Garden + Cross + Stork: A public crisis that requires improvement.

Garden on House of Letter: A public event that is advertised.



21 Mountain of Clubs

A mountain is a hard to reach

C'est la montagne qui se dresse en face de nous

D'un air de défi, elle se dresse en face de nous

General: Mountain signifies something we can't get over easily, so it often shows itself as a blockage, obstacle, delay, or limit that we

have to negotiate. It sometimes represents a pile of work you have to do or a delay for a trip you are taking. When it appears over the head of the querent, it indicates a burden that weighs heavily. When Mountain comes to the right of a card it operates as a block, so Bear + Mountain can make you feel powerless or obstruct your plans. Because it stands for borders, this card can also appear as border control or customs. Mountain can describe being remote or feeling alienated. It can also mean enemy. If describing a person, Mountain is dour and gives little away. Compare Cross with Mountain: Cross is something that cannot be worked around but only undergone or faced, while Mountain can be overcome with effort or strategy. Mountain stands for inland, contrasting Anchor for coastal. Mountain stands for national compared with Ship's overseas or Stars' universal.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Obstacle; estrangement; boundary; limit; enemy; weight; introversion; distance.

Adjectives: Remote; hermetic; inimical; heavy; national; inland; sequestered; impassive.

Verbs: Separate; remove; block; delay; alienate; rusticate; border; concentrate.

Adverbs: Remotely; limitedly; boundaried; distantly.

People: Hermit; explorer; mountain climber; skier; solitary; recluse.

Timing: Delayed; far off.

Lenormand Universe: Fateful delay.

Combinations:

Mountain + Snake: Complicated delays; jealously estranged; treacherous enemy.

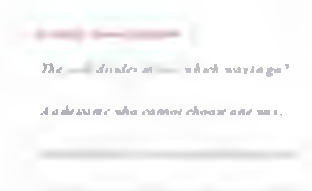
Mountain + Birds: Nervous about border control; talking remotely.

Mountain + Dog: A far-off friend; separated from your companion.

Mountain + Moon: Keeping remote from the limelight; honorable retirement.

Mountain + Ring + Fish: A delayed financial agreement.

Mountain on House of Letter: Check your visa for the border!



General: Paths is also known as Crossroads in some decks. It indicates decisions, choices, alternatives, and options, as well as pros and cons, or different possible approaches one can take. The alternative nature of Paths can, when it speaks of a person, show that they are unconventional in their lifestyle. This is not a card you want to have near Heart or Ring, as it indicates wavering between two loves, hesitating about a commitment, or even double-dealing and unfaithfulness. It is one of those cards, like Birds, that can denote two of something; in the case of Paths it usually means an alternative. Moon + Paths can show two jobs or moonlighting from your daytime work. This card can be read as “both at the same time” or “one way or another,” or indicate a substitute or understudy. We can read opposites in House's indoors and Paths'

outdoors. In partnership with Bear, Paths can give us the power to decide.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Way; choice; option; trail; road; division; map; method; means; route; freedom; unconfined; adventure.

Adjectives: Planning; specialized; decisive; unfaithful; double-dealing; unconventional; versatile.

Verbs: Choose; go; decide; approach; drift; wander; walk; track; explore; substitute.

Adverbs: Alternatively; indecisively; freely.

People: Tourist; tracker; roadie; life coach; hiker; multitasker; alternative person; understudy.

Timing: April.

Lenormand Universe: Luck of Choice.

Combinations:

Paths + Clover: A lucky approach; risky alternatives; footloose and fancy-free.

Paths + Book: Alternative teaching; substitute teacher; specialized knowledge.

Paths + Clouds: Unclear route; foggy road; confusing choice.

Paths + Coffin: No alternatives; end of the road; path of sickness.

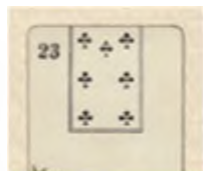
Paths + Snake: Winding road; complex alternatives; choosing jealousy.

Paths + Mountain: Mountain trail; blocked road; delay on the highway.

Paths + Fish + Lily: A fiscally mature approach; map of the old

river.

Paths on House of Garden: Deciding things for the public good.



23 Mice ♣ Clubs

Each little house wears down what a big old store

As small as you is, you wear it a little more

Each parcel of loss wears away a new one

General: Worry, loss, and diminishment typify Mice. From the infestation of greenfly in your roses to the wear still left in your favorite coat, nothing lasts forever, and one person's possession is another beast's food. Mice are opportunistic and can take from your store of money, food, or goods. Man + Mice can reveal a fear of loss or of not being good enough; a common anxiety that keeps people small and unambitious. Although it can also, as with Bear + Mice, indicate a kind of petty possessiveness that fences you in, so you end up self-sabotaging. Mice nibble things down by small degrees, so check the condition of your home before putting it up for sale if you get House + Mice, as there may be some deterioration in the building. Fish + Mice tells you that someone is lifting money from your purse or defrauding your account. Because Mice work and think as a collective rather than as individuals, they can also stand for group consciousness. Compare the small daily worries of Mice with the nervous anxiety of Birds and with the confusions of Clouds. Mice as "decay" contrasts with Tree for "growth." When Mice pairs with Fox, they are thick as thieves.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Loss; theft; decrease; wear; piecemeal; decay; sabotage; the group mind; mess.

Adjectives: Burgled; dirty; filthy; insanitary; infectious; worn-out; stolen; diminished.

Verbs: Lessen; reduce; undercut; consume; spoil; infest; disempower.

Adverbs: Reductively; decreasingly; infectiously.

People: Thief; depreciation inspector; loss assessor; economist; looter; saboteur.

Timing: Right now; shortly.

Lenormand Universe: Fateful Loss.

Combinations:

Mice + Tree: Diminished growth; stressful conditions; plant infestation.

Mice + Tower: Office pilfering; public resources decrease.

Mice + Letter: News of a mob; information about vermin; diet sheet.

Mice + Sun: A stolen day; improvement after loss; light upon the mess.

Mice + Cross: A severe loss. Cross + Mice: Warning of loss; a burden whittled down.

Mice + Anchor: Loss of stability; lifestyle erosion; stable weight loss.

Mice + Book + Woman: A librarian's worries; a woman's book worm problem.

Mice on House of Dog: Losing faith or diminished friendship.



24 Hearts - A Noble Knight

The knight, who heart beats in a state of love

He is, as most of us are

For hearts are a compass and not a straight line.

General: Heart is the universal emblem of love and so it appears here. It also stands for enthusiasm, affection, and caring, as well as a whole range of different loving connections, including those that are platonic and not just sexual. It can describe someone who is a fan or a follower, or even indicate “liking” on social networking. In a tableau, if Heart appears to the left of the Ring card in any column following it, then an engagement or agreement is working out to its conclusion. If the Ring precedes Heart, then it generally means that the relationship or engagement is likely to be broken. If you are scanning a tableau for the love interest or motivations of the heart, this is the card you examine and see what cards lie in proximity. Heart as the “emotions of the heart” is contrasted with Clouds for the “rationale of the head or mind.” While Child is asexual, Heart is passionate or romantic.

Effect: Fortunate.

Nouns: Love; enthusiasm; attraction; affiliation; fan; empathy; passion.

Adjectives: Affectionate; lovesome; emotional; favorite; romantic.

Verbs: Flirt; be passionate about; attract; desire; emote; favor.

Adverbs: Lovingly; enthusiastically; attractively; emotionally.

People: Lover; fan; supporter of a group; romantic; heart specialist; matchmaker.

Timing: October.

Lenormand Universe: Loving Destiny.

Combinations:

Heart + Ship: Wanderlust; blow-in lover; yearning for love.

Heart + Coffin: End of the affair; a deadly love; heart disease.

Heart + Child: Trustfully given; newly responsive; uncomplicated love.

Heart + Mice: Vampire; disappointed in love; diminished affection.

Heart + Fish: Flow of emotions; financially passionate; gushing love.

Heart + Mountain + Rider: A gay man isolated from love.

Heart on House of Key: Love is the answer.



25 of Spades: The Ring

Marriage, a bond or the marriage.

Prophecy, destiny, and fate.

It is not a promise, it is a warning and a fate.

General: Ring speaks of bonds, connections, contracts, agreements, and engagements. In a love reading it indicates commitment because of its association with the marriage ring. In a tableau, when the Ring appears to the left of the Heart card, it can indicate a ruptured engagement or agreement. Notice that in the Lenormand sequence, Heart and Ring follow each other in that order for a good reason. When it appears to the right of the Heart card it means a firm romantic commitment. Although Ring is regarded as a fortunate card, it has its oppressive side, in that it can

bind the card next to it, so Cross + Ring might indicate trials that come round again, because Ring can also have the sense of cyclic or circulation. Stork + Ring would be changes or moves coming round in rotation. Ring meaning inclusive is contrastingly paired with Snake's exclusive. Ring suggests a committed couple as opposed to the more neutral pairs offered by Birds.

Effect: Fortunate.

Nouns: Contract; bond; union; connection; agreement; engagement; circle; phase; oath; vow.

Adjectives: Cyclic; bound; enclosed; chained; linked; inclusive; round and round.

Verbs: Commit; unite; enclose; ring-fence; encircle; include; swear an oath; promise.

Adverbs: Cyclically; connectedly; bindingly; inclusively.

People: Engaged person; contract worker; cyclist; contractor.

Timing: June.

Lenormand Universe: Contract with Fate.

Combinations:

Ring + Ship: Shipping contract; foreign agreement; soul connection.

Ring + Bear: Forced marriage; a powerful bond; protective custody.

Ring + Mountain: Delayed agreement; remote connection; obstacles to union.

Ring + House + Stork: Agreeing on a change of abode.

Ring + Man/Woman: A romantic partner.

Ring in House of Rider: A speedy engagement; an approaching

contract.



26. Book 10. 10. 10. 10. 10.

A secret is a book, a book is a secret.

When the pages are open, it is a book.

When the pages are closed, it is a secret.

General: Book means secrets, mysteries, knowledge, wisdom, and education. It can stand literally for any book or body of knowledge, or the philosophy of a school of thought. It is also the unknown. Book's pages are usually facing the right, illuminating what has been unknown to the right-hand card. When the Book's spine is to the left, it means that something is secret to whatever lies on the left. So Ring + Book means that the engagement is secret, whereas Book + Ring says the engagement is revealed. Book as secret makes a complementary pair with Coffin's hidden. Interestingly, both books and coffins open and shut. Book also makes another pair with Rod as book and pen.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Secret; knowledge; expertise; studies; diary; tome; memory; oracle cards.

Adjectives: Wise; revealing; unknown; learned; informed; secret.

Verbs: Educate; hide; obfuscate; study; know; remember.

Adverbs: Wisely; secretly; knowingly; revealingly; expertly.

People: Teacher; educator; librarian; writer; bookkeeper; historian; curator; editor; researcher.

Timing: Slow; not for a long time.

Lenormand Universe: Mysterious Luck.

Combinations:

Book + Clover: Opening a (gambling) book to bet on something.

Book + Clouds: Ignorance; muddled knowledge; crazy wisdom.

Book + Bear: Mastering wisdom; protecting the secret; grandma's know-how.

Book + Stork: Translating a codex; a seasonal book; an animated book.

Book + Letter: Index; examination book; advertising catalogue.

Book + Anchor: A sustaining book; secrets secure; sticking by the book.

Book + Snake + Garden: Jealous secrets become public.

Book on House of Clouds: A hidden codex; obscure writings.



Je mers au port de la vie et je m'en vais.

Je m'en vais et je m'en vais.

Je m'en vais et je m'en vais.

General: Letter is any news or communication that is written and received or sent, as opposed to Rider who brings the news to you. It stands for a newspaper, letter, flyer, manifesto, or advertisement. To check if the letter is sent or received, see where it falls and how the Letter is depicted in your spread. Generally, when the Letter is to the left, as in Letter + Man, the man has sent the letter. When it is to the right, as in Man + Letter, it is a letter he's received. Compare Letter with Book: Letter is a small document, leaflet, or

pamphlet while Book is a larger tome or body of knowledge. Contrast Letter with Birds: the difference here is between what is written and spoken. Letter for “written words” makes a complement with Bouquet's “considerate deeds,” whereas Scythe is the “disconnection” to Letter's “communication.”

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Message; manifesto; newspaper; poster; note; letter; card; information; schedule; diploma; evidence; missive; agenda; communique.

Adjectives: Recorded; written; emailed; leafleted; listed.

Verbs: Document; send; relate; advertise; communicate; contact.

Adverbs: Informationally; advisedly; evidently.

Timing: Shortly.

Lenormand Universe: Manifesto of Service.

Combinations:

Letter + Tree: Prescription; health news; family document.

Letter + Scythe: Indictment; notice to quit; wounding letter.

Letter + Ship: Holiday post card; text message; foreign letter.

Letter + Snake + Tower: Official complications with your passport.

Letter + Scythe + Birds: A missive creating dangerous disquiet.

Letter + Stars + Woman: A female tarot reader; reading cards for a woman.

Letter on House of Mountain: The documents are subject to delay or held up at the border.



28 Man *Man*
A tall dark stranger, or the man in the
The female are thinking of, got of your dream?
The when need is in desire, in desire, in need

General: Man is the male Significator and so he is not a speaking card but rather one that is spoken about. The card that accompanies Man colors him. A complementary pair is made between Scythe + Man (resolute man) and Rod + Woman (active woman).

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Male person; potency; yourself; himself; everyman.

Adjectives: Male; masculine; proactive.

Verbs: Generate; activate.

Adverbs: Manfully; proactively.

Timing: July.

Lenormand Universe: Son of Destiny.

Combinations:

Man + Clover: Gambler; risk taker; lucky fellow.

Man + Bear: A fat or powerful man; a drag queen.

Man + Stars: A scientist; a charismatic man; an astronomer.

Man + Tree + Paths: A diagnostic physician; an ancestor's road.

Man + Cross: A priest; a rabbi; a monk; an embittered man.

Man on House of Clouds: The man is confused.



29 Woman *At a 5 p.m.*
A love is hidden in female
Love of your life, in the end
The one you and your wife, in the end
The one who is in the end

General: Woman is the female Significator and so is not a speaking card but rather one that is spoken about. The cards that accompany her color Woman.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Female person; fertility; yourself; herself; every woman.

Adjectives:

Female; feminine; sensitive.

Verbs: Feminize; conceive.

Adverbs: Womanly; sensitively.

Timing: May.

Lenormand Universe: Daughter of Service.

Combinations:

Woman + Clouds: Confused woman; crazy lady; depressed about womanhood.

Woman + Bouquet: Elegant woman; stylish femininity; skilled woman.

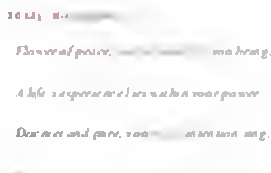
Woman + Scythe L: Menopause; surgery for a woman; suddenly sensitive.

Woman + Rod: Abortion; recurrent miscarriages; argumentative female.

Woman + Book: Educated woman; author; teacher; female stranger.

Woman + Clover + Tree: A woman risks her health.

Woman on House of Paths: Female scout; woman has a decision.



General: Lily is the card for age, peace, protection, and maturity. It can also mean the welfare of the family and, by extension, social work. Lily give us cleanliness or purity, which is why brides carry lilies and why they are the flowers most associated with funerals of those dying in the faith. Lily is the card of the father, grandfather, or older man. Some Lenormand schools see Lily as sexuality, a meaning that is derived from the erotic perfume of lily, but this would be comfortable, familiar sex or relations between faithful partners since Lily also has the meaning of constant or chaste from its reputation for purity. Sex by itself is Rod, a more athletic or casual type of sexuality than Lily, which implies a relationship of constancy. Lily is the protector of the family. The inset King of Spades, meaning “virtuous man,” makes a contrasting pair with Queen of Clubs or Snake as “scandalous woman.” Lily (discreet) contrasts Birds (for chattering).

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Peace; calm; old age; winter; ice; constancy; discretion; maturity; retirement.

Adjectives: Cold; restrained; serene; discreet; veteran; antique; ancient; virtuous.

Verbs: Age; bring peace; protect; overwinter; snow.

Adverbs: Peacefully; calmly; constantly; serenely; maturely; coldly.

People: Elder; divorce; grandfather; father; veteran; social worker; retired person; mentor.

Timing: Winter.

Lenormand Universe: Mature Service.

Combinations:

Lily + Ship: Traveling peacemaker; foreign elder; yearning for maturity.

Lily + Coffin: Celibacy; age cut-off point; freezing point.

Lily + Child: A virgin; inexperienced elder; new this winter.

Lily + Garden: Public protection; communal discretion; elder's show.

Lily + Sun: Happy old age; maturing confidently; melting the snow.

Lily + Heart + Bear: Constant love and protection; grandparental affection.

Lily on House of Tower: Protection is given officially.



Sun. Ausstrahlung
Neu. ... ein ganz von Bright als ...
Darkness flutet ...
Ein ...
...

General: The Sun brings vigor, energy, and vitality into the reading. It signals a welcome relief of difficult conditions and brings to the cards a light that helps you find your way. This cheery brightening up of things can come with a sense of success or achievement. Next to challenging cards it dilutes them as the Good Fairy God-mother does in the case of the curse upon Sleeping Beauty; it

doesn't take the challenge entirely away, but it will limit the severity somewhat. Sun can be electricity or voltage as well, so Birds + Sun could be an electric radio or recording device. Sun gives us daylight and summer, as well as consciousness. As complementary opposites, Sun and Child (day and innocent) make a pair with Moon and Fox (night and guilty).

Effect: Fortunate. Sun warms things up and brings happiness.

Nouns: Warmth; light; day; confidence; summer; relief; electricity; conscious; holiday; goodwill; idealism; success.

Adjectives: Cheerful; sunny; ambitious; south; bright; everyday; propitious.

Verbs: Enlighten; gain; warm; electrify; recreate; heat; sheer; mitigate.

Adverbs: Cheerfully; warmly; daily; confidently.

People: Optimist; electrician; comedian; charismatic person.

Timing: Summer.

Lenormand Universe: Luck of Life.

Combinations:

Sun + House: Domestic happiness.

House + Sun: Summer house.

Sun + Tree: Recovery of health; growing warmer; tree lights.

Sun + Coffin: Solstice; eclipse; happiness ends.

Sun + Birds: Talking about a holiday; sound and light display; nervous of sunburn.

Sun + Cross: Critical heat; a bomb; spiritual mitigation.

Sun + Key + Snake: Confidence is the key to sophistication.

Sun on House of Ship: Success lies abroad; a holiday abroad.



32 Moon & Stars

Work of your hands: recognition and reward.

Your influence: your reputation.

We dream made our life so, for a life is dreamed.

General: Moon is the card of work and vocation, as well as the recognition and honor that arise from that work. It also gives us the emotional satisfaction we get from work and creativity. With the creativity to bring things to manifestation, Moon is also about dreams we have while we are asleep and the intuition that we feel about something. Moon governs the tides of creativity, while Stars gives us the creative intelligence to formulate what that creativity fuels. Be careful not to read Lenormand Moon as Tarot Moon, as they are different! Note that while Moon gives us celebrity and fame, Key gives us preeminent, chief, or notable, and Fox would provide us with notorious, or the wrong kind of fame. Moon as “influence” makes a complementary pair with Tree for “growth.” Moon + Fox (night and guilty) also make a four-way pair with Sun + Child (day and innocent).

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Reputation; job; talent; vocation; creativity; emotional satisfaction; career; intuition; celebrity.

Adjectives: Famous; working; moonlighting; nightly; dreamy; renowned.

Verbs: Work; honor; recognize; acknowledge; intuit; manifest;

influence.

Adverbs: Nightly; monthly; honorably; reputedly; famously.

People: Celebrity; famous person; worker; dreamer.

Timing: Evening; within the month.

Lenormand Universe: Honor of Destiny.

Combinations:

Moon + Clover: Lucky intuition; gambling addict; a brief honor.

Moon + Rider: Visiting worker; delivery at work; recognized courier.

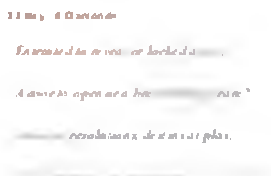
Moon + Snake: Complex work; notoriety; jealous of reputation.

Moon + Garden: Public celebrity; an all-night party; common recognition.

Moon + Ring: Phases of the moon; contract to work; promise of celebrity.

Moon + Fox + Mountain: Limited by manipulative work conditions.

Moon on House of Book: A job in education; secretly recognized.



General: Key is the opening or solution you've been looking for. It can provide a reason when it comes at the beginning or in the past position of a spread, where it highlights a cause. Key also stands for chief or notable. Next to a person, Key defines them as

important or essential, as with Bear + Key, which would be an important matriarch, while Book + Key could be the original copy of a book or a key teaching. When Key appears as the last card or at the end of a line it says yes, definitely, certainly, or assuredly to whatever went before. This isn't always what we'd like, of course, as when Mountain + Key come at the end of a line, meaning definite delays. For musicians, Key could mean in tune or tuning up, but for prisoners it might be locked up. Key and House make an interesting, complementary pair, as a dwelling with the key that gives you access to and security for your home. Key (subtlety) also makes a contrast with Bear (forceful).

Effect: Fortunate. Key opens things up.

Nouns: Solution; answer; breakthrough; door; discovery; password; in tune; assent; freedom; consent; original; source; importance.

Adjectives: Chief; notable; expert; pivotal; important; impregnable; subtle; paramount; preeminent; subtle.

Verbs: Open; reveal; access; unlock; lock; brainstorm; plan; diagnose; release.

Adverbs: Openly; revelatory; certainly; accessibly; subtly; importantly.

People: Locksmith; janitor; decoder; switchboard operator; diagnostician.

Timing: In the coming month.

Lenormand Universe: Revelation of Luck.

Combinations:

Key + Garden: Public breakthrough; community revelation; public release.

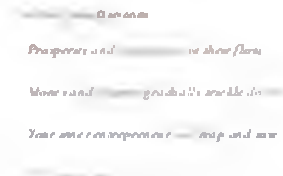
Key + Fox: The wrong door; a lying answer; stealthy solution; locksmith.

Key + Tree: Well-being is paramount; notable ancestors; systematically tuned.

Key + Sun: Warm assent; holiday allowance; electronic key.

Key + Paths + Anchor: Pivotal decision for security; unlocking the failsafe.

Key on House of Lily: Solution found in the winter; family solution.



General: Fish stands for money, flow, circulation, wages, investments, exchange, and business. As with all cards, the ones that are next to it will give you the right context. It also means the depths from the ocean's deep and, by extension, it covers all bodies of water, water itself, also liquid and drink, especially alcohol. For instance, Fish + Lily could be a well-aged wine. Compare Ship for overseas transactions, Bear for financial security, and Anchor for your livelihood. Fish meaning deepest makes an opposite with Stars for highest, while a reading of Fish as commerce is complementary to Ship's trade.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Money; means; cash; flow; business; depths; prosperity; flux; liquidity; currency.

Adjectives: Financial; fiscal; watery; alcoholic; fluid; abundant; liquid; commercial.

Verb: Earn; exchange; swim; trade; gush; transact; circulate; stream.

Adverbs: Financially; fluidly; abundantly; prosperously; swimmingly.

People: Investor; fisherman; alcoholic; bon viveur; depth analyst; accountant.

Timing: January.

Lenormand Universe: Financial Luck.

Combinations:

Fish + Rider: Financial news; speedy money; cash courier.

Fish + Ship: Overseas trade; export trading; foreign transaction.

Fish + Tree: Health spa; growth of abundance; long-term investment.

Fish + Rod: Arguing about money; financial discussion; fiscal investigation.

Fish + Stars: Dreams of riches or abundance; clarity about money.

Fish + Key: Credit card; sure money or returns; chief fund or account.

Fish + Rider + Stars: Instant electronic money transfer.

Fish on House of Scythe: Reaping financial rewards suddenly; dangerous money.



Mé. Anchor e. 6. Sp. adieu
are your plans
With your anchor, you will see
Secure as able to hold, of your hands.

General: Anchor is the card of stability and dependability. It is immoveable and so it talks about fixtures and things that remain unchanged. This can extend to situations staying the same, or it can signal a return to normal. There is also something about Anchor that is routine and as a description of a person it can mean someone is reliable to the point of being a little dull. Some Lenormand schools use it as a work card, as it speaks to the hard-working or persevering ethic. It can stand, by extension, for the livelihood on which your security is founded, although the actual cash is represented by Fish. Traditionally, the anchor represented hope and faith, meanings that derive from the steadiness lent by the anchor to the ship in rough waters. Compare Anchor's opposite card of Stork, which is all about change and movement, or Clover, which is as bubbly, light, and carefree as Anchor is heavy and serious.

Effect: Neutral.

Nouns: Stability; maintenance; standards; permanence; safety; standards; hope; livelihood; routine.

Adjectives: Stable; keeping; unchanging; reliable; serious; hard working; coastal.

Verbs: Secure; ground; rely; anchor; persevere; make safe; settle.

Adverbs: Securely; dependably; reliably; permanently; hopefully.

People: Settler; founder; maintenance workers; security person; news anchor; pedant; safety officer.

Timing: In the next few months; very slowly.

Lenormand Universe: Secure Service.

Combinations:

Anchor + Clover: Upturn stabilizes; fortunate connection; making light of routine.

Anchor + Ship: Yearning for stability; travel insurance; foreign protection.

Anchor + Tower: Immoveable; official position; institutional security; stable government.

Anchor + Mice: Diminished standards; worries about safety.

Anchor + Book: Discreetly unchanging; educationally persevering.

Anchor + Key: Unlocking the chains; key-holder security; essential standards.

Anchor + Tower + Lily: Commitments lead to a lonely old age.

Anchor on House of Mountain: Maintained remotely; alienated by security.



Mc Crean - © Cluade

Trust and hope between you and your friend

A narrow corridor through the night

A small and narrow path through the forest

General: Cross is what is necessary or fateful, but it's also your faith, conviction, or ethics. When you have to seriously consider your stance on an issue, you refer to the Cross part of yourself.

Knowing what is necessary is useful but it's not always pleasant. Cross is a grin-and-bear-it kind of card. When it shows up in a spread, you know that you have to face things and that life has become tough. It is not like Mountain, which is a challenge that can be surmounted. Cross is like a great big exclamation mark. When it comes before a card it emphasizes it, as in Cross + Garden where you might expect a difficult social gathering. When Cross comes after a card it finalizes whatever it is, so that Bouquet + Cross means that the award, surprise, or gift will not be forthcoming and that's the end of it. Cross indicates spirituality, religion, and all departments of the sacred and mystical, regardless of affiliation. Cross can stand for the emblem or teaching of any religion or belief, whether it be the Star of David, the Buddhist Eight-fold Paths, or simply the divine. Cross ordains starkly like the Greek goddess, Ananke, whom everyone had to obey, as opposed to Rider, which initiates things in a more pleasant way.

Effect: Challenging.

Nouns: Crisis; transition; test; necessity; fate; trial; burden; difficulty; challenge.

Adjectives: Critical; testing; venerable; holy; sacred; spiritual; fateful.

Verbs: Cross; challenge; consecrate; ordain; facing up to.

Adverbs: Critically; spiritually; testingly; sacredly.

People: Priest; minister; examiner; inquisitor; initiate.

Timing: Sooner than you'd like.

Lenormand Universe: Implacable Fate.

Combinations:

Cross + Rod: Repressive cult; austere practices; disruptive priest.

Cross + Tower: One God; towering crisis; almighty challenge.

Cross + Fox: Outrunning fate; wronged by the test; surviving the burdens.

Cross + Bear: Strength to cope with the crisis; overwhelming necessity.

Cross + Star: Clearly doing what's ethical; blessed by your spiritual path.

Cross + Ship + Mountain: Travel plans frustrated and blocked.

Cross + Star + Dog: Salvation; angel; spirit ally.

Cross + Garden: Many gods; openly religious; prayer group. Cross on House of Birds: The challenge provokes anxiety.

FALSE FRIENDS FROM THE TAROT WORLD

In every language there are words that are exactly like words in your own tongue but which prove to be treacherously different, like the French *ancien* for old which is not the same as the English word ancient, meaning antique, or the Spanish *bizaro*, which means brave, rather than the English bizarre, which means strange. There are a few cards that cause problems for new readers familiar with tarot; some cards may look the same, but they are different. Do not try to read these Lenormands as if they were tarot cards. Although the Sun has some close crossovers and the Book may carry some parallel meanings with the High Priestess or Papesse, they are not the same.

Stars: Stars is a fortunate card in Lenormand conveying a sense of clarity, precision, promise, and blessedness. In Tarot, the Star is always about hope and faith, but that latter meaning would better apply to Lenormand's Anchor. Stars gives us the clarity to make good judgments. It is helpful to think of the neoplatonic and medieval sense of the Stars as governing the imperium of the celestial regions. The remote clarity of Stars provides the guidance of destiny. Also remember that because Lenormand is concerned with the literal, Stars can refer to electricity and actual heavenly bodies.

Tower: In Lenormand, the Tower is a neutral card. Although we can see negative elements of bureaucracy and officialdom in its signature, it is entirely different from the Tarot Tower, which is about sudden and shocking change.

Sun: Lenormand Sun is full of vital energy, confidence, and success. Just as Clover means a little luck, so Sun means a lot of luck, which is where these two cards are near to the Geomantic signs of Fortuna Minor and Fortuna Major. The Sun shines a lot further than Clover and brings a greater sense of relief for a longer period. Tarot Sun is happiness and success. We can see the difference between Tarot Sun and Lenormand Sun clearly when we keep in mind the relational quality of Lenormand. Sun brightens all that it touches.

Moon: In Tarot, the Moon means illusions, mutability, or anxiety—words that are better expressed in Lenormand by Clouds, Stork, and Birds, respectively. Lenormand Moon is about work, honor, recognition, and creativity. This is because Moon governs the

sublunary regions and is symbiotic with the life of our planet. Everything that Moon shines upon is under its influence. Beware of assigning disordered emotions to the Moon, which has more to do with the emotional satisfaction arising from the work of our hands.

Creating Sentences with Pairs and Triplets

Because we are two, everything changes. The task does not become twice as easy. No, the impossible becomes possible!

RENE DAUMAL, MOUNT ANALOGUE

WORD ORDER IN LENORMAND PAIRS

Every Lenormand reader develops his or her own style, but before this can grow, you need a baseline to begin from. In this chapter, we explore the basics of reading pairs and triplets. We rarely read pairs just on their own, instead reading them as part of a larger tableau or spread. It is common, however, to use a basic triplet of three cards as a quick-check spread. This chapter is about building agility and flexibility, and about helping you to engage practically with the cards and their many gradations of meaning.

As we saw in chapter 1, pairs are read in a way that seems counter-intuitive to an English speaker, with the first card as the subject and the following card as the modifier. Here we have to remember that the Lenormand system of reading arose in France and Germany. In English we say a red book, but the French say *un livre rouge* (a book red).

It is interesting that it is the French manner of placing the adjective after the noun that holds sway rather than the German

way, where a red book (*das rote buch*) has the same word order as in English. This suggests to me that the French-speaking parts of the Low Countries of Belgium and Holland had a good deal to do with setting the stage for the Lenormand reading style. This is surprising as it is within Germany that Lenormand has most deeply established itself and where the deck first appeared. One other possibility for this reversal may derive from the fact that many cartomancers, including Etteilla, read cards from right to left rather than left to right. In any event, pair reading is based on: Card 1 (verb/noun) + Card 2 (adjective, adverb). Here are some examples:

Bouquet (gift, surprise, award) + Rider (news, arrive, delivery): a surprise arrival; the delivery of a gift; or news of an award.

Heart (love, affection, enthusiasm) + Coffin (end, finish, dead end): the end of the affair; enthusiasm runs out; finished with love.

Letter (document, writing, communication) + Bear (powerful, strong, generous): a powerful manifesto; strong writing; a generous communication.

By learning the basic keywords you will be able to read whichever two cards you lay down together. Heart + Cross might stand for religious fervor, while Cross + Heart could mean courage in the face of a challenge or passionate about the faith. There are endless possibilities for every combination. This last pair could equally

apply to a marathon runner who enjoys the burn and as to someone who enjoys dining out on misery! Pairs like Mountain + Clover could mean fortunately coming through obstacles, an opportunity to be remote, or a risky mountain climb. Remember how important card order is. Clover + Mountain is quite different, meaning obstacles to your luck or delayed opportunity. We can always find a suitable interpretation for a pairing when we have a good question.

Sometimes, in contradiction to what I've just said about pair reading, you will have to read a line of cards in forward narration where the subject + modifier rule is ignored. You will find quite a few examples of rule bending in this book, as you will see when we begin to read in triplets.

There is a lot to learn in this chapter, but break down your reading into small steps. Don't be afraid to look at individual pairs of cards inside of entire spreads. They may show nuance or illuminate something hidden! Go over the "Lenormand Principles" at the end of each chapter if you don't understand something. Return to simpler spreads until your confidence takes you further.

Practice 4: Pairs with a Purpose

- Here are some pairs with suggestions of why and how they might be read. Notice how the specific intent of the question will lead you to understand different interpretations of the cards. Now it's time to start reading with others in mind! Read the pairs below for each of these imagined people and their

purposes, giving them a quick assessment of the cards and their possible message.

Cards	For the intent of
1. Moon + Clover	A job seeker; someone who's lost face; a reporter
2. Rider + Coffin	Someone expecting a parcel; a gambler at the races; a girl waiting for her boyfriend
3. Lily + Sun	A peace negotiator; a cold elder; a married couple's reunion after an absence
4. Mice + Stars	Someone who's misplaced their key; a club's accountant; homeowners selling their home
5. Ship + Cross	A sick Catholic; a new rabbi; a holidaymaker returning home from abroad

TRIPLETS IN ORDER

Three cards are commonly read in forward narration, just as they show up in order: Card 1 + Card 2 + Card 3. For instance, the cards of Tree + Child + Ring say that the health of the child is in

agreement. We can read all of these triplets straightforwardly as follows:

Woman + Heart + Tower: The woman is a fan of the company.

Ring + Stork + Scythe: The contract will change sharply.

Bear + Fox + Rod: The grandmother has been wrong many times.

Paths + Book + Tree: The road to learning is a long one.

I've purposely kept these sentences or statements simple, but you may notice that I've expressed them in the past, present, or future. This is because when we read spreads in the next chapter, we will be looking at past, present, and future positioning. Thinking about tenses now will help your fluency later on.

Practice 5: Triplet Translations

- Language books often include a little translation practice from one language into another and back again. Let's do some Lenormand translations. Translate these cards into statements or sentences.
 1. a) Anchor + Moon + Mice
b) Clouds + Coffin + Ship
c) Bouquet + Lily + Clover
- Now, how would you express the following sentences in cards?
 2. a) A talkative friend is visiting.
b) The new financial venture is successful.
c) The complex document is clarified.

d) The solution to the woman's challenge.

See here in Appendix 1 for the answer to these practice questions and the translations of the cards above.

Triplets Speak in Turn

Some readers regard the first or middle card of a triplet as its topic or main subject, but this is a matter of personal preference, so I ask you to see what works for you in the context of a question. If the first card is the subject, then card two describes it and card three says a little more. If the middle card is the subject, then cards one and three describe it. This is where your style can transform a reading. You could equally stress any of the three cards to give three very different readings. Look at the highlighted cards here, which stress different cards as the subject or topic of each triplet:

Tree + Child + Ring = The child's *health* is cyclic.

Tree + **Child** + Ring = The sick *child* has a long-lasting connection.

Tree + Child + **Ring** = *Committed* to the child's health.

These are all valid readings. The first makes the health aspect prominent, the second emphasizes the child itself, while the third speaks more about the attitude to the child's health.

The order of the words by which we express a triplet is based on sense and grammar; some statements sound better when put into a colloquial mode. So a forward reading of Garden +

Mountain + Man translates literally to public event + obstacle/delay + man, but we would naturally say “The man (is going to encounter) an obstacle/delay (at) the public event.” This means that we add in connecting words, like the ones I just put in parenthesis here, to help string the cards together like individual beads on a necklace. Don't be afraid to do this. Just as a telegram uses minimal language to convey news speedily and more cheaply than a flowery statement, so Lenormand cards speak concisely.

Part of the diviner's craft is to supply the language that will help the client to fully understand the meaning and implications of the cards. If you are happier sticking with forward triplets for the time being, reading the cards as they show up in order, that's fine. You can return to this variation when you feel ready.

🕒 *Practice 6: Triplets in Triplicate*

- Read the following triplets in three different ways and give each triplet a possible question that might have preceded your interpretation. Compose the answer first and find a question afterward by process of back projection! For example:

Tree + Tower + Birds: *Healing* the office speculation. (What is the priority at work?)

Tree + **Tower** + Birds: *The firm* can network by word of mouth. (What is the best way to advertise the firm's product?)

Tree + Tower + **Birds**: She is *nervous* about going to hospital. (Why is she so reluctant?) Note: On this last triplet, Tree + Tower makes a compound from (Health) + (Institution) =

Hospital.

- Now, you give it a try.
 1. a) Man + Heart + Clouds
b) Heart + Man + Clouds
c) Clouds + Man + Heart
 2. a) House + Key + Anchor
b) Key + House + Anchor
c) Anchor + Key + House
 3. a) Woman + Snake + Paths
b) Snake + Woman + Paths
c) Snake + Paths + Woman

THE ORACLE SPEAKS

In ancient times, an oracle was a person, as well as the source for an answer. A priest or priestess acted as the mouthpiece of the gods, giving inspired guidance to those who came to a divine temple or shrine. People would pray at the shrine and then stand before the oracle to ask their heartfelt question. Like these temple oracles, cartomancy stands in a long oral tradition of which you are now a part. At some point you will need to speak an interpretation aloud to a friend or client and the earlier you start this, the sooner this skill will grow.

In chapter 1, I said that we don't use single cards much, but now I encourage you to do so. Get your cards to speak aloud to you by asking them a question. Then randomly draw one card and

turn it over. Without looking in the book, what does it say in response to your question? Do it lightning fast and without any pondering, using your quick-fire wits. This will engage your intuition. You may be surprised by how much you already know!

Here are a few examples I did with friends at a gathering. They came up with the questions and pulled the cards while I spontaneously answered. You will notice that I also allowed some yes/no questions for this experiment.

Is this project worthwhile?	Ship	"You'll cruise it!"
What's the point of my education?	Book	"You gain the wisdom of the ages!"
What'll help me quit smoking?	Stars	"Believe in yourself."
What shall I do about meeting Deb?	House	"Best invite her home!"
What would my mother say?	Clover	"You have all the luck!"
How do I get enough people to attend my event?	Snake	"By being showy."
What's my dog trying to tell me?	Tree	"Look after my health."

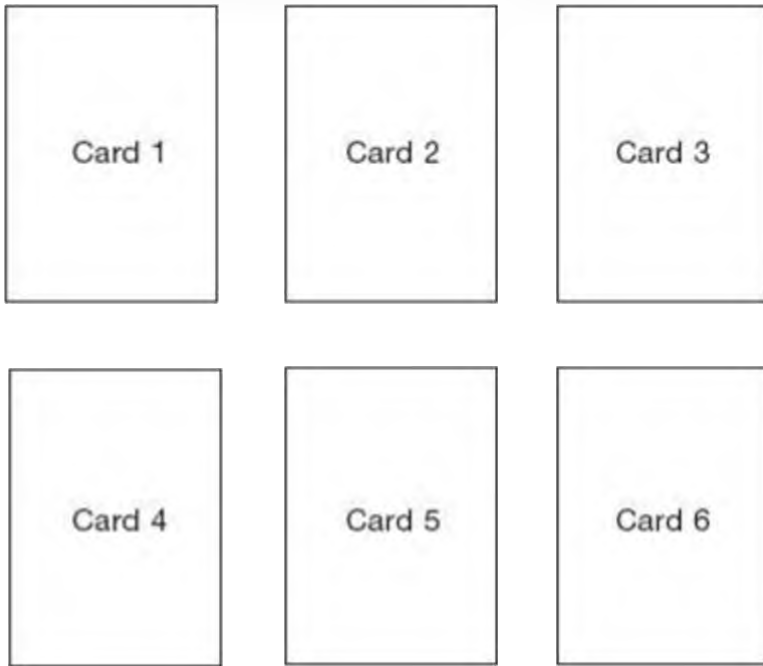
These are not deep oracles, but they are real oracles nonetheless. In my experience, this can be a well-appreciated and fun

way to do a group reading. Make a list of small questions for yourself or others and try this quick spoken oracle by pulling a card and making an instant response. If nothing else, you can test your growing knowledge of keywords.

Spread 1: Above and Below

Above and below is a spread that helps you test your pair and triplet reading. Take it step by step. The first line talks about the situation as it manifests and then the second line suggests ways of dealing with it. First, read the two horizontal triplets and then the three vertical pairs. This is where you have to set your mind free from interpreting cards in a single way and rather do it Lenormand style, uncovering the many layered and relational meanings. When you read the vertical pairs, you may find they say something supplemental about the issue, amplifying what you found in the triplets: this gives us the subtext or internal dynamic of a spread. Remember that in any vertical line of cards, the card that is above has the upper hand, or the dominant influence. Now for the spread:

The Above and Below Spread



1. Shuffle your cards while considering your question.
2. Cut the deck into three piles.
3. Place the top three cards from these piles as cards 1, 2, and 3, in a horizontal line.
4. Place the three cards from the bottom of these piles as cards 4, 5, and 6, below the cards above.
5. Read the triplets 1–3, 4–6.
6. Read the pairs $1 + 4$, $2 + 5$, $3 + 6$.
7. Optionally, you can read $1 + 5 + 3$ and $4 + 2 + 6$ if you need more information and want to check internal dynamic or subtext. You can also check out pairs $1 + 6$ and $3 + 4$.

Here is an example: Eddie asks about how to overcome a massive obstacle in his life—himself. It isn't until we are into the reading that the real nature of the obstacle comes clear. I immediately notice there are a lot of animals in the bottom line. It looks a bit wild and woolly! Let's take a look.

The top triplet reads: The obstacle comes to an end when the solution is realized. The bottom triplet reads: His personal power is complicated by taking the wrong approach. Here is the breakdown of the pairs:

Mountain + Bear: He is isolated from his power.

Coffin + Snake: A relationship with a difficult woman is finished.

Key + Fox: He's looking at the wrong solution.

To see if my instincts are correct, I do the optional parts of the reading.

Mountain + Snake + Key: Separation from this woman is certain.

Bear + Coffin + Fox: The power to avoid him making a bad end.

Mountain + Fox: Wrongly isolated.

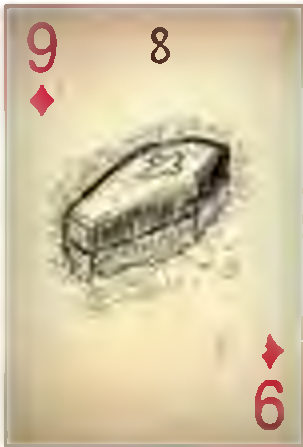
Key + Bear: Power is the key.

Eddie has been in a relationship with a possessive woman for a long time. She has isolated him from his power and made him feel like it's all *his* fault, rather than hers. He came for the reading to discover how to get over himself, but the cards have shown that it's his relationship that is over and that the cause of the problem

is his girlfriend. Now it is up to Eddie whether he pulls out and saves his hide or whether he goes on feeling that something is wrong with him.



Mountain



Coffin



Key



Bear



Snake



Fox

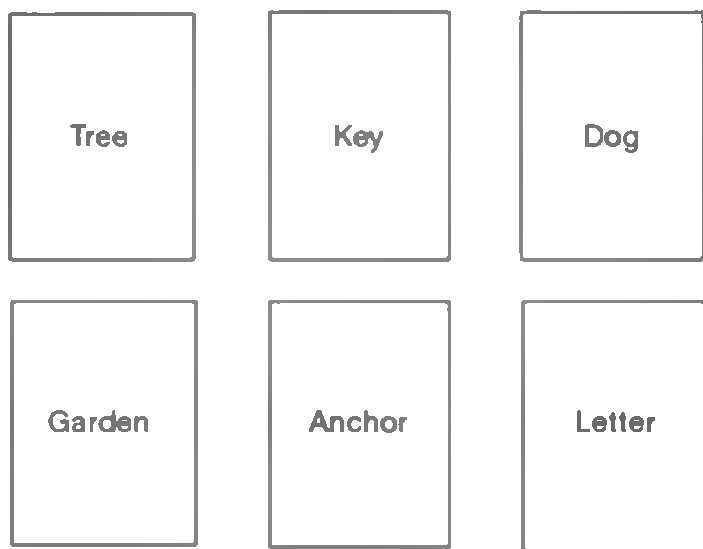
Eddie's Above and Below reading (Palimpsest)

Immediately you will see that I've read the six cards in many

different ways. Key is read as both solution and certainty, while Mountain is both separation and isolation. One of the standout features here is that Snake is indicating jealousy or possessiveness but is also the woman in Eddie's life. This is because Snake is also a court card, which can represent a person (see here). Notice, too, how Coffin lies above Snake, as the girlfriend is the kiss of death for Eddie. We see this clearly in the Bear + Coffin + Fox combination as well.

🔗 *Practice 7: As Above, So Below*

1. Caroline is waiting to hear from her boyfriend who's been away a long time. She asks about how it will be when they next meet up. Give her some good news.



Caroline's good news

2. Thirty-two-year-old Sancho has restarted his life with a new job that is not quite what he wants to do. What can you see here?

Bouquet	Coffin	Snake
Clover	Book	Rider

Sancho's reading

STUDYING THE SIGNIFICATOR

We have seen on p. 22, how the Man and Woman cards represent a male or female client, yet there are other cards that can do this work as well. These are mostly the cards that have the Kings, Queens, and Jacks upon them, and one or two pip cards. We have not so far explored the playing card element of Lenormand, so let's examine some of the main possible Significators here.

Rider or 9 Hearts: He can represent any young, personable man

who is streetwise and fashionable. He could also stand for a gay man or for a woman's next boyfriend.

Birds or 7 Diamonds: Birds represent couples in your family, like grandparents, aunts and uncles, twins, or just other siblings.

Bear or 10 Clubs: An older woman, mother, matriarch, grandmother, or mature woman who is in authority and perhaps a bit scary. In some combinations Bear can be a powerful man who is overpowering or in charge, like a boss.

Dog or 10 Hearts: Any male friend, a platonic chum, or sometimes the third person in a relationship, whether he be lover or adviser.

Tower or 6 Spades: An older man or patriarch who has influence over the family. He can sometimes be a bit aloof and rule bound.

While every Lenormand card can represent a profession associated with its main theme—for example, we can see Garden representing a gardener or Fish as a businessman—it is usually the court cards that come strongest into play when representing a person other than the client. The method of choosing a Significator in tarot was established centuries ago. In playing card cartomancy, the “honors” or court cards were chosen to represent people in spreads, calling upon the suits and court cards to determine the age, sex, and coloration of an individual. The nineteenth-century Scottish publisher and author Robert Chambers wrote about this association of the playing cards with people's coloring in his 1864

There are very few individuals among the lower classes in England who do not know something respecting the cards in their divinatory aspect, even if it be no more than to distinguish the lucky from the unlucky ones: and it is quite common to hear a person's complexion described as being of a heart, or club [color].¹

So the Hearty types on the street could be recognized from their ruddy complexions and the Clubby types from their swarthy complexions!

Generally speaking, Kings and Queens represent adult men and women while Jacks represent younger people. In all instances, the character of each of the court cards is derived from the image associated with the card rather than, as in playing card cartomancy, solely from their suits. So King Diamonds is a businessman or entrepreneur because of his association with the image of Fish, which represents money or wealth, while Queen Clubs' character derives from her being the Snake, which makes her seem rather untrustworthy.

THE COURT CARDS AS SIGNIFICATORS

	Hearts	Spades	Diamonds	Clubs
KING	House	Lily	Fish	Clouds
QUEEN	Stork	Bouquet	Paths	Snake

In this following list, I have married the Lenormand names with their playing card titles and suits so that you can begin to make closer association between the image and the court card depicted upon it.

House: King of Hearts can be a father, stepfather, an older man, the founder or patron of an association, or a responsible kind of guy.

Stork: Queen of Hearts is a good card for a gentle, home-loving, or simpatico woman, a female friend, sister, mother, nurse, or fosterer.

Heart: Jack of Hearts can represent an attractive man, a friendly fellow, maybe an older brother, or someone who looks out for the younger and weaker.

Lily: King of Spades is the card of the older man who might be a father, an older lover, a man of gravitas who offers protection or advice, a grandfather or elder.

Bouquet: Queen of Spades represents an older woman who might be a widow or an independent woman, an aunt with style, or a female confidante with good opinions.

Child: Jack of Spades represents a baby, child, or teenager of any sex, a freshman, beginner, student, or intern.

Fish: King of Diamonds is the businessman, entrepreneur, or employer who pays your salary. He is a man of influence and

can be critical or demanding sometimes.

Paths: Queen of Diamonds is a younger woman whose mind isn't yet made up or someone who carves out a path for herself. She can represent a rival in love or even a woman with whom men like to be seen.

Scythe: Jack of Diamonds can be a sharp young man who is streetwise, sometimes aggressive, or hurtful, someone whose actions can have difficult consequences.

Clouds: King of Clubs represents the ex-husband or ex-partner, a widower, or a man who is skeptical, indecisive, or confused. He can have mental health problems or feel overwhelmed by anxieties.

Snake: Queen of Clubs stands for the other woman or ex-partner. She can be jealous, demanding of her own way, also a stepmother or mother-in-law, or a professional career woman. She is the female streetwise equivalent of the Rider.

Rod: Jack of Clubs can be a lawyer or student, who can be a bit unrestrained, hyperactive, or speak his mind regardless of the results.

You may ask, how will I know when one of these cards is being a Significator and when it is being an ordinary speaking card? Context will usually come to your aid, as we saw from the Above and Below example here. If someone is asking a question concerning their child then the appearance of the Child card is unlikely to be standing for new or small. If a client asks about their personal

finances, then Fish is more likely to be about money than a business manager. When there is doubt, try reading it both ways and see what makes the most sense.

Here are some examples of speaking cards acting as Signifiers:

Dog + Anchor + Sun: Our friend has settled in the south.

House + Key + Mice: The househusband has lost his key.

Child + Birds + Tree: The boy's cousins are well.

Notice how the last one has more than one Signifier in it!

🔗 **Practice 8: Finding People in the Cards**

- Look through your King, Queen, and Jack cards and make your own associations between the court cards and people you know personally, or from fictional or historical characters. These associations can be from films, books, TV, or the sports world and will help solidify in your memory the nature of each possible Lenormand Signifier with its playing card. My examples here are from Shakespeare's plays.

King of Spades or Lily: Antony, the older lover from *Antony and Cleopatra*

Queen of Spades or Bouquet: charming Titania from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Jack of Spades or Child: the naive King Henry from *Henry VI*

King of Hearts or House: householder Master Page in *Merry Wives of Windsor*

Queen of Hearts or Stork: sympathetic, faithful Rosalind from *As You Like It*

Jack of Hearts or Heart: romantic Romeo from *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*

King of Diamonds or Fish: money-lending Shylock from *The Merchant of Venice*

Queen of Diamonds or Paths: wandering Imogen, from *Cymbeline*

Jack of Diamonds or Scythe: dagger-drawn Macbeth, from *Macbeth*

King of Clubs or Clouds: demented Lear, from *King Lear*

Queen of Clubs or Snake: elegant and tricky Cleopatra, from *Antony and Cleopatra*

Jack of Clubs or Rod: poison-tongued Iago, from *Othello*

Your own list can include popular figures who feature in your own world of interest, of course. As long as your associations work for you, use them!

STUDY 2: TOPIC CARDS

Sometimes Significators are not people but topics that we need information about. This is when the speaking cards can become topic cards that speak to your issue. The main topic cards are invariably the same as you will find in the astrology page of any

newspaper because these are the issues that speak to everyone.

Luck = Clover

Health = Tree

Love = Heart

Money = Fish

Work = Moon

Decisions = Paths

Any card can be chosen to represent the subject of your question. If you are moving house, you will look at Stork and House. If you are wondering whether a political candidate will win the vote, you will look at Letter, which often shows up as the ballot. If an agreement or merger is in the air, you will find Ring. If your pet has gone missing, you will seek for Dog. When I do a reading about a new book I am writing, I look at Book for the book's concept, Letter for the contract, and Tower for the publishing house. Then I read the cards that fall next to or around it.

Practice 9: Topics Predict

- Consider a handful of topics that concern you right now: your finances (Fish), your partner (Man or Woman), domestic matters (House), a holiday (Sun or Ship), and so forth. You are going to select a series of topics and see what is happening with each one at this time, using a yes/no question. In chapter 1, I discouraged these kinds of questions, but here I am asking you to

practice for a purpose. We are beginning to look at predicting with the cards.

- Prediction from cards is what many clients are looking for. They don't want to know their psychological makeup or their spiritual connections to the planet Mars; they want firm evidence and confirmation about a course of action. "What do I need to do to succeed in this?" "What's the consequence of going into partnership with X?" "How can I best approach my father for a loan?" Lenormand cards are well framed for this practical and reality-based work.
- In the practice below the predictions are derived from the juxtaposition of the cards. Is the dream going to be realized? Are there other factors that will change the outcome? See what you find by feeling into the nature of the cards in juxtaposition.
 1. Put your intention or question into the cards as you shuffle. Shuffle and lay for one topic card at a time.
 2. Turn the deck face up, looking through to find the topic card, and select the two cards that are flanking the topic card on either side. Pull all three out.
 3. Read the cards as a triplet 1–3 in any way that works for your question.
 4. Read Cards 1 + 2, 2 + 3, 1 + 3 as pairs.
 5. Work out what the cards are saying and make a statement or prediction about how your topic is doing. Did the cards give you a yes/no response or does it seem to be a more nuanced

perhaps/depends type of answer?

6. For each new topic draw, shuffle again to mix the cards.

- Example: Is the firm thinking seriously of my project?

Book + **Tower** + House: educating the firm in-house

Book + Tower: office education

Tower + House: domestic policy

Book + House: internal education

Answer: Yes. There is a chance that my internal education plan will become official policy.

- You will note that I've used Tower to provide me with the word policy, which derives from the Tower's definitions of official, authorized, and conventional. I didn't translate Book as secrets because the question concerned the educational aspect of the project I was working on. Book was also the first card, and so its opening is to the right and being looked at by Tower. This is a positive sign. I also read House as both domestic and as internal.
- Read these cards using the same format as the practice above.
 1. Will the crisis at work resolve? Moon + **Cross** + Ship
 2. Is this a good time to move? Anchor + **Stork** + Clouds L
 3. Will Paul come on holiday with me? Key + **Sun** + Man

Spread 2: Crossing the Significator

Here we put some of what we learned above to work by adding volume to the spread. The cards that touch the Significator in a Grand Tableau (see chapters 9–11) can be read in relation to it, and though your tableau practice may be a long way off, we begin here with a smaller spread in a similar method.

1. Decide which Significator or topic card best suits your question and shuffle your cards.
2. Turn the deck face up and find which two cards fall on either side of your chosen Significator or topic.
3. Lay the two flanking cards immediately next to your chosen card with your Significator in the center as cards 1, 2, and 3.
4. Lay the far right-hand or topmost card of the deck as card 5 below the Significator.
5. Lay the far left-hand or bottom card of the deck as card 4 above the Significator.

Briefly consider each card from the point of view of what's above, below, behind, and before you. This is a standard cartomancy consideration when you have a preselected Significator. What are the implications of each card's position?

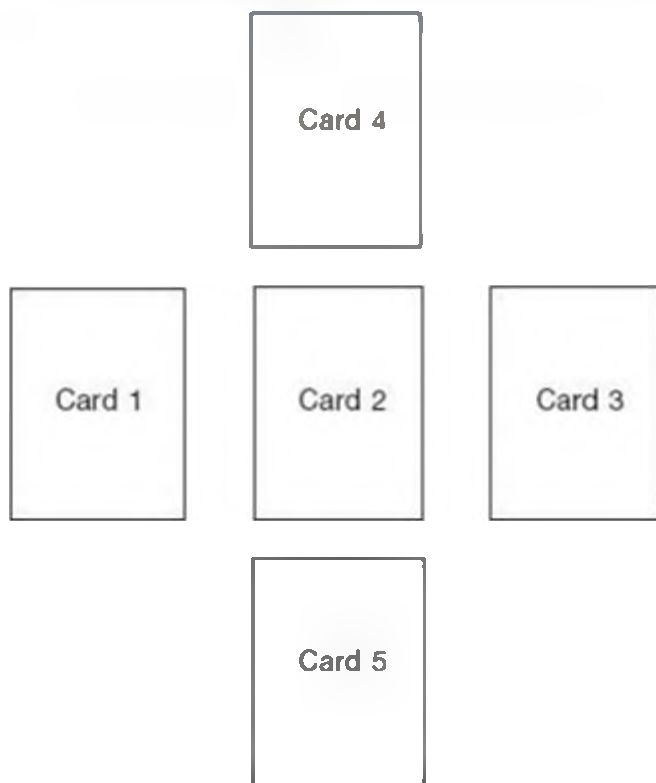
Center: A chosen Significator or topic reveals what impact your issue has, what you are carrying about the issue.

Above your head: Shows conscious concerns, motives, plans, thoughts, or worries.

Below your feet: Shows how you are rooted, grounded, or any unconscious motivations.

Crossing the Significator Layout

Crossing the Significator Layout



Behind you: Shows the past, trigger, or conditioning.

Before you: Shows the future, likely outcome, or result.

Read the vertical and horizontal lines as triplets. Then look to the pairs: 1 + 2, 2 + 3, 4 + 2, 2 + 5. If, for clarity, you need to cross-check what the cards are saying, then also read the following jumping or diagonal triplets: 1 + 4 + 3, 4 + 1 + 5, 1 + 5 + 3, and 4 + 3

+ 5.

Here's an example. Before I set out for a storytelling session, I look to see where the Birds card is. Since this is a card about oral tradition, rumor, and gossip, it will work for storytelling too. I ask about what I need to be aware of at this event, which is given for some autistic children and their families. I draw these cards from the Lilac Dondorf deck.

Paths is over my head: I am concerned both about getting there through the traffic and about the right approach to take. Beneath my feet is Lily: I am to ground myself in the older, traditional material. Fish is behind me: I am comfortable with the spontaneous flow of story. Fox is ahead of me: I must be aware that, what, for me, is simply a story, for these children may seem like lies or strange logic. This is how I further unraveled the meaning of the cards:



Paths



Fish



Birds



Fox



Lily

Crossing the Significator—Above, Below, Behind, Before (Lilac Dondorf)

Fish + Birds + Fox: flow of speech could be wrong

Paths + Birds + Lily: approach to storytelling needs to be traditional

Fish + Birds: speaking eloquently

Birds + Fox: wrong for this audience

Paths + Birds: nervous about the approach

Birds + Lily: traditional stories

Fish + Paths + Fox: flow of the approach is wrong

Fish + Lily + Fox: flow of tradition deceiving

On the strength of this reading, I selected some simple folk stories with a straight narrative drive that won't confuse the children.

Spread 3: The Ladder

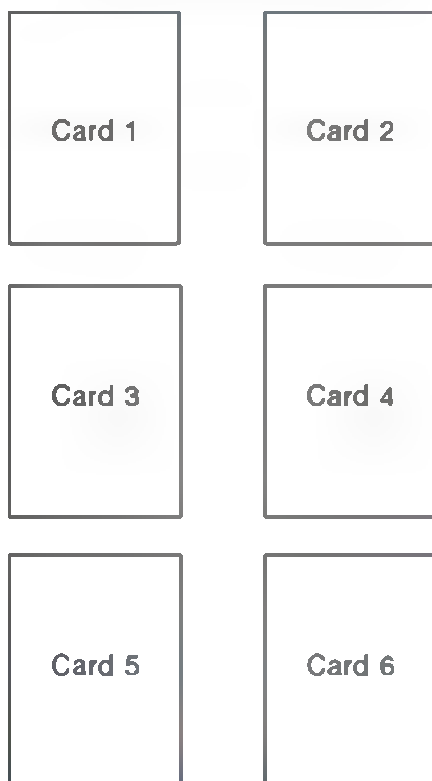
The Ladder Spread is a descent into truth by means of three rungs, or pairs, of cards. Read each pair and then consider the two sets of vertical triplets or side rails that make either side of the ladder. This is a bit like turning the Above and Below Spread on its side, or rather standing it up, to get a deeper look into an issue. To arrive at your selected cards, here is a little process that makes the spread unique to the client by way of using their birthday. If it's not known, then just shuffle and lay.

1. Shuffle your cards while considering the question or issue

and cut the deck into two equal piles. From both piles, draw a card for each rung of the ladder until you arrive at three pairs of cards. As you count down through each pile, put the discards immediately to the bottom of the deck.

2. What day of the month were you born? Count down through the cards that number of days and select a card from each pile for Cards 1 + 2.
3. What is your birth month? Count down that month number in the remaining cards and select a card from each pile for Cards 3 + 4.
4. What is your birth year? Add up the last two digits of the year (e.g. 1969 is $6 + 9 = 15$) and select a card from each pile for Cards 5 + 6. (If your birth year is 2000, use the 2!).
5. Read the horizontal pairs and then read the vertical triplets. Please look at the box below for interpretations.

The Ladder Layout



KEY TO THE LADDER SPREAD

Cards 1 + 2 = Surface Appearances

Cards 3 + 4 = What lies beneath

Cards 5 + 6 = The true state of things

Cards 1 + 3 + 5 = What has happened to lead up to this point

Cards 2 + 4 + 6 = What action can be taken

Practice 10: Translating the Headlines

- Look at your newspaper or a news webpage and write down some of the headlines. Now search through the cards and find

ways of creating two-, three-, or four- card statements that translate the headlines into Lenormand.

For example, here are some of today's headlines paired with my interpretations.

Church knew about priestly abuse = Cross + Book + Rod
(Church + knowing + abuse)

What if women ruled the world? = Tower + Woman + Garden
(Rule + women + world)

Simon's heart set on fitness = Man + Heart + Rod (Man + heart + fitness)

The Comet's Path Today = Stars + Paths + Sun (Star + path + today)

Duke opens the new hospital = Key + Man + Child + Tower + Tree (Notable/open + man + new + institutional building + health)

Carnival Receives a Grant = Garden + Bouquet + Fish (Event + award + money)

- Write down at least ten headlines and translate them into Lenormand. They do not have to convey every word, merely the main gist of the headline. Think of this as a kind of shorthand or language suitable for sending telegrams or text messages. Next week, cover these headlines up and read back your translations aloud, seeing how well you can replicate the core meaning.

STUDY 3: THE EFFECTS OF CARDS

All cards are of equal weight and importance, though some of them carry a particular influence of which you should be aware. While most of the Lenormand cards are neutral, some can be fortunate or challenging. Some people think of these challenging cards as frightening, kindling the same kind of dismay in the breast as cards like the lightning-struck Tower or Death do in some tarot readers! Let's look at the breakdown:

Fortunate: Rider; Clover; Bouquet; Stars; Dog; Heart; Ring; Sun; Key

Challenging: Clouds; Coffin; Snake; Scythe; Rod; Fox; Mountain; Mice; Cross

Neutral: Ship; House; Tree; Snake; Birds; Child; Bear; Stork; Tower; Garden; Paths; Ring; Book; Letter; Lily; Moon; Fish; Anchor

The challenging cards can often throw a wrench in the works of any reading. Here are their general characteristics:

Clouds: Notice which aspect of the Clouds is near to your subject, because there is both a sunny side and an overcast one to this card. Note which side the dark clouds are on in your own deck. If dark clouds are to the left it means that any card in front of it will be confused or overcast, while cards following it will be on the bright side, showing that things are clearing up. If your dark clouds are on the right side, then cards that follow Clouds will

be overcast while cards preceding it have the sunny side, showing that the confusion or misunderstanding is passing away. In this book, I show which side the dark clouds are on with an L or an R next to the card in question. See the difference in the figure below. In *The Enchanted Lenormand*, Clouds L has its dark clouds on the left, affecting Clover such that luck is likely to be overcast or scant. In contrast, *The Daveluy Lenormand* has its dark clouds on the right. Clouds R + Rider means that the delivery you were expecting has gone to the wrong address, or that ominous news is coming.

Snake: Snake brings complexities and complications. As its sinuous body implies, there will be twists and turns in whatever you plan, whether it's a route like Paths + Snake, or a gift you intend to give like Bouquet + Snake. Snake can indicate betrayal, deceit, or retaliation for an emotional wrong. When Snake represents a woman, it can represent a difficult woman, the other woman in a love triangle, or it can equally stand for a clever or intelligent woman who is shrewd in her decisions. Queen of Clubs is the partner of King of Clubs (Clouds), remember, but she is generally the brains of the partnership. She will not suffer fools gladly.



Clover + Clouds (Enchanted)



Clouds R + Rider (Daveluy)

Coffin: In playing cards, 9 Diamonds has traditionally been called “The curse of Scotland.” Legend has it that the plan for the Battle of Flodden in 1513 was written upon this card. A good quantity of the Scottish nobility died in the conflict along with their King James IV. The appearance of 9 Diamonds looks like someone within a box and that is what we have with Coffin, a card that brings endings and illness. Whatever Coffin follows it effectively shuts down. Stork + Coffin implies an end to moving about, which is great if you’ve been traveling too long or moving from house to house, but not so good if your physical mobility is threatened. Coffin + Tree is a health warning telling

you that your energy has run out and that your well-being is threatened. Coffin calls a halt and can bring you up short in the ordinary run of life and is therefore often thought to signal illness.

Scythe: Scythe spells danger and sudden or irrevocable actions.

Again, this is one of those cards that has directionality to it, like Clouds. Check which way your Scythe blade faces. I have put Scythe L for when it faces left and Scythe R for the blade facing right. If yours is to the left, then it will have a negative effect on the card coming before it and a gathering effect on the card coming after. If your blade is to the right, then it will cut the card that follows and gather the preceding card. In the figure below the *Victorian Lenormand* has the Scythe facing left, so it is severing the bond represented by Ring. Changing the order to Scythe L + Ring could mean sorting out the contract. In the *Japanese Lenormand* (below), the blade is facing right, so it instead has a gathering effect on Ring. Another example of the gathering effect of Scythe's handle would be Scythe L + Dog, which could refer to collecting friends.



Ring + Scythe (Victorian)



*Ring^{*1} + Scythe (Japanese)*

Rod: Rod has the signature of argument, dispute, or verbal aggression. It can also represent stress from repeated action. For

instance, Ship + Rod + Mice might warn you that your vehicle is seriously under stress. Domestic disputes are common with this card, as are petty arguments, aggravations, or things spoken in anger. Rod is largely inflammatory in effect and cooks up a storm over time, like when a person finally snaps after repeated criticism.

Fox: Fox reveals that something is wrong, a mistake or a deception that you need to become alert about. Fox manipulates, lies, and deceives and can represent any kind of scam or that someone is trying to outsmart you. Letter + Fox tells you that the prescription or document is wrong in some way. Anchor + Fox suggests you check your security, as someone is trying to bypass the safety factors you rely upon.

Mountain: When it is not showing up in the literal sense for a distant part of the country, Mountain reveals itself as an impasse, obstacle, or delay. It is not an insurmountable thing, but it will slow you up, as when you get Dog + Mountain. This pair can mean that help is blocked or that a friend acts obstructively. Notice the difference when Mountain is read first as in Mountain + Garden, which could mean that you are coming out into the open or back into public after a reclusive time away. The placement of Mountain in relation to the other cards lets us know where the obstacle lies.

Mice: Mice stands for loss but it also reduces things or wears them away. This can refer to the ordinary wear and tear of household items, the tiles on your roof, or the moth that eats

your winter woolens. It also stands for states of deterioration in other matters, such as Moon + Mice, which stands for a lowering of your reputation or worsening conditions at work. Mice often describes unsanitary states or just plain untidiness. So House + Mice could be an untidy home. Mice can show up as the daily diminishings of your time or the petty worries that eat up your day. Mice diminish by making things smaller so Letter + Bear + Mice could be an overwhelming exam paper that you tackle piecemeal.

Cross: Cross cannot be overcome quite like Mountain. Instead, something has to be faced. This is the ultimate challenging card on many levels. In insurance policies this is what is meant by an act of god: a tempest, war, or plague; probably something not covered by your policy. The position of Cross warns you when it comes before a card. When it comes afterward, you are presented with a fait accompli. Cross + Fish is pointing to financial troubles ahead, while Fish + Cross means you won't get the money, no matter what.

Despite all of the above, I advise you to always read what the cards are actually saying first within their context rather than leaping to conclusions about whether the cards are good or bad. Coffin + Key is a combination of a challenging and a fortunate card, but it says illness is certain. Sometimes a challenging card can also challenge things you'd like to stop. If Cross + Coffin comes up, then it means that your time of trial is coming to an end, which is a

good thing. Similarly, Mountain + Mice will show that your delays or obstacles are made smaller.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 3

- Pairs are usually read as Card 1 in the placement for a subject, noun, or verb and Card 2 as the adjective or adverb.
- Triplets are usually read in forward narration as cards 1 + 2 + 3, but expressed naturally in colloquial speech. They can also be read with any one of them acting as the main subject.
- Statements from the cards can be read in past, present, or future tenses, depending on where they come in a reading.
- Significators can also be drawn from the court cards.
- Each card has a mode, having fortunate, challenging, or neutral effect upon the cards next to it.
- The order in which Lenormand cards in combination are read gives meaning.
- Sometimes the way in which you express these aloud is a matter of syntax. Be careful not to change the meaning of a combination.

Self-Test 3 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What five cards come after Snake?
2. Make some pairs and triplets from this pool of cards, stating the keywords you used: Anchor; Stork; Coffin; Clouds; Ship; Bear; Bouquet; Rider; Stars; Key; House.

3. Which pip and court cards can also represent Significators?
4. Which cards present difficulties or challenges?
5. Which cards have a fortunate effect?
6. What is the chief effect of Mice upon a card?

Storyboard

The Line of Five and Beyond

We have to tell stories to unriddle the world.

ALAN GARNER, *THE VOICE THAT THUNDERS*

STORYBOARDING

As we progress with our reading, we extend the narrative of our cards into storylines by learning to string more cards together. A story has three basic parts: a beginning, middle, and end. We've already gotten to know this shortest of stories in our work with triplets. Now we embark on a greater journey.

A storyboard is a frame-by-frame map of a film, sketched out by filmmakers before shooting, to depict the unfolding shape of the plot. The storyboard tells the production staff what the scene will look like by way of a series of drawn-out images. You can use each card in your spread to reveal the story that lies waiting for you and your client.

One feature of storyboarding that will occur to you when you lay cards out together is the way in which some seem to face each other just like a cartoon strip. It might appear as if the Rider is

racing to the Ship in order to bring a Letter to the Woman. This overt appearance is sometimes a level on which we can draw conclusions, but remember that card order and keywords also have to be considered as primary information.

() Practice 11: Storylines

- Practice your reading skills by creating a storyboard for a tale that you already know well. For example, you may be a fan of *The Godfather* films or just adore *Alice in Wonderland*. Rely on your knowledge of the story in order to continue learning how to read Lenormand cards. Find card combinations to describe the story by choosing cards that might express a character, scene, or event. For example: the family of Don Corleone might be represented by House + Lily + Moon for a family upholding their own sense of honor. Or Child + Paths (adventurous child) might represent the adventurous Alice on her travels. Choose some more card combinations that express characters or scenarios from stories that you know. Here's an example of a very simplified outline of the *Odyssey* in just 12 cards.

Man + Cross + Ship + Mountain + Snake + Garden + Lily + Paths +
Rod + House + Rider + Fox + Mice + Woman + Ring

- Odysseus (Man) is challenged by the gods (Cross) and his ship (Ship) is blown confusingly off course (Clouds) into wild and isolated places (Mountain). Here he encounters lots of tricky women (Snake + Garden). As an older and wiser man (Lily), he

finds his way home (Paths + House), where he has to scour away all trace of (Rod) the predatory suitors (Rider + Fox) who've been consuming his household resources and plaguing (Mice) his wife (Woman) to marry them (Ring).

Spread 4: The Line of Five

In a Line of Five, you begin to apply the skills learned in making pairs and triplets into a practical five-card spread. This is a small, useful spread in which the most important card is the middle one, which is the main focus. It is the basis for reading any line of cards, whether it be 5, 7, 9, or 11 cards: the center card becomes the hinge or focus and the two sides are the wings. Shuffle and lay five cards in a horizontal line. In a Line of Five, the cards should appear as



Card 3 is the card in the center of the issue: What does it say about your question?

Cards 2 + 4 describe nature of the topic in more depth. Cards 1 + 5 sum up the reading.

Now begin reading in forward narration.

Cards 1 + 2 tell you what has led up to or influenced the topic.

Cards 4 + 5 let us know the likely outcome.

Cards 1 + 3, 2 + 4, and 3 + 5 can be looked at as mirror pairs to unravel any friction or unspoken subtext.

Here is an example: Alan is worried about things at work.



Anchor + Moon + Rod (Whip) + Tower + Cross (Vintage Debono)

Rod is the topic card, telling us that the issue is about disputes or layoffs.

Moon + Tower = official work practice

Moon + Rod + Tower = layoffs determined by honor or by seniority in this institution

Anchor + Cross = challenge to security

Anchor + Moon = work stability

Tower + Cross = crisis in the office

Anchor + Rod = arguing about obligations

Rod + Cross = necessary layoffs or critical talks

The line literally reads, "Security of work is under discussion at the office in a critical way." Alan is right to be worried, it would seem. The office is forced by cruel necessity to make layoffs. Notice how

by breaking down the cards into pairs and triplets you get the full story and how one card like Rod can be read in different ways even in the same reading. When we look at our illumination of this spread, we can now see the literal translation: "Work security (threatened by) layoffs (cause an) office crisis."

Spread 5: Variations on a Line of Five

There are also variations on the Line of Five. Try these and see what suits you best in terms of the information and help it gives you. The creation of a personal style may be a little way off for you, but learning variant procedures will show you different ways of cracking open a spread. You won't use all of them all the time, but there may come a day when one is really useful to try for a change. Diversifying your practice strengthens it.

Variation 1: Prior Selection

When you consciously choose a Topic or Significator (Card 3), Cards 1 and 2 become the past and Cards 4 and 5 become the future. In this example, Maire is wondering what her uncle has sent her for her birthday, as she was out during an attempted delivery, so she selects Rider to take the place of the expected parcel.



Book + Letter + Rider + Rod + Bouquet (Enchanted)

Book + Letter: news about a book

Letter + Rider + Rod: repeated attempts to deliver the parcel

Rod + Bouquet: gift of exercise

Book + Bouquet: a gift book

The whole line reads: The book she's had news about being delivered is a tutorial book about exercise. It turns out to be the very book on Tai Chi that she couldn't get in her own country.

Variation 2: Stringing Pairs Together

Traditionally, some cartomancers read one card on top of another. Read them as pairs: 1 + 2, 2 + 3, 3 + 4, 4 + 5, and 5 + 1. Here's an example: Lee is taking up a new contract with a firm, and he preselects Moon for work.



Tower + Ring + Moon + Book + Stork (Victorian)

Tower + Ring: institutional contract

Ring + Moon: engagement's recognition

Moon + Book: recognition of a secret

Book + Stork: revealing changes

Stork + Tower: changes to the institution

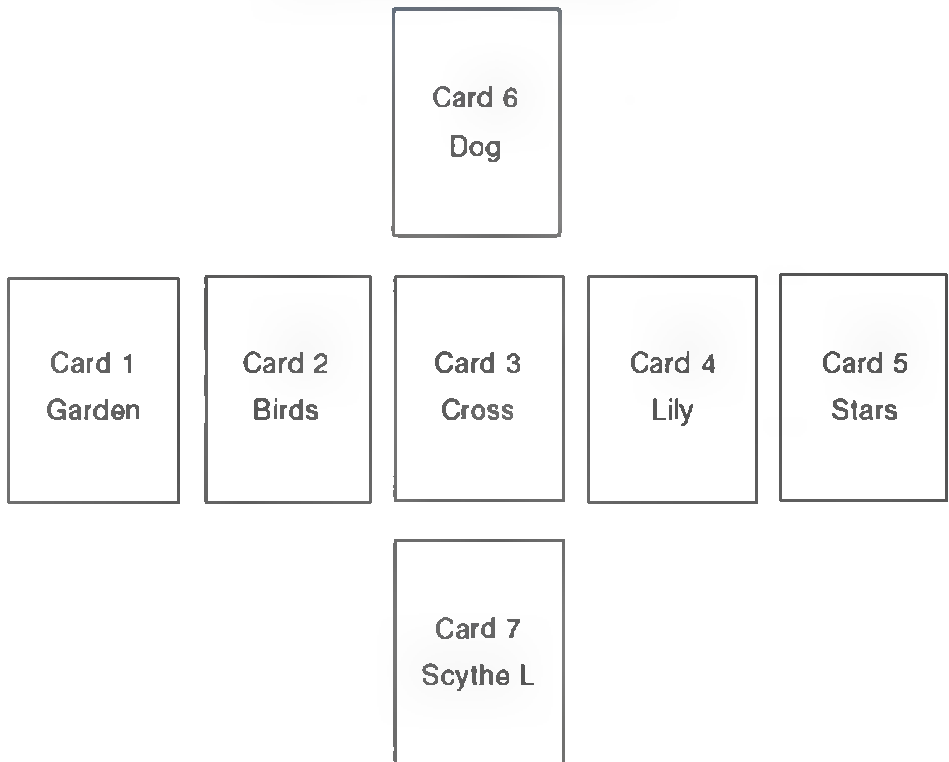
The line in forward narration reads, "The institution's contract is renowned for its hidden changes." The cards above tell us that there are changes at the institution that haven't been revealed yet, but that they will affect the contracts of people working there.

Variation 3: Augmenting the Five

You can augment the Line of Five by taking the top and bottom cards from the remaining deck and laying them above and below. Read the line as usual and then read the above and below cards to help clarify or offer a next step. You can read the triplets 1, 6, 5, and 2, 7, 4 as an additional, confirming, step.

Antony has kindly agreed to help at a big charity event but is very worried about taking on so much responsibility. What is best for him to do?

Augmenting the Line of Five



Garden + Birds: worried about the event

Birds + Cross + Lily: the challenge is worrying at his age

Lily + Stars: promising maturely

Garden + Stars: a spectacular event

Dog + Scythe L: severing the help

Garden + Dog + Stars: promised help for the event

Birds + Scythe + Lily: worried about severing his protection

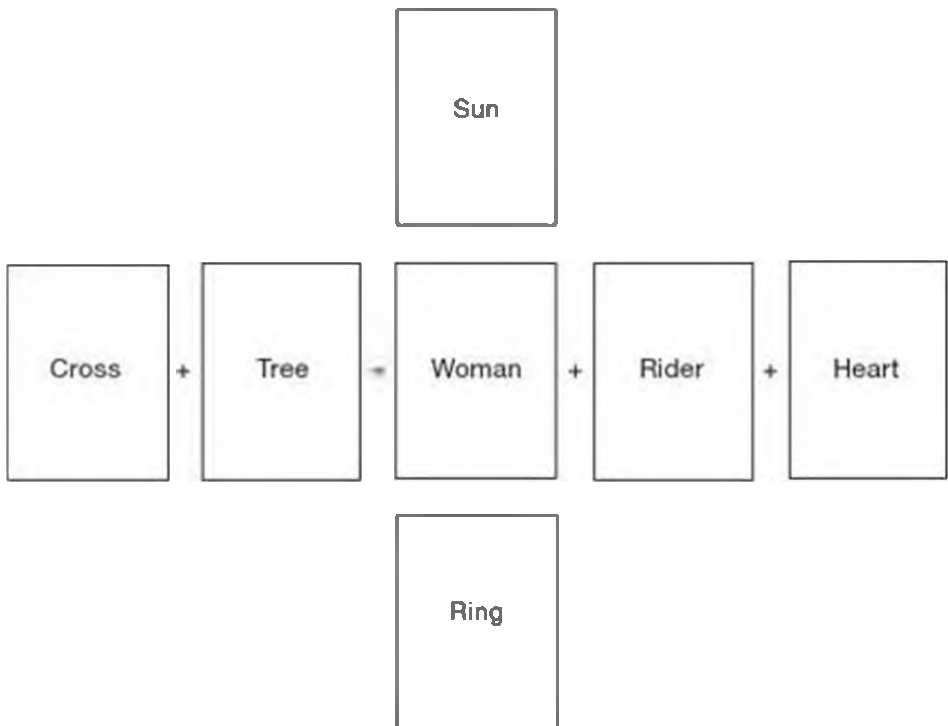
Dog + Cross + Scythe L: no help suddenly, or even a friend's challenge is dangerous

It is clearly going to be a spectacular event, but Antony's nerves

can't bear the last phrase and he decides to withdraw.

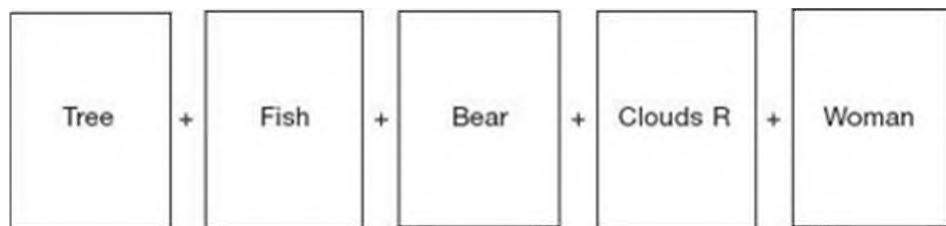
🕒 *Practice 12: A Fistful of Fives*

- Read for these cases, with full breakdown of your findings, and write a summary.
1. Ellie is downcast by a doctor's report. What will it mean to her life? Read this as an augmented Line of Five.



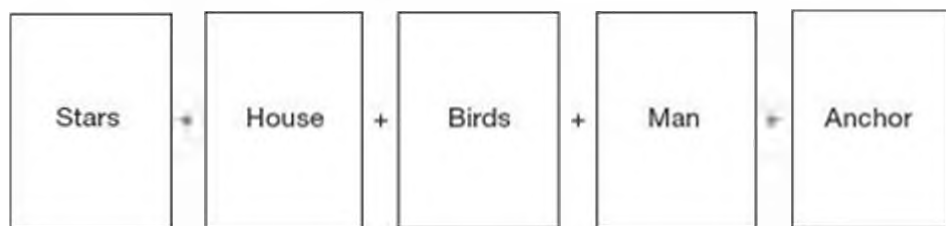
Ellie's Augmented Line of Five

2. Diane, who is experiencing financial problems, asks, "How do I go forward from here?" Read this as an ordinary Line of Five.



Diane's Line of Five

3. Roy wants a solution to his domestic difficulties. Read this by Stringing Pairs Together sequentially.



Roy's Stringing Pairs Together

PREDICTION AND THE SCOPE OF THE CARDS

Remember the old game of Hot or Cold? This is where someone hides an object in a room and people have to guess where it is. The hider responds to the search with exclamations of "Hotter!" or "Colder!" depending on how close or far the seekers are to their quarry. Predicting from cards can be a little like this. If we read the cards in context with some skill, we arrive at a result that is in the ballpark of possibility. If we read the cards out of context or allow ourselves to go down a tangential line of enquiry, the results can

turn cold. Prediction is based entirely upon reading the cards within the context of a well-framed question. If your question is fuzzy, then your reading will be too!

If you haven't done this so far, go back and look over a week's worth of your own daily readings. What results did you get? Grade yourself from 0 (way off) to 10 (spot on). Assessing for accuracy in your predictions is a good practice that builds your instinct and your ability to observe. Keeping score is merely about noticing how you are progressing, not about comparisons with others. By understanding how the cards work and how you can read them in skillful ways, you increase your chances of precision.

The scope of a reading's effectiveness is determined by the nature of the issue, to some extent. A spread about your blind date next week is obviously only relevant to that date, whereas a spread in which you ask about the next three months' travel abroad is boundaried by that timescale. When you have a more open question, the scope and effect of the cards must be considered. It is not a prediction for all time, just a snapshot of a possibility from that moment in time. Your behavior, decisions, and the randomness of circumstances can change outcomes.

Many Lenormand readers do not regard small spreads as having a longer prediction range than a few months. It is customary to give a term and limit to a larger reading like the Grand Tableau before laying the cards, but even these great spreads are not good for more than a year or so ahead (see chapters 9–11). To read more about timing and the cards, look to chapter 12.

🕒 *Practice 13: Collecting Compounds*

- As you start to string cards together and find your own narrative flow, you will encounter more and more compound words that result from the fusion of two or more cards together. Some cards will already be showing aspects of themselves to you. Note which ones come up often, and in which combinations, as you find your own vocabulary (see more in chapter 12). Here are a few compound words with their literal translations, showing the process of creating compounds:

Letter (note) + Tree (health) = prescription

Lily (winter) + Sun (sun) + Coffin (end) = winter solstice (solstice means sun's stop)

Woman + Ship (ship) + Stars (direction) + Paths (way) = female navigator

Dog (dog) + Anchor (secure/safe) = guard dog

Cross (divine) + Stars (guidance) + Dog (friend) = salvation; angel; spirit ally

- What card combinations might you use to convey the following? Play with your cards and see what you find.
 1. Snake in the grass
 2. Sugar daddy
 3. Postman
 4. Safe cracker

5. Midnight
6. Dictionary
7. Resurrection of the body
8. Reincarnation

STUDY 4: GAUGING THE SCALE

Let's look at the scale of a card. By this, I mean the degree of mildness to severity by which to read it. When beginners draw what they regard as difficult cards in their daily draw, they often rush to the worst possible interpretation in which Mountain becomes an impassible obstacle, and Coffin means certain death. Lenormand cards do not talk at these excessive extremes in most instances but more at the level of daily occurrences. Sometimes Mice just means an insect bite rather than full-blown infestation or bubonic plague.

The major helper here is the context. Your question will already show the scale. If you ask, "What is going to happen today?" as a daily draw question and you get Fish + Cross + Coffin, it is unlikely to mean you will have a financial crisis and die as a result of it, but more likely that your debit card gets stuck in the ATM so that you can't draw money out. How do you decide on a scale of 1–10 how mild or severe a card might be?

Let's look at the scale of just one card for a moment, like Clouds, from the *Lenormand Revolution*.

We know that Clouds, in general, can signify depression, things overcast, veiled, masked, or moody. In the following table, let's compare the 1–10 severity scale with keywords from two definitions of Clouds, that of mental health and weather.



Clouds (Lenormand Revolution)

THE SCALE OF CLOUDS

	Scale	Mental Health	Weather
1.	Negligible	Muddled	Cloudy
2.	Mild	Confused	Overcast
3.	Affected	Dejected	Rainy
4.	Exposed	Downcast	Shower
5.	Increasing	Sad	Windy

6.	Setting in	Depressed	Torrential Rain
7.	Escalating	Paranoid	Stormy
8.	Serious	Disturbed	Gale
9.	Dangerous	Crazy	Hurricane
10.	Severe	Manic	Twister

This card has the dark clouds on its right, so cards to the left of Clouds experience the passing away effect, while cards to its right have a stronger detrimental effect. Let's say I draw three cards with Clouds in the middle, asking about the advisability of attending a festival: Garden + Clouds R + Mice. How do I tell if Garden + Clouds R is pointing to a depressed gathering or to a crazy event? If I attend, will Clouds R + Mice mean that I'll get some horrible infection or does it just mean it's going to be muddy because of some torrential rain?

By extracting the scale of severity from the question itself, we can determine a good deal. My concerns include whether it's going to be good enough weather to go, if the musicians are going to be competent, and if I am going to enjoy myself. I am not worried much beyond these criteria, so the danger of death, bacterial infection, or threats of riot are not uppermost in my mind. In fact, my expectations have already given a scale to the cards. The line could be simply read: "The event will experience some rain but it will be negligible." Just in case, let's add another row of cards under these in order to cross check this interpretation.



Garden



Clouds



Mice

STORY:

+

+



Key



Moon



Dog

MODIFIERS:

+

+

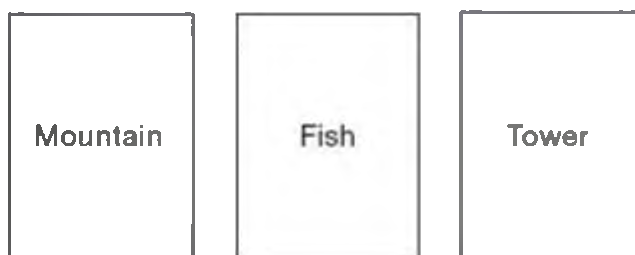
*Story: Garden + Clouds + Mice; Modifiers: Key + Moon + Dog
(Lenormand Revolution)*

Now, I am going to allow each of the bottom row cards, as modifiers, to help me determine the exact scale of each card in the top row's story. Garden + Key tells me that this is going to be an important festival. Clouds + Moon could tell me that the celebrity of the players is worth the risk of some rain. Mice + Dog tells me, what's a little mud between friends? Given this information, what is the advisability of going to this festival? All in all, I think I will attend—with good rain gear and a hot drink in my thermos!

Keeping all of this in mind, of course some daily readings do point to challenging things and I am not discounting this. When something really big is about to hit, it often shows up in the form of frequently repeated cards, so do notice your everyday spreads.

() Practice 14: Loud or Soft?

- Here are some spreads on which you can practice gauging the scale, using just three cards, to see whether these cards speak loudly or softly. A softly speaking card is mild in effect, a loudly speaking card is more severe in tone. For each triplet, I've given you questions that approach the issue from a variety of perspectives. Try coming up with answers of different levels of severity using the context of the question. Here's an example:



What do I have to do to get a visa for this country?

To get over the border you need to pay an official fee or bribe officials.

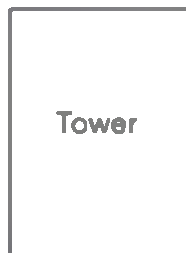
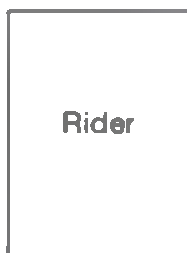
What is the likelihood of my release from prison?

Confined until the governor allows.

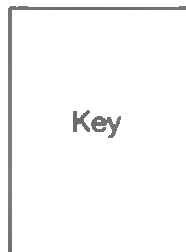
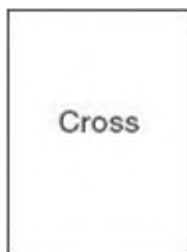
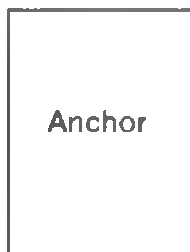
How can I get my money out of Switzerland?

It will have to be negotiated through an official channel.

- Try these ones for yourself and give a one-line, colloquial answer, as if you were interpreting for the questioner in the room.



1. a) What are my prospects of getting work at this office?
b) Where is my package?
c) What contributed to my mother's death?



2. a) How can I feel safe again after this terrible shock?
b) Where are my wages?
c) What are my exam results going to be like?

Garden

Dog

Stork

3. a) What kind of friend is he?
- b) What will it be like to come out as a gay person?
- c) What will the club think about my suitability?

STUDY 5: MUTE CARDS

We've all had bad days when the cards don't mean much, or when we feel perturbed by what they are telling us. Sometimes the problem is that we haven't learned the basic keywords and that the appearance of certain cards is like coming to a gap in a sentence. When you just don't know the word, the only way around this is learning and practice. However, if you've been staring at a mute spread that, frankly, isn't saying much to you, ask yourself these questions, and you will begin to hear the faint murmurings of the cards until you can adjust the volume, and they become audible to you again.

- Did you focus on what you needed to know first? This is the most important springboard for forming your question.
- Is your question well framed? If not, the answer won't

Speak volumes. If we spend as much time on creating the question's wording as we do on interpreting, we will discover the cards' eloquence very soon.

- How does the spread relate to the question? What you asked is what you've got, so go through the cards with the question in your mind. Consider all possibilities.
- Pick up the mute cards and speak aloud some of the keywords, e.g., Ship + Cross: Ship = voyage; journey; trip; abroad. Cross = challenging; critical; testing.
- Are the cards speaking literally? Remember that Lenormand cards speak plainly sometimes, so Ship + Cross can literally mean a ferry to a place of religion. Maybe this is a pilgrimage?
- Which cards offer you strength, hope, or encouragement? If these cards could speak, what would they say to you about your question? If you have Child + Stars in your spread, you might hear them say, "This is the chance for a clear new start. Take it!"
- What worries you? If you have Sun + Book + Snake and are worried that your boyfriend is secretly seeing his ex while on holiday, try laying a card underneath each worrying card, just like we did when we scaled cards above (see here). Say you have Moon + Stork + House laid underneath Sun + Book + Snake. This can tell us that he may think of you night and day, his secretiveness is about to alter and the ex is actually

back at home. If Heart or Ring were chosen as modifiers, your worries would perhaps be justified.

- What excites or intrigues you? Some cards may suggest a doorway into something new. Treat these cards as the threshold, or bridge, to a new discovery.

Stick with the cards. If all fails, rearrange the cards you have into a different order. Shuffle and lay them again either randomly or purposefully. Choose a different way to look at them. What do they say now? For more about sticking with the cards, see chapter 13.

🕒 *Practice 15: Keyword Beads*

- Explore the story using only the keywords. See chapter 2 to remind yourself of important definitions. Remember that the middle card in the sequences below is likely to be the focus, or subject, of the reading. Don't forget that the court cards can indicate people as well as objects. Interpret the storyboard of these cards, using the keywords like beads on a necklace. Read one card at a time in forward narration.

1. Man + Anchor + Mice + Letter + Moon + Rod
2. Fish + Fox + Coffin + Child + Birds + Scythe
3. Clouds + House + Key + Tree + Dog + Stork
4. Woman + Lily + Garden + Bouquet + Snake + Stars

A few years ago at a tarot exhibition in New Zealand I was invited to write a letter to a famous seer or diviner from the past. I loved this idea, and now I offer you a means of responding to a few would-be letters from historical figures. What can you tell them? Have fun! Here's an example:

Dear Diviner,

I have been forced to abdicate from my kingdom by my half-brother and other rebellious lords. I am now fleeing from Scotland into England. What kind of welcome can I expect from my cousin, Queen Elizabeth?

In haste, Mary, Queen of Scotland

Here is my reading for Mary:



I swear this selection was random! All five jumpers just fell out of my sloppy shuffle and so I decided these were the ones I must use. My response is as follows:

Your Majesty,

It looks as if you're not in the best spot at present. You've got a lot of official red tape constricting your living conditions, suggesting that you might be confined for your health. If you decide to break out of this

situation, be very careful about any letters or messages you leave lying around or receive, as they could become public knowledge. Your cousin has a good sense of her own fitness to rule, and what she says goes. Be suppliant and modest, but keep your options open!

Notice how the Tree is crowded between the official Tower and the isolating Mountain. Also look at the pairing of the two end and middle cards. Official bureaucracy and freedom confront each other around the impassive Mountain card representing Elizabeth I, who kept remote from Mary by never meeting her, by letting her be handled by others. In the end, the discovery of the Casket Letters that implicated Mary in the death of her second husband did not help her case, nor did her coded and covert messages to Catholic monarchs and plotters. Evidence derived from these letters and messages finally brought her to execution.

Practice 16: Dear Diviner

Here are three more letters from the past. Lay a Line of Five for each letter. Interpret and give some good advice to each correspondent. Yes, you will have the benefit of hindsight, but see what happens and enjoy the exercise. As I did above, try to express your findings as if you were responding to the correspondent in person, so that you can practice what it would be like to read for another in real life.

Dear Diviner,

I have been employed as a governess to my master's young ward in a house in the north. He proposed marriage to me, and I accepted, but at the altar, his previous marriage to an unfortunate lady still living came to light. I cannot stay in his employ. Please advise me as to my best course of action now.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Eyre

Dear Diviner,

Until recently, I was Queen of Sparta. One of my husband's guests and I had a brief affair, and he spirited me away after the party. I am now living with my lover in Troy, but my husband has brought a besieging army to surround the city. What can bring this situation to resolution?

Hopefully,

Helen of Sparta

Dear Diviner,

I am just a country boy from Warwickshire, but I've recently had my first successful play mounted on the London stage. The acting company now wants another one. What are your suggestions for a good story?

Expectantly,

Will Shakespeare

Reading and Re-Reading for Yourself

It is fine to read for yourself. This is how you learn, but too much self-reading (by which I mean more than 2–3 times a day) is verging on an obsession and will eventually begin to undermine your own internal guidance system: your instinct, insight, and imagination. “But I’ve got to practice,” I hear you argue. Yes, but use the storyboarding methods above or lay spreads for some historical or fictional folk for a change. Dive into the newspapers. Read for others instead of forensically dissecting your own life or becoming reduced to asking the cards what to have for dinner!

The temptation when you get an offhand reading about an important matter is to do another kind of spread or rephrase the question and go again and again until you get an answer you like. This results in what I think of as “sulky cards,” where the same message keeps being repeated in a dogged and obvious way, to the effect that you should pack it in for the day! Cartomancy is a skill in which patience is a virtue. Do your reading, write down the cards and the reason you were reading, hazard a prediction, then leave the divining table. Look later that day or that week at your records. What ended up happening? What changed? How did the cards show up, or didn’t they?

When you have a really important issue and you want to consult the cards for your own benefit, make it formal. Leave lots of time and space, rid the area of distractions, and concentrate. Respect what the cards show you rather than trying to rewrite your destiny.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 4

- ✖ Cards are like beads upon a necklace. Read them to create the line of a story.
- ✖ In a Line of Five, the topic card is the central one, around which the other cards explain.
- ✖ Reading lines of cards is based upon the center card as the hinge or focus of the line with the supporting cards on either side as wings.
- ✖ Card combinations can be read in different ways by using successive processes within the same spread.
- ✖ Compound words can be created from combinations of two or three cards.
- ✖ Prediction grows in accuracy when you check your daily draws. Return again and score your accuracy, taking note how the cards actually played out.
- ✖ Each card has its own scale of severity or volume. The severity can be understood through the context of the question. Cards rarely show their most extreme meaning.
- ✖ Mute cards most often arise because you've not learned the card meanings.
- ✖ The efficacy and scope of any small spread is limited to only a few weeks or months, not forever.
- ✖ Trust the cards to reveal some part of your question as an answer.
- ✖ Excessive reading for yourself blunts your intuition and results

in sulky cards! Read sparingly for yourself.

Self-Test 4 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What are the basic procedures of laying a Line of Five?
2. What helps you scale the cards correctly?
3. Choose a card and scale its meanings from 1–10 in order of severity. Use this card in pair combination with several other cards and compose questions that show the different levels of that scale.
4. Which five cards come after Child?

Taking the Portrait

The things of the present follow closely upon the past, and the things of the future follow hard upon the present.

CORPUS HERMETICUM: ASCLEPIUS 6:3
(TRANSLATED BY AUTHOR)

POWER OF NINE

Nine is a powerful number that replicates itself in all its multiples. No matter how many multiples of nine you have, when added together, they all return to nine. Check it out: 27, 63, 108, 243. The Portrait Spread below enables you to look at the past, present, and future in a spread of nine, which is helpful in a predictive reading. Here you can observe the triggers, motivations, and causes of the past; the circumstances of the present; and the consequences, conclusions, or results of the future. It is also possible to view all nine cards as a timeless portrait, seen from the view of divination, which steps out of time to see eternal truths and patterns.

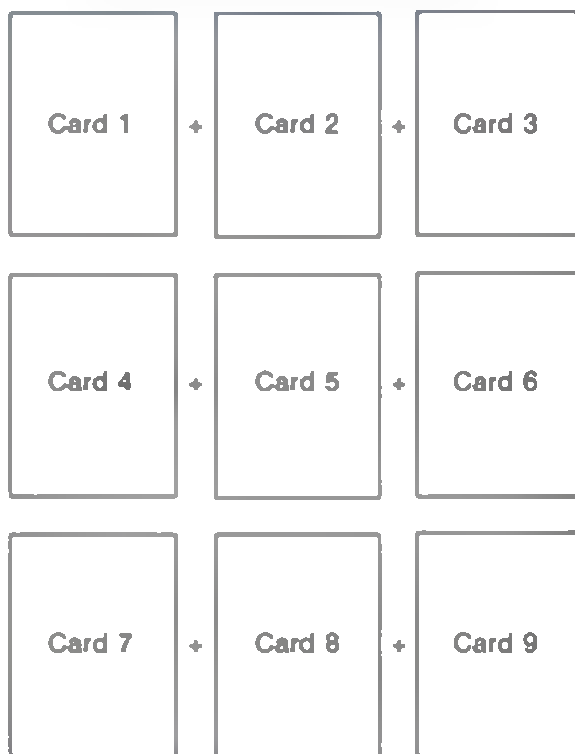
Here we also begin to work the tableau in a modest way. A tableau is a traditional spread where cards are laid in rows, like ranks of soldiers. It is through juxtaposition that the cards become eloquent. With the skills you learned in chapters 3 and 4, you now have more cards to play with, and so the story can become more

deeply nuanced. Here you will learn to sift through the tableau, using the same nine cards in many different ways, revealing more layers for your interpretation.

Spread 6: The Portrait

Here we lay nine cards, so that the central one becomes the main topic, surrounded by a frame of cards that reveal what the client is carrying right now about the question. You can choose to preselect a Significator or any suitable topic card to place centrally in position 5 below and to read every card surrounding it with it as a pair. But it is more interesting to see which random card will land on the central position as this gives us a full scope to comprehend the issue.

The Portrait Spread Layout



Card 5 shows the focus of the issue.

Cards 1, 4, and 7 = the past.

Cards 2, 5, and 8 = the present.

Cards 3, 6, and 9 = the future.

Card 1 reveals what provoked or instigated the issue.

Make a sentence from the corners 1 + 9 + 3 + 7 expressing the basic issue.

Read the diamond of 2 + 4 + 6 + 8 to show the internal dynamic and the hidden aspects of the issue.

Read rows 1 + 2 + 3, 4 + 5 + 6, 7 + 8 + 9 and arrows 1 + 8 + 3 and 7 + 2 + 3 to reinforce the reading or double-check your

information.

Make observations as you go along and then finalize what you've read by making a summarized prediction.

Jane has just become the foster mother of George, a difficult, fractious toddler who has had a painful beginning to life. She wants to know how best to support him, but neither she nor the social workers who've been dealing with George's case know much about his background, what winds him up, or why. Her cards are shown below, with no preselected Significator or topic.

The central card is Rider, showing that George has always been the visitor since he was born. Key suggests that he either has been locked in or given free rein, so he may have been confined or have no idea about boundaries. Let's look at the breakdown:

Past:	Key + Rod + Paths	Locked into an abusive pattern
Present:	Moon + Rider + Book	Recognizing the visitor's secrets
Future:	Stork + Coffin + Snake	Changing and ending unpredictability
The corners:	Key + Snake + Stork + Paths	The reason for the complexities are the many changes and alternatives he's been presented with

The diamond:	Moon + Rod + Coffin + Book	Many nights in the mysterious darkness
Rows:	Key + Moon + Stork	The solution is to creatively work toward change
	Rod + Rider + Coffin	Anger at his coming shut things down
	Paths + Book + Snake	Exploring the complexities through education
The arrows:	Paths + Moon + Snake	Choosing to recognize the difficulties



Key



Moon



Stork



Rod



Rider



Coffin



Paths



Book



Snake

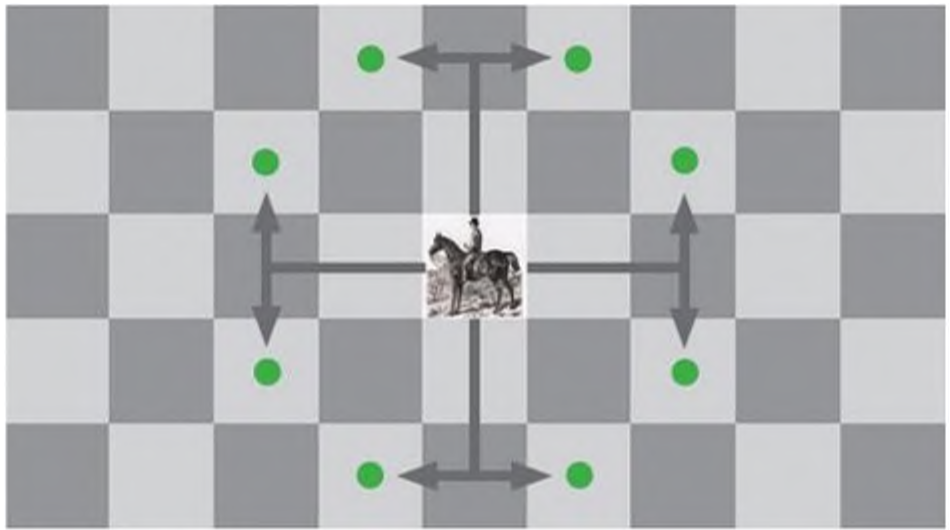
Jane's Portrait Spread (Lilac Dondorf)

Jane can see that George's difficulties arise from many sources, including a fear of the dark and being treated abusively by unpredictable parents. There is a suggestion in the middle row (Rod + Rider + Coffin) that his mother might have tried to abort him, so unwanted was he. Jane's best approach with him is love, nurture, and setting regular boundaries that will help him define himself and his environment much better. She is willing to learn, and this is crucial.

STUDY 6: KNIGHTING AND MIRRORING

Optional strategies in a Portrait Spread would be to look at Knighting and Mirroring. These are skills that you will also draw upon when it comes to reading a Grand Tableau, so we will start small here. These techniques are used to confirm or add to your findings and don't have to be used every time.

Knighting pairs two cards together by means of the knight's move in chess. It is the pattern of the move that we replicate. This helps us relate cards to each other in any tableau-style reading—that is any spread that is laid out in a grid, square, or rectangle. The knight's move is essentially one-over and two-down, taken in any direction. It can also look like two-over and one-down, as shown below.



Knighting (Victorian)

It isn't necessary to move any cards in Knighting, just to appreciate the connection between the two cards. Let's look at the spread we've just read, for Jane and her foster son George:

KEY	Moon	Stork
Rod	Rider	Coffin
Paths	Book	Snake

Jane and George's spread

Here, the capitalized Key card knights both to emboldened Coffin and Book, while the Stork knights to Rod and Book. Every card in a Portrait Spread layout knights to two other cards except for the central card. Why and when would you need to do this? Knighting is used to get more information about certain aspects of a spread. Here Jane is asking how to best support her new foster son and the Key, which shows the solution to or reasons for his behavior, knights to two cards that are about endings of illnesses and mysteries. She herself is represented by the Stork card, so for her, the

Knighting to Rod and Book is about investigating her foster son's background.

Mirroring is a similar way of relating two cards together. Again, we use Mirroring to look at complementary or opposing dynamics in a spread. In a Portrait of Nine, corner cards have three possible mirrors, and every other card has just one, except for the central card which can't be mirrored.

Key	Moon	STORK
Rod	Rider	Coffin
Paths	Book	Snake

Mirroring Jane and George's spread again

Using the same example, we can see that, in a Portrait Spread

of nine cards, Jane is represented by Stork (Queen Hearts, the card of a foster mother and so very suitable to have come up randomly in this portrait). Stork mirrors Key, Paths, and Snake. Jane is concerned with solutions and approaches to the complexities of her foster son's behavior. Rod and Coffin's Mirroring might reveal that he has closed down due to being disciplined or abused. As we saw from the Knighting and Mirroring of the cards, George's biological mother is probably Snake (Queen Clubs), which mirrors Stork. These are two very different approaches to motherhood since Snake is very hands-off, someone who would give the child to the nanny, whereas Stork is more nurturing. Find more uses of Mirroring in the spread above. What do you notice?

Practice 17: Portfolio of Portraits

- Here are a few portraits for you to try for yourself. With each, do a breakdown of the cards based on their positioning and then make a statement in which you get a sense of the lay of the land and predict possible results. Don't forget to incorporate Knighting and Mirroring in your interpretations.
 1. Denise is waiting for her boyfriend to show up and lays these cards, asking what is keeping him.

Fish	Coffin	Garden
Heart	Book	Child
Anchor	Sun	Stars

Denise's spread

2. Leonard has an interview for a promotion coming up. How will it go?
3. Martin has to pitch an art project to an advertiser. How can he best play it?

Man

Cross

Ship

Rod

Child

Tower

Fish

Letter

Snake

Leonard's spread

Scythe	House	Bouquet
Snake	Rod	Sun
Moon	Lily	Fox

Martin's spread

4. Betsy, the cat, is elderly, unwell, and unable to speak. Her caretakers, who want to respect her properly, ask, "What does Betsy want?"

Rod	Mice	Key
Man	Anchor	Book
Clover	Fox	Rider

Betsy's spread

5. Gervais is organizing an academic historian's conference for his college. What does he need to be aware of?

Rod	Bouquet	Snake
Scythe	Sun	Tree
Coffin	Clover	Birds

Gervais's spread

Reading the Same Cards Many Ways

One of the most challenging features of reading Lenormand after you've learned the basic keywords is the fact that you are asked to read the same cards not once, not twice, but in many different ways, many different times. I've heard beginners say, "But I just read a Line of Five across, how can looking at other pairs or triplets say any more?" Or, "But these two cards were in the past, how can they also be about other aspects?" The truth about the issue can reveal itself in a number of different ways, and we try to gather as much information as we can. Remember that Lenormand

is all about the dynamics between cards so we need to look at these relationships through a number of different lenses.

Learners often balk at reading Lenormand cards more than once because they are used to the tarot rule of one card per position. If you see the tarot's Ace Cups on the position indicating what you need to do next, you are rarely asked to read it as part of another position, although you may indeed need to look at it in the context of the group as a whole. In a Lenormand reading, you not only read a pair of cards as in the past position but can also consider them in connection to the other information you get when you consider Mirroring, Knighting, or the variety of processes we've gone through above.

When it comes to assessing the cards in several ways, after you've gotten your bearings, first regard past, present, or future cards from the standpoint of the present like a fortune-teller. Then, review all cards as informational in a universal way, like a diviner.

Allow yourself to patiently sift through the cards in a few different ways. You don't have to use each way in every reading, but it is good to have a repertoire of processes at your command so that if the cards don't read well one way, then you can find another way to look at them that does yield results.

STUDY 7: INTRODUCING HOUSES

In the Grand Tableau that we will be approaching shortly in chapters 9–11, we lay out all 36 cards from our shuffle in order from left to right, starting with the first position in the sequence of the 1

Rider right down to the last position of 36 Cross (see below). These 36 positions are called “Houses.” We speak of a specific card being upon its House in this way: when Tree falls on the House of the Fox, it means that when the cards are laid out randomly in sequence, the Tree card has landed on the fourteenth position or House of the Fox. Here are the cards laid out in a Grand Tableau of Nines from 1–36.

Grand Tableau of Nines Layout Showing House Sequence

Rider	Clover	Ship	House	Tree	Clouds	Snake	Coffin	Bouquet
Scythe	Rod	Birds	Child	Fox	Bear	Stars	Stork	Dog
Tower	Garden	Mountain	Paths	Mice	Heart	Ring	Book	Letter
Man	Woman	Lily	Sun	Moon	Key	Fish	Anchor	Cross

Lay out your own cards in this sequence and get a sense of where the Lenormand cards sit in their own House. Don't worry, you don't have to read a Grand Tableau yet, but it is time to

introduce the House system to you, so that you get used to understanding how to read a card upon its House position. Here you are seeing all 36 cards in their original sequence as foundational Houses, but when you are actually doing a reading, all cards will be randomly shuffled to fall in one of these positions. Because the Houses will be underneath the cards you lay, you will have to remember their sequence. Or you can obtain some House Cards, larger base cards that can underlie the cards you place upon House position (see here).

Houses influence and modify the card. The card you lay is the constant, representing itself. The House is the variable. For instance, you are always yourself, but you may modify your behavior in different situations. While visiting someone in the hospital, you go into caring mode; if you're in a class, you turn on your learning mode; if you're with your lover, you go into romantic mode. You modify your behavior depending on your surroundings, and so it is here with the cards. When a card lands on its own House it strengthens the core meaning. So if you drew Birds on the House of Birds, it may indicate that rumor or gossip will be rife, or that phone conversations become intensified.

With Houses, it is essential that you learn the order of the cards in sequence. Return again to the rhyme here and recite it to yourself. Practice writing down or thinking about the sequence of cards from 1–36 and see how far you can get as a form of memory exercise in your spare moments. This order will become as natural as counting numbers or reciting the alphabet. Once it's locked in

your memory, you won't get lost. You may not have been aware of it, but you have already been introduced to reading cards on their Houses when we learned to scale the severity of the cards (see [here](#)). Houses can also help to scale the intensity or effect of a card.

Spread 7: Layered Houses

Layered Houses is a small spread that introduces the art of reading a card upon a House, but without the necessity of laying all 36 cards in order to do so. Regard this method as a modest way of breaking in to the art of House reading. In this spread, the card is the constant, representing itself. The House is the variable that tells us what mode the card is in. I am grateful to Donnaleigh de LaRose for originating this method of “mobile houses.” It is an excellent way of introducing readers to the card Houses before they are ready to lay a Grand Tableau. If you have two Lenormand packs, they can both be used here, with one deck for the main cards and the other in place of the Houses. If you have only one deck, cut some pieces of paper to act as House positions when you've established which ones have been selected.

1. First, draw three cards at random to represent the Houses on which other cards will be set. Because we want to have all the cards available, just note these House Cards down on pieces of paper and put all the cards back into the deck.
2. Shuffle your cards and consider your question.

3. Draw three new cards for your reading and lay them down upon the assigned House Cards.

In each case, the main card is the subject and the House card modifies or describes the main subject. So if the main card were Heart (love; passion; enthusiasm; romantic) and it landed on the House of the Sun (happy; successful; confidence; summer) you could read that the romance is likely to be confident or the enthusiasm might light up your life.

Here's an example that I drew as a daily draw, using the *Magisches* as my Houses and the *Japanese* as my main cards:

Cards in Their Houses

CARDS:



HOUSES:



*Cards: Ring, Mice, Lily (Japanese); Houses: Cross, Child, Stork,
(Magisches)*

Ring on House of Cross = the contract or agreement turns critical

Mice on House of Child = the deterioration will be small

Lily on House of Stork = a change in the level of discretion

This spread tells us that an agreement has reached a critical stage and has been subject to a minor deterioration, which encourages me to be more discreet. In actuality, when I looked back at this reading at the end of the day, it clearly referred to the contract I have with an Internet provider who, due to technical difficulties that week, had been unable to offer me full service. This was quite annoying and I had seriously begun to consider changing my contract to another company.

☞ Practice 18: Cards in Their Houses

- Read for the following questions using the cards and Houses selected here.
1. How will the installation of the new phone system go in the library?

CARDS:

Woman

Sun

Tree

HOUSES:

Tree

Book

Man

2. What kind of meeting will Lloyd have with his old girlfriend, Lisa?

CARDS:

Fish

Birds

House

HOUSES:

Lily

Bouquet

Stars

🔮 Practice 19: Creating Your Own Lenormand Spreads

- Tarot users know that they can endlessly create or use pre-existent spreads but Lenormand readers have traditionally stayed with just a handful of spreads like the Line of Five or the Portrait. You do not need to limit yourself to what already exists, but can become a creator. Of course, the major difference with Lenormand cards is that you need at least two of them to

combine and speak together for each position that you create. Another method is to use randomly drawn House cards, as you've done in this chapter, for the positions on which you can lay another card, so that there is a dynamic reaction in your reading. You can customize a spread for your own purposes:

1. Make a list of questions about an issue in which each question becomes a position. Ensure there are two cards per question, or randomly draw House cards to represent the position on which you will lay your main cards. Arrange the positions in the best and clearest way. For example, these are some questions you might ask:

What do I need to focus on?

Who is affected by my decision?

What's the best approach to use?

When will I get the green light?

What's the best way forward?

2. Relationship questions can work well when you lay out cards for each partner, asking identical questions. For instance: how s/he loves, what s/ he gives, what s/he receives, what waits to be unlocked for him or her, and so forth.
3. Plan of action: the creative process to achieve anything can be shown as a ladder or stairway that enables you to plot your progress.
4. Go from here to there: spreads that enable you to move from where you are, give you creative steps to take toward where you want to be. I give an example of this below.

5. Get to the bottom of things: remember that uncovering motivations, doubts, fears, and unconscious bugbears, as I call them, should always be balanced by what is strong and inspirational to you. Never focus solely upon what is fearful to you or you will have a reading that spooks you.
- Make your own spread for an issue or create a general spread that uses questions that will be helpful to explore any issue. Of course, you need to be careful and ethical if the issue includes another person (see chapter 13 for more details).

Spread 8: Linking the Past with the Future

This spread is one that I've created as an example of getting from here to there. Sometimes an issue arises where we just need a pathway to help us move in the right direction. Linking the Past with the Future Spread is read as five vertical pairs and two lines of five. The top line very often speaks about the past state of mind and the bottom line speaks to the determination, help, or motivation to move forward.

Linking the Past with the Future Layout

Where I was:	What I learned:	Where I am:	Steps to take:	Where I want to be:
Card 1	Card 2	Card 3	Card 4	Card 5
Card 6	Card 7	Card 8	Card 9	Card 10

In the following example, Christy is considering going back to Ireland where he was born but he needs some encouragement.

Where I was:	What I learned:	Where I am:	Steps to take:	Where I want to be:
Ship	Child	Book	Coffin	Tree
Bouquet	Man	Fox	Key	Anchor

Christy's Linking the Past with the Future spread

Here are my interpretations:

The top line: Traveling abroad as a young man, Christy put a lid on old secrets and stagnation so that he could grow.

The bottom line: The gifts he has as an adult feel wrong-footed and he wants to open up to a more secure existence.

Ship + Bouquet = He was invited to emigrate.

Child + Man = He learned to grow up.

Book + Fox = He feels something is wrong about the past.

Coffin + Key = He can choose to reveal or to close up.

Tree + Anchor = He wants to enjoy a stable well-being; the security of his extended family.

Christy emigrated away from his home and family as soon as he was old enough. There are family secrets that make him uncomfortable. He has a choice to look at these more deeply or to let them lie in the past.

() Practice 20: *Between Past and Future*

- Here are two paths from the past to the future for you to interpret.
 1. Hazel has a history of bad relationships. How can she move forward?

Where I was: **What I learned:** **Where I am:** **Steps to take:** **Where I want to be:**

Cross

Key

Man

Fox

Stork

Coffin

Letter

Paths

Sun

Moon

2. Jose chose his line of delivery work when he was a young man, but as he ages he reconsiders what work he wants now.

Where I was: **What I learned:** **Where I am:** **Steps to take:** **Where I want to be:**

Stork

Bear

Moon

Cross

Heart

Garden

Woman

Rider

Mountain

House

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 5

☛ The Portrait Spread can be read like a small tableau.

- Cards within spreads are read in a variety of different ways within the same spread, enabling greater depth of understanding and interpretation.
- Learning the Houses, the sequence of the 36 cards in order, is vital for being able to read a Grand Tableau.
- Spread creation in Lenormand has to include pairs of cards rather than single cards.

Self-Test 5 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What are the basic procedures for reading the Portrait Spread?
2. What is Knighting and Mirroring and why do we use these techniques?
3. What are the basic principles of creating your own spreads?
4. What are the five cards that follow Tower?
5. What are the functions of a card within a House reading? How does the House it lands upon modify it?

PART TWO

The Playing Card Insets

By combination of the meanings of the several suits, you may readily learn to decipher all indications . . . and in time you will arrive at that stage where the cards will speak for themselves.

MINETTA, CARD READING

Waking the Pips

To be a true fortune-teller, one must possess the art, science, and wisdom of cartomancy.

ETTEILLA, *LA SEULE MANIERE DE TIRER LES CARTES*

STUDY 8: APPRECIATING THE PIPS

We have come a long way in our learning but we still have not addressed the question of the playing card insets: Why are they there? Do they play any part in reading the cards? Many people have been asking these last two questions. Some recent Lenormand deck creators have decided, perhaps because they thought the playing cards redundant, to just leave them off, discarding the pips as if the main image were the only edible part of the fruit. The Coffee Cards (see [here](#)) do not display any playing cards. However, I believe we can appreciate the pips. No need to spit them out as unusable.

The playing card aspect is a part of Lenormand because piquet, or reduced-deck playing card cartomancy, was already in use at the time of the Lenormand cards' origination in 1799. In the *Game of Hope*, on which all subsequent Lenormand decks are based, the cards displayed the main image at the bottom as well as both German-suited and French-suited cards in the two upper corners.¹

One often-observed difference between Lenormand and playing card cartomancy is that the divinatory meanings are not equivalent. Take the Lenormand House card, which shows King of Hearts. With playing card cartomancy, the card representing the home is usually Ace Hearts, not its King. Then the Letter card, which shows 7 Diamonds, is usually represented by the Ace Diamonds. In his 1892 book, *Nouvel Art de Tirer les Cartes*, the French cartomancer Armand Bourgade wrote with disgust, comparing this discrepancy between playing cards with Lenormand cards:

All the world knows, for example, that the Ace of Hearts is the card meaning the House; and that the King of Diamonds is a soldier or a countryman! Even the least experienced cartomancer knows that, doesn't he? Well, Mlle. Lenormand is content to represent the meanings in her cards differently. Take Ace of Hearts as blood relations and King of Diamonds as a helpful man, unpretentious, courageous, frank, who is careful with things. In singular contrast, she gives these very meanings to the Queen of Diamonds (Paths). This is the proof of her fantastic method!²

It wasn't known at this time that Mlle. Lenormand had not been the originator of the Lenormand system, of course. Equally, there are no immediate tarot associations that are helpful if we stick with the conventional or accepted suit equivalents:

PLAYING CARD SUITS AND CONVENTIONAL TAROT

EQUIVALENTS

Tarot suits:	Swords	Wands	Cups	Coins
German suits:	Leaves	Acorns	Hearts	Bells
French suits:	Spades	Clubs	Hearts	Diamonds

The playing card pips originate from the same source as the minor arcana suits in the tarot. Even the French suit signs (♠ ♡ ♥ ♦) were only invented in the late fifteenth century. The names of the English playing card suits came from many places. Spades are from the Spanish *espadas*, which ultimately derives from the Latin *spatha* for sword, while in France they are called *piques* or lances. The suit sign for Clubs is called *trefle* or trefoil in French, while the name Clubs derives from the image of Italian batons, or Wands, of the tarot. Hearts is derived from the French *coeurs*, or hearts, and is the equivalent of the tarot's suit of cups. The Diamonds suit sign derives from the French *carreaux* or roofing tiles. The playing cards suits developed differently in Germany, as we see above, where leaves, acorns, hearts, and bells are the equivalent of spades, clubs, hearts, and diamonds.³

Let's explore the playing cards and their applications to reading Lenormand. Here are all the cards arranged under their four suits.

THE LENORMAND CARDS ARRANGED BY THE FOUR SUITS

	♠	♥	♣	♦
ACE				Sun
KING	Lib	Intense	Clouds	Woman
QUEEN	Bouquet	Child	Snake	Storm
JACK	Chick	Travel	Wolf	
10	Ship		Secret	Clouds
9	Job Offer		Food	Key
8			Beloved One	
7		Tower	Bedroom	Snake
6	Letter			
5		Star	Crash	

It is clear from studying this that Petit Lenormand cards are quite unlike the divinatory meanings of playing card cartomancy. Most of the Club cards have unfortunate meanings in the Lenormand system, while it is the Spades, normally negative when it comes to playing cards, that are honorable in the Lenormand oracle. Hearts have affectionate and domestic value while Diamonds are sharp, clever, or sudden in their influence (see here). We will also explore the moods of the suits in greater depth in chapter 8. Two cards that stand out are the Pique Dame and Ace of Spades that in modern playing card cartomancy usually spell disaster of a high magnitude, whereas in Lenormand, Ace of Spades for Woman and the Queen of Spades for Bouquet are full of feminine grace. Instead, in Lenormand we can see how the Queen of Clubs or Snake is the difficult woman card while the King of Clubs for Clouds is the most unfortunate card. Helen Riding discusses this reversal of suits in her blog, *Lenormand Dictionary*, positing that the Lenormand oracle meanings are based upon the values of German playing cards, not French ones.⁴

In this chapter we will discover how we can include the playing card as further nuance to our reading. First we will consider the suits and then the pip numbers to see how they can become part

of our interpretation.

🔮 *Practice 21: The Colors of Yes and No*

In most Lenormand decks, the suits of Diamonds and Hearts are colored red while the Clubs and Spades are colored black. To help us answer yes/ no questions, you can regard the reds as warm or affirmative and the blacks as cold or negative. I know I discouraged you from asking these types of questions in chapter 1. The purpose of this was to help build your divinatory muscle by asking you to engage with good question creation. In actuality, many querents come to diviners with yes/no questions, while you yourself will have your own issues that need a quick-fire response. These kinds of queries do not make for long answers or helpful exploration, of course. But, based on the general feel of each suit, we can assign four quick-answer responses to each.

Spades: Maybe no

Hearts: Yes

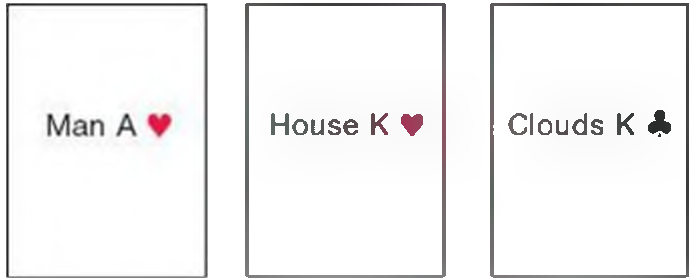
Clubs: No

Diamonds: Maybe yes

We can see Clubs, the most extreme black of the suits, as “no” while the stabler suit of Spades is a milder black, giving us “maybe no”; the hasty suit of Diamonds becomes the milder red of “maybe yes” while the more considered suit of Hearts is an extreme red of “yes.” Here are some examples. I have only looked at

their colors and general description. You could read the images in more depth as well.

1. Will the gardener show up today?



Two yes + One no = Yes, but it may rain later!

2. Is the new film any good?



Two no + One maybe no = No, it's not worth your commitment. It may be a little too remote for your interest.

3. Will the corner shop still be open at this hour?

Key 8 ♦

Fish K ♦

Child J ♠

Two maybe yes + One maybe no = Probably for a short while.

4. Will my exam results come today?

Bouquet Q ♠

Birds 7 ♦

Snake Q ♣

One maybe no + One maybe yes + One no = Unlikely.

5. Will Jerry text me the flight times this morning?

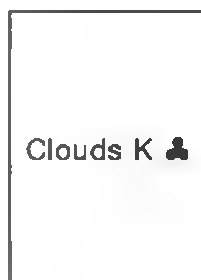
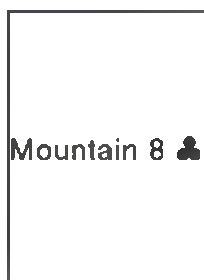
Moon 8 ♥

Coffin 9 ♦

Lily K ♠

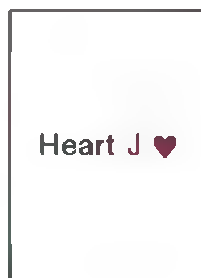
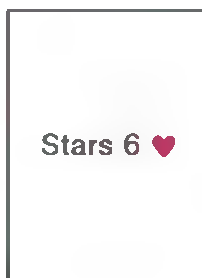
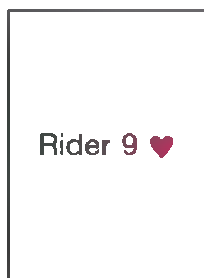
One yes + One maybe yes + One maybe no = Very likely.

6. Will I meet the man of my dreams at this dance?



Three no = Definitely not! There will be an unresponsive, substandard, moody set of dancers!

7. Will Mary say yes when I propose?



Three yes = Definitely yes! She's been waiting hopefully for this news.

- Try these examples for yourself:
 1. Will my luck pick up this week?

Stork Q ♥

Scythe J ♦

Rod J ♣

2. Will Kieran remember to pick up the dry cleaning?

Woman A ♠

Ship 10 ♠

Tree 7 ♥

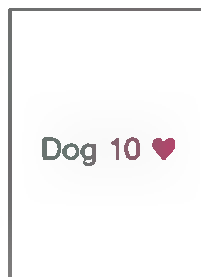
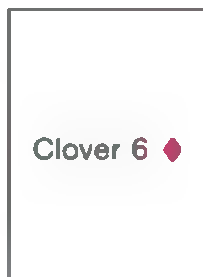
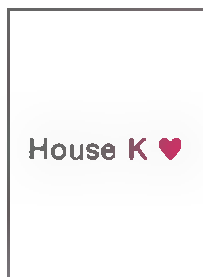
3. Will my advertisement get a response this week?

Ring A ♣

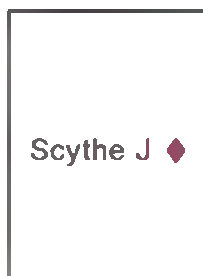
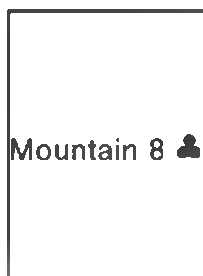
Sun A ♦

Paths Q ♦

4. Will my house sell before Easter?



5. Will I win the antique cards on the online auction?



SUITING THE SPREAD

Each of the playing card suits in Lenormand corresponds to the following major themes.

- ♠ **Spades:** Business and service; growth, trade, activity, work, authority, public interest, and rewards. Spades are dependable and public spirited, giving structure to situations and having a stabilizing effect.
- ♥ **Hearts:** Home and friendship; emotion, love, growth, trust, and encouragement. Hearts are supportive and emotional, having a gentle but more considered effect.
- ♣ **Clubs:** Challenges and necessities; responsibilities,

complications, consequences, or powerful forces. Clubs are difficult and complex, often having a detrimental effect.

- ♦ **Diamonds:** Dynamic energy, enterprise, strategy, luck, money, success, wisdom, and decisions. Diamonds are hasty and energetic, having a sudden effect.

The dynamics of suit interactions weave through a spread, just as the blending of different dyes creates varied hues of colors in a textile. These blends modify the strength of card relationships in a spread. Some suits get along well together like Hearts (extreme red) and Spades (mild black), while Diamonds (mild red) and Clubs (extreme black) make an aggressive pair. Clubs (extreme black) and Hearts (extreme red) create friction, while Diamonds (mild red) and Spades (mild black) can meld companionably and even enter into business together.

Multiple cards of one suit act as a reinforcer. Let's consider what happens when the suits are blended together and see the effect that they can have.

With the table below, read the suit at the left-hand side first and combine it with one of the suits at the top: so the combination of a Club + Diamond gives you four keyword characteristic of “difficult, comple, clever, or superior.”

BLENDING THE COLORS TOGETHER

SPADES	HEARTS	CLUBS	DIAMONDS
Mild Black		Extreme Black	Mild Red

Extreme Red

SPADES	Serviceable	Responsible	Humbled	Businesslike
Mild Black	Dependable	Obliging	Declining	Conclusive
	Sturdy	Reciprocal	Troubled	Natural
	Compliant	Cooperative	Obedient	Decided
HEARTS	Creative	Passionate	Emotional	Successful
Extreme Red	Daring	Supportive	Depressed	Resolving
	Recognized	Engaging	Oppressed	Guiding
	Rewarded	Friendly	Heavy	Decisive
CLUBS	Obliged	Striving	Fateful	Difficult
Extreme Black	Oppressive	Contentious	Detrimental	Complex
	Indentured	Frictional	Grave	Clever
	Mandated	Combative	Uncompromising	Superior
DIAMONDS	Adventurous	Attractive	Blocked	Lucky
Mild Red	Resourceful	Harmonious	Dangerous	Energetic
	Daring	Intriguing	Inimical	Enthusiastic
	Risky	Illuminating	Determined	Opportunistic

Any of the keywords above can be selected to describe the relationship between the suits. They are like a color chart of influences that arise when one suit is placed next to another one.

We can see from this chart that Spades and Spades get along serviceably well like Garden 8 ♠ + Ship 10 ♠ (traveling to the event), whereas when Spades are paired with Diamonds, they become businesslike, as in Lily K ♠ + Bear 10 ♠ (powerful protector). Spades and Hearts paired become responsible, like Anchor 9 ♠ + Moon 8 ♥ (stable work), and Spades plus Clubs end up troubled, as we see in Bouquet Q ♠ + Cross 6 ♣ (burdensome gift).

Hearts and Hearts become mutually supportive (House K ♥ + Heart J ♥ = passionate household). Hearts with Spades can be creative (Stork Q ♥ + Bouquet Q ♠ = surprising move). Hearts and Clubs become depressed or downcast (Man A ♥ + Rod J ♣ = arguing man). Hearts with Diamonds are often successful (Rider 9 ♥ + Book 10 ♦ = delivering the mystery).

Clubs with Spades can become oppressed or obliged (Fox 9 ♠ + Letter 7 ♠ = misleading letter). Clubs and Hearts can reveal striving or contention (Snake Q ♠ + Tree 7 ♥ = growing complications). Clubs with Diamonds are just plain difficult (Cross 6 ♣ + Fish K ♦ = financial crisis). Clubs with Clubs become positively fateful (Ring A ♠ + Bear 10 ♣ = overwhelmingly bound).

Diamonds and Diamonds are very lucky (Birds 7 ♦ + Sun A ♦ = successful conversation). Diamonds with Spades can become adventurous (Paths Q ♦ + Child J ♠ = a new decision). Diamonds with Hearts can be very attractive (Key 8 ♦ + Stars 6 ♥ = blessed revelation). Diamonds and Clubs can be blocked or dangerous (Clover 6 ♦ + Mice 7 ♣ = degrading fortunes). Of course, if you

draw the Coffin 9 ♦ in any combination it usually signifies the end of something.

Within these combinations note that Heart + Diamond isn't exactly the same as Diamond + Heart; all of the possible inversions of suit combinations produce different keywords. Let's try some now. Shamelessly use the diagram above to help you. Over time, as you practice, you will begin to feel the color of influence arising from the pairing of cards.

🔗 *Practice 22: Suit Combinations*

- Suit combinations come into their own when you apply them practically. Cut your cards into two piles and lay both facing up next to each other. Read the top combination of cards from the top of your piles, and then remove the top cards and read the next two down, and so on, so that you try all the possible variations, as we have just done above. Read the pairs as you would normally and then select one of the more appropriate suit combination keywords from table above. See if you find some better words yourself! Here is an example of Heart combinations:

Rider 9 ♥ + Birds Q ♥ = a conversational message; supportive

Tree 7 ♥ + Coffin 9 ♦ = end of growth; resolving

Heart J ♥ + Rod J ♣ = questioning your heart; emotional

House K ♥ + Garden 8 ♠ = open house; creative

- As you can see, some keywords work better than others but the addition of the suits gives your interpretation an extra nuance.

We can understand the pairs above as a supportive kind of message; that there is resolution to growth's ending; that the client might be a little emotional about questioning his heart; or that having an open house could be a creative and fun thing to do. The suit keywords have added a depth of color to the two cards.

- Try the following suit combinations for yourself. See if you can find the keyword for the suit combination, and then apply that word practically into your answer. For example, we would have said Fox 9 + Key 8 = notable robbery. Now keeping suits in mind, Club + Diamond = notable and clever robbery! Change the tense or alter the application of the word so it can be expressed naturally.

1. a) Ship 10 ♠ + Lily K ♠

b) Bouquet Q ♠ + Stork Q ♥

c) Child J ♠ + Sun A ♦

d) Anchor 10 ♠ + Cross 6 ♠

2. a) Snake Q ♠ + Fox 9 ♠

b) Ring A ♠ + Man A ♥

c) Mountain 8 ♠ + Garden 8 ♠

d) Rod J ♠ + Book 10 ♦

3. a) Paths Q ♦ + Key 9 ♦

b) Coffin 9 ♦ + Clouds K ♣

c) Birds 7 ♦ + Dog 10 ♥

d) Fish K ♦ + Woman A ♠

NUMBERING THE PIPS

Now, enough with the suits for a moment, what about the pips and their numbers? Just as the suits color the Lenormand cards, so the numbered pips give us their own themes, determining more about the nature of the cards. Here are some number keywords. When one or more of a number comes up in a spread you can immediately gain a sense of what kind of issue or motivation underlies the question. Note that the card numbers explored here are cartomantic and have no connection to numerology.

NUMBER KEYWORDS

ACE:	origins; bases; beginnings; first steps; questions; primary principles
KING:	domains; dominion; necessities; elements
QUEEN:	means; resources; demeanors; approaches; motives
JACK:	tryouts; engagements; interactions; experience
TEN:	guiding influences; connections; mentoring
NINE:	transactions; movements; behaviors; modes
EIGHT:	status; community; solutions; resolutions
SEVEN:	communications; reminder; dissemination; keeping
SIX:	promises; commitments; answers; reasons;

The number of times that any numbered pip card can show up in one spread is limited to four, of course, but you are likely to see up to two or three similarly numbered pips in one smaller spread.

In small spreads of approximately three to seventeen cards, you can check your readings for recurrent numbers of pips in addition to your regular interpretation. In a spread of seven cards you might find you have three Jacks, for example. Please do not attempt this method with the Grand Tableau when all the cards are used.

Meanings of Multiple Pips

As we have seen, not only can you appreciate the suits in your readings, you can also consider the numbers of the pips that come up in a spread. These can give us further information about our reading and are usually checked as part of the final processes of interpretation. The following list of suited and numbered pips is derived partially from Etteilla and partially from nineteenth-century traditional French cartomancy.

ACES: Origins; bases; beginnings; first steps; questions; primary principles. Lots of Aces together tend to enable you, but when you have two black Aces (Woman and Ring) or a black and red Ace, there are often competing notions that can be confusing.

Four Aces: success

Three Aces: promotion; good news

Two Red Aces: changes followed by great joy

Two Black Aces: bad luck

One Black and One Red Ace: confusion

KINGS: Domains; dominion; necessities; elements. Kings behave like men in a men's club. They tend to mutually bond and support each other, except when two Kings of different colors go head to head.

Four Kings: male support

Three Kings: plans work out

Two Red Kings: Friendly meeting

Two Black Kings: success in a law case

One Black and One Red King: strife

QUEENS: Means; resources; demeanors; approaches; motives. Queens are sociable, gregarious, and talkative together, as if at a women's gathering, but two black Queens (Bouquet and Snake) can get gossipy and two Queens of different colors can see each other as rivals.

Four Queens: quarrels

Three Queens: social event

Two Red Queens: reunion of friends

Two Black Queens: gossip

One Black and One Red Queen: rivals in love with the same

person

JACKS: Tryouts; engagements; interactions; experiences. Jacks get rowdy together, just like young men. They tend to be uncoordinated and a bit wild. Two black Jacks (Child and Rod) can egg each other on toward unwise pranks and two Jacks of different colors can be rivals.

Four Jacks: social whirl

Three Jacks: upset plans

Two Red Jacks: male gathering

Two Black Jacks: bad advice

One Black and One Red Jack: combative rivalry

TENS: Guiding influences; connections; mentoring. Tens generally help you in a stable way, but two black Tens (Ship and Bear) will change that stability and two Tens of different colors will hold you up.

Four Tens: satisfaction

Three Tens: conditions improve

Two Red Tens: travel

Two Black Tens: change of position

One Black and One Red Ten: delays

NINES: Transactions; movements; behaviors; modes. Nines like to bring things to a skillful end, but two black Nines (Anchor and Fox) will disrupt this and bring minor troubles while two Nines of

different hues will merely cancel each other out.

Four Nines: accomplishment

Three Nines: profits

Two Red Nines: approaching pleasure

Two Black Nines: minor troubles

One Black and One Red Nine: no advantage

EIGHTS: Status; community; solutions; resolutions. Eights have a sense of their own place within society. When they maintain this all goes well, but when they overstep the boundaries, they cause problems. Two red Eights (Moon and Key) become infatuated; two black Eights (Garden and Mountain) forget their place; but when they remember their function as Eights of two hues, they can be mutually supportive.

Four Eights: happiness

Three Eights: visit from a friend

Two Red Eights: infatuation

Two Black Eights: loss of position

One Black and One Red Eight: an undertaking, promise, or agreement

SEVENS: Communications; reminder; dissemination; guardianship. Sevens are all mixed up and the ways in which they relate can bring a mixed bag of results. All Sevens together brings happiness, but three become uncomfortable; two red Sevens (Tree and Birds)

cooperatively make excellent propositions, but two black ones (Letter and Mice) become jealous. Sevens of two hues just worry.

Four Sevens: increased happiness

Three Sevens: physical difficulties

Two Red Sevens: a proposition

Two Black Sevens: jealousy

One Black and One Red Seven: worries

SIXES: Promises; commitments; answers; reasons; last resorts.

Sixes are orderly, generally speaking, and support each other, but two black Sixes (Tower and Cross) lead to betrayal, Sixes of two hues will become careless.

Four Sixes: employment

Three Sixes: joy

Two Red Sixes: friendly help

Two Black Sixes: betrayal

One Black and One Red Six: carelessness

🕒 *Practice 23: Playing with Multiples*

- In these exercises, try working out the message behind the multiple pips for yourself. In the Answer Key Appendix (see here), I have given only the multiples in the longer spreads and not a full reading of these shorter ones here, but I encourage you to try out these spreads as practices for yourself. Read the spreads using the multiple lenses you now have and give a predictive

summation. The spreads here are ones that you have already encountered in chapters 1–5.

Yes or No?

1. Will my train arrive on time?

Fox 9 ♠ + Snake Q ♠ + Bouquet Q ♠

2. Will my date be a success?

House K ♥ + Birds 7 ♦ + Letter 7 ♠

3. Can Dan come to the game tonight?

Child J ♠ + Garden 8 ♠ + Rod J ♠

Lines of Five

1. What are the consequences of leaving Josie?

Tower 6 ♠ + Child J ♠ + Woman A ♠ + Dog 10 ♥ + Cross 6 ♣

2. What can I do about the woman who keeps pursuing me?

Key 8 ♦ + Book 10 ♦ + Heart J ♥ + Bear 10 ♠ + Moon 8 ♥

3. How can I best support the plaintiff?

Stars 6 ♥ + Clouds K ♠ + Clover 6 ♦ + Cross 6 ♣ + Lily K ♠

Above and Below

What is the best way of dividing the legacy?

Ring A ♠ Book 10 ♦ Child J ♠

House K ♥ Dog 10 ♥ Woman A ♠

Portrait

What hidden factors do I need to look at for this plan?

Scythe J ♦ Cross 6 ♣ Tree 7 ♥

Man A ♥ Clover 6 ♦ Birds 7 ♦

Heart J ♥ Bear 10 ♠ Moon 8 ♥

STUDY 9: SUIT, NUMBER, AND COLOR PREDOMINANCE

In every spread there is most often more of one suit, color, or number than another. This allows you to look immediately at a spread and notice the general mood and description. Not every group of colorings is positive, so remember to look for unfortunate signals as well. The absence of a suit may reveal the loss of a dynamic from the spread, so note these too. One interpretation can also be the misfortune of finding yourself without a needed influence.

EFFECT OF PREDOMINANT SUITS

Suit	Color	Unfortunate to
♠	dark, milder, cold, early, not perfect	slow, cold, dead, no return, no end
♥	pink, red, warm, old, heart, love	excess, loss, in death, no end
♣	green, young, of the earth, to the right, to the end, to the end	loss, loss, loss, loss, loss, loss
♦	light, red, cold	sharp, "to the end"

Here is Maire's Line of Five Spread from chapter 4 (see here).



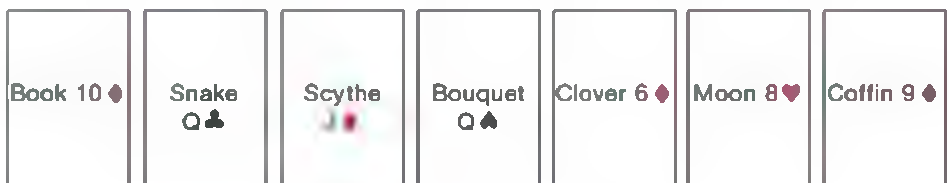
Book 10 ♦ + Letter 7 ♠ + Rider 9 ♥ + Rod J ♣ + Bouquet Q ♠
(Enchanted)

We see here two Spades and one of each of the other suits. The predominant suit is Spades, whose keywords are business, service, growth, trade, activity, work, authority, public interest, and

rewards. In this case, Maire's question and the Spades accord, as her question, if you'll recall, is about the nature of a present. The spread has two red pip cards and three black pips. The entire spread is predominantly black, but two of the black pips are Spades or what we call a mild black. This is a largely favorable spread. There are no multiples of any number here.

Let's see another spread for comparison: one that is more dramatic. This is a line of seven for Graham whose financial affairs are in a bad way. He asks what he can do to make things better?

There are four Diamonds and one card each of the other three suits. We've seen from above that Diamonds are about dynamic energy, enterprise, strategy, luck, money, success, wisdom, and decision, and that they are sudden in effect. Here they become quite dangerously sharp for Graham. We can also note that the two black Queens are gossiping! The line is predominantly red with five red pip cards. But here this doesn't indicate affection or content, but rather the heat of desperation and finances gone out of control. As we can see here, lots of Diamonds can signal danger!



Graham's Line of Seven

Here is Betsy the cat's Portrait Spread from chapter 5:

Rod J ♣	Mice 7 ♣	Key A ♦
Man A ♥	Anchor 10 ♠	Book 10 ♦
Clover 6 ♦	Fox 9 ♣	Rider 9 ♥

Betsy's Portrait Spread

Here we have nine cards with a predominance of red suits, made up of three Diamonds and two Hearts. In the black suits, we have three Clubs and one Spade. Over all, we must say that Diamonds and Spades struggle together, creating a difficult or dangerous combination for Betsy. Unfortunately, Betsy didn't make it and was put to sleep by the vet. This gives a profound meaning to the message of the two red Aces, which point to changes followed by great joy, while the Nines of two hues sadly inform us that there is no advantage.

🔗 *Practice 24: Predominating Influences*

- Check the following spreads for the ways in which suits, colors, and numbers influence them. I've given a question to help springboard you into the story, which you can then read for your own practice. In the Answer Key Appendix (see [here](#)), I've only given answers relevant to the suits, colors, and numbers in these spreads. Use the table above to help you and also look at the chart, "Blending the Colors Together," when you have equal numbers of suit colors.

Lines of Five

1. What do the authorities want of me?

Mountain 8 ♣ + Rod J ♣ + Tower 6 ♠ + Letter 7 ♠ + Mice 7 ♣

2. What are the chances of the board giving me a grant?

Book 10 ♦ + Paths Q ♦ + Heart J ♥ + Fish K ♦ + Stars 6 ♥

- 3.. Will the overseas transfer come through?

Rider 9 ♥ + Key 8 ♦ + Sun A ♦ + Ship 10 ♠ + Dog 10 ♥

Portrait

1. What will bring the family back together again?

House K ♥

Fox 9 ♣

Lily K ♠

Garden 8 ♠

Anchor 9 ♠

Stork Q ♥

Cross 6 ♣

Woman A ♠

Child J ♠

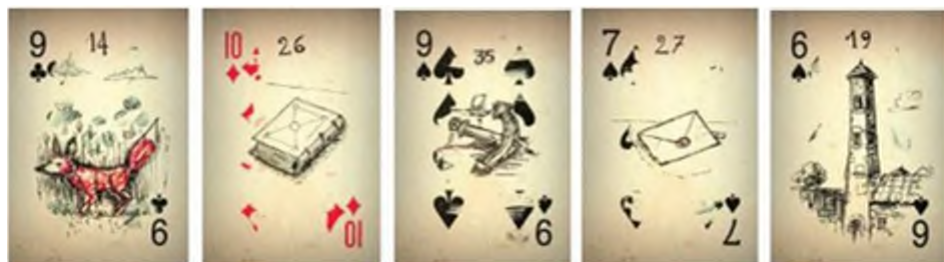
2. How can I support my brother's recovery from addiction?

Man A♥	Birds 7♦	Bear 10♣
Tree 7♥	Clouds K♣	Coffin 9♦
Moon 8♥	Clover 6♦	Bouquet Q♠

SYNTHESIZING THE CARTOMANCY

Now let's marry all we've learned. In the explorations that follow, both the images and the playing card insets contribute to the interpretation.

Marion has new neighbors. She is curious, and even suspicious, about what work they do, as they keep some very strange hours, waking her up as they go back and forth in unmarked vans during the wee hours. She draws:



Fox 9 ♣ + Book 10 ♦ + Anchor 9 ♠ + Letter 7 ♥ + Tower 6 ♥
(Palimpsest)

Now, you already know how to read a Line of Five from chapter 4, but after we've done a straight reading from the images, we will look at the suits to find more information. Here is a straight reading of these cards, looking primarily at pairs:

Fox + Book = mysterious employees

Book + Anchor = reliable knowledge

Fox + Anchor = stabilizing survival

Book + Anchor + Letter = knowledgeable news secured

Anchor + Letter = news that's secure

Letter + Tower = office post

The whole line reads: Hardworking and knowledgeable employees guarantee office post.

Now let's look at the suits linked with the pairs:

Club (Fox) + Diamond (Book) = difficult

Diamond (Book) + Spade (Anchor) = resourceful

Spade (Anchor) + Spade (Letter) = serviceable

Spade (Letter) + Spade (Tower) = dependable

Club (Fox) + Spade (Tower) = obliged

Matching the two levels of interpretation, we see the difficulty for Marion. Her mysterious neighbors have reliable knowledge and are resourceful. They have a secure post and are depended upon. We can now see that what in Marion's mind is suspicious is in fact a difficult set of neighbors who are clearly hard-working and who have to work at night delivering what appears to be an office's secured mail. We also notice that there are two black Nines in the Line of Five, which reinforces the truth that this situation does offer minor troubles for Marion.

Wolf is asking about his local downtown singing group, which seems to be in a state of decline. He asks, "What true energy of this group is needed in order to continue?" We will look at this spread in the two layers of image interpretation and suited interpretation.

Sun A ♦	Fox 9 ♣	Garden 8 ♠	Tree 7 ♥	Bouquet Q ♠
---------	---------	------------	----------	-------------

Sun + Fox = wrong energy

Fox + Garden = communal discernment

Garden + Tree = healthy group

Tree + Bouquet = surprisingly healthy

Sun + Bouquet = gifts of energy

Diamond (Sun) + Club (Fox) = blocked

Club (Fox) + Spade (Garden) = obliged

Spade (Garden) + Heart (Tree) = reciprocal

Heart (Tree) + Spade (Bouquet) = creative

Diamond (Sun) + Spade (Bouquet) = resourceful

Putting the two layers together, we see that something in the group dynamic does not feel comfortable. There is a sense of obligation. Other than this, it is largely a healthy, creative, and reciprocal experience. There are sufficient resources for the group to flourish. Armed with this new information, Wolf can help members to reinvigorate the group with great songs and exciting events that feed the soul. The vibe just needs a little tweaking.

Note that Wolf's spread has cards of all different numbers and that their sequence shows the high Ace, followed by declining numbers 9, 8, and 7, and finishes with a Queen. Thus, although the group once had strong ambitions, it has gone downhill. However, it can still rise to become a good sociable gathering once again. There are two Spades and one card of each other suit, showing that this is a fairly stable situation.

🔗 *Practice 25: Weaving the Colors Together*

- The time has come to bring together all that you learned in this

lesson. Before you begin, remember to notice the colors of the suits to obtain a first impression. There are three main tasks here: First, you will need to read the cards straight. Second, use the suit keywords to amplify your reading. Third, look at multiples of pips. Finish your reading with a final summation of your findings and make a prediction from the cards drawn. Here is a list of questions that you may choose to practice with a spread from a previous chapter. Try this exercise at least twice. Alternatively, use your own questions and spreads to practice.

How can I best honor my father's will?

What steps can I take to achieve my goal?

What kind of support is there for my proposal at work?

Where can I get financing for my future plans?

How can we rescue this marriage?

What will bring resolution to this conflict?

What will happen if I tell the authorities what I know?

How can we get away with this scam?

Layered Reading

I hope that you have discovered how the playing card insets on your Lenormand cards can be fruitful and give your readings greater depth and insight. These skills are best practiced on smaller spreads where they have the power to really amplify your interpretations. Since layered reading is an art, use these techniques in ways that support your own innate understanding.

Knowing how to look deeper means that you now have a wealth

of skills to turn to when the cards go mute, or when something you are reading doesn't make a great deal of sense. I've known the pips and suits to reveal extraordinary nuances in many situations: with a tongue-tied client who can't articulate their situation, with someone who is deliberately keeping quiet, and when confusing spreads seems intractable.

You do not want to complicate your reading, so when we get to the Grand Tableau, where a different style of reading is needed, these techniques should be used sparingly to scrutinize any puzzling card combinations. However, don't try to combine examination of suits, numbers, and pips when you read cards on their Houses. Such a four-way combination would make you go cross-eyed with concentration, becoming some kind of Lenormand algebra! Keep this work for the smaller spreads.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 6

- The playing card insets can be used to deepen interpretations of spreads, as a secondary process.
- Suit colors in three-card spreads can show the probability of an outcome in yes/no questions.
- Suit colors blend together to create different effects within card combinations.
- Suit combinations create keywords that deepen or nuance your card pairing.
- Pip numbers when combined reveal hidden dynamics.

- Multiples of pip numbers reveal an overall message.
- Suit predominance can reveal the general mood of a spread.

Self-Test 6 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What kind of effect do you get when a Diamond is followed by a Spade?
2. What are the five cards after Ring?
3. Which is the most challenging of the four suits in Lenormand, and which is the most difficult suit in traditional playing card cartomancy?
4. How can you answer yes/no questions from looking at the suits alone?
5. What is the effect of two cards of the same suit next to each other?
6. How would you read the cards based on their images? Coffin ♠ + Lily K ♠ ? Now how would you read this pair keeping in mind their suits?
7. What final message would three Sevens give in a spread?
8. What are some keywords for the Queens?

The Art of Cartomancy

Deepening the Picture

Cartomancy is a simple and natural science; it has its principles and by being in possession of these, one can understand of what benefit it can be to humanity.

ETTEILLA, LA SEULE MANIERE DE TIRER LES CARTES

AMPLIFYING YOUR SKILLS

At this stage, we have woken up the pips on the playing card insets and now you have another tool to play with when you read. In this chapter, we begin to deepen our use of the cards, including use of the pips and suits to help amplify our reading, as well as revealing some classic cartomantic techniques. It is helpful, as a beginner, to introduce some of these skills using smaller spreads to give you some instant practice. Our aim here is to find deeper levels of meaning and more nuanced interpretation. Some of the techniques, like Multiple Numbers in a Spread, that you learned here are very simple and yield interesting and very precise results. Others, like Pairing the Suits Together to examine the blend of cards, can offer you deeper coloration. Use the chart here to help you.

In historical terms, the traditional style of prediction was based

upon what people really needed to know and not upon any esoteric or psychological factors. Methods of metaphysical divination developed in stages from the onset of more esoteric meanings in the late eighteenth century, to the nineteenth century when Kabbalah and astrology became points of interest, and finally to the mid-twentieth century when psychological esoteric meanings originated.¹

Examining the playing card insets is really quite helpful because it brings you to a pragmatic place in your reading. It can help you to offer messages, news, or advice as part of the finalization procedures of interpretation. Many of the processes in this chapter come from traditional cartomancy. You don't have to use any of them, but they can extend your repertoire, so try them out for yourself, using these methods in your smaller spreads.

Counting Round

Counting Round the cards is a cartomantic method of distilling the essence of a spread by having a smaller number of cards to work with. As with any essentialization process, the larger picture condenses down to an alchemical tincture that zings with flavor and meaning. Counting Round is done both as a reading device, linking individual cards when laid out in tableau, and to help reduce a mass of cards to a smaller and more manageable number. Note that this process has nothing to do with numerology.

Let's see how Counting Round would work on a Portrait Spread, usually the smallest number of cards for which this

process is useful. After reading the Portrait in the usual way, you could use Counting Round to establish a final statement about the spread or to reveal a message for your querent about the next step to take.

Start with card 5 in the center (the topic or Significator card) and begin Counting Round, selecting every second card. In the Portrait layout below, you will end up with cards 5, 7, 9, 2, and 4. Remove these from the Portrait and lay in a Line of Five. The Portrait reduced to a Line of Five by the Counting Round method can now be read as a concluding message for the querent.

Reducing a Portrait Spread

Card 1	Card 2	Card 3
Card 4	Card 5	Card 6
Card 7	Card 8	Card 9

Card 5	Card 7	Card 9	Card 2	Card 4
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

The following Portrait Spread is laid for a woman whose work requires her to relocate. She asks, "What is the best course of action?"

Anchor 9 ♠	Mice 7 ♣	Stars 6 ♥
Woman A ♠	House K ♥	Clouds K ♣
Heart J ♥	Bear 10 ♣	Key 8 ♦

Portrait Spread for a woman relocating

House K ♥	Heart J ♥	Key 8 ♦	Mice 7 ♣	Woman A ♠
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Counting Round Line of Five results

1. Read both the Portrait and the Line of Five.
2. Create a final prediction and concluding message for the querent.

Counting Round on a larger tableau is often done by counts of 3, 7, 9, or sometimes even 13. We always use odd numbers for the count, depending on how many cards you have in your spread. We will return again to Counting Round with the Grand Tableau (see [here](#)).

🕒 *Practice 26: Reading Round*

- You have already worked with the following spreads in Practice 17: [Portfolio of Portraits](#). This time, finish with Counting Round and leave the querent with a final message or prediction.
 - Denise is waiting for her boyfriend to show up. She lays these cards, asking what's keeping him?

Fish	Coffin	Garden
Heart	Book	Child
Anchor	Sun	Stars

2. Leonard has an interview for a promotion coming up. How will it go?

Man	Cross	Ship
Rod	Child	Tower
Fish	Letter	Snake

3. Martin has to pitch an art project to an advertising agency. How can he best play it?

Scythe	House	Bouquet
Snake	Rod	Sun
Moon	Lily	Fox

4. Betsy the cat is elderly, unwell, and unable to communicate. Her caretakers, who want to respect her properly, ask, “What does Betsy want?”

Rod	Mice	Key
Man	Anchor	Book
Clover	Fox	Rider

5. Gervais is organizing an academic historian's conference for his college. What does he need to be aware of?

Rod	Bouquet	Snake
Scythe	Sun	Tree
Coffin	Clover	Birds

Summing Up the Pips with a Blessing

To end your consultation with a blessing or good wish for clients sends them on their way with an uplifted heart. Clients come to a cartomancer not only for a prediction but for advice, support, and confirmation. Drawing on the hope that you discerned in the spread your blessing can be framed by using language or metaphor appropriate for the client (see here).

You may be wondering how the diviner can provide a blessing using a counting method. After reading a spread of up to nine cards, add the pips together. Remember, the pip numbers are the numbers of the playing card insets. We are *not* counting up the numbers from the House order sequence of the Lenormand cards

from 1–36. For example, Fox is not counted as 14, its number in the Lenormand sequence, but as 9 because it has 9 Clubs upon it. Aces equal one. Court card values are as follows:

Jack: 11

Queen: 12

King: 13

Find a card in your deck that correlates to the total number of pips. If the total is over 36, you will need to reduce the number, as described here. You obviously do not do this process with spreads of more than nine cards!

The total of pips on your cards added together gives us the number of a card from the Lenormand sequence that we will base our final blessing upon. Let's try it. In the following Line of Five we have

Fox 9 ♣	Birds 7 ♦	Stars 6 ♥	Cross 6 ♣	Garden 8 ♠
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Now we count the pips: $9 + 7 + 6 + 6 + 8 = 36$.

The 36 is the Cross in the Lenormand sequence. Now I hear you ask, how can I make a blessing from such a negative card? Look at the context of the reading you've done. What is lacking? Is

there something the querent now needs to pay attention to? Use your creativity to bless the client in a way that will be helpful to their current state. Here are some possible blessings one could offer from Cross. When someone is

- ✦ About to undergo a trial: "May you bear up well under the challenge!"
- ✦ Refusing to look at the issue or is in denial about something: "May a door or a window open for you!"
- ✦ Distressed or worried: "May your spiritual supporters (or guardian angel) walk close beside you!"
- ✦ Has no spiritual tradition to support them: "May all the good that you wish for yourself meet you on the road!"

Use words that work for your client in metaphors and expressions that they can appreciate. Don't use language that alienates people. When you draw what you normally regard as a challenging card, use the reverse of that challenge to frame a blessing.

If your total pips exceed 36 (the total number of Lenormand cards in the sequence), add the resulting numerals together to get a lower number.

Coffin 9 ♦	Rider 9 ♥	Garden 8 ♠	Lily K ♠	Stork Q ♥
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Pip Count of over 36

In the above line of cards we count the pips: $9 + 9 + 8 + 13 + 12 = 51$.

There are two methods of reducing a larger number of pips to a total of 36 or under. You can either add the total numerals together, so that 51 becomes $5 + 1$, which would give you 6 Clouds, or else you can *subtract* the highest Lenormand sequence number 36 from your larger number of pips, which would look like $51 - 36 = 15$, or Bear. Try both ways and see which you prefer. The first method often gives you just the lower numbered cards as a result. The second method gives you a wider range of possibilities. Sometimes both methods result in the same total, sometimes a different one.

Blessing is not in the possession of people of faith or spirituality only, it belongs to us all. To bless another is our duty and privilege. Just ensure that your words are supportive, from one human being to another, and that they do not create a sense of doomful obligation, guilt, or unhappiness in your client's heart. Blessings do not have to be portentous or pious; they can be framed as a lighthearted good wish at the door. So, if someone

has trials ahead, you might wish them, “Whatever lies ahead, may you come through well!”

🕒 *Practice 27: A Blessing for the Querent*

- Make some blessings from the following lines of five, using your own words and applying them appropriately for the querent's needs. Don't just do this on paper but speak them aloud, as if the person were in the room with you. The oral nature of cartomancy is one that is important to cultivate in order to feel at home with divining for others. I've given the final totals using both methods described above. If you'd like to use these lines of fives as practice from start to finish, go for it, and then make sure to finish with a blessing. Note that in question 5, I've slipped in a timing question. Just try and answer it from the perspective of what would work best for all parties. We will deal with timing in detail in chapter 12.
1. An elderly widower about to move into a retirement home asks, “How will I like it there?”

Birds 7 ♦	Letter 7 ♠	Tower 6 ♠	Ring A ♣	Fish K ♦
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2. A woman whose uncommitted sailor boyfriend is returning after an absence of several months asks, “What will result from

our meeting?"

Woman A ♠	Rod J ♣	Child J ♠	Letter 7 ♠	Ring A ♣
-----------	---------	-----------	------------	----------

3. A talented young man who is trying out for a position in his local football team asks, "What are the manager and coach looking for?"

Bear 10 ♣	Woman A ♠	Dog 10 ♥	Cross 6 ♣	Moon 8 ♥
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4. A newly married couple with differing tastes are choosing an apartment. They ask, "What kind of place will suit us both?"

Birds 7 ♦	Key 8 ♦	Sun A ♦	Bouquet Q ♠	Garden 8 ♠
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5. The personal assistant of a busy executive has to break the news of her pregnancy to her boss. She asks, "When is the

right time to tell him?"

Stars 6 ♥	Lily K ♠	Moon 8 ♥	Letter 7 ♠	Tower 6 ♠
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Hidden Dynamics of the Line of Five

This method uses only the Line of Five. You can employ it after a typical Line of Five or apply it when counting round a Portrait Spread, but before you give a final blessing. Finding the hidden dynamic will give you a strong sense of what is creating tension or hiding a potential solution. Here, we uncover the friction by merely adding up the outer pips together (cards 1 + 5) and the inner pips together (cards 2 + 3).

Let's use the Line of Five that resulted from the Counting Round the Portrait for the relocating woman here. Now, we also see the pip numbers.

House K ♥ PIPS: 13	Heart J ♥ 11	Key 8 ♦ 8	Mice 7 ♣ 7	Woman A ♠ 1
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Pips for woman relocating

$13 + 1 = 14$ Fox and $11 + 7 = 18$ Dog

In this instance the central card of Key is between Fox and Dog. This means that the solution lies somewhere between the deceiver and a friend. The hidden dynamic of the woman's dilemma leaps out here. We can see that this woman is desperate to stay in her house and not to relocate. We can also look at the total pips of this line which come to 40, which we can read as $4 + 0 = 4$ House, or $40 - 36 = 4$ House. In this case, it doesn't matter which strategy we use, both results confirm the message that home is where she really needs to stay.

Use the concluding techniques of Counting Round, Counting the Pips, checking the hidden dynamics, and offering blessings if and when you feel it is right. You may only use some of them, and perhaps not all the time, but keep in mind that they can reveal aspects you haven't seen and provide you with more information that can aid in your interpretations.

🔗 **Practice 28: Hidden Dynamics**

- Now look at the hidden dynamics of the same Lines of Five from your blessings in practice 26 (see here). What can you see going on here between the outer and inner pip pairs? Situate the center card between the two flanking ones and state what you see, like in the following format:

Path 9 ♦	Rider 9 ♥	Coffin 9 ♦	Child J ♠	Bear 10 ♣
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Outer pips = $12 + 10 = 22$ or Paths

Center card = Coffin

Inner pips = $9 + 11 = 20$ or Garden

- We can interpret the hidden dynamic of Coffin's completion/ending that is held between going on the road and going public. Give it a try yourself, with the Lines of Five below.

1	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠
2	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠
3	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠
4	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠	Wagon ♠

Spread 9: The Abacus

This spread uses a classic method to link cards like beads on an abacus and uses similar skills to [Stringing the Necklace](#). This technique requires some concentration as we are moving down a longer line and it can be easy to lose one's place. In the Abacus the counting itself becomes the major means of pairing cards. It looks more complex on paper than it is in practice, so get out your cards and try it for yourself.

- Shuffle the cards with your question in mind.
- Cut the cards into three equal piles of twelve cards. Turn the

three piles upright and read the triplet. This will give you an overall sense of your reading. At this stage, you can also look at the likelihood of the question's success by reading the suits of the triplet in the yes/no method here. Remove the triplet and set it aside; however, if the client's Significator or Topic card appears in the cut, shuffle and cut again.

3. Look through each of the piles to find the location of your Significator or Topic card; do not remove it and carefully keep the sequence as is. This is now the pile you will use. Discard the other two piles. Spread out the Significator pile in a line of eleven.

Card 1 card 2 card 3 card 4 card 5 card 6 card 7 card 8 card 9 card
10 card 11

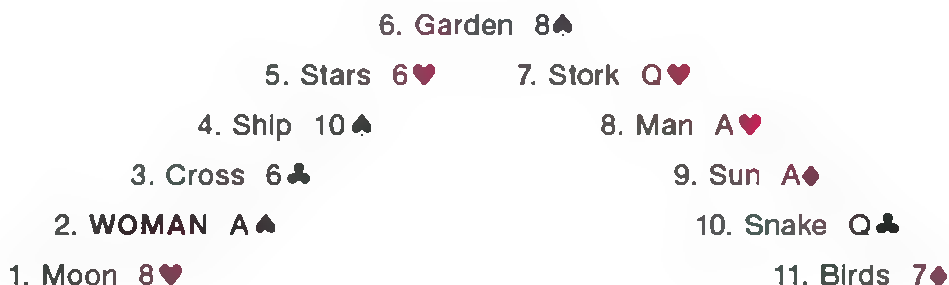
It helps to steeple them in a V, if you are short on space at your table as in Christine's abacus below.

4. Now count round the sequence of eleven cards in counts of sevens, linking one card to the next, starting with the Significator/Topic card. The card you start on with each subsequent count should be thought of as number one in your count of seven. You always start the next count of seven on the card you just read. In the example of Christine below, the Woman card becomes card 1 in the sequence, while Man is card 2 after counting round. Seven cards from Man is Cross and so on. It's helpful to push each card up a little from the

line or tilt it to show that you've already read it.

5. After connecting the cards in sequence by counting round seven, read card 1 + card 2; card 2 + card 3 etc. Finally, put the eleven cards, as read, in a line so that you can see the whole story and make a statement that sums it up.

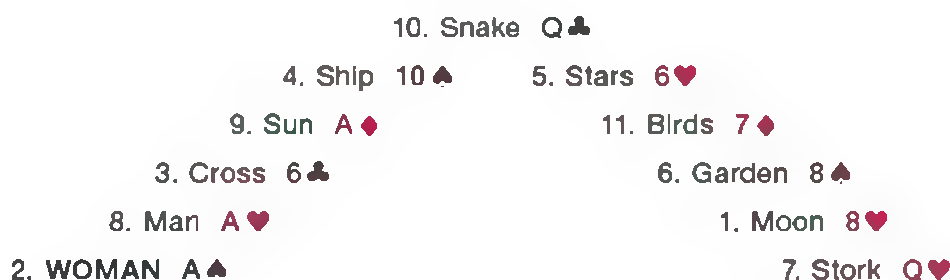
Christine heads a therapeutic institute. A failing economy has caused fewer students to register for the training and soon she won't be able to keep her teachers on the payroll. How can she best structure the coming term? The three cards of the cut yield Clouds + Fox + Letter. The problem requires a careful overhaul of her program, which is badly wrong. Here are her cards in the original abacus layout followed by the new order the cards take after counting round.



Christine's Abacus

By scanning the sequence as it originally presents, we can see that Christine's Significator is between the cards Moon and Cross, which shows that she has a work crisis on her hands. The middle card or hinge of the line is Garden, which we can read as her

institute's public persona that is at issue. Now we count round the cards by seven, starting with the Significator. It may make it easier to imagine the cards rearranging themselves, like the display below, but better keep them as is so that you can get the maximum information from the original spread.



Christine's reading after counting round

Stringing the Necklace

Now we string the necklace using the cards in the order after counting round.

Woman + Man = Christine needs the help of her program manager, Graham, to tackle this. (Spade + Heart = reciprocal)

Man + Cross = Graham is also affected by the crisis and can face it with her. (Heart + Club = heavy, emotional)

Cross + Sun = This crisis is a wake-up call and they are putting a brave face on it. (Club + Diamond = difficult, complex)

Sun + Ship = It would be good to capitalize on the overseas market, possibly by both advertising for students in other

countries, or by teaching some modules in Europe or the USA. (Diamond + Spade = adventurous)

Ship + Snake = Complications are implicit in any travel Christine might plan. There might be competing educational programs. (Spade + Club = troubled, declining)

Snake + Stars = Christine can clear complications by focusing on her wishes. (Club + Heart = struggle)

Stars + Birds = It could be helpful to include the students in discussing the direction the business takes. (Heart + Diamond = guiding, resolving)

Birds + Garden = Public discussion and opinion will help her understand how to restructure. (Diamond + Spade = resourceful)

Garden + Moon = The nature of the work inside of its market has to be scrutinized carefully. (Spade + Heart = responsible)

Moon + Stork = Changes to the work are inevitable. Since Stork is a seasonal card, Christine could consider assigning the curriculum into seasonal rather than yearly modules for the convenience of her students. (Heart + Heart = obliging, responsible)

Stork + Woman = The change has to begin with herself. (Heart + Spade = daring, creative)

Christine's restructuring of her program can begin by considering all her options, looking at the market at home and abroad, involving the needs of her students, and taking the temperature of

the public climate. Her manager, Graham, is a key player in this action. We note that in terms of multiples, we have three Aces, which signals a promotion or good news.

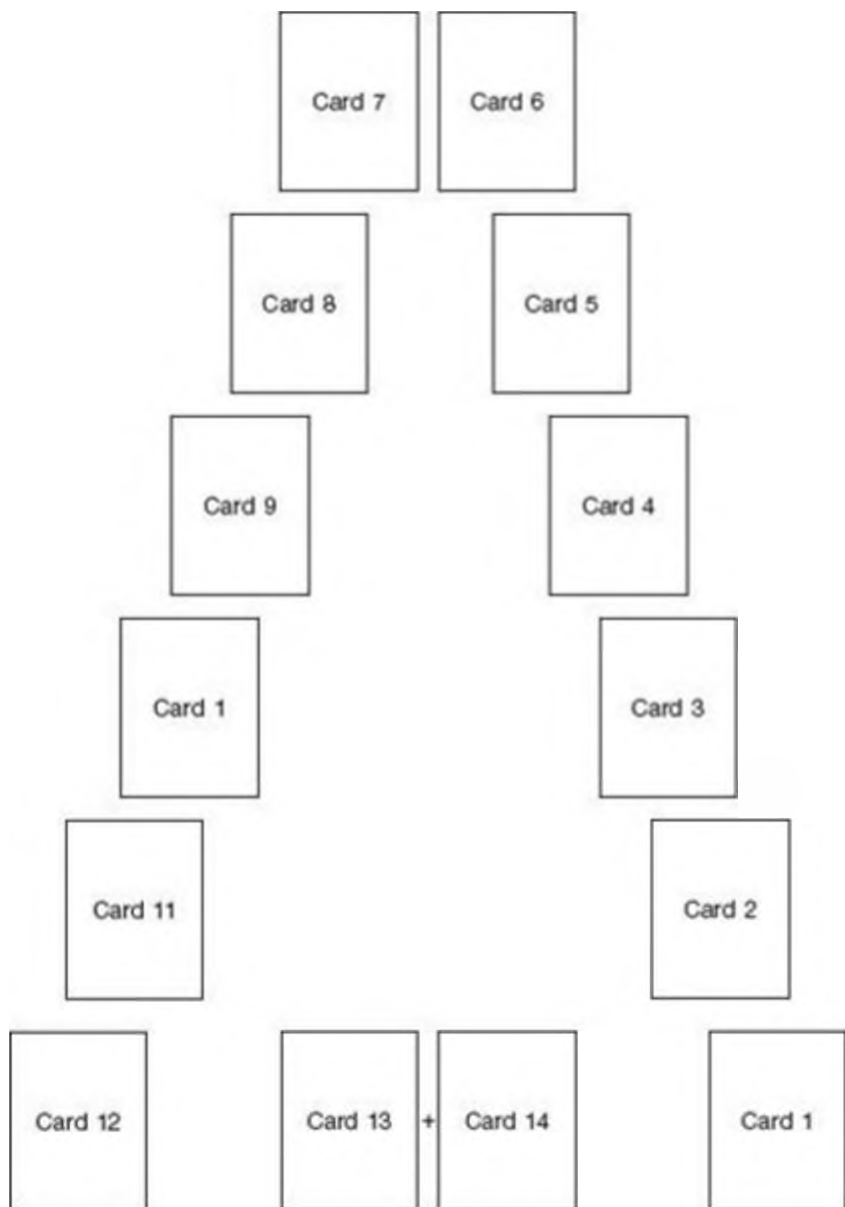
🕒 **Practice 29: Pairing from the Ends**

- In traditional playing card cartomancy, pairing from the ends combines the beginning and end cards of a spread in order to arrive at a new perspective. This method is called “Lifting the Cards”: it is equivalent to Mirroring the ends in Lenormand. If we apply Lifting the Cards to the Abacus, we can see how the ends are paired: 1 + 11, 2 + 10, 3 + 9, 4 + 8, and 5 + 7, while card 6 remains alone as the pivot.
 - Here are the pairings from Christine's Abacus Spread above. Since you already know some of the story, why don't you try these pairs for yourself. What else do you see that would be helpful for Christine? How might each of these pairs relate to the central card, Garden? What new combinations of suits arise?
1. Moon + Birds =
 2. Woman + Snake =
 3. Cross + Sun =
 4. Ship + Man =
 5. Stars + Stork =

Spread 10: Etteilla's Seven Pairs Spread

This historic spread comes directly from Etteilla's *The Only Way to*

Read the Cards, published in 1770.² Etteilla called it the *Coup de Douze* (Cut of Twelve). He liked this spread because when you add up the card positions together you arrive at 78, or the number of cards in a tarot deck ($1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10 + 11 + 12 = 78$). *Coup de Douze* works equally well for the 36 Lenormand cards and gives you lots of pairing practice. Like many historic spreads, it has a two-part method. This spread was later taken up by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and retitled the Opening of the Key, with many more processes than we will use here. Etteilla laid his cards from right to left, so we will do that here as well. In this spread, you will find that the sequence of reading is dependent upon which way the Significator card is facing. What is before the Significator is in the past, while the cards after the Significator are in the future.



Etteilla's Seven Pairs Spread

1. Put the chosen Significator into the deck, shuffle, and cut

the cards into three equal piles of twelve. Without disturbing the order of each pile, look through each to see which one contains the Significator/Topic card. Now place this pile on top, with the other two cut piles underneath. You are now ready to start.

2. From right to left, in a wide arc, or V shape, lay the first twelve cards in which the Significator should appear. The cards either side of the Significator tell you where the client is at present in relation to the issue.
3. Take the next or thirteenth card and the card from the bottom of the whole pack as your fourteenth card. Set both of these aside, unseen, as the Surprise, which are the unknown factors.
4. Read the cards in the arc of 1–12 according to which way the Significator is facing. The Significator's direction will be different in different packs: it is the way he or she is facing. The past will be behind the client and the future ahead. Read the cards upon each other from and to the Significator and see what stories emerge.
5. Now pair the arc of cards by taking one card from each wing of the V (12 + 1, 11 + 2, etc.). Read the new combinations of cards in pairs. These pairs show you the present possibilities.
6. Finally, read cards 13 and 14. What is the Surprise? How does it affect the stories you discovered? You can also pair cards 13 + 7 and 14 + 6 if you wish.

Here Norman has applied to a literary agency to help represent his first book. What kind of decision can he expect?



Norman's Seven Pairs Spread

First off, we can see that in the main arc of the spread four Hearts and four Spades create a sense of reciprocation and cooperation, or friendly support. Three Diamonds and three Clubs reveal an underlying sense of blockage or difficulty, with a similar sense in the surprise pair.

The Man is located between Moon and Birds, showing that the issue is about work discussions. The Man is facing to his right so we will read the cards ahead of him as his future and the cards behind as his past. Even though we laid the cards from right to left, we will read from left to right in this case because we begin by looking at the past. Starting with Bear, we String the Necklace up toward the Significator. The past reads as the strength of his convictions, his passion for work, and the honor he expects. From Man onward we read the future as discussions about this topic, gossip with a woman, a woman's lucky connections, the luck of a

beginner, a first book, the book presented in-house, the house sends overseas, foreign delays.

In summary: Norman believes passionately in what he has written. His discussions with the female agent (Woman) lead to his first book going forward and being published. However, the agent's transactions with foreign publishers meet a blockage. The Surprise pair in this spread are Key and Mice, which shows that this *Coup de Douze*, or cut of twelve, is undercut. In the context of publishing, this could mean the book is cut-down in size or wordage, or edited so that its publication impact is blunted. To see if there are other messages here, we pair from the ends and see what happens. This gives us:

Bear + Mountain = blocked power

Heart + Ship = foreign enthusiasm

Moon + House = working from home

Man + Book = author

Birds + Child = discussing the debut

Woman + Key = important woman

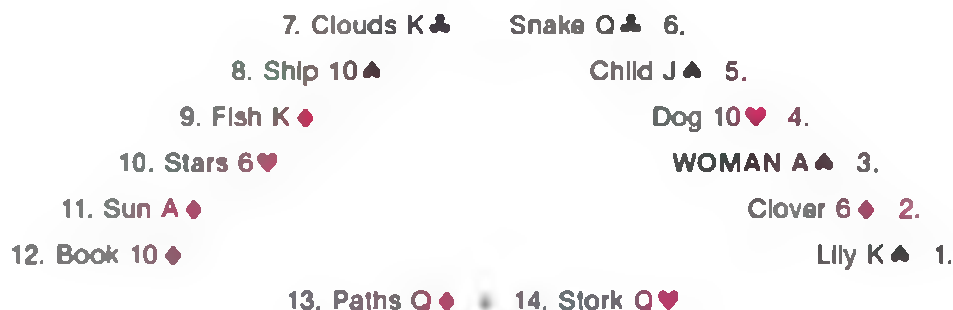
Clover + Mice = losing the opportunity

The agency clearly likes Norman's book and wants to take him on but the book's success is limited. The pairing above suggests that the book may have an ephemeral interest in the current market and that the publisher to whom it is sent delays in such a way as to lose the moment. This isn't the end of the world, however, since

Norman now has an agent and he can try again.

🔮 *Practice 30: Your Seven Pairs*

- Try this example of Etteilla's Seven Pairs Spread. It is for Arianna, a fifty-nine-year-old divorcee, who is asking, "What are the chances of me finding a new partner this year? What will he be like?" How would you read her cards? What will you tell her? Try to speak your divination aloud as if talking to her.



Arianna's Seven Pairs Spread

STUDY 10: THE QUEEN FACES LEFT

At the heart of historic cartomancy is the tableau, where all the cards are laid out in ranks. The Portrait Spread or ninefold tableau is short, but it gives you all the information and skill practice that you need. This time we are going to pay attention to the court cards: who they might represent in a spread and what they might be looking at. You already know and understand how the courts (or honors) of the playing card insets can operate as Significators.

To refresh your memory see here. In the following method, court cards can be read both at face value and to indicate a person.

Let's look at Paths Q ♦ . Some possible keywords are choice, decision, and way, but as a court card, Paths Q ♦ can also represent a keen-minded woman, perhaps a career woman, who is used to making her own way. You will notice that she is looking to the right (her left). If we place another card next to her, we will see what she is looking at. In this case it's Woman A ♠ .



22 Path + 29 Woman (Daveluy)

Again, we know that the Woman card is normally the Signifier and is a card that is spoken about rather than being vocal in

its own right. Consider what happens when you see these two paired together. Are they women having a conversation? Are they friendly together? A Diamond followed by a Spade gives us a dependable or possibly compliant relationship (see here). We can also make a keyword compound from this pair, such as pathfinder or female analyst. Let's look at another pairing with a court card. Here is Clouds K ♣ looking at Moon 8 ♥ .



32 Moon + 6 Clouds (Daveluy)

Again, experience what it feels like to see these two together. You might get a sense of the Moon shining through the Clouds, or of a confused man looking back at his work. What do you see?

Again, the pairing of a Heart with a Spade creates a sense of emotional distress or heaviness of heart.

Look through the court cards in your deck and see which way they face. In the *Daveluy Lenormand* that I'm using here, the Kings all face left, except for King ♥ , while all the Queens face right except for Queen ♠ . This is pretty much how we see the Clubs—contrary. Jack ♥ and Jack ♠ face right while Jack ♦ and Jack ♣ face left. Let's look closer to the direction court cards face in a real spread. When we work with the directionality of the courts, we notice where the playing card character is looking.

The reading below is one I did as part of a diagnostic consultation for a client in my shamanic practice, to help her see into the problems in her life. The cards are from the German *Magisches Lenormand*. This is a practice I often do to see into the hidden factors and motivations in a case. It is a way of reading that shows the past, present, and any ancestral entanglements or stories that are in the way.

Mary is a woman in her sixties with a very troubled family. She's coming in for herself, but also for her family's benefit. She has a deeply abusive background. Her father was abusive to all his children, and now her own grown-up children are carrying the burden of this, exhibiting off-color behavior and health problems. I lay out nine cards in tableau and consider these first, before I add in any other cards.

Mary wants a way forward, which we can see in the Ship card at the center. This represents the yearning of her soul. What's caused

this impetus to move on is usually the first card, here the Bear. She has found the strength to consult with me. To this Portrait I have added two cards: the Woman A ♠ in the bottom left corner and the Tower 6 ♠ in the upper right corner.



Bear 10 ♠



House K ♥



Rod J ♠



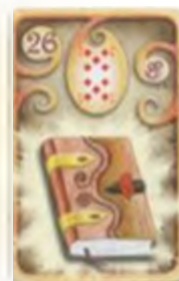
+ Tower 6 ♠



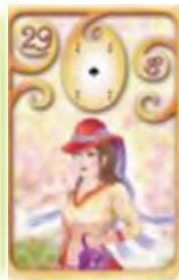
Moon 8 ♥



Ship 10 ♠



Book 10 ♦



Woman A ♠ ♦



Stork Q ♥



Sun A ♦



Fox 9 ♠

Mary's Portrait Spread
(Magisches)

The corners speak of Mary having the strength to do more than survive and of her need to change the abusive pattern.

The Diamond speaks of a family whose dignity needs to stand on a different foundation, one that helps them put to secrets behind them, and to find happiness again. Rod speaks about the abuse; Moon about the dignity/shame that is felt about it; Book is the family secret. Sun is the yearning for happiness. Ship is the soul in transit, yearning toward a new shore.

The past, present, and future can be read from the three rows or columns, but I often like to read *all* the cards as being in the timeless moment so that every card has a chance to show itself in every angle. Since this reading was motivated by a need to see the cause and epicenter of Mary's problem, the past is clear and the future implicit. I leave you to read the Lenormand triplets down, across, and at the diagonals, as I want to demonstrate the cartomancy.

The Significator can be seen in the Stork ♠♥, a card that expresses Mary's nature very well as a motherly and caring woman. Immediately we notice that she is stuck in the corner looking out of the reading. In the other corners we see a story told by Clubs alone. While she is bolstered above and to her right by a Heart and a Diamond, she has three Tens pressing in on her, meaning new conditions, or the start of a new phase of life.

This information supports Ship, as a card of yearning to move on. She is also separated from the two male court cards of the spread, who are people associated with her here. House K ♥ is her father, while next to him is Rod J ♣, who stands for her troubled son with mental health problems.

Where are the Courts Looking? I examine where the court cards are looking, and at the edges, place a new card to represent what they are looking at. This is done by taking the next card out of the deck randomly. The client's Significator, Stork Q ♥, looks to her left, so I lay another card to determine what *she* is looking at: Woman A ♠. We can interpret this as Mary's desire for the return of her feminine self. This pair gives Mary a Spade and a Heart, which together create a cooperative relationship that is of mutual benefit.

The House K ♥ is facing Bear 10 ♣, indicating that Mary's father had power issues of his own, which led to the abuse of his children. Here, we notice how a Club and a Heart together create struggle and friction.

The Rod J ♣ looks to his right out of the spread and here we place an additional card, randomly selected: Tower 6 ♣, indicating an institution. Not only has her son felt the full effects of a mental hospital and the system that keeps him tagged as troublesome and in need of medication, but Mary herself suffered under abusive nuns in her schooling days. Tower mirrors Woman, so I know that the shamanic work I will do must be about

this also, in order to lift the shadow of the institution from Mary and her family. A Club and a Spade together create a sense of oppression and being under obligation. Now we use the tools of tableau: Mirroring, Knighting, and Counting Round.

Knighting: Every card except the middle card in a ninefold tableau can be knighted. See how Stork knights House, where the Q ♥ and the K ♥ fall upon each other. This let us know that she and her father are entangled. Heart + Heart is passionate but in this instance intensively abusive. See how Moon 8 ♥ knights Rod J ♣, indicating that her reputation falls from the abuse, causing shame. Heart and Club together create depression. Moon also knights to Fox, or work relies upon surviving, and skill upon work, another heavy Heart and Club combination. There are many other knightings you could look at here, but let's move on to Mirroring.

Mirroring: This is where we see the outside edges of a ninefold tableau reflected top to bottom, side to side, or as diagonals opposites. Mary's Stork Q ♥ and her son's Rod J ♣ card are mirrored—she and he are in deep resonance with each other and she is aware that he carries a good deal of the family's burden. Bear 10 ♣ and Fox 9 ♣ both hold the wild and powerful turbulence of this family and reveal the family gift of taking authority, skill that has been neglected as a result of the abuse. Club + Club is fateful and detrimental, and the family strength has yet to fully emerge. House K ♥ and Sun A ♦ mirror each other, saying the absence, and future presence of, happiness in

the home is shown here. Heart + Diamond helps resolve things successfully.

Counting Round: Leaving out the two additional cards I've put in for understanding the motivations of the Significators, I count the cards in threes starting with the Stork. This gives us the Line of Five: Stork + Fox + House + Moon + Book. Note: you count the first card in each set of three from the last card you selected. The middle card here is now House, not Ship, which shows where she wants her move forward to start. I say, "The changes you're seeking come from a skillful fostering of your home life. The old secrets are coming out of the system now, meaning that you and your family can move through to a new beginning." I start the count in this spread from the Stork since I have established it is acting here as Mary's Significator. Normally you would count round from the central position of a Portrait Spread.

Counting the Pips: I count up the pips in this Line of Five, which totals 52 and $52 + 5 = 57$ Snake Q ♠, so with this, I make a blessing. "May the self-possession you seek pave the way for you!" I then went on to do some shamanic healing work for Mary and her family as a result of our consultation. I've given this reading in full, so that you can see how a full breakdown of this Portrait Spread reveals itself.

🌀 **Practice 31: Portrait of the Courts**

1. Lay a Portrait Spread for yourself. If your issue involves other

people, then they may indeed appear. Scrutinize the court cards that appear for personalities involved in the issue. Sometimes an obvious Significator or topic card arises in a reading, at other times you have what Etteilla called “a white reading”³ with no courts in it at all, so you may have to look to obvious topic cards instead and won’t be able to add in any extra cards to help motivation. You only need to add cards next to the courts if they are looking out of the reading at the edges, not in the middle of the tableau. Always read the original nine cards you first laid in the normal way before making any additions.

2. Read the following Portrait Spread from the images below. Outward facing courts have been given, amplifying cards from the Daveluy deck. Alex has a small manufacturing company. He has just discovered that his firm has been untruthfully listed online as a defaulting debtor and now some businesses won’t trade with him. It is probably an online scammer trying to get money from him just to take down the listing. What can he do to stop this? He has two people helping him, a female manager and a male legal advisor. Reduce the Portrait of Nine to a Line of Five by counting round three cards from Alex’s Significator Clouds and calculate an outcome from the results. Count the pips of these five also.



Clover 6 ♦



Book 10 ♦



Tree 7 ♥



House K ♥ +



Clouds K ♣



Garden 8 ♠



Stork Q ♥



+ Dog 10 ♥



Anchor 9 ♠



Ring A ♣



Heart J ♥



+ Letter 7 ♠

Alex's Portrait Spread (Daveluy)

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 7

- Counting Round is a skill used in spreads laid in tableau. It is not generally used for spreads under nine cards.
- Pip counting enables you to see the hidden dynamics in a small spread of 5–7 cards.

- Making a blessing from the summation of the pips is a way of giving the client a good wish as they leave.
- Pairing together cards from the extreme ends of a line or spread reveals and confirms the main story of your interpretation.
- Reading one card upon another is a simple way to read a line or sequence of cards.
- Picking additional cards for the court cards to look out at from a Portrait Spread can show what the courts are looking for.
- Court cards that face out of a Portrait Spread may be looking at some motive, worry, or reason that is not in the main spread. Adding amplifying cards to the court cards at the edge of the Portrait augments your understanding of the personalities involved in the question.

Self-Test 7 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What are the most important factors in speaking a blessing or good wish at the end of your reading, from the client's point of view?
2. How might you make a blessing for a man who is leaving his difficult partner on receiving the Heart card as the summation of the pips?
3. What are the five cards that come after Sun?
4. When a Significator or topic card is not selected in a Portrait Spread, how might you look for a card that represents the client?

Secrets of the Lenormand Universe

Diving into the Mystery

Let us lay hold upon the beginning and quickly pass over everything else with speed; though it is hard to leave behind familiar things and turn ourselves back to the ancient origins.

CORPUS HERMETICUM, BOOK 4
(TRANSLATED BY AUTHOR)

THE LENORMAND UNIVERSE

We take a break in our practice to examine the mythic structure of the 36-card Lenormand Universe. The material in this chapter has never been revealed before. It was only by sitting with the cards and endlessly playing with them that it showed itself to me, and I hope that you will be as excited by it as I am.





We know that the first Lenormand cards were a 1799 family game, that the images derive from those commonly used in coffee ground readings and the playing card insets from piquet cartomancy. However we look at these Lenormand images, there is no mystical foundation to them. They depict very common emblems, images, and symbols from everyday life.

Every structure is a product of a blueprint upon which its

system depends. This blueprint informs the system, just as our DNA informs and shapes our bodies. Many cultural elements contribute to this divinatory system, but much of the central skeleton of Lenormand derives from playing cards, which in fact preceded the late eighteenth-century images that appear on the cards. This is why it is unwise to discard the pips.





The whole of our divination with Lenormand is contained within the area of those names and images we have grown used to using; they are the ordinary, everyday images of life. Anyone can use these cards, for they eloquently speak about everything that was, is, or could be. Let us appreciate the structure Lenormand creates for our divination together. This structure, that we will now call the Divining Arena, illuminates a new mythic pattern for us to explore.

The Divining Arena

									
A	K	Q	J	10	9	8	7	6	
SUN	FISH	PATHS	SCYTHE	BOOK	COFFIN	KEY	BIRDS	CLOVER	
8 STARS								WOMAN A	
7 TREE								LILY K	
8 MOON								BOUQUET Q	
9 RIDER								CHILD J	
									
10 DOG								SHIP 10	
J HEART								ANCHOR 9	
Q STORK								GARDEN 8	
K HOUSE								LETTER 7	
A MAN								TOWER 6	
CROSS	MICE	MOUNTAIN	FOX	BEAR	ROD	SNAKE	CLOUDS	RING	
6	7	8	9	10	J	Q	K	A	
									

The Divining Arena is outlined by all 36 cards, which contain the whole world in potential. As we have seen, these cards can show us anything when they are combined.

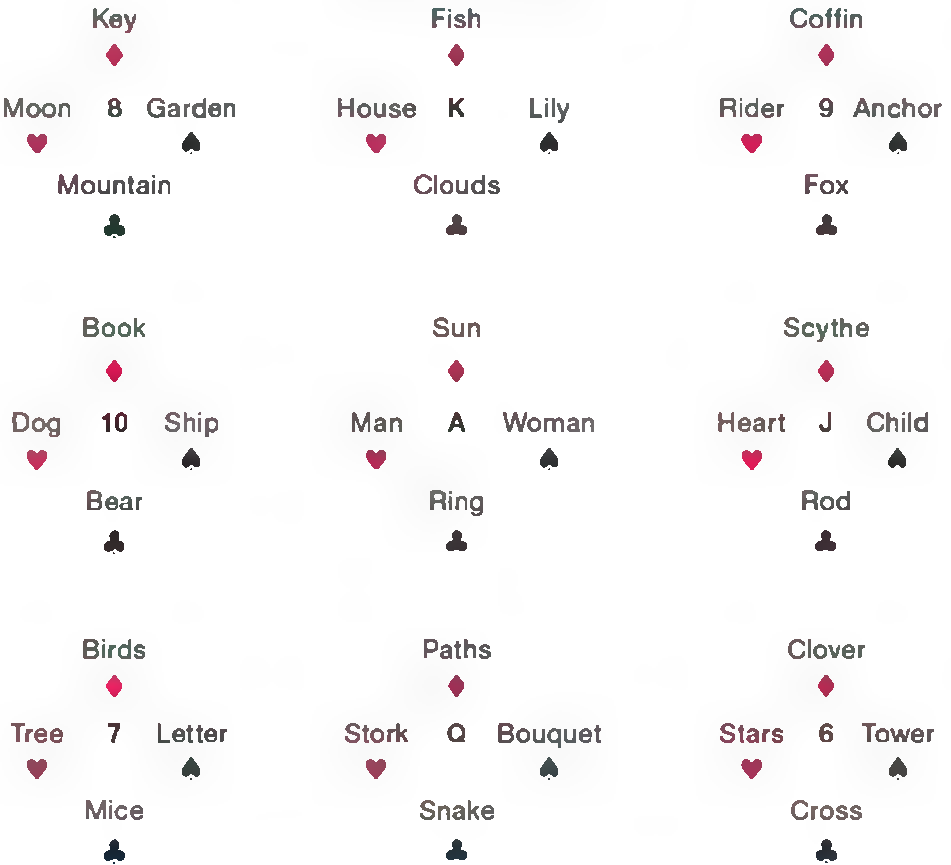
The Ninefold Universe of Lenormand

The Lenormand images seem to have no particular relationship to each other, yet the internal structure of the cards is woven from four core spindles to create a ninefold Lenormand universe: these spindles are the four suits: Spades  , Hearts  , Clubs  , and Diamonds  .

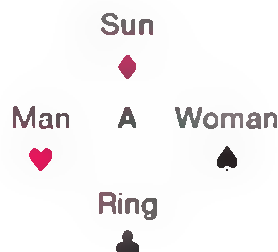
Each of these four suit spindles has a different expression when it is combined with the pip cards, creating its own distinct themes

from Ace down to Six. We can see these distinct themes as the Nine Constellations of the Lenormand Universe, which provide the basis of its mythic structure. These nine sets of four cards each have their own unique signature. Each tells a little part of a mythic pattern that unfolds as we examine them closer.

The Ninefold Universe of the
Lenormand Oracle



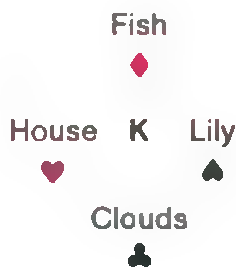
THE FOUR ACES: CREATION OF LIFE



The Aces represent the first principle of creation. They offer us origins, bases, beginnings, first steps, questions, and primary principles from which the whole of life stem. When the Lenormand cards were invented, the primary myth by which creation was understood in Europe was that of Genesis. This underlies the principles of the Aces.

Within the earthly paradise of Eden, where the first man and woman came together, life and vitality were gifts from the sun. In this myth Adam and Eve fell from grace when they broke their contract with God. According to the orthodox Christian view, from St. Augustine onward, everyone alive inherited both this gift of life as well as the consequences of the broken contract. Because of the social context from which this deck originates, the fact that the myth of Genesis is covertly encoded in this simple, moral deck of cards should not come as a surprise or affront to any reader. Follow me as we unfold the mythic story of life and its symbolism, as there is a universal congruence that transcends religion.

THE FOUR KINGS: ELEMENTS



Life is sustained by the four classical elements. In Lenormand, the four Kings—the fathers of this universe—guard these elements. The guardians of the elements are Fish for water, House for earth, Lily for fire, and Clouds for air. These primary elements reveal different domains of life.

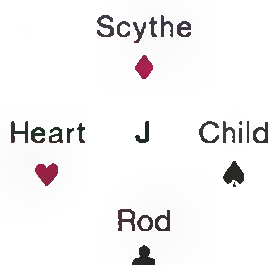
THE FOUR QUEENS: PROVIDENCE



The four Queens act as intermediaries of the providence of life, providing the means by which we live, for they are the mothers of this universe. The mothers of providence are Bouquet for generous giving, Snake for self-preservation, Stork for change, and Paths for wise decisions. Some might see Paths, Snake, Stork, and Bouquet, respectively, as the guardian angels Raphael the healer, Michael the defender, Gabriel the announcer, and Uriel the

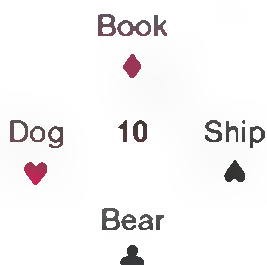
witness. The Queens provide us with the means and resources that life dispenses.

THE FOUR JACKS: EXPERIENCE



The four Jacks oversee the daily experiences of life, from the unsullied innocence of the Child to the discrimination of Rod; from the passion and compassion of the Heart to Scythe's gathering and reaping of adventure. The Jacks are the ones who exemplify the tests, engagements, and interactions that we commonly experience, as well as pushing at the edges of life.

THE FOUR TENS: FUNCTIONS OF BEING



The four Tens oversee the different functions of being, with the

body of Bear, the mind of Book, the emotional connection of Dog, and the soul of Ship. They include the paired opposites of friend and stranger in Dog and Ship, and of uncultured and wild in Book and Bear. These Tens provide guiding influences and connections, mentoring us through the different aspects of our being.

THE FOUR NINES: APPROACHES TO ACTION



The four Nines oversee the four approaches to action. Anchor is stable, Fox is stealthy, Rider is swift, and Coffin is still. These Nines provide us with the appropriate modes of transportation, reaction, movement, or behavior in different situations.

THE FOUR EIGHTS: LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING



The four Eights oversee the levels of understanding. Garden offers an open, public forum, Mountain represents remote and cerebral

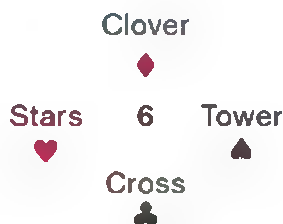
understanding, Moon represents imagination and dreams that we understand through metaphor, and Key offers revelation of knowledge. These different modes of understanding also provide us with skillful means of solution within our communities.

THE FOUR SEVENS: WAYS OF DISCOURSE



The four Sevens oversee the discourse of society. Letter offers a written mode while Birds offers oral relation. Mice expresses group mindedness, while Tree expresses the ancestral memory that holds us all together. Together, the Sevens provide the means of communication and dissemination, as well the means of remembrance and preservation.

THE FOUR SIXES: UNIVERSAL PATHS



The four Sixes oversee the four universal paths. Cross is Fate,

Stars is Destiny, Clover is Fortune, and Tower is Service. We live within these limits or else strive to use our will to overcome, attain, stretch, or transcend them. Fate is fixed, while destiny is the path we walk on. Fortune is something we hope to receive, while service is something we give. Here, universal Stars, spiritual Cross, temporal Clover, and official Tower come together. The Sixes speak about our promises and commitments, as well as provide us with the motivations for our response to life.

The Four Paths of the Lenormand Universe

When the nine constellations are rearranged, they lead us to the four pathways of the Lenormand Universe by which we all must walk. At the center of creation stand the first Man and Woman, with their contract of life and the Sun of life shining upon them.

As we can see, the four Aces stand at the center of the four paths, which lead directly to Fortune, Fate, Destiny, and Service. These are paths that each of us has to walk, and which we attempt to do with balance. The interweaving of these four paths is revealed by our divination, which illuminates their connections. Ripples of influence spread out from the four Aces of earthly paradise where Man and Woman receive the energy of life from the Sun and their contract with life.

The Four Paths of the Lenormand Universe

◆ THE PATH OF FORTUNE ◆



6

7

8

9

10

J

Q

K

A

♥ THE PATH OF DESTINY ♥

♥ 6 7 8 9 10 J Q K A A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 ♠

♠ THE PATH OF SERVICE ♠

A

K

Q

J

10

9

8

7

6



♣ THE PATH OF FATE ♣

In the orthodox Christian understanding of the Fall from Grace, because Eve ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, original sin is the inheritance of every human being. However, the Gnostic view, which I support, tells us that humans continually steal wisdom from heaven because it is simply in their nature to be curious and inventive. This is a theme we find at the heart of myths, regardless of their culture of origin.¹ The Greek Titan, Prometheus, steals fire from the gods; Gnostic Sophia descends from the fullness of heaven to create the world and everything in it;

and Raven steals the Sun from the upperworld in a myth from the Pacific Northwest.² I invite you to engage with the gifts of these four universal paths in a creative way that helps your divination. You don't need to get caught up in Christian theology here.

The paths of Fortune, Fate, Service, and Destiny are discernable within most every culture on earth. Luck or fortune may often be circumstantial, but when it occurs, our fate may change. Fate concerns the conditions that were set when we were born. We can never change our parents, for example, and although we may alter our black hair to blond or insert colored contact lenses, our appearance is innate. If we are born blind, that is the fate we live with.

Our destiny is the blessing for the world that we each came to deliver in this life. It is the gift that lies *in potentia* to be manifest, but which requires our engagement. Destiny itself is subject to the path of service, as no gift can fully develop without it being appreciated or of use to others. Service is the code of our common humanity. It is practiced through civic duty and everyday consideration for those in our communities. As Alan Garner says in his book *The Voice That Thunders*, "Privilege is service before it is power."³ The influence of Fate, Destiny, and Fortune in our lives is wound in with our contract to Service. The interweaving of these four paths provides the structure of our lives but nothing is fixed in stone. Intention, circumstance, luck, and engagements determine what our unique woven tapestry of life becomes.

From Sixes to Aces, all of the Lenormand cards play an

important role in this mythic universal pattern. Let us walk these four paths in turn.

◆ THE PATH OF FORTUNE ◆

The Path of Fortune is governed by the suit of Diamonds. Fortune is the luck that each of us enjoys in our lives. Sometimes we are genuinely lucky, sometimes we experience its risk, and sometimes we have to duck and dive to pursue our connection with it. No one has a run of just good or bad fortune all their lives. We experience a mixture, which the Diamonds reveal to us.

The Luck or Fortune card itself is the first in the series Clover 6

◆. Walk to the beginning of this path and you find the source, Sun A ◆ . Sun stands for life itself. The ways in which we follow luck in our lives are depicted on the Diamond cards:

- 6 ◆ Clover: Luck; fortune; brief opportunity; serendipity
- 7 ◆ Birds: Speculating Luck; rumor or gossip; excitement; popular
- 8 ◆ Key: Revelation of Luck; openings to make; breakthroughs to take
- 9 ◆ Coffin: Unluckiness; things grind to a halt; grounded or death itself
- 10 ◆ Book: Mystery of Luck; secrets; studying form; keeping a book
- J ◆ Scythe: Risky Luck; radical opportunities; dangerous ways
- Q ◆ Paths: Luck of Choice; deciding the better course or alternative

K ♦ Fish: Financial Luck; resources enrich you; luck in good flow

A ♦ Sun: Luck of Life; happiness; success; expansion

♠ THE PATH OF FATE ♠

The Path of Fate is governed by the suit of Clubs, which in Lenormand is the suit of misfortune, as opposed to the Spades in playing card cartomancy. Fate is what we are unable to change, like our genetic makeup. We cannot change where we were born or the language we grow up learning. Our daily choices are instead about how we manage the fate we've been given.

The Fate card itself is Cross 6 ♠ , which leads to Ring A ♠ . These two together refer to the contract made by the first Man and Woman. Our fate is a result of both the inheritance from our ancestors as well as the contracts that we ourselves make. The ways in which fate unfolds are shown to us by the Clubs cards. These include the causes of our suffering and the ways in which we survive, all of which have consequences.

6 ♠ Cross: Implacable Fate; necessity; challenge; ordeal

7 ♠ Mice: Fateful Loss; things diminish; wear out or erode

8 ♠ Mountain: Fateful Delay; impasse; obstacles; contingencies

9 ♠ Fox: Surviving Fate; taking advantage; stealth; vigilance

10 ♠ Bear: Force of Fate; dominance; force majeure; overwhelming

J ♠ Rod: Fateful discrimination; criticism; dispute; repetition

Q ♠ Snake: Consequences of Fate; lies; deceits; betrayals

K ♠ Clouds: Fateful Confusion; concealment; muddle; unknowing

A ♠ Ring: Contract with Fate; bond; commitment; connection

♥ THE PATH OF DESTINY ♥

The Path of Destiny is governed by the suit of Hearts. Destiny is that blessing that we deliver by living out the gift that is uniquely ours. It is the potential of our gift with which we seek to express and bless everything around us. Destiny invests within us dignity as human beings. It is a gift that needs to be delivered to our world so that when we die, we know we have given our best and given back to life. Destiny does not fulfill itself without our effort and determination. It is only through application, engagement, and practice that we bring it into manifestation.

The Destiny card itself is Stars 6 ♥ , which leads to Man A ♥ , who as the first man names the animals and plants and makes the best of what he has been given.

6 ♥ Stars: Destiny; inspiration; harmony; clarity

7 ♥ Tree: Destined Connections; health; healing; networks

8 ♥ Moon: Honor of Destiny; work; fame; reflection

9 ♥ Rider: Destined Delivery; news; announcements; visiting

10 ♥ Dog: Loyal to Destiny; friend; companion; faithful

J ♥ Heart: Loving Destiny; love; compassion; philanthropy

Q ♥ Stork: Destined Movement; change; nurture; fostering

K ♥ House: Hearth of Destiny; home; surroundings; shelter

A ♥ Man: Destiny's Son; masculine; virility; husband; partner

▲ THE PATH OF SERVICE ▲

The Path of Service is governed by the suits of Spades. While we might expect to find the Path of Free Will at this position, this is a modern expectation. Owing to the nineteenth-century context of this deck, the public duty of Service is instead the fourth path. Service is the gift of our energy to those around us. Destiny, Fortune, and Fate are forces that have direct effect upon us, while Service is the power we have to directly affect our world. Those who do not serve their community merely coast along for the ride. Those who share their gifts with others become embedded in their community at a deep level.

The Service card itself is Tower 6 ▲ , which leads to Woman A ▲ . We know her as the first woman, bestowed with the role of bringing forth children and caring for their needs. It is she who makes the world a more comfortable and ordered place, using her skills for the good of all.

- 6 ▲ Tower: Service; order; civilization; tradition
- 7 ♠ Letter: Manifesto of Service; message; mandate; writings
- 8 ♠ Garden: Community Service; public; open to all; inclusive
- 9 ▲ Anchor: Secure Service; persevering; reliable; maintained
- 10 ▲ Ship: Foreign Service; strangers; trade; travel
- J ▲ Child: Simplicity of Service; wonder; novelty; innocence
- Q ▲ Bouquet: Gift of Service; award; abundance; beauty
- K ▲ Lily: Mature Service; protection; peace; elders
- A ▲ Woman: Daughter of Service; feminine; resourceful; wife;

partner

The Consequences of the Lenormand Universe

What effect do these revelations have upon our understanding of the cards? How does our divination change? The way in which cards come together in a spread can now be read not only by their keywords, images, numbers, or suits, but also archetypally by the mythic titles that arise on the four pathways above. Man + Garden can be expressed archetypally as Destiny's Son follows Community Service, even though the basic meaning might be sociable man. Ring + Fish reveals an archetypal reading of Contract with Fate finds Financial Luck, whereas the basic reading would be the financier signs the contract. As the archetypal story of a spread reveals itself, another layer of nuance appears.

The absence or presence of suits can reveal on what level a client is responding or needing to respond. Here Paul lays a Line of Five to ask about what he needs to do to make his lecture tour of the Far East a success, appropriately using the *Japanese Lenormand*. (Please ignore the additional upside down words on the playing cards here, as this deck can be used for both Lenormand and playing card divination.)

Paul has a mixed pair of Fortune (Diamonds) and Fate (Clubs) cards on either side of the central Service (Spades) card and no Destiny (Hearts) cards at all, which may denote that he is being dutiful about this tour. Let's see what kind of story the mythic subtitles reveal. Mystery of Luck and Implacable Fate lead to

Manifesto of Service. On this trip the Luck of Life and Fateful Survival see him through. Reading these cards straight, we might say, the challenges of teaching need enlightening handouts, so that cheat sheets will illuminate things. What we can see from all of this is that Paul needs to ensure, especially as he will be working with people for whom English is not their first language, that these cheat sheets help his teaching to be clear and understandable.



Book 10 ♦

Cross 6 ♣

Letter 7 ▲

Sun A ♦

Fox 9 ♠

Paul's Line of Five (Japanese)

The mythic structure of the Lenormand cards is derived from the playing card suits, numbers, and images. I am not implying here that Johann Kasper Hechtel, back in 1799, or the anonymous inventor of the Coffee Cards, had these mythic patterns in mind when they created their packs. They wouldn't have been in any way conscious of them beyond the fact that they shared a Christian mind-set with most Europeans of the time, but the underlying patterns are there. In any event, if the mythic structure is useful to you, use it. It can provide another layer of interpretation and understanding when you need it, as well as give you a respect for

the greater context in which all of us live. This macrocosmic view of the Lenormand cards upholds and serves the microcosmic view of its everyday usage, just as divination provides a wider context within which predictive reading can operate.

Spread 11: The Four Paths

In every walk of life, Fate, Fortune, Destiny, and Service are our companions. Together they weave the web of our lives. Just as the spider lays down her long, central threads before spiraling round and completing her web, so, too, do we need to be aware of the long threads that connect us to life. The Four Paths Spread is a way of looking at the blueprint or overview of a question. It is more ambitious, for it uses more cards and asks more questions related to the four paths. You can choose to lay your Significator at the center or allow a randomly chosen card to fall there.

Although there are individual questions for each position, you can also read pairs and triplets of cards in each of the long lines of Fortune, Fate, Destiny, and Service. You can also do this for the lines in between these four, which represent a halfway position where we attempt to modify things. Do this spread when you have something that needs a good overview and when you have at least an hour to read it.

The Four Paths Spread Outline

Path of Fortune

Card 2

Card 10

Card 14

Card 3

Card 11

Card 15

**Path of
Destiny**

Card 6

Card 7

Card 1/ Card 18

Card 8

Card 9

**Path of
Service**

Card 16

Card 12

Card 4

Card 17

Card 13

Card 5

Path of Fate

The Four Paths Spread Positions and Their Questions:

1. The Significator/Topic: Where do you stand within the web of the issue?
2. What hinders the issue?
3. What helps it?
4. What necessity must be addressed?
5. What must be faced?
6. How can you manifest the issue?
7. What do you bring to it?
8. How can you serve?
9. How can you share?
10. What distracts you from the issue?
11. What opportunities can you take?

12. What can you rescue from defeat?
13. What still has to be performed?
14. What do you give?
15. What do you gain?
16. What can you bend to your will?
17. What do you struggle with?
18. What resolves everything?

Katharina is completing a three-year survey as part of the research for her master's degree at a UK university. She has been working on it too long to appreciate it now, so she asks, "Show me the impact of the whole survey."

Seven Spades make it the predominant suit showing that this issue is well on the path of Service. Five Diamonds show that Fortune has played a significant part as well. Four Clubs mean there has been minimal struggle to finish it, but in all of seventeen cards, only one Heart emerges here, suggesting that Katharina now has little passion about completing this survey, as well she might after three long years. I've given a very minimal breakdown here for the purposes of demonstration, reading things in forward narration simply, as well as flagging up some of the significant pairs and triplets. You may find further points and nuances. I also recommend reading the lines as Lines of Five.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--|
| 1. What is Katharina's Significator? | Fish: | How does she stand within the web of the |
|--------------------------------------|-------|--|

issue? She has a sense of the survey's worth and value to herself.

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---------|--|
| 2. | What hinders the issue? | Ring: | The survey's criteria and inclusiveness. |
| 3. | What helps it? | Book: | Knowledge and expertise. |
| 4. | What necessity must be addressed? | Sun: | Common accessibility. |
| 5. | What must be faced? | Letter: | Going through the data. |
| 6. | How can you manifest the issue? | Birds: | By oral dissemination. |
| 7. | What do you bring to it? | Garden: | The common touch. |
| 8. | How can you serve it? | Anchor: | Reliably grounded. |
| 9. | How can you share it? | Bear: | Powerfully, maybe by contacting well-connected people. |
| 10. | What distracts you from the issue? | Ship: | Foreign research; needing a holiday. |
| 11. | What opportunities can you take? | Woman: | Space for yourself. |

12.	What can you rescue from defeat?	Rod:	Looking again at the research for errors.
13.	What still has to be performed?	Tower:	Submitting it to the university board.
14.	What do you give?	Mountain:	A mountain of work.
15.	What do you gain?	Snake:	Professional kudos.
16.	What can you bend to your will?	Stars:	The aspirations of this survey.
17.	What do you struggle with?	Scythe:	Cutting it down to size.
18.	What resolves everything?	Moon:	The honor that accrues from her work.

Path of Fortune



10. Ship 10♠



2. Ring A♠



14. Mountain 8♠



11. Woman A♠



3. Book 10♥



15. Snake Q♣



1. Fish K♦



Path of
Destiny

6. Birds 7♦



7. Garden 8♠



8. Anchor 9♠



9. Bear 10♠

Path of
Service



16. Stars 6♥



18. Moon 8♥



12. Rod J♠



17. Scythe J♠



4. Sun A♠



13. Tower 6♠



5. Letter 7♠

Path of Fate

Katharina's Four Paths Spread

(Victorian)

Looking at some pairs and triplets:

Fortune: Ring + Book = educationally inclusive

Destiny: Birds + Garden = the common jargon of the street

Fate: Sun + Letter = documenting daily life

Service: Bear + Anchor = strong foundation

Tower + Anchor + Bear = strongly forging the research

Garden + Fish + Anchor = public abundance grounded

Scythe + Stars + Fish = gathering the aspirations abundantly

Fish + Snake + Mountain = streaming the complexities into a pile

Book + Moon + Sun = knowledge of everyday dreams

Ship + Woman + Fish + Rod + Tower = foreign woman's depths

argued to the university

Katharina soon has to present her research in writing and in an oral defense as part of her master's degree. She still has some last minute details to go through, to ensure that the survey is accessible and yet meets the academic requirements. It also has to be the right length. She would be wise to capitalize on all this work by sharing it with the wider world, perhaps as a book, but also through some other form, like the internet or broadcasting. She has the common touch and her research is well rooted. She can soon look forward to a holiday. What else can you see?

Lay some spreads of your own, or use some you've already done, and read the mythic level. What is revealed as a result?

STUDY 11: COMPLEMENTARY OPPOSITES

In the course of my studies of the Lenormand Universe, quite apart from the mythic structure, I realized that there are very intriguing connections between complementary opposites in the Lenormand sequence. The 36 cards have two different sets of patterns of paired opposites. In set one, cards 1–18 are paired with 19–36. In set two, the cards are paired from opposite ends, 1 + 36, 2 + 35, and so on, revealing very interesting patterns. Some of these pairs have resonance with another pair, like Sun/Moon that pairs with Child/Fox; these are indicated below in bold. Some in set two are more complementary or collusive, as opposed to being direct opposites.

Set One

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

- 1 Rider + 19 Tower = mobile/rigid
- 2 Clover + 20 Garden = personal chance/group opportunity
- 3 Ship + 21 Mountain = overseas/inland
- 4 House + 22 Paths = indoors/outdoors
- 5 Tree + 23 Mice = growth/decay
- 6 Clouds + 24 Heart = head and heart; theory/practice
- 7 Snake + 25 Ring = exclusive/inclusive
- 8 Coffin + 26 Book = hidden/secret

- 9 Bouquet + 27 Letter = considerate deeds/written words
 10 Scythe + 28 **Man** = daring man
 11 Rod + 29 **Woman** = active woman
 12 Birds + 30 Lily = garrulous/discreet
 13 Child + 31 **Sun** = innocent/day
 14 Fox + 32 **Moon** = guilty/night
 15 Bear + 33 Key = force/subtlety
 16 Stars + 34 Fish = highest and deepest/sky and sea
 17 Stork + 35 Anchor = movement/stability
 18 Dog + 36 Cross = help/hindrance

Set Two

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
36	35	34	33	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19

- 18 Dog + 19 Tower = personal friend/public official
 17 Stork + 20 Garden = migrating/gathering
 16 Stars + 21 Mountain = universal/national
 15 Bear + 22 Paths = power/decision
 14 Fox + 23 Mice = thick as thieves
 13 Child + 24 Heart = asexual/romantic
 12 Birds + 25 Ring = pair/couple
 11 Rod + 26 Book = writing/book
 10 Scythe + 27 Letter = disconnection/communication
 9 Bouquet + 28 **Man** = inviting man
 8 Coffin + 29 **Woman** = declining woman

- 7 Snake + 30 Lily = scandalous woman/virtuous man
- 6 Clouds + 31 Sun = overcast/sunny
- 5 Tree + 32 Moon = growth/fame
- 4 House + 33 Key = house and key
- 3 Ship + 34 Fish = trade and commerce
- 2 Clover + 35 Anchor = light/heavy; carefree/serious
- 1 Rider + 36 Cross = invite/command or ordain

Look out for the appearances of these opposite, complementary, and collusive pairs as you lay spreads. They very often reveal strong components of the story or point to internal contradictions, of which the client might be unaware. Here are a couple of examples:

1. Olivia is considering a hike with a more vigorous friend. She asks a yes/no question: "Are my joints up to it?"

Moon 8 ♥ + Fox 9 ♣ + Ship 10 ♠ = One yes + One no + One maybe no = maybe not. Moon + Fox pair as guilty/night suggesting that she will feel some pain when she goes to bed and regret this exertion. A straightforward reading is imagining a tricky journey.

2. Bryn badly wants to attend the rock festival but tickets are in short supply. "How can I get a ticket?" he asks.

Garden 8 ♠ + Clover 6 ♦ + Child J ♠ + Tree 7 ♥ + Stars 6 ♥
 Garden + Clover pair as group opportunity/personal chance, while two red Sixes reveals friendly help. The line translates to: festival opportunity is small, but good

connections may clearly guide. The only court card is J ♠ and this might indicate a friend.

(C) Practice 32: What Opposites Reveal

- Here are a few small spreads for you play with. See which opposite, complementary, and colluding pairs you can find and how these might be relevant to your final interpretation. In the Answer Key I have suggested a couple of possibilities but have not given the full breakdown of the spread, which you can work out for yourself, as your practice is now maturing nicely.
1. Maurice is nervously wondering about his girlfriend's reaction to a silly prank. "Will she forgive me?" (A yes/no question.) Letter 7 ♠ + Cross 6 ♠ + Bouquet Q ♠
 2. Renee's finances have had a downturn. She asks, "How can I manage till my salary comes?"
Scythe J ♦ + Coffin 9 ♦ + Letter 7 ♠ + Man A ♥ + Paths Q ♦
 3. Liam is unemployed but has an interview for a construction job. He asks, "What will make them notice me favorably?"

Garden 8 ♠	Moon 8 ♥	Key 8 ♦
Clouds K ♣	Tower 6 ♠	Bear 10 ♣
Tree 7 ♥	Dog 10 ♥	Rider 9 ♥

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 8

- The mythic structure of the 36 Lenormand is incidental, arising from the playing card suits and numbers, and has its roots in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European mind-set.
- Fate, Fortune, Destiny, and Service are the respective mythic keywords of Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts, and Spades. These four principles are common to all cultures.
- The mythic titles of each card can reveal the archetypal layer of interpretation.
- The 1–36 sequence of the Lenormand cards have two sets of pairings revealing complementary, opposite, or collusive

patterns.

None of the practices in this chapter are traditional or essential, but auxiliary.

Self-Test 8 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What are the archetypal and basic readings of these cards? What new insight springs up between the two for a man considering the consequences of emigration?

Mountain 8 ♠ + Fish K ♦ + Key 9 ♦ + Woman A ♠ + Garden 8 ♠

2. If Child and Heart came up in a spread about the potential nature of a relationship, what might this complementary pair reveal, especially if Dog were part of the line up?
3. If a woman drew Coffin, Paths, and Lily, what kind of sexual relationship might she be in and what might she be about to do?
4. A man draws Clouds K ♠ + Man A ♥ + Bouquet Q ♠ + Ring A ♠ + Birds 7 ♦ in response to a question about a promotion or a possible partnership he is expecting. What are your findings for him? What do the differently colored Aces imply?
5. A woman asks about caring for her dying, elderly uncle. How do the suits and the friction in this spread speak about her approach to her family problems?

Rider 9 ♥ + Mountain 8 ♠ + Lily K ♠ + Stars 6 ♥ + Fox 9 ♠

Also discover any complements/opposites and find a blessing to encourage her.

PART THREE

The Art of the Grand Tableau

The fortuitous disposition of a playing card deck, upright and arranged in four or five lines, is another way to divine the future, not despised by certain ladies from this country.

ANTOINE DE LA BARRE DE BEAUMARCHAIS,

LETTRES SERIEUSES ET BADINES SUR

LES OUVRAGES DES SAVANS ET

SUR D'AUTRES MATIERES

The Piquet Tableau

Beaumarchais' comment above—made in the late 1730s—about fortune-telling in the low countries of Belgium and Holland, reveals that people were already using the piquet style of tableau with playing cards before Etteilla had written his first divination guide to the piquet deck in 1770.¹¹ In her *Les Oracles Sibyllins* of 1816, Mlle. Lenormand describes how she used such a deck to lay out a tableau.

I took a game of piquet, comprising 32 cards. I cut them three times and laid them 8 by 8, taking care to examine the extremities of my tableau. After having picked up from right and from left, I perceived, on the second line, the Jack Diamonds and the 7 Spades reversed; also, the Ace Spades and the 9 Spades, in front of the King of Clubs and Queen Hearts, with 8 Spades; this seemed to me to presage some sorrow.²

The Sibyl of the Salons, as she was known, was not using Lenormand cards, but rather a pack of piquet playing cards here, drawing upon her own understanding of their meanings.

The Piquet Tableau format was the spread most customarily used in the eighteenth century and is still in common use among cartomancers who divine with playing cards. Notice, from Mlle

Lenormand's cards above, that her 32 playing cards were used both upright and reversed. This is something that is never done in Lenormand reading. The majority of paintings from nineteenth century onward of *diseuses* or card readers show the reader and client looking at the ranks of 32 playing cards spread out in rows. You can see some of these on Mary Greer's excellent website.³

I am calling the first of *The Complete Lenormand Oracle Handbook's* three tableaux the "Piquet Tableau" since it is derived from the use of the playing card deck of 32 cards. Our Piquet Tableau is an extension of the historic original. When the Lenormand cards arrived on the scene in 1800 with 36 cards, the tableau changed, such that the four extra cards were conveniently positioned at the bottom of the main tableau in the middle of a fifth line.

In the first few sections of this chapter, we will do some preparation in order to understand how and why a Piquet Tableau is set up. The following is the Piquet Tableau pattern, showing the card positions of the Houses on which a randomly shuffled deck is laid out.

PIQUET TABLEAU OUTLINE SHOWING THE HOUSE POSITIONS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Rider	Clove	Ship	House	Tree	Clouds	Snake	Coffin
B Bouquet	Scythe	Rod	Birds	Child	Fox	Bear	Stars
Stork	Dog			Mountain	Paths	Mice	Heart

C			Tower	Garden				
D	Ring	Book	Letter	Man	Woman	Lily	Sun	Moon
E			Key	Fish	Anchor	Cross		

If you have trouble remembering the order of the Houses, you can make or purchase printed cloths or decks of House cards. These cards are physically much larger than the smaller Lenormand cards laid upon them, and this enables the diviner to see both cards at once (see [here](#)). Refresh your memory and use the mnemonic rhyme [here](#).

Let's take a look at the Piquet Tableau layout for a moment to identify the different parts of it. I've given it a grid reference above, so we can quickly identify where we are looking.

1. Row A is the top and Row D is the bottom of the main part of the tableau.
2. Column 1 reveals the oldest part of the past and Column 8 the furthest part of the future.
3. Row E contains the four cards that are the essence of the reading. They are also often called the fate, destiny, or quintessence cards. Here, we will call them the Essence cards, because they show the essentials or bottom line of the reading.
4. Positions A1 + D8 and A8 + D1 are the Corner Cards, which give us the main story of the tableau in brief.

5. Positions A1–A3 give us the first three cards of the tableau, the forward flow of the story. They can be read as a message or advice about what is happening.

The sense of overwhelming panic that some readers experience when faced with a tableau of this size is understandable, but let me assure you that you are scanning through a landscape of cards for specific features that will make sense of the spread. These features will be your orientation points and help shape your interpretation. Chief of these features, of course, is the Significator, so let's start there.

Significators in Tableau

The standout card that helps you orient a tableau is the Significator, but we first need to look at how we choose this, because there are some options to consider. If you are reading for a male client, you will usually use the Man card to represent him, and for a female client, the Woman card. Since all 36 cards are used in a tableau, of course the other Significator will also appear and is customarily read as representing the client's partner or significant other. But what if you have a client who is gay or lesbian? Here are some suggestions. You could use

The Man and Woman cards supplied, which could still work if one partner has the more dominant male or female nature within the relationship.

The extra Man or Woman cards that are supplied in many

modern Lenormand decks, or even use the appropriate Significator from a second Lenormand deck so that you have two Man or two Woman cards, discarding the unused Significator entirely.

A blank card, by making a card the same size as your deck to create an alternative Man or Woman card of your own with collage or your own drawing.

One of the two cards that most often represent the other man or woman, which are the Rider, who can stand for a personable young man about town, or the Snake, who represents a clever or sophisticated woman.

But what if you have no significant other because you are single or celibate? Use all 36 cards for your tableau as usual, selecting your chosen Significator and take the unassigned Woman or Man card to represent your best friend or confidant of the other gender. Another great option is to view the Man card as a representation of the proactive side of your nature and the Woman card as the sensitive side of your nature.

Some modern decks supply extra cards beyond the extra Man and Woman cards. My advice would be to leave these out entirely until you have learned the art of tableau. If you choose to include them later on, then resize your tableau, organize it differently, and make your own rules based on what you learn here. I personally prefer to use any extra cards as indicators within the main deck. Here, I might shuffle all the cards and extras together and look to

see which cards the extra card falls between to have a greater sense of a specific topic inside of the reading. For example, my own *Enchanted Lenormand Oracle* has an extra card called the Diviner, which is used to create a good question, find wisdom and advice, or as a means of being sensitive to a client's boundaries.⁴

Directional Cards

Way back in chapter 3 we tackled the Crossing the Significator spread where we introduced the concept of four cards surrounding the Significator: one above your head, one below your feet, one behind you, and one before you. In chapter 5 you learned the Portrait Spread, which amplified this theme, bringing the cards surrounding the Significator or topic card to eight. We now use the same concept in a tableau. We read a tableau from the point where the Significator is located within it, considering the eight surrounding cards, and what they might signify. Cards above the Significator's head often speak about what is known or within the client's control, while the cards beneath the Significator's feet point to what is unknown or outside the client's control.

THE DIRECTIONALS AROUND THE SIGNIFICATOR

Conscious Past	Above Your Head	Conscious Future
Behind You	Significator	Before You
Unconscious Past	Below Your Feet	Unconscious Future

Although the Man and Woman cards face different ways, and

you could decide to use that orientation to show you where past and future were situated, it is customary to interpret tableaux in the direction in which we read, with the past to the far left and the future to the far right. The Significator column therefore represents the present. This gives us eight possible directions to consider.

1. Conscious Past: shows the past conscious influence that flows to you.
2. Above your head: shows conscious concerns, motives, plans, thoughts, and worries.
3. Conscious Future: shows the future trajectory of your conscious plans flowing from you.
4. Behind you: shows the past, the trigger, or conditioning.
5. Before you: shows the future, likely outcome, or result.
6. Unconscious Past: shows the past unconscious influence that is motivating you unknowingly.
7. Below your feet: shows how you are rooted, grounded, or any unconscious motivations.
8. Unconscious Future: shows the unconscious trajectory of your decisions and the consequences of your actions that will have influences you cannot yet know.

In a tableau, these simple instructions are your main guidance when it comes to past and future directions. Some lines will extend a long way while others may have no cards in them if the Significator is close to an edge. Let's see how the Significator's

location looks in action and how it affects the tableau.

FINDING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FROM THE SIGNIFICATOR'S POSITION

PAST		PRESENT	FUTURE				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Clouds	Lily	Mountain	Fish	Rod	Anchor	Ship	Man
B Letter	Snake	Woman	Tree	Stars	Coffin	House	Paths
C Bear	Stork	Sun	Ring	Rider	Scythe	Book	Heart
D Key	Dog	Fox	Clover	Birds	Garden	Child	Tower
E		Bouquet	Moon	Cross	Mice		

In this tableau, the client is represented by **Woman**, who is situated in the second line at B3. This means that everything to her left in columns 1 and 2 is the past and everything to her right in columns 4–8 is the future. However, had we laid these cards for a man, you might have to draw again because the **Man** card is in column 8 at A8, which would make everything in columns 1–7 in the past and column 8 would be the present. He would have no future. Most people don't want a reading about the past, of course!

The location of the Significator shows us not only where past, present, and future lie but also where the client is in his or her story. The nearer the top of the tableau the Significator falls, the more scope clients have for awareness in their lives currently. The lower

it falls, the less power they enjoy. The Woman above is doing all right, sitting in row B. She is not at the top of her game, but neither is she feeling deprived. Had she landed in row D, we might say she was very under the weather or even persecuted or burdened, while if she were in row C, she might be struggling to succeed.

In a Piquet Tableau, if the Significator falls in row E among the Essence cards, then we refer to this as being out of tableau. Being out of the main tableau of the first 32 cards would suggest that the client's affairs are subject to larger forces than they can control. You often find this if reading for someone in prison or undergoing a legal decision, someone very sick or very young, or for a person who is in an institution. For instance, read the following tableau for the daughter of a very sick man. As you can see, this tableau was just about viable with the Woman at A7 and with just one column ahead of her for the future, while her father was the last card at E6. I agreed to read, since she needed support to see him through his last illness. He actually died two weeks later, showing how determining a time frame on a tableau can be really helpful before you lay cards down.

A BARELY VIABLE PIQUET TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Dog	Coffin Mice	Paths	Bear	House	Woman	Clover	
B Sun	Scythe Moon	Key	Fish	Cross	Stars	Tree	
	Book	Fox	Mountain Lily	Birds	Clouds	Tower	

C Stork

D Ring Heart Ship Rider Rod Bouquet Child Garden

E Anchor Snake Letter Man

Questions, Topics, and Frequency in Tableaux

In most of the spreads you have done so far there has been a central issue, topic, or question to act as a springboard for the spread, something that the cards could address and answer in their own way. Within a tableau, we have more scope for questioning because we are using all the cards.

It is customary to spread a tableau once in a while, but it is not an everyday spread because you need enough time to consider it properly. I find it takes me about an hour to examine everything in a tableau, though it can take both shorter and longer times, depending on the questions the client has asked.

It is also good to specify a designated time period as part of your question since this conveniently limits the scope of the tableau for a period of effectiveness. We haven't talked much about time and the cards, which we'll examine in greater detail in chapter 12. All spreads cover a finite period of time. They do not stand fixed and unchanging forever. You can appreciate this yourself from your daily draws and from questions you've asked about specific events that are now past. A tableau can be good for up to a year and a few months at most. Before you begin, decide upon the timescale and scope of your issues. Some issues will be current or

in the upcoming weeks or months but they are all included within the tableau.

Because a tableau can reveal information about a number of topics, you can ask more than one question, or look at multiple topic cards in relation to your issues. In addition to a main issue or a general enquiry for the next phase, most people like to see the disposition of their finances (Fish), their love life (Heart), their health (Tree), their children or new beginnings (Child), their home life (House), their work (Moon), and a variety of other concerns. Since all the cards are used in a tableau, you can examine what cards cluster around these topics and how they are in relationship to your Significator. I am happy to look at several of these concerns when I read if there is time to examine the relationship of those topics to the Significator.

Practice 33: Scanning for Topics

- You haven't started to fully read the Piquet Tableau yet, but here is some preparatory practice focusing on topics and Significators. Your job in reading a tableau is to look at the main story and general disposition of a particular time period for a client. Here are a few of the kinds of typical springboards you might work from. You will be working with these case histories further in this chapter, so keep any notes you make now close at hand. Which topic cards might you need to look at in these cases, in addition to the Significator? Some case histories come with a sense of the person. Others you can work out from the context.

1. For a middle-aged man: "I am making many changes in my life and want to get a sense of the next six months. What will I face over this time? I am particularly concerned for the health and well-being of my dog, as I will be traveling a lot on business and she'll have to go into kennels. Will my money support the changes I am making? Will I get my house and job sorted out?"
2. "I want to look at the next three months. How can I best support my daughter during her separation? Can the cards show that? Her mental state is quite fragile. My ex-husband has some money, but will he pitch in and help? I also have a new boyfriend. Will all this trouble drive him away?"
3. "Will I get married this year? We've been living together for a while and I want to know his level of commitment. I also want to holiday in France but it keeps being put off. Will I make it this summer? I have a persistent heart murmur that worries me, though the doctors say it's okay. Is it getting more serious?"
4. For a young man: "I need to move out of my apartment by spring. Will I find a new place easily? My office has been planning a new branch in the north, and I might be up for that post, can you look and see? It's hard to make a decision when I don't know how they'll jump. If I move north, how will my elderly father cope socially?"
5. For a gay man: "My boyfriend is a lot older than me. We run a motorcycle showroom together. I had a recent one-night

stand with another guy and now I'm worried about whether my boyfriend is considering throwing me out as I think he looked at my phone. I need his love and the business, which we built up together. How will it pan out in the next month?"

6. "My multiple sclerosis is getting worse. As a single mother, I'm concerned about how mobile I can be over the next six months. My son is in the last stages of his dance training and depends on me to drive him back and forward to the dance school as there's no public transport from where we live. What are the prospects for me and for him? He's doing so well and I want to be there to support him as long as possible. Will I qualify for government benefits? Will my son get work when he leaves training?"

Spread 12: The Piquet in Full

There are many possible processes for reading a tableau. Here are the main ones to consider:

1. Locate the Significator: if it's in the last column, re-lay the cards. Which line of the tableau is it on? What House is it upon?
2. What do the first three cards say? These give general advice to the client.
3. Read the corners on House positions: 1 + 36 and 9 + 28. This gives the spread's story in brief.

4. Which combinations of cards stand out? Sometimes two or three announce themselves loudly.
5. Look at the cards above, below, behind, and before the client.
6. Read the client's past and future on the same horizontal line as the Significator. Also read the Significator's vertical line in forward narration, as one card upon another, or in pairs.
7. Check diagonals to and from the Significator. Those to the left will be past influences or intentions. Those to the right will be future influences and intentions.
8. Read topic cards of interest to the client and notice on which House they are situated.
9. Read cards that knight and mirror the Significator.
10. Repeat Knighting and Mirroring with any topics of interest. What are the relationships between topics?
11. Read the four Essence cards. These may show something the client well understands or what underlies the spread. Essence cards can also show events coming in the near future.
12. Do any finalization procedures, such as [Counting Round](#). Two others that you will soon learn are [Heart of the Piquet](#) and [Seasonal Selection](#).
13. If you have the time, you can also read the horizontal lines like [Stringing a Necklace](#), one card upon another.

Indira is a Hindu woman who has become a naturalized

American. She is longing to leave the USA where she married and settled fifteen years back. Now divorced, she wants to return to her spiritual homeland in the UK. She is very concerned about how she might do this, since she gave up British citizenship. She has a potential boyfriend who lives and works in Leeds, but he has not been very committed. They speak mostly via Internet. She asks about this situation and wonders: will she be able to return to Britain within the year? If she has to stay, what kind of work can she get that would take her out of the big city into the green countryside, as her health and well-being are impacted badly by the city?



Indira's Piquet Tableau (Daveluy)

1. Location of Significator: Indira is at D3, which is at the bottom of the tableau, showing that she is at her wit's end with this situation and that currently there isn't a lot of wiggle room or personal choice for her. Woman is on the House of the Letter, which speaks to her concern about her passport situation.
2. What do the first three cards say? Tower, Anchor, and Cross indicate that staying in the city is challenging for her.
3. Reading the corners: Tower, Lily, Stork, and Coffin point to a growing sense of isolation in the city and a need for peace. Things need to change and the present conditions must come to an end.
4. What combinations of cards stand out? Top line A4-8 show Sun, Letter, Man, Child, and Stork tell us to look forward to some happy news from a Man about a new move. I also note that Key has landed in the 36th House. This is a very good sign and speaks of certainty in response to her main question, "Will I move back to the UK within the year?"
5. The Portrait cards surrounding the client: Because the Woman is at the bottom of the main tableau, Indira has only 7 cards around her. It is possible to transpose Anchor from the top line for more on transposition in tableaux), but let's stick with what we have for the present. Her aspirations, shown by Stars over her head, are sandwiched between

Clouds and Scythe. The confusion is behind her and a separation is in her future. She is between Bear and Birds, which speaks here of her own mother and other relations. She has relatives helping to support her. Beneath her, Rider is blocked by Mountain. Her forward trajectory is delayed.

6. Client's past, present, and future: The present has Cross, Fox, and Stars laid out vertically above her. The crisis of being in the wrong place is guiding her and even becoming an obsession. Behind, the cards Coffin and Bear point to the end of her resources. The future line in forward narration reads, "Talking about her health and affections with her loving friend."
7. Diagonals to and from the Significator: Clover and Clouds behind Daveluy are about the chance she took to leave her ex-husband. Ahead of her she has Scythe, Book, and Man, referring to making a break and trying to understand the mystery of her lover.
8. Topic cards: Indira wants to return to Britain but her documents will only allow a visit, not a permanent stay. We look at Letter, which is next to Man, at A5 on House of Tree. She needs a passport that makes use of her connection to relatives still living in Britain or else she needs to become the wife of her boyfriend. "But wait," you ask, "what about Ring and Heart?" Unfortunately Ring is a long way before Heart, which is not usually indicative of a committed relationship leading to marriage. Consent has been assumed but yet not

confirmed. Indira wants work in the United States if she cannot return home, so we also look at Moon, which is on House of Scythe. Whatever the job is, it will not be permanent and is likely to be suddenly concluded. There also may be another possibility, as we see below.

9. Knighting cards and Mirroring cards: Woman knights to Ship (foreign travel) and Ship knights to Man. Since Ship can also indicate soul and yearning, Indira is longing to travel to her British boyfriend, and it looks likely, since Man also knights to House. Woman also knights to Scythe, which may give us a special nationality word since Scythe is often indicative of Britain and Ireland, which are cut off from Europe. There could be work for Indira in Britain, but she would need a special visa, so we look at Letter, which is on House of Tree. A visa might be arranged because of her family ties to Britain.

Woman mirrors Cross, Man, and Tree: from her perspective, this says that the man is unlikely to support her. From her boyfriend's perspective, these same cards are speaking to the burden of a woman's well-being upon him. The boyfriend isn't ready for commitment yet, and she needs to be careful not to push too hard for marriage.

10. Topics of interest: The major topics to consider here are Ship for foreign travel, Letter for documents and passports, Mountain for border control or immigration services, Man for boyfriend, Ring for his commitment, Moon

for work, Tree for health. We have considered some of these already. Ship is on House of Birds and knights to Anchor, Clouds, Woman, Paths, and Man. There is a lot of talk about her return but the way is not yet clear between Indira and her boyfriend. Mountain for customs is on House of Fish. While she doesn't have the right documentation yet, it looks like things will move fluidly. Tree is on House of Mountain, suggesting a need to be living in more remote regions. Ring, on House of Stork, knights to both Anchor and Woman, so that Indira is likely to be offered a seasonal kind of contract that might enable her to come and go between the United States and England.

11. The four Essence cards: Rider, Mountain, Bouquet, and Key tell the story of a need to visit the wilds and finding a solution where her skills can be appreciated. This change is important for her health and I see an invitation from a friend or acquaintance, to find the solution to her homecoming in the Knighting of Bouquet (skills) to Dog.
12. Finally I counted round by nine from the Significator to reduce the 36 cards to a final message of 5, always starting the count on the last card chosen. The resultant cards are emboldened and shown below:



Clouds



Stars



Scythe



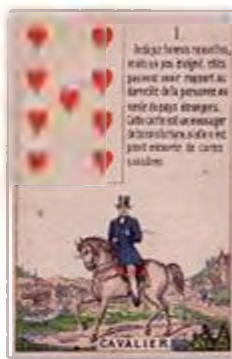
Bear



Woman



Birds



Rider



Mountain

Indira's Portrait cards (Daveluy)

A Tower	Anchor	Cross	Sun	Letter	Man	Child	Stork
B Clover	Moon	Fox	Ship	Book	Rod	Mice	House
C Ring	Clouds	Stars	Scythe	Fish	Paths	Garden	Snake
D Coffin	Bear	Woman	Birds	Tree	Heart	Dog	Lily
E		Rider	Mountain	Bouquet	Key		



Woman A ♠

Bouquet Q ♣

Child J ♡

Mice 7 ♣

Garden 8 ♠

Counting Round Indira's tableau (Daveluy)

The reduced line of the count in forward narration reads, “The woman is given a new beginning in a diminished country environment,” suggesting that she might well end up on the outskirts of another city, which is where her boyfriend currently lives. The outer and inner dynamics (here) give us Bouquet and Tower, saying that her new beginning will be a surprising, institutional post. The totaled pips from the counted Line of Five comes to 39, which can be further reduced in two ways. $3 + 9 = 12$ Birds or $39 - 36 = 3$ Ship. I chose the latter, “May your journey home from exile bring you happiness!”

Practice 34: Piquet Case Histories

1. Choose one of the case histories from here and lay a Piquet Tableau. Complete it, using the topic and Significator cards that you discovered earlier. Good luck!
2. Interpret this Piquet Tableau for Collette, a gay woman, who after a series of unsatisfactory jobs asks, “What direction shall I take? What career is best for me to pursue?” She has lots of skills that could be useful. What do you see at first glance? Break down the tableau into sections and methodically work through it. Note that the Man card here represents her girlfriend. I have given a full breakdown in the key for the actual outcome of this reading.

COLLETTE'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A House	Woman	Man	Dog	Rod	Stars	Birds	Heart
B Anchor	Clover	Ring	Clouds	Tower	Mice	Ship	Bear
C Fox	Tree	Stork	Child	Snake	Cross	Book	Garden
D Rider	Lily	Paths	Sun	Coffin	Bouquet	Fish	Letter
E		Moon	Scythe	Mountain	Key		

A Pair of Piquet Stratagems

There are a variety of procedures for examining a tableau and you will find your own most convenient order from which to interpret.

Most readers look at the main points that we outlined here, but there are other methods that you can include if you need more information or verification. The Heart of the Piquet and Seasonal Selection are steps that you can look at after the main interpretation has been done.

Heart of the Piquet

Heart of the Piquet helps you look at the internal and external elements of the tableau, which can help verify your findings or reveal elements that haven't been made clear. Here you consider the following House positions and their cards in combination. The Heart of the Piquet consists of four cards in the center at House positions 12, 13, 20, and 21.

HEART OF THE PIQUET OUTLINE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
		33	34	35	36		

The four House positions at the Heart of the Piquet respectively reveal:

12 Birds: what is spoken or what people say

13 Child: what is new, beginning, or untested

20 Garden: what is public, witnessed, or understood

21 Mountain: what is delayed, blocked, or unspoken

Now read the Heart of the Piquet in conjunction with the corners and the Essence cards. Read 1 + 32 and 8 + 25 and 33–36 in the usual way, then connect them to those four in the middle. Look at the following combinations incorporating House positioning:

1 + 8 + 12 + 21

25 + 32 + 20 + 8

33 + 34 + 12 + 13

35 + 36 + 20 + 21

Here is an example from the **Piquet Tableau**, for the woman whose father was suddenly taken ill. I've emboldened the cards we are examining:

EXAMINING THE HEART OF THE PIQUET

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Dog	Coffin	Mice	Paths	Bear	House	Woman	Clover
B Sun	Scythe	Moon	Key	Fish	Cross	Star	Tree
C Stork	Book	Fox	Mountain	Lily	Birds	Clouds	Tower
D Ring	Heart	Ship	Rider	Rod	Bouquet	Child	Garden
-	-		Snake		Man	-	-

Key on House of Birds = the talk is about solutions to her father's health

Fish on House of Child = beginning to deal with finances

Mountain on House of Garden = withdrawal from the world

Lily on House of Mountain = ageing father's isolation

Dog + Key = important friends are vital now

Clover + Fish = brief opportunity to deal with finances

Ring + Mountain = withdrawal from the circle of life

Garden + Lily = public peace; father needs a private room now

Anchor + Snake + Key + Fish = maintenance of important life-flow functions becoming complex

Letter + Man + Mountain + Lily = father's mandate is the withdrawal of age.

Heart of the Piquet reveals this dedicated daughter's service to her father and that his own sense of the proximity of his death is clear but unspoken.

Seasonal Selection

Seasonal Selection is when you divide the tableau into the timescale of the question. The Piquet Tableau is divided into four equal quadrants, each of which is assigned an equal portion of the time. So if the timescale for the reading was for the next year, then each quadrant would cover a three-month season. Let's say that

the spread was done for a two-month period, then each of the quarters would be assigned to two weeks each.

SEASONAL SELECTION OUTLINE

First				Third			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Second				Fourth			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33				34	35	36	

I have given just the Heart of the Piquet suggestions here, but you can read the whole tableau if you wish.

MERIOL'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Book	Paths	Ship	Heart	Moon	Birds	Man	Child
B Fish	Mountain	Sun	Garden	Coffin	Tower	Bear	Letter
C Tree	Stars	Rider	Woman	Scythe	Lily	Key	Clover
D Fox	Mice	Snake	Ring	House	Bouquet	Rod	Anchor
E		Clouds	Dog	Stork	Cross		

2. Adrian is finishing his TV script (Book) within a deadline of four weeks, at which point the cast has to go into rehearsal (Rod). He collaborates with other writers for this popular series, each of whom is working from a plotted storyline. The studio heads are continually changing their plan, taking viewing, financial backers, and other factors into account. Chart his progress by reading this Piquet Tableau as a Seasonal Selection. What do each of the four weeks bring him? Make a short summary for each week. If you want to read the whole tableau as well, do so, but only the Seasonal Selection readings are given in the Answer Key.

ADRIAN'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A	Scythe	Paths	Birds	Child	Snake	Stars	Fox	Bear
B	Clover	Cross	Ring	Tree	Tower	Man	House	Moon
C	Anchor	Rider	Key	Ship	Dog	Stork	Book	Fish
D	Heart	Mountain	Mice	Sun	Lily	Coffin	Rod	Letter
E			Bouquet	Garden	Clouds	Woman		

Reading the Cards in Many Ways

Remember particularly that in tableau reading you will be reading the cards in many different ways:

Position within the tableau

Relationship to the Significator or topic card

Mirroring and Knighting

Place in time in terms of past, present, or future

Influence or trajectory in the unfolding sequence using diagonals

Position on a House

Heart of the Piquet and Seasonal Selection

It is really important to appreciate that one card may reveal more than one side of itself within this examination. Do not be afraid to explore and interpret cards in ways that help the client understand the reading in greater depth.

Finally, in order to not be swept away by the flood of so many cards at once, please attend to the way the tide is flowing. The tide is set by the client's question. Follow the tide in order to bring

your client into the safe harbor of your interpretation. You won't always see everything and that's okay, but your practice will soon sharpen up, be assured!

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 9

- A Piquet Tableau is laid out in four rows of eight cards with four essence cards centrally positioned at the bottom.
- A Piquet Tableau can be read generally, or about a major issue. Some auxiliary questions can also be considered by looking at topic cards.
- The Significator's location establishes past, present, and future.
- Reading a Piquet Tableau relies on a series of procedures that reveal the picture in detail.
- Setting a timescale frames the action and effect of the tableau.
- Reducing the 36 cards to five or more by counting round allows a short summary and verification.
- Heart of the Piquet verifies findings and reveals unclear elements.
- Seasonal Selection enables an in-depth examination of the time-scale, cut into equal portions of months or weeks so that progress may be ascertained.
- Heart of the Piquet and Seasonal Selection, and other auxiliary processes, are secondary to reading the story of the cards laid down.

Self-Test 9 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. If you have a gay client, how can you select the appropriate Significator cards for the client and his or her partner?
2. What do the corner cards on a tableau reveal?
3. What questions can the tableau answer and how?
4. What do the Essence cards reveal?
5. What possible interpretation do the following cards on Houses suggest for a man concerned about his personal security and freedom to roam in a foreign land?
 - a) Anchor on House of Tower
 - b) Letter on House of Mountain
 - c) Scythe on House of Ship

The Grand Tableau of Nines

In every field of inquiry considerable periods of time spent in continued observation result in an extraordinary fund of knowledge . . . since repeated observation makes clear both cause and effect, and which signs precede any given event.

CICERO, *DE DIVINATIONE*
(TRANSLATED BY AUTHOR)

Spread 13: The Grand Tableau

The Grand Tableau of Nines is a modern variation of the Piquet Tableau. Many new readers prefer it because of its simplicity. Here the full 36 cards are laid out in four rows of nine cards each, creating an expressive tableau that works very similarly to the Piquet Tableau. These are the House positions:

GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES, SHOWING THE HOUSE POSITIONS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A Rider	Clover	Ship	House	Tree	Clouds	Snake	Coffin	Bouquet
B Scythe	Rod	Birds	Child	Fox	Bear	Stars	Stork	Dog
			Paths	Mice	Heart	Ring	Book	Letter

🏰 Tower Garden Mountair

👤 Man 🌸 Womar Lily ☀️ Sun 🗝️ Moor Key 🐟 Fish 🐟 Anchoi Cross

The Grand Tableau of Nines is different from the Piquet Tableau in that there are no Essence cards, but it still has its own featured cards in column 5, which acts as the spine or trunk of the tableau.

The methods of reading the Grand Tableau of Nines from the location of the Significator is exactly the same as with the Piquet Tableau. Seasonal Selection can also be utilized by dividing the tableau as below. Here the central column becomes like the trunk of a tree with four sets of branches, or quadrants.

SEASONAL SELECTION DIVISIONS IN A GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES

First						Third			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Second						Fourth			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	

Read the four quadrants as the equal portions or branches of the tableau's timescale and read the central trunk of 5, 14, 23, and 32 as the spine or trunk that holds up the reading. These core Houses speak of things that are central to our lives:

5 House of Tree: speaks of health; family; network; growth

- 14 House of Fox: speaks of survival; cunning; street wisdom
- 23 House of Mice: speaks of losses; worries; decay
- 32 House of Moon: speaks of work; career; dreams

Rowley and his girlfriend Nina have decided to live together. He asks about their joint prospects, particularly in terms of work and money in the next three months. I will briefly examine his prospects here as an example.



Rowley's Grand Tableau of Nines (Japanese)

Significator: Rowley is in the first House of Rider. He is setting out as a man about town.

Corners: His luck is complex and unclear.

First three cards: Rowley's success is not assured. He may be a little blinded by his idealism.

Standout combinations: Woman, Ship, Letter, and Ring suggest an overseas contract for Nina. Heart is before Ring, signaling an engagement in the near future. Moon, Cross, and Mountain look like there is a period without work coming up, possibly for Nina rather than Rowley. Clouds and Scythe show that any present confusion is quickly dispersed.

Past, Present, Future: There is no past here, as Rowley is in the first column, so the whole reading is about his future except for his own vertical line of column one, which reads "His workplace bonus is not clear" in forward narration.

The top line: Fox, Sun, and Fish suggest that Rowley's experience of just scraping by is going to pass soon as some financial success will arrive. Paths and Garden point to a decision needed about a social group he's part of. Tree, Lily, and Snake may need him to look into his health insurance and retirement arrangements, which could be complex. I am leaving the other lines for you to read later.

Diagonals: Rowley only has the unconscious consequence of his desires and decisions in this tableau because he is in column 1. This easy-to-read diagonal, which includes Dog, Woman, and Heart, tells us "His friendship with his girlfriend deepens in affection."

Topics: Fish for finance is in the House of House, showing that all the money will be sunk into keeping a home together.

Moon for work is in the House of Stars, showing that Rowley is clearly aspirational and very driven in his ideals.

Knighting: Man knights to only Rod and Rider, which reflects Rowley's athletic gym attendance and body training. Although the couple are near to one another, they do not knight to each other nor do they have cards in common. Bouquet and Rider near Woman suggests that she may have another possible admirer still in the vicinity. Moon for work knights to Paths, Letter, Child, House, and Snake. Paths and Moon often speak of two jobs or diversifying one's work. Moon and Letter on House of Mice suggests poor work practices, so he might need to examine his contract. With Child on House of Key and House on House of Anchor, it looks as if Rowley could well be starting a family and settling down, so he will need to be clever about his work, as Snake on House of Bouquet suggests.

Mirroring: Man is included and closely identified with the corner cards. Fish, Heart, Garden, and Child all mirror *each other*, revealing that in regard to his finances, Rowley is likely to be jovial and sociable in his spending. This also tells us that he is a simple soul who wears his heart on his sleeve.

Other notes: Paths on House of Tree speaks of alternative ways in which this couple can grow; it may also indicate two differing views of family. Book on House of Fox speaks of acquiring education in a cunning and streetwise way. This combination can speak to learning from experience. Letter on

House of Mice speaks of losses, worries, and decay. They must check their paperwork and its clauses especially about this new apartment. Stars on House of Moon tells us that Rowley has idealistic dreams about his work. Tree knights to all the fortunate cards, and so his health will not be a worry in this period.

Counting Round gives us: Man A ♥ + Snake Q ♠ + Cross 6 ♠ + Anchor 9 ♠ + Child J ♠ . This informs us that the Man's difficulties and challenges arise from trying to stabilize this new start. Pips total 41 or 5 Tree. This is a time of growth and his prospects put down roots.

Summary: Rowley's prospects are idealistic and motivated by love. He is a bit of a homebody at heart, which may cramp his ambitions ultimately. This spread shows him learning from life experience and having to work hard. It's possible he and Nina will get married in the autumn when Nina may become pregnant.

🔗 *Practice 36: Grand Tableau of Nines*

1. Read the tableau above from the perspective of his girlfriend, Nina, as if it were her spread. What is the story now?
2. Look at the following Grand Tableau of Nines, which is for Garnet, who works from her home and who has just had a terrible shock concerning her work contract. Her employer has moved the goal posts so that she is unable to fulfill her main task. What is her best way forward from here? What hope can this tableau

bring to her over the next six weeks? (Read this from a start date of January 7, roughly 40 days.) Do a Seasonal Selection from the cards.

GARNET'S GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A Fish	Garder	Rider	Man	Bear	Anchoi	Clouds	Key	Paths
B Womar	Scythe	Mountair	Fox	Child	Book	Lily	Tower	Letter
C Heart	Sun	Clover	Bouque	Tree	Mice	Ship	Birds	Cross
D Snake	Rod	Ring	Stork	Moor	Stars	Coffin	Dog	House

More Tools for the Grand Tableau

Backtracking

Backtracking is when you trace back the linkage of cards upon their Houses in order to see the unacknowledged, or sometimes the obvious, agenda. If Woman lands on House of Dog, check to see where the Dog card has landed. Dog is in the House of Mice, so we see which House the Mice card is in and so forth until you come back to the Significator again. We can see a short back-tracked chain in Rowley's tableau:

BACKTRACKING IN ROWLEY'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A Man	Fox	Sun	Fish	Paths	Garder	Tree	Lily	Snake

B Tower	Dog	Rod	Key	Book	Stork	Moon	Cross	Mountair
C Bouque	Rider	Womar	Ship	Lette	Ring	Anchoi	Mice	Coffin
E Clouds	Scythe	Bear	Hear	Stars	Child	Birds	House	€Clover

Here we have Man on the House of Rider at A1, Rider on House of Garden at C2, Garden on House of Clouds at A6, and Clouds on House of Man at D1. The unspoken agenda here is about Rowley establishing his own opinions and criteria as the cards show him setting out in life in a highly social way, but the peer pressure of his group is confusing him.

Some backtracked chains can be very long indeed. If it goes further back than ten links or so, give it up, unless you have the time and patience to follow the chain right back to the Significator. Backtracking is an elegant tool for shorter chains and is usually very telling, as it shows a cause-and-effect pattern that can reveal much.

Transposition in Tableaux

Transposition is a cunning little ploy you can use when your Significator is at the very edge of a tableau. You merely borrow the cards from the immediate opposite side of the tableau to complete a Portrait style frame to the Significator. Here is Indira's Piquet Tableau again from chapter 9.

SIGNIFICATORS AT THE EDGE IN INDIRA'S PIQUET TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Tower	Anchor	Cross	Sun	Letter	Man	Child	Stork
B Clover	Moon	Fox	Ship	Book	Rod	Mice	House
C Ring	Clouds	Stars	Scythe	Fish	Paths	Garden	Snake
D Coffin	Bear	Woman	Birds	Tree	Heart	Dog	Lily
E		Rider	Mountain	Bouquet	Key		

Indira has no card at E2 to complete her portrait, so we borrow from A2 at the top of the second column to create:

Clouds	Stars	Scythe
Bear	Woman	Birds
Anchor	Rider	Mountain

In Rowley's tableau, the Man is at the top left corner, so we need to do some complex transpositions to give him a full Portrait.

ROWLEY'S GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A Man	Fox	Sun	Fish	Paths	Garden	Tree	Lily	Snake
B Tower	Dog	Rod	Key	Book	Stork	Moon	Cross	Mountain
C Bouquet	Rider	Woman	Ship	Letter	Ring	Anchor	Mice	Coffin
D Clouds	Scythe	Bear	Heart	Stars	Child	Birds	House	Clover

We can complete the Portrait frame by borrowing Snake and Mountain from A9 and B9 and bringing them to the left-hand edge of the tableau. We can also bring in Clover from D9 and Clouds from D1 to place at the top left, with Scythe from D2 to complete this Portrait:

Clover	Clouds	Scythe
Snake	Man	Fox
Mountain	Tower	Dog

Looking in depth at the Portrait cards gives you a reading within a tableau. If you have time to look more closely at it, you can look for what the client may need to focus upon in this moment. Transposition is a matter of taste and fitness and is not obligatory. If the missing cards seem to gnaw at your interpretation, then transpose away, but if it is too fiddly, just ignore this process.

Looking to the End of the Lines

Looking at the ends of the horizontal and vertical lines which lead away from the Significator, you can reveal at a glance what is going on or how things may occur. In the following tableau for Sylvia, whose relationship is on the rocks, we look at the ends of the horizontal and vertical lines for both partners.

SYLVIA'S GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

A	Tower	Woman	Man	Mountain	Coffin	Moor	Key	Book	Fox
B	Snake	Stork	Mice	Cross	Ship	Rod	Paths	Bouquet	Child
C	Lily	Scythe	Dog	Heart	Stars	Fish	Clouds	Letter	House
D	Bear	Sun	Rider	Clover	Birds	Tree	Garden	Anchor	Ring

Woman at A2 has Sun at D2 beneath her and Fox at A9 to her far right. This says it's the wrong happiness. Man at A3 has Rider at D3 below him and he shares Fox with her, indicating deceitful news. This tells us that this couple are wrong for each other, that the Woman's happiness is found elsewhere, as yet unknown (although she does knight Dog, suggesting she should perhaps look to a close friend for love!), and that the Man is telling her lies. Try reading this Grand Tableau of Nines for yourself and see what you find.

The Play between the Cards

You can become skillful at reading the Play Between the Cards when you examine a tableau. By assessing the relationship, proximity, or space that lies between a topic card and the Significator, you can understand what is playing out. For example, between Dog and your Significator, you can see where you stand with a friend, whereas the play between Stork and House might speak about the process of your relocation to a new abode. The dynamic between Ship and the Significator could speak about how your holiday might go and you might want to check the weather (Clouds and Sun) as well.

If you are speaking at a public event or chairing a discussion you might look at Garden for the event and Birds for your speaking. If Tower were over the head of your Significator, it might mean that you are likely to speak officially or even loftily over the heads of your audience so that they might not understand you. This might be something you could modify if you know to be wary of it in advance.

We can see the play between Sylvia's Significator and her happiness above. She is on A2, but Sun for happiness is at D2, buried deeply beneath her. She is currently not happy, clearly. But what do Stork and Scythe have to say, since they lie between Sun and the Significator? They speak of change and severance, which is what Sylvia, on the House of Clover, might take the opportunity to do. She will be happier if she changes the current stalemate between her and her deceitful partner and separates from him.

What about the play between Sylvia and the ending of this relationship? Let's look to Coffin, for endings, at A5. Between Sylvia and Coffin sits Man and Mountain. We know her partner is the obstacle here, but it looks like he is not going to be taking any initiative to do any ending, by the feel of it. What will get the situation moving? Let's look to see where the Ship card is situated. It's just beneath the Coffin on House of Tree at B5, on the House of Fox! We have virtual stop and go signs next to each other. It looks as if the man is going to be undecided, going back and forth a good deal as we see from the proximity of Ship, Rod, and Paths. He might need a sweetener to make a fresh start, with Bouquet

and Child. Sylvia has Stork right beneath her feet, so she knows change is in her grasp, but she hasn't yet acted on it. Getting such an instinctive feel for the play between the cards is what makes your reading deeply nuanced and accurate.

🔗 *Practice 37: Tableau Tools*

1. What is the Backtracking for Sylvia in the tableau above? What is the agenda?
2. What do the Ends of the Lines of Garnet's tableau, from the Woman's and Moon's position, literally say? (Moon is on the bottom line so look to the top for the end of the vertical line!)
3. How would you Transpose Sylvia's tableau to create a portrait frame of eight cards?
4. What is the play between Garnet and her own self-image (Bouquet) during her horrible struggle at work? [Tableau](#).

HISTORICAL RETROSPECTIVES: A TABLEAU FOR MARY MAGDALENE

To expand the Grand Tableau of Nines, I invite you to come and play a game of historical retrospectives as a practice, with no sense of disrespect, only a spirit of enquiry. Reading for an unknown client can be very daunting initially, although you will find your way round if you read methodically. The practice of using historical retrospectives enables you to work with a subject from history where a certain amount of knowledge will already be yours, and yet there will be aspects that you cannot know. This is an

intriguing practice that means you can read for individuals long dead, without harming anyone, whether your answers are accurate or not!

As an example of a historical topic about which you may know at least a little, here's a tableau for Mary Magdalene that we can assess retrospectively from our own knowledge of the outcomes. Following the translation of the Gnostic texts discovered at Nag Hammadi in Egypt in 1945, it is clear that in the early centuries of Christianity's formation Mary Magdalene played a much more prominent role in the early church than the canonical texts of the Bible reveal.¹ The mystery of why such a great disparity has arisen over the centuries is a matter for study and conjecture, but there is clear evidence that Mary of Magdala was an important figure whose own story was conflated to the Woman Taken in Adultery.²

Gnostic texts show her talking intimately with Jesus and sharing his revelations. She is depicted teaching inspirationally and is clearly Jesus's chief disciple. Yet it was Peter, not she, who became the head of the Church. In the Gnostic texts, Peter is often antagonistic and jealous of Mary, who is shown to be a visionary. As a student of Gnosticism, I made this tableau for Mary Magdalene asking, "What was the true nature of her role? What happened during the founding of Christianity?"

The cards below are from the *Lenormand Revolution*. In this tableau, I assigned the following cards to these individuals: Mary Magdalene = Woman, Jesus = Man, Peter = Rider, John = Dog. I've not totally unpacked this tableau, just highlighted some

possibilities. Read it for yourself and see what you find.

We see that Woman and Man are in adjoining columns at A4 and D3, and that Mary is blocked in by Book, Clouds, and Mountain. The secret is muddled and blocked, although she has both Dog and Bear on the diagonals, meaning “a friend to the feminine.” The first three cards say there is guidance about the old secret. Corners say guidance about the beginning and authority for the foundation (of Christianity).

The central fifth column indicates blocking the feminine by Peter’s rhetoric. Mary is in the House of House, Jesus is in the House of Lily, Peter is in the House of Mice, and John is in the House of Birds. Mary is part of the family of disciples, while Jesus is the peacemaker. Peter is one of those for whom the glass is half empty, and John is the one who speaks about Jesus and Mary as their friend.



Mary Magdalene's Grand Tableau of Nine (Revolution)

Mary's vertical column reads as "woman's glory is clouded in the gospel." Jesus's column tells us that "the secret friendship is changed with the Man." Mary and Jesus both knight to two cards: Birds and Rider. This points to the conflict between the oral tradition versus the news brought by Peter.

The Heart is part of a threesome of Heart, Birds, and Dog, suggesting that Mary and Jesus enjoyed an affectionate friendship linked by conversation. Heart also knights to Book, Stork, and Ring, pointing to a secret change of connection. Ring is part of another threesome of Anchor, Ring, and Man, or maintaining the bond with Jesus, which fits Mary's role as the financier of the

disciples along with many other women. Ring knights to Heart, Dog, and Sun for a loving friendship bringing happiness. We note that the Child is a long way off from either Mary or Jesus, although it is in the same line as Jesus. The contentious legend of them having a child together is a medieval legend and not borne out in the Gnostic texts.

Mary's diagonals are most interesting. The one leading to her from the past is Anchor, Fox, and Dog, pointing to stability and vigilance in her friendship. The one leading from her to her future says what happened to her. Bear, Cross, and Snake tells us that the strong feminine met an insurmountable challenge where Magdalene was turned into the other woman or the whore, as we see by her later association with the Woman Taken in Adultery.

Going onto the foundation of Christianity itself, we see that Ring, Stork, and Letter are around Jesus, meaning that the contract changes by his mandate, which is the Gospel message. Jesus and John are in the same column, and it is John who records the new mandate or commandment to love one another. However, it is Peter, not John or Mary, who heads up the church subsequently. Peter knights to Mary, John, Jesus, Snake, Moon, and Mice. So we can say Peter is known to the main figures of Christianity and betrays and belittles her reputation.

If we take Letter as Gospel, we see that the Sun is above it making it happy news, which is a literal for gospel. Letter is between Jesus and Rod, meaning Jesus's news is persuasive. Letter knights to Fox, Dog, Bear, and Cross and is saying the Gospel is for sinners,

friends, women, and for those suffering tribulation. The card of Stork over Jesus mirrors House, which gives us the literal for resurrection of the body. I also see the four cards of Tower, Snake, Paths, and Child, which say the institution has complicated the approaches of the simple.

Cross is the sign for religion and here stands for Christianity itself. Cross is under Coffin and over Tower, making a threesome saying that the death of Jesus creates an institutionalized faith. The Knighting of Cross with Mountain, Clouds, Letter, Paths, Bouquet, and Garden also gives us a succinct history of Christianity: this faith was persecuted and hidden but the Gospel spread to many places, becoming a gift to the whole world.

The one who was most active in promoting Christianity to the status of a state religion was Constantine III. He was converted at the Battle of Milvian Bridge where he had a vision of the Chi-Rho, a sign that spelled the first letters of Christ's name, in the sun and heard the words *In hoc signo vinces* or "conquer in this sign." He ordered that this sign be put on the banners of his host and did indeed win the battle. The words Chi-Rho are actually originally assigned to the cult of the Unconquered Sun or *Sol Invictis*, the god of soldiers, for Constantine was a syncretist first, but he was finally baptized on his deathbed. And in this tableau, we see that same Sun shining over the Letter of the Gospel!

Finally, I will point out the cards Mirroring Mary: Letter, Mice, and Tower tell us that Mary of Magdala's gospel message was lost for a long time, but we have it now. (Note that Magdala means

“tower.” She is Mary of the Tower!) My sense here is that what was a loss for Mary Magdalene was also a loss for Christianity, although nothing can take away from the fact that she was the first witness to the resurrection of Jesus, as recorded by the evangelists Matthew, Mark, and John. What else do you see from this tableau?

🕒 *Practice 38: Uncovering the Mystery*

- In order to get your retrospective Grand Tableau of Nines up and running, think of an intriguing historical mystery as the basis for your own interpretation. Will you discover who really killed the Princes in the Tower, the reason Easter Island was abandoned, what befell the Roanoke settlers of seventeenth-century Virginia, or who or what was the Mothman? Who or what will you read for? Assign specific Significators or topic cards before you lay your tableau, so that you have orientation points to work from.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 10

- The Grand Tableau of Nines consists of four rows of nine cards.
- The central fifth column reveals the spine or trunk of the reading upon Houses 5, 14, 23, and 32.
- Transposition borrows cards from the opposite edge in order to frame any Significator at the edge with a Portrait of eight cards around it.

Backtracking from the Significator's House position in the spread to the position of card of that House, and so on, reveals the unspoken or unacknowledged agenda.

- Looking to the vertical and horizontal ends of the lines on which the Significator or topic appear can reveal radical action to be taken or an issue's outcome.
- The play between two cards in a tableau can reveal the action to be taken or the nature of how they relate or fail to relate.

Self-Test 10 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. Read the Backtracking on Indira's **Piquet Tableau**. What is the agenda?
2. How do you work out the Seasonal Selection for a Grand Tableau of Nines?
3. How can a historical retrospective tableau aid interpretation?
4. What is the play between the cards of Woman at A4 and Cross at C6 in the **Mary Magdalene tableau**?
5. From the ends of the lines, what do you see for Mary at A4 and Jesus at D3, and for Peter at C5 and John at B3?

Near and Far Method

Expanding Your Style

An art that has life does not restore the works of the past. It continues them.

AUGUSTE RODIN

NEAR AND FAR METHOD

Because Lenormand cards have been used independently in different countries over the last two hundred years, many variations have arisen in methods of reading. But the original method of reading Lenormand cards was the technique called “Near and Far” or “distance method.”

Near and Far is a method of reading small spreads and larger tableaux by a completely different set of criteria. It is from these that the common meanings found in this book and elsewhere have developed. Each card is read according to whether it is nearer or further from the Significator or topic card. So let's say I drew Man + Tree; we can see that Tree is right next to the Significator and so we read it by a near meaning of “guard your health.” However, should Tree appear five positions away from Man in a tableau, then its far meaning is simply “good health.”

Reading the cards by the Near and Far criteria, which are given below, is a completely different way of interpretation. If you intend to use Near and Far, you will have to learn these meanings separately. Some people use Near and Far as a primary mode by which to interpret, while others blend it with the keyword method used throughout this book. I include the method here because it is largely from the context of Near and Far meanings that the wider array of keywords from modern Lenormand reading have arisen. For the purposes of practice in this chapter, we are going to look at Near and Far as the chief method of interpreting, although we will also note a few standout features of card combinations along the way and interpret some cards by using the main keywords with which you are familiar.

STUDY 12: TRANSLATIONS FROM NEAR AND FAR

These Near and Far meanings are taken from the Belgian *Daveluy Lenormand*, also called *Le Petit Jeu*, of the mid-nineteenth century. Variations of these meanings appear in most mid- to late-nineteenth century Lenormand decks that come with a leaflet. These meanings are actually printed upon the Daveluy cards themselves, in French, as you can see where these cards are used throughout this book.¹ The *Jeu Lenormand* cards by Cartamundi are a modern version that still bears similar inscriptions but in the form of a verse.²

These Near and Far meanings are actually the earliest traditional divinatory meanings we possess in textual form. While there

are brief divinatory suggestions accompanying the *Game of Hope* cards, which was chiefly intended as a family board game, the only earlier source of divinatory meanings are the Coffee Cards.³ From these coffee ground reading instructions we can understand how the Near and Far meanings developed. For example, the *Universal Fortuneteller* (a later edition of the same instructions) tells us that, if a Lily-shaped emblem appears in the coffee grounds at the top or middle of the cup, the client will have a virtuous spouse, but if the emblem appears at the cup's bottom, then the spouse will not be faithful.⁴ This transfers exactly to the Lenormand cards where Lily above the Significator's head is a sign of virtue but beneath it is the reverse.

Near and Far meanings often feel very similar to the keywords of chapter 2. We can see that Bouquet offers the same pleasures, for example, while some cards, like House, have a very different sense. In Near and Far, House is about prosperity in business rather than the home and domestic matters. It takes a little while to get used to these primary differences, which then differ even further depending on whether they are near or far from the Significator.

There are two recurrent expressions within Near and Far meanings that we need to note: "clouds" and "many trees." The phrase being surrounded by clouds means that a card is in proximity to one or more of the gloomy, challenging, or negative cards: Clouds, Coffin, Snake, Scythe, Rod, Fox, Mountain, Mice, and Cross, which we examined in chapter 3. It doesn't only refer to the Clouds card.

Many trees are mentioned in the Tree definition below, and these refer to a card's proximity to several cards that have trees or greenery in their imagery, not merely the Tree card. So if the Tree is near the Garden, House, Sun, or Paths, which often show trees in their images, then health will be quickly restored or what is worrisome is merely a false alarm.

You are duly warned that the meanings that follow are from a midnineteenth-century oracle that doesn't beat around the bush. These meanings deal very directly with happiness and unhappiness, illness and misfortune, and enemies as well as friends. If this level of prediction spooks you, then just leave it alone. In the twenty-first century, we are not used to having interpretations this brutally clear!

1 Rider 9 Hearts

Near brings good news. Far tells of news about the client's home or from abroad. This card brings good fortune if it's not completely surrounded by malignant cards.

2 Clover 6 Diamonds

A talisman of happiness, but when it is surrounded by clouds it heralds much sadness. If this card is near the Significator, the querent's unhappiness will not be of long duration and the situation will end happily.

3 Ship 10 Spades

Near speaks of a voyage. Far means riches through trade or inheritance.

4 House King Hearts

Signifies prosperity in business. Even though the client's present circumstances might be unhappy, they can expect a better future. If this card is in the middle of the tableau, beneath the Significator, it's a warning to be cautious.

5 Tree 7 Hearts

Far from the Significator it is a sign of health. Many trees together leaves little doubt about the fulfillment of hopes or of a brilliant fortune to come. (*The Daveluy Lenormand's* near meaning of fulfillment of hopes is not consistent in other descriptions of this card from the period.) When Tree is near it signifies a need to guard your health.

6 Clouds King Clubs

When the bright side is turned toward the Significator, this is a happy sign, but if the dark side is next to it, some inconvenience will turn up.

7 Snake Queen Clubs

This is the sign of unhappiness, which is more or less likely depending on whether the card is near or far from the Significator. However, it always leads in the end to hypocrisy, betrayal, or loss.

8 Coffin 9 Diamonds

Near can indicate more serious illness, death, or loss of fortune. Far is less dangerous, bringing minor illness or annoyances.

9 Bouquet Queen Spades

Signifies lots of happiness in all your enterprises.

10 Scythe Jack Diamonds

Heralds a great danger but this can be avoided when the Significator is surrounded by positive cards.

11 Rod Jack Clubs

Signifies family upsets, domestic disappointments, arguments between spouses, fever, or a long illness.

12 Birds 7 Diamonds

Near, Birds signifies the pains you will have to endure, albeit of a short duration. Far from the Significator this card is the sign of a happy journey.

13 Child Jack Spades

This is the sign that you have nothing but good connections, and are full of kindness toward those around you.

14 Fox 9 Clubs

If this card is near, beware of those people who surround you, because one of them is intending to deceive. If it is far, there is no danger.

15 Bear 10 Clubs

Near points to happiness; far warns to beware of envious people.

16 Stars 6 Hearts

Confirms happiness in all enterprises, but if Stars is surrounded by clouds it indicates a long succession of misfortunes.

17 Stork Queen Hearts

Near to the Significator, it means a change of your present

abode. At a distance it indicates that this change is delayed.

18 Dog 10 Hearts

Very close it ensures a faithful friendship, further away it means treachery. Surrounded by clouds Dog warns us not to rely upon those who call themselves our friends.

19 Tower 6 Spades

Near, it announces a long and happy old age, but far and/or surrounded by clouds it heralds an illness or even, according to the circumstances, death.

20 Garden 8 Spades

Announces a good, large social event in which you'll partake. Very close it also confirms a steady friendship, but far off it's the sign of a false friend.

21 Mountain 8 Clubs

Near to the Significator, we may suspect a powerful enemy, but when further away we are able to rely upon strong friends.

22 Paths Queen Diamonds

Surrounded by clouds, this is a sign of misfortune, but without clouds and far from the Significator there are means by which to escape from danger.

23 Mice Clubs

Signifies theft; if it is near you will find the lost object and if it is far, the loss is irretrievable.

24 Heart Jack Hearts

Sign of joy, happiness, and harmony

25 Ring Ace Clubs

To the right of the Significator, it announces a happy marriage with a bright dowry; but further off or to the left, it heralds the breaking of an engagement or the separation of two lovers.

26 Book 10 Diamonds

Communicates a secret; its position will show what it concerns. Act with caution.

27 Letter 7 Spades

Near and without clouds, it marks a happiness that approaches with some pleasant news coming from afar, but if there are many clouds in the neighborhood of the Significator, expect plenty of disappointments.

28 Man Ace Hearts

The Significator reveals the happiness or misfortune of the person who is consulting.

29 Woman Ace Spades

The Significator; everything depends upon her position in the tableau, regardless of the ingenuity and interpretations of the one reading the cards.

30 Lily King Spades

Announces a happy life, but if surrounded by clouds indicates family disappointments. If this card is above the Significator, it's a sign of virtue. Below, this puts in doubt the person's good qualities.

31 Sun Ace Diamonds

When close, its rays illuminate, causing happiness to flower, but when distant, it dampens, discouraging all enterprises and

preparing the approach of disasters.

32 Moon 8 Hearts

This is the sign of great glory if this card is found next to the Significator, but adversely, if it is far away, it announces misfortune.

33 Key 8 Diamonds

Very close it announces the certain success of an affair, but far off it indicates the opposite.

34 Fish King Diamonds

Near, making one's fortune by sea, and a sequence of happy business affairs, but if it is far off there are bleak omens that will upset even the best projects.

35 Anchor 9 Spades

This is the sign of a happy business on the sea, of a great advantage in commerce and in faithful love; but when far off it indicates a complete misjudgment and love becomes trivialized.

36 Cross 6 Clubs

This is always a bad omen, however if it is very near to the Significator, it is possible that bad luck will not long endure.

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

Using the Near and Far meanings alone can sometimes seem less eloquent than using the keywords. Since the vocabulary of the meanings is less flexible, you sometimes end up with an array of unhappinesses and misfortunes or a clump of friends and

enemies. For example, when Mountain is near, it means a powerful enemy. This can also indicate an opponent, but this might indicate a general opposition to your plans. Remember to check the play between the cards to fine-tune your reading as I did here. Again, I remind you that these meanings are from “the little white book” of a previous century. My task here has been to transmit what we have received from the originating century of this oracle, as there is so little preserved in writing. Here are a couple of smaller spreads to show Near and Far at work.

Dorothy asks about her prospects of finding work as a dental assistant after graduating from college.



Bouquet



Anchor



Rod

Dorothy's Near and Far reading (Enchanted)

Using the Near and Far meanings, we can see that:

Bouquet = happiness in all your enterprises

Anchor = advantageous business

Rod = family upsets; arguments between partners; fever

The general sense of these meanings gives us the answer that Dorothy will indeed get the work she seeks, but there is something about the work that will cause an argument.

If we read these same cards from the keywords you learned in chapter 2, then we might say that your skills (Bouquet) find steady (Anchor) and repeated (Rod) employment. The answer is largely the same: Dorothy will be employed after she graduates. However, with Near and Far, we have the sense that she might have a run-in with her partner about this work. Perhaps this arises from the hours she works or the distance she has to travel? We would need to lay more cards to establish this. But you can see that the Near and Far meanings have their own way of working. Let's look at another example.

Maurice is a twenty-three-year old who has a one-man comedy show opening at the Edinburgh fringe festival. How will it be received?

Again, we read the Near and Far meanings, this time taking the center card as the focused topic. In this line, Clouds and Bear are far cards and Fox and Lily are near.



Clouds R



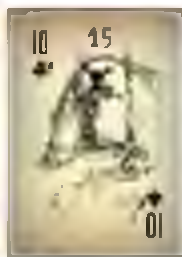
Fox



Child



Lily



Bear

Maurice's Near and Far reading (Palimpsest)

Child (Jack Spades) as Significator shows that Maurice is a well-connected, good-natured, and agreeable fellow. Near him is Fox, showing that a deceiver is near, while Lily announces a happy life. Since Lily is a court card, we might consider it as an older man. This makes a mirror pair with Fox pointing to a deceiving older man. Maurice has drawn Clouds with the dark side toward him unfortunately, so there is some inconvenience that is overshadowing his show. We look to Bear to see what this is and find that there are envious people. Reading the line straight through tells us that some deceiving person overshadows the show. The show and Maurice's good nature are envied by an older man. So in answer to the question, we can say that a critical review is likely to be superior and derogatory in tone.

Again, I contrast this Near and Far reading with one based on the keywords of chapter 2. Read straight, the Line of Five seems to say, "The show is overcast (Clouds) and wrong-footed (Fox) by a blunder (Child); an experienced critic (Lily) is overwhelming (Bear) in his report."

Now, the general tenor of both readings is similar, but let's consider the play between the cards. We have Child + Lily together,

giving us a play between simplicity and experience, or old and young. This tells us that there is a tension between the comedy show's optimal audience of young people and an older, jaded critic (Lily) of some power (Bear). Clouds R and Fox together are a tough duo. They create friction, being two Clubs together, and so exacerbate the situation anyway. They challenge us as they manipulate the ambiguities. However, this combination exactly expresses Maurice's brand of risqué humor and disingenuous outspokenness that is precisely what his show offers. So we could modify the interpretation to take this into account by saying, "The show manipulates the ambiguities in a naive way which appeals mainly to the young. An older critic feels superior." We also see from the pip multiples that there are two black Kings in this line, which translates directly as "success in a law case." Since this is a comedy show and not a law case, it looks as if Maurice's stand-up routine will hold its own, since he is a fast-talking solo artist.

As we can see from these two examples, you can choose to read just from the Near and Far meanings or else read from the keywords that have developed from those original meanings. Like me, I expect you will find a way of fusing both by taking into account the play between the cards.

Although Near and Far is most often used in tableaux, especially the Piquet Tableau, it can also be utilized in smaller spreads. You have already done one or two of these, like the Four Paths Spread in chapter 8, but I failed to mention that they were Near or Far style spreads. The cards that are further away from the center

are the far cards and the cards that touch the center card are the near ones. Let's look at these traditional Near and Far layouts in some detail and then try some more spreads.

Spread 14: The Near and Far Crossroads

This spread is a means of practicing your Near and Far interpretation.

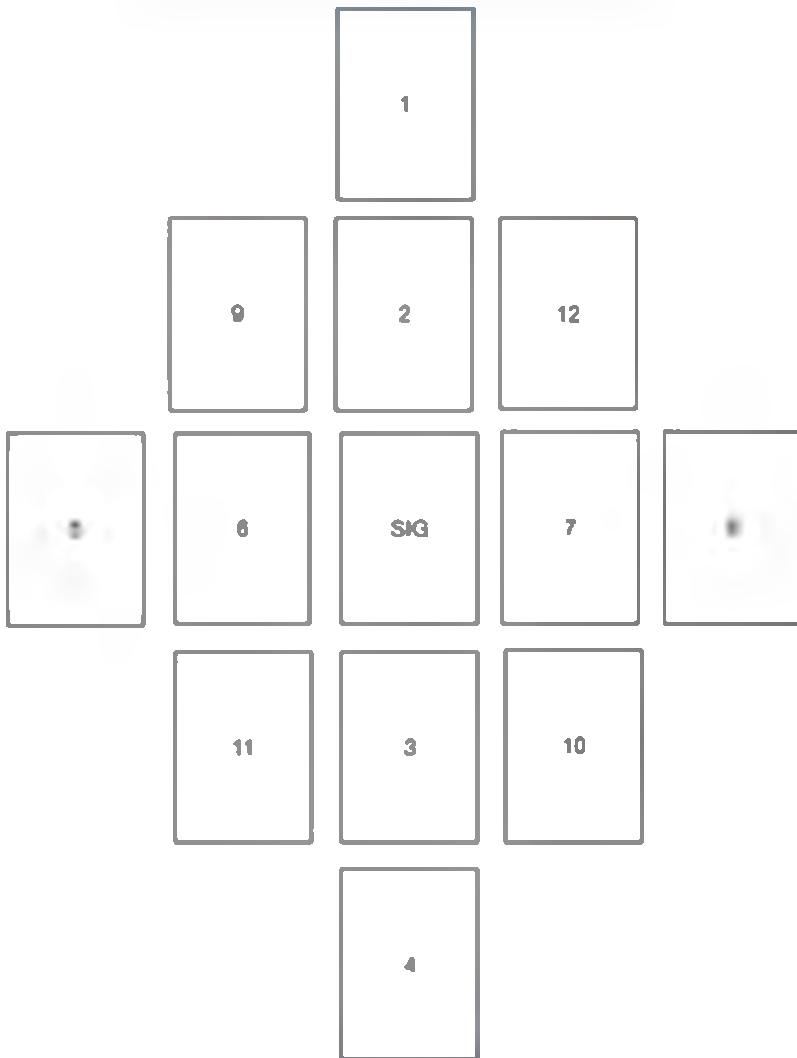
1. Choose whether you preselect a Significator or topic card. If you choose to have one randomly fall in the center then it will be the first card you lay down at the center, which we can number as placement 0.
2. Read cards 1 + 2, 3 + 4, 5 + 6, and 7 + 8 as the near cards in pairs.
3. Read 9 + 10 and 11 + 12 as far pairs.

1 + 2 are above your head = thoughts or beliefs about the question

3 + 4 are under your feet = basis of the situation or your stance on the question

5 + 6 are behind you = the past, motivation, or trigger point for question

The Near and Far Crossroads Layout



7 + 8 are before you = the future or trajectory of the question

9 = past influence

10 = where that influence might lead

11 = an unconscious motivation that triggers the future

12 = the future manifestation

There are also many internal ways of combining the cards that you can do optionally.

I drew the following cards for a spread about Jackie's general prospects in the next few weeks. She is currently staying in her relative's house rather unhappily and wants to move on.

Woman was preselected as the Significator

Rod + Bouquet = Happiness upset by domestic disappointments is on Jackie's mind

Child + Clover = This unhappiness is of short duration, as her well-disposed character doesn't admit arguments for long

Lily + Snake = Family disappointments and some unhappiness mar the past

Stork + Mountain = A house move is ahead as well as the influence of an enemy or opposition that might try to block it

Tower + Tree = An illness passes and health is restored

Paths + Heart = Looking for a mean of escape, she finds joy and harmony

We can see immediately that there are two rather unpleasant cards near the Woman card, Snake and Mountain. The play between these cards gives me the sense that a difficult family member is acting as a drag on Jackie's prospects. Child and Clover is a combination that creates the sense of innocence and being care-free, which is at odds with the Rod and Bouquet over Jackie's head, where arguments conflict with happiness. The far cards actually show more of their helpful meanings in this reading. Jackie has

been undergoing some unpleasantness at home with older relatives (Lily and Snake are understood here as court card Signifiers, standing in for her relatives), which has caused illness. Despite their opposition, Jackie will move out and be restored to health and happiness again in her own abode.

*Facing page: Jackie's general prospects, using the
Near and Far Crossroads Spread (Stralsunder)*



1. Rod



9. Tower



2. Bouquet



12. Heart



5. Lily



6. Snake



WOMAN



7. Stork



8. Mountain



11. Paths



3. Child



5. Tree



4. Clover

🔮 Practice 39: Near and Far in Smaller Spreads

Read these spreads with the Near and Far method and give a

summary of your findings.

1. Katie is waiting for an important package. Where is it? What can she expect? (Snake and Ship are the far cards.) Snake + Mountain + Fish + Stork + Ship
2. Brad asks, "Does she really love me?" (Both cards are near.) Key + Heart + Child
3. Robbie is going through a difficult time at work. What are his prospects of improvement in this Near and Far Cross-roads Spread? What should he look out for? The Significator of Man was chosen. (9, 10, 11, and 12 are far cards.)

		1. Moon		
	9. Heart	2. Rider	12. Cross	
5. Scythe	6. Sun	MAN	7. Clouds	8. Mice
	11. House	3. Mountain	10. Ring	
		4. Tree		

Spread 15: Near and Far Tableau

In a Near and Far Tableau it is important to look very intently at the proximity of the challenging cards to the Significator or topic card, which is why learning whether a card is fortunate, neutral, or challenging is so necessary (see here). In tableaux, the aspect of the Clouds card is especially important. Do the dark clouds face the Significator or is he faced by the lighter clouds? The cards that are

far away have different meanings than if they were closer. If Tree is far from a Significator it speaks of health, but if it is close by then it can signify fulfillment of hopes. It often can mean ill health, especially if there are unfortunate cards nearby.

Although it is customary to use Near and Far with a Piquet Tableau, you can also use it with a Grand Tableau of Nines, as it works in the same way. Think of the Significator card as the center of a target: the cards touching the Significator are very hot or active, the near cards are influenced by touching cards, the midway cards by the near cards: the midway cards can be influenced by the far cards, depending on how negative or positive they are.

Let's look at some near cards in this tableau looking at the health of a pet. Dog is chosen to represent pet in this instance, while the Man and Woman cards represent his guardians. Near cards can complete a Portrait frame around the Significator, which is partially why we have practiced this layout in other chapters.

NEAR AND FAR TABLEAU: NEAR CARDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Garden	Rod	Letter	Mountain	Snake	Cross	Fish	Heart
B Bouquet	Stars	Child	Book	Paths	Fox	Tower	Tree
C Clover	Stork	Clouds	House	Key	Anchor	Ship	Bear
D Birds	Moon	Rider	Ring	Lily	DOG	Mice	Man
E		Sun	Woman	Coffin	Scythe		

Here are the midway cards. They are not touching the Significator, but they surround it in the next rank of cards:

NEAR AND FAR TABLEAU: MIDWAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Garden	Rod	Letter	Mountain	Snake	Cross	Fish	Heart
B Bouquet	Stars	Child	Book	Paths	Fox	Tower	Tree
C Clover	Stork	Clouds	House	Key	Anchor	Ship	Bear
D Birds	Moon	Rider	Ring	Lily	DOG	Mice	Man
E		Sun	Woman	Coffin	Scythe		

Here are the far cards, which are usually five or more spaces away from the Significator. There are usually four to seven, unless the Significator is in a corner:

NEAR AND FAR TABLEAU: FAR CARDS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Garden	Rod	Letter	Mountain	Snake	Cross	Fish	Heart
B Bouquet	Stars	Child	Book	Paths	Fox	Tower	Tree
C Clover	Stork	Clouds	House	Key	Anchor	Ship	Bear
D Birds	Moon	Rider	Ring	Lily	DOG	Mice	Man
E		Sun	Woman	Coffin	Scythe		

Had the Significator been the Woman at E4, then the far cards

would have been A1–2 and A7–8 in the opposite corners. Had we been reading for the centrally located (at C5) topic of House, we would count the corner cards as the far cards. Had we been reading for the Man in D8, then his far cards would be all the cards in column 1. (Although remember we would have to recast for a man in this case, since we don't usually read tableaux when Significators fall into the last column and therefore show no future!)

Reading Near and Far in a Grand Tableau, you follow the usual procedures of finding the Significator's position and House, the corners, the first three cards, and the standout combinations as usual. The past, present, and future positions tend not to be read as often in Near and Far, though you can still do a Seasonal Selection if you wish toward the end of the interpretation if you want to break down the tableau into equal time periods. Read the Essence cards and make any conclusions or blessings as usual. Think of the cards as rippling out from the Significator and read them in bands.

Now give it a go, keeping all that you just learned in mind. We are reading for the health prospects of Pushkin, a cat who has to go to the vet very suddenly. Will he pull through in the next week? What treatment might he need to have?

Dog is at D6, at the foot of the main tableau on the House of Man, showing Pushkin's health is dependent upon a man, his caretaker. Tree for health is on the House of Stars, which reveals that we can very plainly follow the guiding trajectory of his symptoms. Tree is midway, as is Fox. Looking at this pair with Coffin

and Scythe, we see that there is serious illness, danger, and that there is something about the condition that is deceptive. The dark side of the Clouds (on House of Tower) are also facing Pushkin. Next to Clouds is House on House of Garden, showing that this illness is going to require institutionalization. The corners say that the community man (vet) talks about the pet's heart. The first three cards indicate that repeated outdoor access sends a message: the cat's condition is related to, or resultant from, being outside.

The cat's near cards are Key, Anchor, Ship, Lily, Mice, and Coffin. Key, Anchor, and Ship gives us certainty about his being loved and of a trip. Lily above Coffin gives us a family disappointment while Mice speaks of a loss that might be made up in some way. Scythe beneath Dog signifies a great danger, and with Coffin and Mice nearby, it is necessary to take the cat's condition seriously.

The midway cards are Woman, Ring, House, Book, Paths, Fox, Tower, Tree, Bear, and Man. We would expect both Woman and Man to be near him as his owners, and it is nice to see that they begin and end this sequence. Ring gives us a separation from the House so that the mystery (Book) can be examined and establish a way out (Paths). This deceptive (Fox) problem standing in the way of long life is a systemic one (Tree) and affects his whole body (Bear).

The far cards are all in column 1 and none of them are particularly challenging: Garden, Bouquet, Clover, and Birds. This gives us a false friend, a happy enterprise, some sadness, and a happy

journey. Pushkin has to go away and be treated for a short time. The false friend may be indicating some infection or parasite that is causing his illness.

The in-between cards that don't fit into any of the above categories are largely in columns 2 and 3, and along the top row at A4–8. Rod + Letter talks of repeated prescriptions, Stork + Clouds says a change in breathing, which is one of the cat's problems. Mountain, Snake, and Cross sit at the top together, saying blockages and complications create crisis. With Sun, Woman, Coffin, and Scythe as the Essence cards, we see the reading is shedding some light for the owner who faces the illness and danger of her pet.

Pushkin's condition is grave. With the diagonal of Ship and Tree leading from Dog, it is confirmed that he has to go away for his health. Ship usually indicates a longer distance away. Dog also knights Tower, so this is likely to be a clinic or hospital, since Tower is next to Tree, implying a health institution. He will need help breathing and so will go onto a respirator.

Outcome: Pushkin was indeed admitted to the veterinary hospital that week with breathing difficulties and a racing heart. His local vet couldn't treat him, so he had to be taken to a hospital much further away. After a few days in an oxygen tent, his breathing got much worse, and he was finally given a lethal injection to end his suffering. The cause was not established but the first three cards may signify that he contracted his illness from something he picked up in the garden.

weeks.

ALEXANDRIA'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Lily	Letter	Ship	WOMAN	Paths	Stars	Ring	Tree
B Mountain	Moon	Rod	Scythe	Mice	Book	Birds	Sun
C Anchor	Fox	Child	Bouquet	Bear	Cross	Fish	Tower
D Garden	Dog	Man	Heart	Snake	Coffin	Key	House
E		Rider	Clover	Stork	Clouds		

2. Jenny is a rather naive young woman, who, at twenty, still lives at home and only works part-time. She is in love with a young man of a different race, whom she met at church. Her parents are keen to distract her or remove her from his influence, as they don't like him. What chance is there for them to be happy together? Will she succeed in getting free from her parental home in the next few months? Or can her parents come to appreciate her boyfriend? Use Lily and Bear for her father and mother. Identify and read the near, far, and midway cards with any standout combinations and make a prediction.

JENNY'S TABLEAU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A Anchor	Snake	Fish	Stars	Mice	Key	Rod	Sun
Cross		Fox	Ring	Book	Ship		Man

B	Moon				Scythe			
C	Mountain	Letter	Woman	House	Garden	Dog	Child	Tree
D	Tower	Stork	Coffin	Bouquet	Lily	Paths	Birds	Clouds
E	Clover		Heart	Bear	Rider			

Creating Your Own Style

By providing three different kinds of Grand Tableau, I hope you have discovered the many ways in which you can confidently read the story contained in the 36 cards. The creation of your own style will emerge naturally out of the way in which you approach each tableau, find the order of procedures that give you the best information, and reveal what the speaking cards have to say.

This doesn't mean playing fast and loose with the basic keywords of the cards (whether those in chapter 2 or Near and Far) but has more to do with how the Grand Tableau presents itself to you, personally. Sometimes standout combinations will strike you, while at other times, you will have to go through many of the steps outlined in the three Grand Tableau chapters until you arrive at your conclusions.

Examining how the cards fall onto their Houses can help provide nuance to a feeling or instinct that you are getting from the tableau. At other times, it may be only when you Backtrack or make a Seasonal Selection that something becomes clearer. Proximity, Knighting, and Mirroring all have something to reveal. No method is better or worse, or more or less authentic than another.

There are many finalization processes you can bring to the Grand Tableau. If you want to look at the suit predominance of the essence cards in a Piquet Tableau, do it. If counting round and reducing 36 cards to five will help you get a grip on a story, then start counting!

With experience, you will probably begin to see *all* the cards in a Grand Tableau (of whatever kind) as speaking about the question, and be less bothered with the past, present, or future: in other words, your reading will have a wider divinatory perspective.

Whether you read intuitively or methodically doesn't matter. When you are learning the method, it is bound to be a touch mechanical sometimes. Don't be afraid of speaking a combination aloud to get the sense of the play between a card and its House or between the Mirroring cards of the Significator. What you utter may feel grossly literal, but over time you will intuitively find a way of expressing the cards more fluently and naturally, using your own language. Keep good notes and refer back to them often.

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 11

- ☛ Near and Far meanings are among the earliest set of Lenormand interpretations, originating the modern keyword meanings provided in chapter 2.
- ☛ You can decide to read only from Near and Far or from keywords, or you can combine a little of both to amplify the interpretation.

The play between the cards becomes even more important in Near and Far, since the interpretative meanings are more restricted.

- Cards that are more than five spaces distant from the Significator/ topic card are regarded as far.
- All the cards in a Near and Far Grand Tableau can be seen as speaking about the client's question: the division of the tableau into past, present, and future is sometimes ignored.

Self-Test 11 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. What effect do the far cards have upon the in-between cards in a tableau?
2. In Near and Far, what is meant by surrounded by clouds, and which specific cards does this expression include?
3. What is the most usual order of reading a set of near cards in a tableau?
4. What is the Near and Far interpretation of Tree, Mice, and Birds when they are near? What else is notable about this combination and how might it look as a message?
5. Read the following set of Mirroring cards from a tableau. What might they indicate for a woman who is trying hard to conceal something? Woman on House of Book, Stars on House of Coffin, Coffin on House of Clover, and Clover on House of Rider.

PART FOUR

Lenormand in Practice

Suddenly she began, in a sort of measured prose, and with great rapidity and distinct articulation, to describe my character and past life, in which she was so accurate and so successful, even to minute particulars, that I was spellbound at the manner in which she had discovered all she knew.

LADY FRANCES SHELLEY,

THE DIARY OF FRANCES LADY SHELLEY

Expanding Fluency

When, Where, and Who?

I keep six honest serving men:

They taught me all I knew:

Their names are What and Why and When

And How and Where and Who.

RUDYARD KIPLING, *THE ELEPHANT'S CHILD*

STUDY 13: TIMING

So far we have not asked a proper When question. It's a well-known fact among cartomancers that accurate timing in divination is very difficult and can only give estimated dates and periods. Ultimately, if you try to predict time unwisely, you can end up with a series of discordant dates that are unhelpful to the client and give no useful time period. Be aware that while sometimes you can be deadly accurate, at other times there may be factors that have not yet developed and so your prediction can only ever be approximate. As early-twentieth-century cartomancer Cecily Kent ruefully admits in her book, *Telling Fortunes by Cards*, "In reading the cards, time definitely indicated is the exception rather than the rule."¹

However, there is one timing element that has delighted

cartomancers down the ages, the fact that the makeup of standard 52 playing cards can represent a year.

4 suits for the number of seasons

13 cards in each suit for the number of lunations of a year

52 cards for the number of weeks in a year

91 pips total each suit (counting 11 for Jacks, 12 for Queens, and 13 for Kings) for the number of days in each season

364 for the totaled pips in a deck, making one less day than the 365 days of a standard year.

Because of this rationale, many cartomancers hold that any divination with playing cards usually shows things within the space of a year ahead and no longer. Although we are using a reduced deck of 36 cards, I find this to be a wise framework since divination for very distant periods is not as helpful as those done for shorter timings. It is always possible to take another sounding later on for a fresh viewpoint. When it comes to the Grand Tableau, timing is good for maybe a year and a few months maximum, although some features will play out before that time elapses.

There are several systems governing timing in the Lenormand cards. Some of these are very prescriptive and others are vague. Many are arranged around the numeration of the 36 cards, like the system created by Iris Treppner, where 1 Rider = January, one day, one week, or one month and where 10 Scythe = October, 10 days, 10 weeks, or 10 months.² However, because I work with the

playing card values as well as with the Lenormand images, I use the courts cards as the most useful method of timing of the months and seasons.

Traditionally, the seasons are ascribed as follows:

Spring: Bouquet, from the blooming of flowers

Summer: Sun, for the sunny, hot days

Autumn: Scythe, for the harvesting of the crops

Winter: Lily, for the white of the ice, frost, and snow

The following diagram shows a natural pattern that I discovered for the months of the year, based on these seasons. I suggest that you do a layout and observe the patterns for yourself. This spread shows the months of the year and their four seasons.

The Lenormand Year

DECEMBER

House K ♥

NOVEMBER

Clouds K ♠

JANUARY

Fish K ♦

Lily K ♠

WINTER

OCTOBER

Heart J ♥

FEBRUARY

Snake Q ♠

SEPTEMBER

Rod J ♠

AUTUMN

Scythe J ♦

SPRING

Bouquet Q ♠

MARCH

Stork Q ♥

AUGUST

Child J ♠

APRIL

Paths Q ♦

SUMMER

Sun A ♦

JULY

Man A ♥

MAY

Woman A ♠

JUNE

Ring A ♠

Look at the playing card values to see how this works. Around the central cross of the seasonal cards are Sun, Lily, Bouquet, and Scythe, represented respectively by an Ace, King, Queen, and Jack. These courts are further used for all cards within a seasonal grouping, such that, for instance, all spring cards are Queens and all autumn cards are jacks.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

February
March
April
Summer
May
June
Autumn
August
October
Winter

Bouquet of O
Snake
Stork
Paths
Woman
Man
Child
Heart
House
Fish

Here's a mnemonic verse to help you remember the sequence:

Spring-stirred Snake, Stork returns, Paths open again, (Bouquet, Snake, Stork, Paths)

Summer-loved Woman Marries with her Man.

(Sun, Woman, Ring, Man)

Autumn Child Runs again with good Heart,

(Scythe, Child, Rod, Heart)

Cloudy is the Winter House, Fish in every part.

(Lily, Clouds, House, Fish)

The purpose of this rhyme is to stimulate your memory by the imagery it evokes. If you live in the Southern Hemisphere, you may want to invert the months, so that winter becomes summer and autumn spring; however I should point out that the imagery of the cards is very specific to the Northern Hemisphere in this timing array because this is where the oracle originated.

Of course, the Lenormand Year above only gives a possible 16 cards that can answer you. You could equally relate certain cards to the Zodiac, but again, that only gives you twelve cards as

monthly indicators. Although some modern Lenormand decks come with astrological and planetary symbols, I do not recommend these, as you end up reading Lenormand through the focus of astrology, which is like reading a French novel with a Russian dictionary.

There are a variety of other ways in which the cards can help you express timing. Many readers use the sequence of the Lenormand House numbers themselves to provide numeration:

Cards 1–7 or Rider–Snake can show the days of the week

Cards 1–31 or Rider–Sun can show the days of the month

Cards 1–12 or Rider–Birds can show the months of the year

Some cards obviously tell us a time of day, while Moon also stands for a full month. Here is how they present themselves:

Night: Stars; the stars shine all night

Evening: Moon; the moon lights the evening

Twilight: Birds; birds sing at twilight

Afternoon: Garden; afternoon recreation in the garden

Morning: House; morning tasks at home

Dawn: Child; child denotes a new day

Day: Sun; the sun shines from dawn to twilight

Your cards can also tell the pace of the timing. Here are some of the common meanings:

Sudden: Scythe

Immediate/Now: Clover; Birds

Fast: Rider; Paths

Soon: Letter; Child

Moderate: Garden; Heart; Key; Fish

Variable: Clouds; Stork; Mice

Slow: Ship; Tree; Book

Very slow: Dog; Anchor; Snake; Bear

Stop/stationary: Coffin; Mountain; Ring; Lily

Some readers also assign to the Ring the concept of forever, in keeping with the idea of a life partnership. Mountain is often so slow developing, time wise, that to most of us it feels like stop.

Here are some small timing spreads that give simple answers as to the possible month or season. You can read the card meanings as well, but these are primarily drawn to provide a timing answer.

Triplet Timing

Select three cards randomly and add together the pips to give you the Lenormand sequence number. For example:

“When will I be invited to join the club?”

Lily K ♠ + Moon 8 ♥ + Letter 7 ♠ = 28 pips or Man A ♥ = July

“When will my son return from his travels?”

Stars 6 ♥ + Rider 9 ♥ + Tree 7 ♥ = 22 or Paths Q ♦ = April

In this method, there may be results that fall outside the months

and seasons if you draw a resulting pip card that is not a court card. If so, you can use the following method.

Opening the Book

In this method you treat your deck of cards like a book. Shuffle the cards and open the “pages” until you find the Significator or topic relating to your question. Select the two cards either side of the Significator. Now look at the cards from the point of view of their given month or season in the Lenormand year, and also from their number of the Lenormand sequence. Lily would give us Winter, Stork would be March, and Clover would be the second of the month because it is numbered 2 in the 1–36 sequence. In this method, some cards are not helpful or just irrelevant. From the timing perspective some cards are mute, depending on which timing system you use.

Using the Opening a Book method, I picked this Line of Five below. A female shopkeeper asks, “When can I take an early summer break from work?” She could choose Ship for a trip or Garden for a holiday, but she would like a few days at a health center, so we choose Tree to indicate well-being.

Woman + Ship + Tree + Fox + Stars

Woman is May and Ship is the third card in the Lenormand sequence, so May 3 could be possible. Fox is December and Stars could indicate night time. Here we see that the second pair is not so helpful to us, and we regard them as mute in this instance. The

client is happy with May 3, as it coincides with the forthcoming May Day bank holiday on Monday.

Max asks, "When will my horse be well enough to ride again?" He selects Rod as the Significator for active exercise.

Rider + Lily + Rod + Key + Stars

Rider can mean 1, Lily indicates Winter, Key has too many numbers with 33, and Stars is night or 16. No month card has come up at all, only a season, so it looks as if his horse needs to be well rested until this winter.

Pairs Tell the Time

For this timing spread, shuffle, draw a pair of cards, one from the top and one from the bottom of the deck, and add their pips together. Then count down the rest of the unused deck from the top by that total to discover a third card, treating the deck as a continuous sequence. Sometimes you will draw a court card to show you the month, sometimes you can read the Lenormand sequence number.

An exile from a war-zone asks, "When will it be safe to return home to my country?"

Cross 6 ♠ + Bouquet 9 ♠ = 15 pips. Looking 15 cards down in the pack is Paths = April.

A farmer is anxiously waiting to start building. He asks, "When will I receive the planning permission to erect the new barn?"

Bear 10 ♠ + Bouquet Q ♠ = 22. Twenty-two cards down we find

Book. Since it is numbered 26th in the Lenormand sequence, we might as well expect the permit on the 26th of the current month.

STUDY 14: THE TIMETABLE

The most useful and accurate timing method is a Timetable enquiry. Here you use your customary Grand Tableau layout to discover the timing by shuffling your timing question into the deck and then spreading all 36 cards out randomly in tableau. In the following example, you do not have to read the tableau (unless you want to practice, of course!). For our purposes right now, we are only interested in a timing answer. Look carefully at the cards that relate to your question and which House they fall upon. It is the House upon which your card falls that gives you the date. This kind of inquiry is also called a timing board.

Discover which House your Significator falls upon, or any other relevant topic cards involved, such as Fish for money, Heart for love, and so forth. If you are wanting to predict a pregnancy then you could select the topic card of Stars for conception or Stork for delivery. On which Houses do your topics fall?

Here is the full sequence of timing cards for your reference. Check the position of your Significator and its House and also check your topic card and the House on which it falls. When you are also examining your topic cards in regards to timing, **near** means it lands on a House between 1–2 positions away from the Significator. When topic cards are 3 or more places away from the Significator, read them as **far**. Remember, you are consulting the

House that your topic card falls upon, not the topic card itself. If your question involves marriage and your Ring card falls upon House of Snake, then work out if Ring is near or far to your Significator and remember to read the timing definitions for Snake, not Ring!

Card	Near	Far
1 House ♠♥	...	near the ...
2 House ♠♠	... for them ... to ...	transitory
3 Snake ♠♠	... in ...	not yet
4 Snake ♠♥	... in ...	on and off
5 Snake ♠♠	...	very, ...
6 Snake ♠♠	... February	...
7 Snake ♠♠	... a
8 Snake ♠♠
9 Snake ♠♠
10 Snake ♠♠
11 Snake ♠♠
12 Snake ♠♠
13 Snake ♠♠
14 Snake ♠♠
15 Snake ♠♠
16 Snake ♠♠
17 Snake ♠♠
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26 Snake ♠♠
27 Snake ♠♠
28 Snake ♠♠
29 Snake ♠♠
30 Snake ♠♠
31 Snake ♠♠
32 Snake ♠♠
33 Snake ♠♠
34 Snake ♠♠
35 Snake ♠♠
36 Snake ♠♠

Use the near meanings and apply them to the House of your client's Significator. You will see that the far entries often entail the longest timescale, or they are subject to another influence that has

not shown up yet. For example, the House of Clouds when far is read as subject to change, and the House of Clover when it is far is so transitory as to have little or no influence. Yes, this method can give you frustrating answers, but that is the way with timing questions! If you get an offhand answer, then perhaps something is in the process of changing, and you will need to enquire again on another day.

Here are a few brief examples taken from different timetables:

When will I conceive? Stars on House of Fish = January.

When will my job contract run out? Anchor on House of Ship = not for the long term.

When will my term of temporary employment finish? Fox on House of Snake = February.

When will I hear about my results? Letter on the House of the Sun = in the summertime.

When will my boyfriend contact me? Man on the House of the Woman = May.

You can also consider the card paired with its House interpretively, so that, in the examples above, Stars on House of Fish might denote conception will occur at the time of the father's optimum sperm count, or that Letter on House of the Sun might denote a happy result. Feel into the play between card and House to get the idea.

In this Timetable, Jacob asks, "When will I move house?" It is now early September.

Jacob's own Significator is on the House of Woman, which gives us May as a possible answer, but House is on the House of the Paths, which is two spaces away (near), giving the date of April. Paths often has the sense of a doubling of something, or a possible two dates, which is confusing in this case. I see that the contract card of Ring is on the House of Cross in a far position, which tells us it is sooner than he'd like. Also Stork, a topic for the move, is on House of Snake, meaning subject to change. Letter for the lease is on its own House and far, meaning subject to delay.

In reality, although the negotiations for the move began over the winter, they did stall and weren't finally completed until mid-March, with Jacob moving in on April Fool's day. He also had to sign the lease for his new house in advance, before he could physically leave his old flat, so it was all a great scramble and inconvenience. He agreed that, although the move was much delayed, the final signing of the contract came much sooner than he'd wanted.



Jacob's Timetable reading using the Grand Tableau of Nine (Palimpsest)

We looked at a few topic cards on their Houses here, which gave a lot of information in the customary Grand Tableau manner, but it is sometimes helpful to do an ordinary reading first about the issue and then do a Timetable enquiry at the end. You can also kill two birds with one stone and lay a Grand Tableau, reading it both in the normal way and for timing. See what works best for you. In the practice below, you can see how a multiplicity of dates can sometimes point to a course of action.

🕒 Practice 41: Tell the Time

1. "When will the library book I want be returned by its current

borrower?" Find the possible month, date, and day:

Paths + Ship + Clouds

2. "When is my current position going to change?" Read for possible days and months. Which is the mute card?

Garden + Coffin + Key + Man + Mountain

3. "When will the money arrive in my account?" Add the pair's pips and count down the number of their total in the deck to select an answer. Translate this answer using either months or the Lenormand sequence number.

Tower 6 ♠ + Bear 10 ♣

4. Stephen asks, "When is a convenient time for the family for us to get married this year?" Examine the Houses where Man and Woman fall, as well as the Houses of Ring for marriage and Tree for family. As a tiebreaker between all the options look at where Cross for church falls! What timing do these options provide? What action might the couple chose? Who is the keener of the two to marry soon?

STEPHEN'S WEDDING TABLEAU

Stars	Man	Rider	Cross	Clover	Book	Child	Fox	Letter
Woman	Scythe	Snake	Paths	Garden	Tower	Ship	Dog	Fish
Bouquet	Sun	Lily	Mice	Heart	House	Tree	Birds	Moon
Key	Bear	Stork	Mountain	Rod	Ring	Coffin	Anchor	Clouds

5. Practice some short timing spreads for yourself until you gain proficiency. Do at least one Timetable of your own to practice

how it works clearly.

WHERE IS IT? LOCATIONS FOR LOST THINGS

Rudyard Kipling's six honest serving men have mostly been well served in this chapter, but it's time to try some Where questions. This is a legitimate use of your Lenormand. First of all we need a vocabulary to help us answer the question of where. I've suggested some possible definitions for each card here, including some things that were happening while you lost whatever it was. You will doubtless find more locations, so please add to this list.

LOCATIONS WHERE LOST THINGS MIGHT BE

1 Rider	taken in error by another; posted onward; still arriving
2 Clover	overlooked; mistaken; low down; in the grass
3 Ship	while traveling; in a vehicle, bus, or train; far away
4 House	at home; in a room (see following card for which one)
5 Tree	at the doctor's; lost in the network; in the woods
6 Clouds	muddled in with something; in a heap or mess
7 Snake	fallen into something; dragged along;

	rolled up with something
8 Coffin	in a box, drawer, or cupboard; forgotten and left behind
9 Bouquet	displayed in plain sight; shelf; dresser; in a bush
10 Scythe	gathered up with other things; dropped suddenly; broken
11 Rod	where you've already looked, try again!
12 Birds	between one thing and another; borrowed by a relative
13 Child	your child has it; used for play; in a new place you've not looked yet!
14 Fox	disguised; looking like something else; wrongly attributed; opportunistically removed by (see following card)
15 Bear	deeply down or in; under a pile of things
16 Stars	in clear view; on the same color thing
17 Stork	while changing clothes; it's been moved; in bedclothes
18 Dog	at a friend's; in the pet's bed; with the animals

19 Tower	in town; in the office; at the institution
20 Garden	in the park; in the country; at a gathering; public place; in the garden
21 Mountain	up high; while climbing; upstairs; blocked in
22 Paths	on the road; while walking; in the other place
23 Mice	stolen by (see following card); irrevocably lost
24 Heart	near; bedside table; in your pocket
25 Ring	in use; in the slot; part of the mechanism
26 Book	in the library, school, or training place; in a book or folder
27 Letter	in the mail room; with other papers; under newspaper or magazine
28 Man	with your partner; with the men
29 Woman	with your partner; with the women
30 Lily	in an old place you used to use; on the set-aside place
31 Sun	windowsill; mantelpiece; fireside; hearth; while on holiday
32 Moon	in bed; at work; at night; at a monthly

	meeting
33 Key	in your important place; handbag; pocket; personal bag
34 Fish	at the bank; piggy bank; beach; seaside; by the sink
35 Anchor	not lost but in a very safe place
36 Cross	at a crossroads; thrown away accidently; in church

These locations are engineered solely for questions of where you put something and not for questions regarding where you might move or where your next job will be located and so on, but see below for more on that. Use the cards to engineer some useful locations. With questions of lost items, use one or more cards to help you. Sometimes a single card will be enough, or it might be a pair or triplet that will help you discover what you lost. Here are some examples:

Where has my homework gone?

Lily + Letter + Book: it's with or in the old folder.

Where did I put the schedule?

House + Bear + Fox: it's at home under a pile of things, but it looks like something else.

Where are my keys? Looking through the deck like a book you see:

Heart + Key: bedside table, or in the clothes you're wearing.

Where is my earring?

Dog; Look again at your friend's place.

Mapping the Location Further

Locations that are not about lost items but about places outside home and work can also be used in spreads. This short list of possible locations includes some possible holiday pursuits as well as other types of places, and is not exhaustive.

LOCATIONS FURTHER AWAY FROM HOME

1 Rider	equestrian stable; racetrack; pony-trek; courier or delivery center; post office
2 Clover	last-minute destination; meadowlands; fields
3 Ship	overseas location; far off; a trading or business estate; Ship + Paths = compass point
4 House	home; hotel; hostel; chalet; local venue; local vicinity; indoors
5 Tree	woodlands; arboretum; health resort; ancestral place
6 Clouds	weather center; wetlands; marsh

7 Snake	sophisticated place; meandering river; estuary
8 Coffin	locked up; restricted; imprisoned; confined; recuperation place
9 Bouquet	surprise holiday; east; shopping center; center of excellence
10 Scythe	hair salon; farm; west; army barracks; factory; storage unit
11 Rod	fitness center; sports or exercise facility; practice center; gym; inner city
12 Birds	chat room; conference center; opera house; theater; second or holiday home
13 Child	a new and unfamiliar place; a new settlement; kindergarten; school
14 Fox	a hidey hole; hiding place; squat; dive; underground
15 Bear	a powerful or spectacular place; wild and magnificent place
16 Stars	north; science establishment; good atmosphere; festival; Stars + Lily = northern hemisphere
17 Stork	a place of migration; commuter

	belt; a nursing home
18 Dog	a friendly venue; a hang out; drop-in point
19 Tower	institutional building; a building complex; urban area
20 Garden	garden village; suburban area; commune; holiday camp
21 Mountain	far inland; hilly or mountainous; rugged place
22 Paths	between two rivers; countryside; a valley; outdoors
23 Mice	a colony; collective; thieves' kitchen; slum; downtown
24 Heart	a favorite place; lover's lane; courting place; romantic venue; a congenial place
25 Ring	a club; legal establishment; exclusive or members-only place; arena; sheltered or gated housing
26 Book	a library; museum; university town; educational place; cultural center
27 Letter	newspaper office; post office; archive; research establishment
28 Man	men's venue

29 Woman	women's venue
30 Lily	an old place; a restful place; heritage center; circumpolar regions
31 Sun	a hot place; sauna; holiday resort; south; Stars + Sun = southern hemisphere
32 Moon	busman's holiday; nightclub area; job center; renowned place
33 Key	notable place; tourist spot; central hub
34 Fish	the seaside; fishing holiday; beach resort; cliffs; bank
35 Anchor	coastal town or port; naval establishment; market
36 Cross	spiritual retreat center; church; place of worship; pilgrimage site; cathedral town; sacred site

You need to look for combinations that work together well in the context of the question. So for a question about a young man in the navy, Anchor + Child + Book (naval establishment, young, education) might speak about a naval cadet training school. Or if

you ask where your wayward brother is living now and draw House + Mice + Clouds, it could indicate a run-down hostel. Lenormand can be strikingly literal at times, but feel into the card interactions and see what your intuition shows you. Here are some examples:

☛ **Where will I find the perfect house?**

Ring + Stork + Snake: a gated housing estate in the commuter belt toward the estuary.

☛ **Where will I discover the tiles I want for the bathroom?**

Lily + Ship + Mountain: at the old place on the trading estate inland from here.

☛ **Where will I meet the man of my dreams?**

Fox + Heart + Mice: at the downtown joint where all the singles go.

☛ **Where can I go to improve my health?**

Birds + Fish + Coffin: take a holiday near the coast where you can rest up.

☛ **Where shall I go on holiday this year?**

Book + Sun + Bear: A cultural holiday in the sunny south, in a place of outstanding natural beauty.

☛ **Where will I find the best school for my children?**

Bouquet + Child + Moon + Tree + Woman: at the Ladywood school, renowned as a center of excellence. Here we have found a literal combination by means of Tree + Woman for a school called Ladywood.

Another skillful way of finding things or people is to use the Timetable as a map. Select a topic card like House for “where will I move?” or Ship for “where shall I visit on holiday?” or Tree for “where shall I find a good tree for the arbor?” You can also simply use a Significator to indicate the client. Shuffle all the cards and lay them upon your preferred Grand Tableau layout to see where the topic or Significator falls.

Molly, who lives alone, has vanished from her workplace. She just never turned up for work after the weekend. No one knows whether she has found another job, gone off with a boyfriend, or is in serious danger. Everyone who knows her is very worried and mystified. Carol, one of her workmates, lays a Grand Tableau of Nines to see what kind of mapping the cards will reveal. (See pp. 306–7.)

the mystery everyone is concerned about, Stork tells of loss of movement and Anchor is safe in a happy place, which relieves Carol who has spun a tale of abduction in her head. She looks at the position of House on House of Tower, which confirms the corner messages that Molly is living in an institution. Birds for phone call is on House of Letter, so there will be news in a phone call.

The outcome of this case was that Molly had been given a wonderful opportunity to do some alternative work as a result of a new boyfriend whom no one knew much about. Without telling anyone, she impulsively went after the new man but the very next day fell ill and had to be hospitalized. The new boyfriend wasn't able to contact any relative or friend as Molly had mislaid her phone. She was in a hospital in the north and although she was indeed confined for her health, she had not been abducted! I've given just a brief breakdown of the tableau above. This is a good example when the situation is a potentially grave one, where you need to be careful about your prediction. However, apart from scanning the main topic cards, when looking for a location, you don't normally need to read the whole tableau.

Practice 42: Where Is It?

- Try locating the lost items from the cards that have arisen here. I have indicated by a * that some cards were preselected by looking through the deck to see where they were situated so as to ensure your learning of certain principles.

1. Where's my cash/credit card? Stars + Ring
2. Where did I leave that book? Coffin + Book*
3. Where is my phone now? Paths + Birds*
4. Where is my coat? Stork + Scythe
5. Where did I leave my ring? Ring* + Fish
6. Where shall I go for my holiday this year? Garden + Ring + Fox + Rider
7. Where will I find the job that suits my skills? Letter + Dog + Ship + Mountain
8. Roy and Manda need to move for the health of their asthmatic child. Look at the Houses for House, Child, Man, Woman, and Tree. What kind of place is indicated? Do the partners have different criteria for a location? For additional information, also check the cards near to Child.

TABLEAU FOR RELOCATION

Mice	Fish	Cross	Sun	Rider	Stork	Paths	Lette	Ship
Dog	Lily	Coffin	Bouquet	Stars	Tree	House	Ring	Moon
Heart	Scythe	Tower	Garden	Clover	Child	Key	Bear	Book
Fox	Rod	Clouds	Snake	Birds	Mountain	Anchor	Man	Woman

HOW DO YOU SAY THAT IN LENORMAND?

In every language you come to a stage when you want to say things more exactly or know the word for particular expressions. This can

be rather alarming while you are abroad, when your holiday phrasebook is suddenly inadequate to explain your stomach complaint to a doctor in Greek, or fails to provide the technical language for a leaking carburetor while in an Indonesian garage.

Divination with Lenormand presents us with opportunities to discover new ways of expressing ourselves while we are reading. This mysterious ability of the cards to speak to us is what we have to listen out for at all times, because it's what makes us fluent. Sometimes it is a single card and sometimes it is a set of combinations that leap out. Learning to recognize the nuances of different cards alone or in combination is what makes us good readers. Here you can rely on your record keeping to show you what combinations have been saying to you over time.

Nuanced reading is great, but we can read off kilter if we get a bee in our bonnets and let our rationale rather than our instinct rule. A wide range of words for each card or combination of cards enables precision. If a word fits, use it. Sometimes Dog reads as friend, companion, or help, but sometimes it's about a state of being, in which case Dog would be saying loyalty, obedience, or patience instead. The context invariably enables us to select the right word, and applying this is a real skill.

States and Conditions

Lenormand cards can help you describe appearances. Intuitive selection of the right word for each card in a line-up is a matter of taste. Here are a few suggestions for states and conditions that

describe the characteristics of things, states, and so on. You will add to these as you find your own definitions from working closely with the cards. Have fun!

Burdens:	heavy Mountain	light Child	overwhelming Bear	negligible Clover	unbearable Cross		
Colors:	white Lily	red Fox	black/dark Coffin	blue Fish	green Clover	yellow Sun	pink Heart
Cosmos:	earth/world Garden	underworld Coffin	heaven Stars				
Directions:	north Stars	south Sun	east Bouquet	west Scythe	up Stars	down Fish	
	near Clover	far Ship	in House	out Garden	under Fox	over Birds	
Elements:	air Clouds	fire Sun	water Fish	earth Garden			
Emotions:	happy Sun	sad Clouds	depressed Clouds	content House	passionate Heart	bitter Rod	
Footings:	uneven/rough Rod	rocky Mountain	grassy Clover	boggy Clouds	firm Anchor	slippery Fish	
Metals:	gold Sun	silver Moon	tin Birds	bronze Key	iron Anchor		

Modalities:	hot Sun	cold Lily	wet Fish	dry Snake				
Seasons:	spring Bouquet	summer Sun	autumn Scythe	winter Lily				
Senses:	sight Sun	smell Dog	touch Child	hearing Birds	taste Bear			
Size:	tall Tower	small Child	fat Bear	thin Stork				
Sound:	loud Bear	quiet Child	pleasing Bouquet	repetitive Rod				
Tactile:	rough Rod	smooth Fish	silky Stars	hairy Bear	hard Tower	soft Child	sharp Scythe	
Tastes:	sweet Bouquet	sour Scythe	salty Fish	bland Anchor	bitter Cross	spicy Heart	smoky Clouds	pungent Lily
Weather:	rain Clouds	mist Fish	fog Clouds	snow Lily				

Appearances and Descriptions

Lenormand can also describe the appearances and demeanors of people, so that you can see if someone is big, small, fat, thin, elegant, messy, blond, or dark; or whether they are easygoing, tense, or severe. All of the suggestions below can apply equally to men or women, even the ones we usually read as male or female.

-
- | | |
|----------|--|
| 1 Rider | fit; fashionably casual; flash; lean; speedy |
| 2 Clover | carefree; humorous; happy-go-lucky; green eyes |

3 Ship	foreign; outdoor complexion; exotic; tanned; dark haired
4 House	solidly built; ordinary; sensible
5 Tree	willowy; supple; long haired
6 Clouds	graying; salt and pepper hair; half-toned or highlighted hair
7 Snake	svelte; sinuous; sleek; bohemian; sophisticated
8 Coffin	cadaverous; pale skinned; dark or deep set eyes; still; little energy
9 Bouquet	beautiful; charming; blond; elegant; a la mode
10 Scythe	wiry; scarred; disfigured; amputated
11 Rod	athletic; bodybuilder; critical; sexually charged
12 Birds	fringed; fine-boned; talkative; trivial; nervous
13 Child	young people from baby to teenager; petite; simple
14 Fox	red haired; vigilant; flirtatious
15 Bear	stout; fleshy; impressive; hirsute; heavy; opulent; bearded
16 Stars	clear complexioned; sparkling eyed; gracious

17 Stork	thin; gangly; restless; busy; fussy
18 Dog	average; pleasant; simpatico; brown eyes; medium coloring
19 Tower	tall; official; formal; lofty; superior
20 Garden	attractive; street-smart; gregarious; outgoing
21 Mountain	rugged; older; venerable; lined; dour; impassive; bald
22 Paths	rangy; uneven features; alternatively dressed
23 Mice	pock-marked; receding hair; spotty; decrepit; messy
24 Heart	attractive; passionate; adoring; light or chestnut brown
25 Ring	yellow complexioned; self-contained
26 Book	nearsighted; reserved; dry
27 Letter	delicate build; communicative
28 Man + other cards	describe a man
29 Woman + other cards	describe a woman
30 Lily	gray; fatherly; protective; mature
31 Sun	freckled; blond; vital; blue eyed; happy

32 Moon	pale skinned; full faced; round eyed; moody
33 Key	arresting; striking; tidy; exact
34 Fish	pallid; moist skin and lips; fleshy
35 Anchor	dark brown hair; earnest; serious; responsible
36 Cross	slender; reserved; bitter; disappointed

These are just a few suggestions but you will certainly find many more. It is important to remember that when you read a description, you will not also be reading the cards for their usual content. So if you ask “what will he look like at the airport?” and draw Book + Stars + Heart + Key, do not presume that the person you are picking up is a scientist with a secret with whom you will certainly fall in love. Instead, merely take note that your driver wears glasses, has clear skin, chestnut brown hair, and is very tidy.

🔗 *Practice 43: What Do They Look Like?*

- Describe the following characteristics in Lenormand, using as many cards as you need.
 1. A tall, blue-eyed man with a scar and blond hair

2. A petite woman with red hair who dresses well
3. A young, nearsighted man who has a fleshy and moist complexion
4. An older woman with half-toned hair who is disappointed with life
5. An official with medium coloring, green eyes, and uneven features

• Now let's try it on the reverse. What kinds of appearances and demeanors do these cards reveal? The answers will be variable.

1. Paths + Mountain + Sun + Ship
2. Snake + Bear + Moon
3. Clover + Tree + Letter + Garden
4. Ring + Lily + Anchor
5. House + Birds + Dog

• Now see which cards would describe these individuals. Answers will vary.

1. A rangy, rugged, tanned man with blue eyes from abroad
2. A sophisticated, opulent woman with a full face
3. A humorous or green-eyed person with long hair, who is delicately built and very gregarious
4. A yellow-complexioned person with gray hair and an air of responsibility
5. A solidly built and talkative person of average coloring and

brown hair

Increasing Your Vocabulary

The basic vocabulary of Lenormand meanings will take you a long way, but we all need to increase our vocabulary. In chapter 2, I highlighted some areas where different cards deal with similar aspects of a topic in variety of ways. For example, with the concept of family we can specify:

House = family within a household, nuclear family.

Tree = extended family of many generations or ancestors.

Lily = the protector of a family, head of a family.

Tower = the important or foundational ancestor who is the progenitor of many millions of people, like the Mongolian forebear Genghis Khan, or the Irish king Niall of the Nine Hostages, whose DNA is spread throughout the world.

Or if you were to look at music in Lenormand, you might see Key as in tune, Birds as song, Garden as symphony, and Stars as the Music of the Spheres. Coffin is frequently understood in this context by readers as musical instrument since it is a form of box, though your imagination might find that a little hard to appreciate!

Theater in Lenormand Terms

I see quite a few clients from the theater and entertainment world, due to my performance background, so I made my own list of

meanings from each card to help me talk theater to the actors, singers, and performers whom I read for. Here are a few of my associations:

1 Rider	agent; beginners; opening night; secondary male lead; male cover
2 Clover	lucky break; talent spotters; clowns; farce
3 Ship	tours of provincial theaters or foreign tours; long commute
4 House	the theater; box office; auditorium; settled into a part
5 Tree	atmosphere; audience response; stage family; a long run
6 Clouds	smoke; dry ice; masks; makeup
7 Snake	complex part; secondary female lead; female cover
8 Coffin	curtains; end of run; death scene; grand finale; musical instrument
9 Bouquet	applause; floral tributes; bouquets; publicity photos; standing ovation
10 Scythe	textual cuts; sudden closure
11 Rod	rehearsal; vocal coach; critical

	reviews; getting into shape
12 Birds	audition; singers; Pinter; performance anxiety; recasting
13 Child	ingenues; child actors; new play
14 Fox	stage door johnnies; stage hands; carpenters
15 Bear	company director; manager; Wagner
16 Stars	stars; angels; spotlights; televised performance
17 Stork	chaperones; health and safety; scene change; moves; transfers
18 Dog	performing animals; friends of the company
19 Tower	gantries; lighting rigs; balcony scene; set
20 Garden	audience; outdoor shows; front of house
21 Mountain	sets; scenery; outdoor location
22 Paths	walk-on parts; crowd scene; promenade performance; understudy or cover
23 Mice	critics; budget cuts; economies; Samuel Becket; barflies

24 Heart	love scene; romance among the cast; Lorca; Verdi
25 Ring	contracts; unions; connections; orchestra
26 Book	script; prompter; playwright; read-through; studying for a part
27 Letter	notices and reviews; good-luck telegrams
28 Man + other cards	leading man
29 Woman + other cards	leading woman
30 Lily	theater patrons; costume designer and dressers; older lead
31 Sun	lighting; matinee; advertising exposure; warming up
32 Moon	evening performance; renown; follow spot
33 Key	stage manager; stage door; outstanding performance
34 Fish	financial backing; takings; box office
35 Anchor	old stagers; character actors; maintenance staff
36 Cross	striking the set; Strindberg; Ibsen; Greek tragedy

Conny is performing in a West End show that will transfer to Broadway. There is the possibility of a complete recast and she wonders whether she will transfer with the company and retain her part. She draws Stork + Letter + House, which reads that there will be a transfer, but because of her positive reviews, she will remain in the part.

Fertility in Lenormand Terms

Many clients also come asking about their fertility, both male and female. Here are a few suggestions for a specialist vocabulary around this topic. Please find and create your own words to add to this. With this subject it is of utmost importance to exercise sensitivity toward your clients.

1 Rider	news of a coming event; labor is hastening
2 Clover	getting lucky to conceive; easy pregnancy or delivery
3 Ship	carrying successfully to term
4 House	preparing the house for baby
5 Tree	dietary regime for fertility; family genetics
7 Snake	umbilical cord; fallopian tubes; vas deferens; vasectomy
8 Coffin	fetal photo; fetal death in the

	womb; end of last trimester
9 Bouquet	surprise pregnancy; baby shower; mother's appearance during pregnancy
10 Scythe	premature birth; miscarriage or abortion; medical intervention
11 Rod	trying too hard to conceive; too long in labor; rhythm method; good exercise
12 Birds	pregnancy realized; too nervous to conceive; twins
13 Child	quickening of a child; Child + male or female card from Significators or courts = sex of child
14 Fox	ectopic pregnancy; the wrong conditions to conceive
15 Bear	endurance for labor; strength to carry
16 Stars	conception; hope of conception
17 Stork	fertile ovulatory period; delivery; pregnant
18 Dog	labor coach or companion; doula or midwife
19 Tower	hospital; officially pregnant

20 Garden	natural birth; meetings with other expectant couples
21 Mountain	blockage to fertility; delayed delivery
22 Paths	following a course of treatment; progress; alternative plans
23 Mice	vitamin deficiency; failure to thrive or put on weight
24 Heart	invitation to sexual relations; passion for a child; confidence
25 Ring	bonding with the fetus or child; bed rest
26 Book	prenatal classes; self-help books; in-vitro fertilization
27 Letter	keeping an ovulation chart or diary; report
28 Man + other cards	expectant father; male partner; doctor
29 Woman + other cards	expectant mother; female partner; midwife
30 Lily	infertile period; chastity; elderly parent
31 Sun	optimum chance for life; enjoyment

32 Moon	menstruation; growth of confidence
33 Key	keyhole surgery or caesarean; hormonal treatment
34 Fish	fertility at optimum point; male fertility
35 Anchor	stable pregnancy; no complications; carrying to term
36 Cross	transition in labor; the last trimester

When you use a specialist vocabulary like this in a small spread, you may not always be looking at the other messages of the cards. So if you have a specific question about how to improve fertility and get Fish + Stars + Book, the cards don't mean that you need to get your finances clearly into place for your education, but rather that male fertility needs to be at its optimum strength and that you might consider the possibility of in-vitro fertilization. Use a general spread or a Grand Tableau to see the bigger picture and draw a few cards separately to obtain specific fertility advice.

🔗 Practice 44: Building Vocabulary Specializations

1. Choose one topic from your own specialist knowledge and see how you can equate it to each card. Make a complete list of the 36 cards, like the Theatrical or Pregnancy example above.

2. Make your own associative list of movies that you feel express each card well. Is Bear *Citizen Cain*, *King Kong*, or do you see it more as the *Godfather*? Is Fox *The Sting* and Coffin *The Mummy*? You choose. Consider also film genres, like Coffin for horror film or Stork for animation.
3. Using the theatrical list above, how would you read for Harry who has just auditioned for a part in a play? What will it involve if he gets it? Rider + Ship + Rod
4. Using the fertility and pregnancy list above, what do the cards say for Rosemary who is four months pregnant but has had many previous miscarriages? Scythe + Paths + Anchor + Tower
5. Arnie asks, "We've been trying for baby for a few months with no result. Is one of us infertile?" This is an either/or question. How would you approach the question, as asked? Snake + Mountain + Man

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 12

- ✦ Timing can only be approximate in divination. Choose your criteria carefully and stick to it.
- ✦ A Timetable enquiry using any Grand Tableau layout can reveal the likelihood of time, reading from the House on which a Significator or topic falls.
- ✦ Locating lost objects or describing locations can also be employed using the Grand Tableau layout, where the Timetable becomes a map.

Describing weather, modalities, and appearances can be done by a skillful assignment of each card to different characteristics.

- Lenormand vocabulary for more specialist matters can be gained by assigning the topics of the particular specialization through the whole deck.
- When making specialization enquiries, draw a few cards and read only what they tell you about that topic. Do not also read them in the normal keyword way.

Self-Test 12 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. When will my parcel come? (add the pips) Anchor + Cross + Clouds
2. Where is my purse? Birds + Fox + Lily
3. How will the professor look at the train station when I collect him? Clover + Letter + Heart
4. How will the new play be received? Tree + Sun + Bouquet
5. How will this pregnancy end? Dog + Clover + Birds

Becoming the Storyteller

In the Cartomancer's Salon

There is no virtue or magic in the cards themselves. They get their sole value through the person who uses them.

MINETTA, CARD READING

STUDY 15: READING FOR OTHERS

To sit with another human being and consult about solutions to difficulties, or to find help or guidance from the cards, is a great privilege. Although you may currently feel nowhere near ready to read for others, it is worth considering what is involved, as we engage with the “how and why” of Rudyard Kipling’s six honest serving men that we began in the last chapter. Here we will explore the ground rules of reading for others and provide some spreads and practices that encourage your neutrality and your ability to support those in a dilemma.

Who do you read for? When learners first start to read for others, some feel proud and eager to try out their skills everywhere. You will probably try reading for friends but may find it’s not so easy with family members. For many of us, there are certain issues and people that we are so entangled with as to make it very

difficult to maintain a neutral perspective.

People to avoid reading for include children and young people without parental permission, anyone in a state of diminished responsibility or mental confusion, and anyone who is overly gullible, drugged, inebriated, or out of control. It is also unwise to read for those who want you to use sorcery, spells, curses, or spiritual manipulation to change the future or to investigate the lives of others and spy on them through cartomancy. Remember that you do not have to read for anyone you do not want to. If someone creeps you out or intimidates you, then please don't see them. Make it a priority to establish your own boundaries and respect them.

Where do you read? Chose a clear space, a clearly defined time, and a quiet environment for a reading so that you can consult without intrusion.

What about charging for a reading? What you charge or even whether you should charge is hotly debated. If you are a beginner, then perhaps you might consider all potential friends who want a reading as clients for practice at no charge. Some people feel that since divination is a sacred art, they should not take money for it. All I will add to this point is that if you regard all your interpretation as coming from spirit, then maybe you shouldn't. However, a reading that takes your time and talents is, to my mind, a service, and therefore legitimate work.

Experienced readers can create a fee schedule for the different kinds of spread they offer. For instance, a Grand Tableau is going

to take the best part of one and half hours or more, while a Line of Five may take only fifteen minutes. It can also be advisable to have a sliding scale so that those who would not normally be able to afford a reading can still receive your services.

If you are going to be a professional, taking money for your services and dealing firsthand with client needs and questions, you will need a code of ethics and some clear procedures in place. Consider joining one of the professional cartomantic societies that set standards of conduct and support diviners in practical ways. Such membership also tells your clients that you take divination seriously and that you will treat people respectfully.

Confidentiality is the agreement between the reader and client to not divulge information that arises from a reading with any third party. Discretion is an essential part of what it means to truly honor your client and it is necessary if you want to gain their trust. However, confidentiality is not the seal of the confessional. In troubling cases it may be necessary for you, the practitioner, to seek help or advice from a mentor concerning what a case brought up for you. If matters of criminality, violence, or imminent danger arise from the reading, contact the police or the necessary authorities rather than risk harm to yourself or others.

In most Western countries, divination is regarded as "for entertainment purposes only," which is a disclaimer that you will often find written in the diviner's credentials and terms of service. The modern world generally regards divination as unimportant and largely harmless, however some countries and states have their

own more antiquated laws and you don't want to fall afoul of them.

Ensure your leaflet or website clearly states what you will and won't do for clients. Make no claims about what will result, although you can certainly include endorsements from satisfied clients in all modesty, if your standard of reading is good and helpful. Many people and organizations around the world are working to improve the perception and status of cartomantic divination. Ensure that you are ethical and not the kind of diviner whom legislators make laws against in order to protect the innocent and unwary.

Spread 16: Know Your Boundaries

If you intend to read for others, knowing your own boundaries is an important first step toward creating a code of ethics for yourself and your business. Ethics are merely the contractual rules of engagement that make the art of divination safe, both for you the practitioner and for your client. Try this spread to help determine your boundaries.

Shuffle the cards, turn them face up, and find your Significator. Pull it and the two cards on either side out of the deck. These in order are cards 1–5, while two cards from the top of the deck and two cards from the bottom are 6–9. Now randomly take 4 cards from the deck and place them in positions 10–13. This is the same shape as the [Near and Far Crossroads Spread](#). The pairs of cards to the sides and above and below the Significator give you the main shape of your boundaries. Cards 10–13 show particular areas

of ethical concern where you might have to exercise greater caution.

Cassie lays her own cards to see the boundaries more clearly:



6. Child



10. Sun



7. Fox



11. Cross



1. Stars



2. Garden



3. Woman



4. Dog



5. Coffin



12. Snake



8. Tree



13. Clover



9. Moon

Cassie's Boundaries (Japanese)

Cards 1–5 show that, for Cassie, giving clear advice and keeping confidentiality are important, as are keeping the talk friendly but managing to finish on time. Cards 6–9 say that she likes to keep it simple and is sensitive to deceptive issues or scams. She knows that health issues have to be respected. Cards 10–13 reveal the danger areas that she needs to take more notice of. Sun speaks of being over optimistic, Cross of having to be more sensitive around spiritual matters, Snake to be wary of complicating things for the client, and Clover to keeping her readings light and not too heavy.

STUDY 16: READING FOR A CLIENT

The first fear that many face on reading for others is feeling that they do not adequately know everything. Let me assure you that you almost certainly know more than you think you know, and more importantly you are better off not knowing everything. It is vital to meet the moment with spontaneity and openness to what results rather than with a seen-it-all-before attitude.

Divination happens at a threshold where a client's need, the presentation of the cards, and your wisdom interface, creating a special nexus. Second guessing a result isn't helpful. Surrendering your pride and conscious knowledge at this threshold is the best and only way to read, in my mind. To put it another way, let go of your fear if you truly want to see what the cards are showing. To act as a mediator between the known and unknown requires

humility.

Mlle. Lenormand's ritual question to all her clients was "What do you want to know?" You can be of even better service to a client if their issue is clearly framed as a question, so initially ask, "What brings you here today?" and help them get the question clear and well worded. It is worth taking the time to prepare the divinatory question properly. Many clients will come to you needing a general reading and have no particular question. For them the Grand Tableau is ideal. If the client doesn't have time for that, then do a Portrait or Line of Five reading.

Questions that cross ethical boundaries include third party ones which arise frequently. Of course worried parents come to ask about their children and lovers enquire after their partners all the time. Find ways of rewording the question to focus more on the client's needs about the issue and less on the subject of their enquiry.

If health concerns come up within a general reading, then advise the client to consult a suitable practitioner. It is not your job to prescribe or diagnose. It is better to avoid reading on health or legal matters, as well as for those questions that put the onus upon you to make important decisions on grave matters. Questions starting with "should I?" often come into this category. Never be afraid of refusing to read for an issue that crosses your boundaries. Always be prepared to refer a client to a more suitable expert or practitioner.

Clumps of unfortunate or challenging cards can cause you to

swallow hard in fear. Rather than glossing over these, look at them more closely. In this chapter we have several spreads for looking at such issues and sticking with the cards. It's essential that you encourage clients to find the best way forward or to consider alternative scenarios, rather than to fatalistically lie down under whatever the cards are showing. After having an oracle reading, some people will attempt to fatalistically enact what they were shown, just as Macbeth and his wife did on hearing the three witches' prophecy. Instead of predicting a recipe for disaster, stimulate the client's instincts and intentions so that they can best shape the life they want. Negative spreads do show up. They warn and prompt the client to find skillful ways through crisis or to be prepared for something on the horizon.

Reactions to readings vary. The common complaint "But I already knew that!" is one to which you can respond, "And now you've had a second opinion." It is inevitable that some of what you say is going to be familiar to the client—it's their life after all! This kind of reaction arises when a client has come for confirmation or verification about something that they weren't admitting to. Always leave the client with a practical suggestion or something to ponder. Never leave the client in despair, with nowhere to turn, or fearful of the future. Empower clients by exploring ways forward rather than leaving them disheartened from your prediction.

Spread 17: The Reconciler

Clients frequently bring issues that might tempt you to take sides

or become judgmental, especially in legal disputes or marital and partnership matters. I will occasionally set up a spread that shows both sides of a situation in a very neutral way, but unless the client is genuinely seeking reconciliation or mediation with another person, then this is often a waste of effort.

Here is a spread giving a neutral perspective when there are conflicts or disagreements. It is based upon the parley between warriors before a conflict, where terms can be agreed that may resolve matters or at least de-escalate the situation. For this you need two decks of cards. One to provide for the Houses (since this is a nine-card spread and not a Grand Tableau) and one for the card positions themselves. If you have only one deck, work out the House positions first from your deck and write them on pieces of paper. Shuffle your reading deck and cut it into two. The half in your left or supporting hand is yourself or your client, the half in your right or dominant hand is for the other side of the issue. (If you are left handed, please switch these meanings around.) Lay first the Houses from one deck, and then afterward lay the other cards upon the Houses. The Reconciler Spread has positional meanings, where the interface between the House position and the card upon it can give you further perspective on the issue.

THE RECONCILER OUTLINE

4		
2	3	YOUR SIDE
1		The Client
9		The Reconciler
5		The Other Person
6	7	THE OTHER SIDE
8		

1. Your point of view
2. What you are willing to negotiate
3. What you are unwilling to compromise
4. The best possible result for you
5. Their point of view
6. What they are willing to negotiate
7. What they are unwilling to compromise
8. The best possible result for them
9. Shuffle the whole pack together to find the reconciler card.
This gives you neutral advice about the issue. Read this as something to support both sides.
10. Read the triplet combinations of $2 + 3 + 4$ and $6 + 7 + 8$, as well as the vertical $1 + 9 + 5$ for any further information.

Cary is running into difficulties with Leo, her housemate, whose behavior exasperates her. How can they mediate or reconcile?

1. Coffin on House of Heart: Cary has closed her heart to Leo
2. Letter on House of Birds: Cary could offer to write her emails away from his continuous chatter
3. Woman on House of Snake: She can't compromise her sophisticated standards
4. Birds on House of Man: The best outcome would be talking to him again
5. Fox on House of Tower: Leo knows he has broken the official house rules
6. Clouds on House of Lily: He could smoke away from her antiques
7. Child on House of Moon: He won't compromise his minimal appreciation of her standards
8. Cross on House of Scythe: The best outcome is that he could cut out the behavior that caused the crisis
9. House on House of Fox: Both could agree that they are unsuitable housemates and entirely wrong for sharing a house together

STICKING WITH THE CARDS

How many times have you spread the cards, seen how horrible they were, and then thrust them straight back into the deck and reshuffled thoroughly only to have lots of them return? It has happened to us all. Keeping the cards you first drew and rearranging

them differently can enable you to work with the dilemma, face it, go through it, and find the help that you need to cope with it. This method is essential in areas where you yourself run into ethical difficulties or when the client is dealing with a troubling choice, as cards usually reveal every facet of the question.

Paradox is often at the heart of a client's issue, when two impossible things sit in the same place, making decision very difficult indeed. Peeling back the layers so as to gain a new perspective on a complex issue is a great art. However, be aware that cartomancers are not in the business of fixing things but of revealing possible ways forward.

Spread 18: Ringing the Changes

Many of the earlier spreads worked with reading combinations of cards. This next one makes you consider each card more deeply. Consider a dilemma or issue that is knotty or paradoxical and shuffle the deck asking to be shown solutions to resolve it. Select five cards unseen, note their order, and give them each a fixed number 1–5. You will now read them in the following combinations:

1. What is happening now? 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5
2. What needs to change? 2 + 3 + 5 + 1 + 4
3. What action can be taken? 5 + 1 + 4 + 3 + 2
4. What factors enable change? 4 + 5 + 1 + 2 + 3
5. What can result? 3 + 4 + 2 + 5 + 1

Each step in rearranging the cards is like the turning of a key showing another way of looking at things. I give a brief example here with simple forward narration. You may want to unlock even more combinations in your own layouts by reading in pairs and triplets, etc.

Here Colin asks about the difficulty of clearing out his grandmother's house after her death. Living a long way off, he is dependent on other family members nearer to the house, but nothing much happens unless he is personally there to direct things. The money tied up in the house can't be shared till this is dealt with. How can he best resolve the issue? These are his cards:

1. Fish 2. Rod 3. Clover 4. Sun 5. Man

1. What is happening now? Fish + Rod + Clover + Sun + Man

An abundance to sort out, if only the opportunity was propitious for Colin.

2. What needs to change? Rod + Clover + Man + Fish + Sun

Repeating opportunities where Colin can dole out resources for general happiness.

3. What action can be taken? Man + Fish + Sun + Clover + Rod

Colin can finance a day where everyone takes a small share of the throwing out.

4. What factors enable change? Sun + Man + Fish + Rod + Clover

Confidence for Colin to flow through and make light work of the sorting.

5. What can result? Clover + Sun + Rod + Man + Fish

An opportunity of extended goodwill for the sorting out so that Colin (and his family) may realize the assets.

Spread 19: The Pyramid

In the Pyramid Spread we uncover the potentialities of a triplet by adding together its Lenormand sequence numbers (cards 1–36) to create two further cards and then add those two to give us the final card. It gives a very tight reading for the most tricky problems.

1. Read the triplet cards $1 + 2 + 3$.
2. Add the Lenormand sequence numbers of $1 + 2$ to give the sequence number for Card 4, then add $2 + 3$ to create the sequence number for Card 5.
3. Read the resulting pair. Then add the sequence numbers for Cards 4 and 5 together to give you Card 6.
4. Consider Card 6 as the final advice.
5. Now look at the new diagonal triplets created: $1 + 4 + 6$ and $3 + 5 + 6$.

Note: this process will sometimes result in a card that is already in the reading, which is fine. Retain it, it's alright to have it twice. If any total goes over 36, simply add the those numbers together, so

48 becomes $4 + 8 = 12$. You can also try it the other way and subtract 36 from the total, so $48 - 36 = 12$. In this instance, we get the same result anyway! Sometimes both sides of the pyramid add to the same number, but you only need to look at that level of reading if the picture is unclear. Here's an example:

Marianne is worried that her recently deceased husband's life insurance may not pay out, as the circumstances of his death are unclear. Anxious about how the family can support itself, she asks, "What will happen with his life insurance?"

2 Clover + 11 Rod + 18 Dog: There is an opportunity that, after investigation, there will be support.

2 Clover + 11 Rod = 13 Child.

11 Rod + 18 Dog = 29 Man.

13 Child + 29 Man = A trustful man.

13 + 29 = 42; 4 + 2 = 6 Clouds.

6 Clouds = A continuing unclarity.

Below shows what this reading looks like, with Rod as the basis of the pyramid. Reading the two sides of the pyramid we get:

Clover + Child + Clouds L = The chance of innocence being overcast.

Clouds L + Man + Dog = From suspicion the man emerges with help.

From this reading, we can tell Marianne that although things look bad at present, there will be a very thorough investigation that

concludes her husband's death was from natural causes. Support will be forthcoming.



Clouds L



Child



Man



Clover



Rod



Dog

Marianne's Pyramid Spread reading (Revolution)

The Pyramid Spread can be done with any triplet in order to reveal more information. But what happens when you get a total that gives you one of the cards you already have? Below is one such example. Simon's determined to go into journalism but his father wants him to follow his footsteps in the family business. What will give Simon the greatest job satisfaction? Here the addition from 27 Letter + 33 Key makes 50, or $5 + 0 = 5$ Tree, so Tree appears in this Pyramid twice.

5 Tree	=	Well-being is paramount
27 Letter + 33 Key	=	Journalism is certain
22 Paths + 5 Tree + 15 Bear	=	Alternative to family is strongest

Here I've read the foundational Tree as family, and the topmost Tree in its health aspect, since we are considering what is good for Simon's well-being.

Paths + Letter + Tree = Deciding for journalism over the family
Tree + Key + Bear = Patience and subtlety brings power

Simon can stick to his decision as the healthiest option for him. Tree and Bear in the reading also speak of his being able to endure patiently in the face of opposition.

Practice 45: Sticking with Your Cards

1. Fiona hasn't enough money to pay the rent this month. How can she raise the finances in time? Construct a pyramid and read the results from the triplet she draws: Ship + Clover + Ring.
2. Ivor decides to stick with his rather challenging set of cards: Mountain + Key + Mice + Woman + Tower. His relationship is stuck and going nowhere due to his partner's introversion and remoteness. Help him to rearrange his cards to find some help.

Spread 20: Chanting and Disenchanting the Story

Very often people will tell themselves an old story over and over again; so much so that they will believe it and live it wholeheartedly, like people under an enchantment. Here we spread that very story out on the table in front of them so that it becomes quite consciously visible. This spread is another instance of sticking with the cards you first drew. This is a two-part process that takes longer to explain on paper than it does to do in practice, so bear with me! The first part of this spread is a very old way of reading cards, first suggested by Comte de Mellet (1727–1804), a French military commander of cavalry who wrote an essay on the tarot.¹ I have expanded his original to demonstrate how you can both look at the context of a situation and help to disenchant the story's spell upon the client.

Take the whole deck and shuffle it. Now as you turn each card face up, at the same time you continually chant these words, "Spades, Clubs, Hearts, Diamonds": if you are laying a Spade as

you say “Spade,” then set it aside (keep your set-aside cards in the order in which you drew them) and continue turning up each card until you get to the bottom of the pack. Go through the whole pack once only, unless this chant only nets three cards or less. This selection is called the Suit-drawn cards.

Now set aside the deck of cards you’ve been counting through; you don’t need them yet. Pick up the small pile of Suit-drawn cards, turning them face up one at a time as you continually chant aloud, “Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6.” Lay aside any corresponding cards to the word you’re saying when you turn it over into a separate pile; so if you’re saying “Ten” when you turn up a 10, set it aside. Repeat this once more, if necessary, keeping the order of the cards as drawn, until you have at least one card. These are the Number-drawn cards. You will need the Suit-drawn cards first.

This action sifts the whole pack very quickly, giving you a number of cards in the Suit-drawn pile and usually a much smaller number of cards from the Number-drawn pile. The Suit-drawn cards shows you the sequence of someone’s story, which you read straight in a line, like a storyboard. The smaller set of cards from the Number draw show the epicenter of the problem, sometimes resulting in only one or two cards.

If you select no cards at all from the Number draw, this may indicate that the cause lies in another older situation, so go back to the main deck you discarded. Ask the client’s birthday, adding day, month, and year together. For instance, January 23, 1965 = $1 + 2 + 3 + 1 + 9 + 6 + 5 = 27 = 2 + 7 = 9$. Reduce any numbers over 9

to a single digit and count through the pack until you come to, in this case, the ninth card. This is the epicenter of the old story; a cause or something that set that train in motion.

Now in order to find a way forward, ask the client to choose one fresh card unseen from the discarded deck and shuffle it together with the Suit- and Number-drawn cards. Check how many cards you have and lay them out in any way that makes sense. The average number of cards selected in total from the Suit and Number draw is usually between 7–12. The number of the cards will suggest its own natural layout, so use your instinct and intuition skillfully. For instance, five cards can make the points of a pentagram or simply a Line of Five.

Camille is a childless woman in her early forties. She's thinking of giving up her academic post because of mysterious symptoms no doctor can diagnose. She is feeling overwhelmed with fear and very stuck. She wants help and insight to move on.

Camille's Number- and Suit-drawn cards (Palimpsest)

Chanting the Old Story

First I read the Suit-drawn cards as indicative of the past. I immediately see that there are no Hearts, only two Spades, two Clubs, and two Diamonds. This is a significant absence. I read this line in forward narration: the diminishment of her health started in childhood. In order to negotiate the terrain of adulthood (signified by Mountain) she unlocked the door of learning to become an academic, and this gave her some stability. I am very much aware of the small child and the high mountain while I am reading this.

Looking at the number draw, we see that her health is directly affected by a death or ending. Camille then speaks of the deaths of her parents, who both died within a few years of each other when she was only nineteen. Propelled into adulthood too early, she feels unsupported.

The Way Forward

Now I take up all the cards from both the Number and Suit draws in this spread and ask Camille to add one unseen card taken from the discarded deck to this as a resource to help her. She chooses House. The cards are too few for her to shuffle easily, so I suggest swirling them around on the table. What I spread next should show us the way forward. We now have 9 cards, so I lay them out in a Portrait Spread.

Interestingly, the new card House has appeared in the middle,

or topic, position. I ask Camille how she feels about this. Her face softens at the sight of it, and she immediately notices how Key is facing the House. “I want to come home to myself,” she says with great emotion. I also notice that this last card she's chosen is the King of Hearts—at last there is a Heart in the spread! This is how I read the way forward for Camille:

“The appearance of House in your story gives your soul peace. I notice that the Child is sheltered and has a secure place. Child is now opposite the Mountain that was once so overwhelming to you. I also see that the Mice are in the past, along with the health problems. You didn't allow yourself to mourn your parents' deaths and tried to carry on like an adult. The child you still were was oppressed by that burden. Now that child looks toward the Anchor and to future stability.

“The Key to coming home to yourself lies in opening the Book. Perhaps by writing an account of your family and your experiences, you can bring compassion and love back into the places where there was pain. Instead of feeling diminished (Mice), you can now root your academic experience in the hopes you have for the future.”



Mice



Mountain



Book



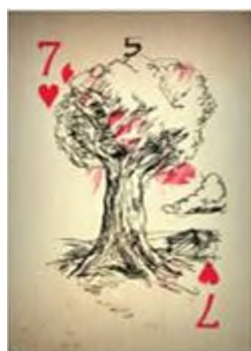
Coffin



House



Key



Tree



Child



Anchor

Camille's Nine-Card Portrait Spread (Palimpsest)

I add up the pips of the nine cards, which comes to 81 or $8 + 1$

= 9, which gives me 9 Bouquet, and say, “Your talents and skills can now blossom as you step into your life.” Camille and I talk afterward about how she can best mourn her parents and move onward. When this important loss is acknowledged, then her adult life can begin. We also discuss the role of the Anchor in her life, as I ask her what she hopes for.

As you can see from this example, you may find yourself interacting with the client and the images of the cards in a slightly different way as the story arises. The addition of one extra card to the Suit- and Number-drawn cards can create startling new possibilities.

Practice 46: Chanting the Story

- Mary is an elderly woman living alone who wants to go away for a holiday with a younger friend. She feels uneasy about this trip, although she's traveled extensively in the past. What's the story that's emerging and how can she get over her internal obstacles?

Number Draw:

Ship
10 ♠

Suit Draw:

House
K ♥

Cross
36 ♣

Dog
10 ♥

Bear
10 ♣

Key
8 ♦

Fish
K ♦

What is the disposition of the suits? Are there suits missing? What is the story here? Read the cards, looking at how the past or present are entangling for Mary and her trip. Next, look at the way forward. Because there are only eight cards, I've arranged the new spread in two lines including her new card Heart.

Fish
K ♦

Ship
10 ♠

Cross
36 ♣

Dog
10 ♥

Bear
10 ♣

Key
8 ♦

Heart
J ♥

House
K ♥

READING ALOUD

However you read your Lenormand cards, you have to learn their keywords. If you read for others, you will have to express what you understand in words to a client and this means that you need to become fluent in interpreting cards aloud. As you begin to read for others, each client's own needs and concerns will help you engage with areas of interpretation you had not previously considered. It is also important to express yourself in suitable language. If you read for an engineer you may use very different metaphors than when you read for a young English student or an elderly artist. Keep your metaphors and comparisons general and understandable, without jargon.

The way we read is not only presenting what the cards say, it is also the tone and tenor of your interpretation. You will communicate the import of the cards more sensitively with a man still reeling from being dumped by his girlfriend than you might with a tough businesswoman who wants you to tell her the absolute truth about her trading prospects this month. It isn't that you will hold back on the truth, but rather that you will handle and express your findings in well-chosen language without being brutal to, spooking, or bewildering your client.

What you do not say aloud is also responsible cartomancy. Sometimes you will see things in a spread that should not be disclosed unless the client first speaks about it. Recently, I was reading for a female client who was worried about her husband's long absences. When I discovered Man on the House of Woman and

Bear on the House of Lily in the same Grand Tableau, my immediate impression was that her husband could be a secret cross-dresser but, since this was information that might cause offense and had not been voiced by her as a possibility, I kept my own council. These combinations could equally indicate that she and her husband do not fit into traditional gender roles.

You may occasionally get a sense that there is an undisclosed matter hanging over a reading that wants to be revealed. Creep toward this gently, introducing a topic only if it is appropriate for the client. Crashing in with “I see that you were raped” or “your clandestine affair is revealed here” is not what people come to hear. However, if they come to see you in order for you to read about the rape or about their affair, that’s another matter. Kindness and consideration for your clients is important in honoring them. Speak intelligently from the heart and this will help them understand whatever it is you may find.

☞ Practice 47: Giving Voice to the Spread

- Consider these case histories and their accompanying cards. Speak your findings aloud as if the person were in the room with you. What special challenges or sensitivities do you notice? How do you deal with them? If you want to test yourself, then record yourself reading and play back each session. I leave you to interpret the cards for yourself and in the Answer Key give only the nature of the ethical issues that arise.
 1. Elaine is a nervous young mother about to reluctantly go back

to work due to hard economics. She asks, “How will my toddler settle into the nursery school?” Is this small spread sufficient? What else might you do?

Coffin 9 ♦ Garden 8 ♠ Child J ♠ Letter 7 ♠ Birds 7 ♦

2. Heimo intends to return to Finland from the United States to visit his dying mother. Relations between them have not been cordial. She has been outspoken and derogatory and he has been deeply hurt. Nevertheless he feels he must try again before it is too late. He asks, “What are the consequences of my going home to mother? Is any reconciliation possible?” Use Man for Heimo, since his father is now dead. His mother is represented by Bear. What stands out as the best way to portray reconciliation?

HEIMO'S TABLEAU

Lily	Paths	Stars	Garden	Key	Bouquet	Mice	Clover	Moon
Ring	Mountain	Heart	Stork	Sun	Letter	Anchor	House	Fish
Cross	Rod	Book	Child	Man	Clouds	Scythe	Birds	Tower
Rider	Coffin	Woman	Ship	Dog	Tree	Fox	Snake	Bear

3. Florence is a naive young woman who has fallen under the spell of a charismatic older man. She is ecstatic and enchanted, seeing him as her ticket to paradise, but some things she discloses make you feel she may be being exploited. She

asks simply, “When will we be married?” What do you see? How might you broach this topic with her?

FLORENCE'S TABLEAU

Ring	Rider	Stars	House	Child	Clouds	Key	Man
Bouquet	Mice	Tree	Garden	Woman	Paths	Cross	Heart
Lily	Anchor	Scythe	Birds	Dog	Ship	Fish	Moon
Letter	Snake	Mountain	Coffin	Fox	Rod	Bear	Stork
	Sun		Book	Tower	Clover		

4. Cal is a good-hearted young man with a burning desire to volunteer for an environmental project on the Amazon River where he will live among, and help, the indigenous people. He doesn't want to behave inappropriately or offend anyone by his attitude, deeds, or words, so he asks, “How can I best respect my indigenous hosts? What do I need to avoid?” Which topic cards will best represent the indigenous people’s view and the organization he is working for? Try reading this as a Near and Far Tableau. (shown below).

CAL'S NEAR AND FAR TABLEAU

Lily	Paths	Cross	Heart	Man	Mice	Tower	Bouquet
Stars	Tree	Scythe	Birds	Dog	Snake	Ship	Rod
Book	House	Child	Mountain	Coffin	Ring	Rider	Anchor

Letter Garden Key Clover Fox Sun Fish Moon
Bear Stork Woman Clouds

5. Dick and Robin, an urbane gay couple in their late thirties, are having a civil wedding. Robin's father, Alec, is deeply disapproving and he overrides Robin's mother, Jane, who would like to attend the wedding. Dick's parents and the many friends, family members, and coworkers who will be attending are all quite accepting. The couple asks, "What is the best way to include Alec and Jane in our wedding celebrations?"



Celebrating Lenormand

It is time to celebrate this little oracle that can be so eloquent and helpful. What has it taught you? How will you use it in your life? The topic card for "cards" is Book. So shuffle your cards now and ask one of these two questions, then look for the Book card, taking it out with the two cards either side of it. What do you read for yourself?

I asked how Lenormand has served in my own life and the response from my own cards is Woman + Man + Book + Letter + Heart. I translate this to mean "for women and men, the cards reveal news of the mysteries of the inmost heart." In this service I hope to continue.

Learning Lenormand is not something you can hurry; time and practice will build understanding and show you even more than what is outlined in this book. Continued practice will reveal nuanced layers of reading. Repeating spreads and reading for a variety of people and causes will unfold your own wisdom. Only you can provide the practice.

If you are still struggling to read the cards, return again to the key words in chapter 2. Sometimes there are a handful of cards that are hazy still, so try every possible combination of a card until it becomes eloquent to you. Let the cards speak together. If you want to read for others but don't have enough practice clients, then divine for individuals from TV, history, or fiction.

Your own daily practice will keep your learning fresh and at the cutting edge. You need never be downcast nor alone with your learning. The Lenormand community has spread far and wide throughout the world, so look into the resources and visit some online sites where you can interact with like-minded readers. These forums are wonderful for learning new ways to play with your cards, as well as for sharing readings and interpretations, and getting feedback. If there is no reading group near you, ask some friends to join you in your education, so that you can learn and practice together.


May I wish you fortitude in tackling your fate, lasting joy in your luck, abundant success in manifesting your destiny, and the satisfaction of your service, or as we say in Lenormand:



Bear on Cross, Sun on Clover, Fish on Man, Moon on Tower. Bear, Sun, Fish, Moon (Stralsunder); Cross, Clover, Man, Tower (Magisches)

LENORMAND PRINCIPLES 13

- Good divination is maintained by practice, personal standards, a respect for your own boundaries, and a code of ethics.
- Third-party issues can be rephrased so that the focus is upon the client's needs rather than on revealing the other party's thoughts and feelings.
- Dilemmas can be explored from diverse perspectives by sticking with the cards the client draws and rearranging them.



Reading cards aloud combines your knowledge and understanding of cards and their combinations, a use of ordinary vocabulary, and an appropriate tone and expression that is tuned to the client's point of view.

Self-Test 13 (see appendix 1 for solutions)

1. Create your own basic code of ethics or explore the boundaries spread to begin establishing this.
2. What kinds of client are best avoided?
3. What is confidentiality? Why is confidentiality important for both you and the client? When is it necessary to break confidentiality and why?
4. What kinds of questions are beyond your scope as a diviner?
5. Look at a dilemma you are trying to resolve with the Ringing the Changes Spread or explore a dispute for possible reconciliation by using the Reconciler Spread.

APPENDIX I

Key to the Practices, Self-Tests, and Spreads

This key gives some potential answers to the practices. Don't worry if the ones given below are very different from your own. This doesn't necessarily mean that you've interpreted them wrong. There will be many alternative ways to read the cards.

Self-Test 1

1. 1 Rider; 2 Clover; 3 Ship; 4 House; 5 Tree; 6 Clouds
2. 30 Lily; 31 Sun; 32 Moon
3. First thing in the morning, so that you can examine your reading later in the evening.

Practice 4: Pairs with a Purpose

1. The chance of a job; a chance to restore honor; the lucky recognition (of someone)
2. The parcel is cancelled; the horse doesn't run; boyfriend doesn't show
3. Successful peace; a warm old age; happy sex
4. Hopefully not lost; promised resources for diminished

- funds; improvements or tidiness needed at their home first
5. Pilgrimage to Lourdes; a posting to a temple abroad; a challenging journey

Practice 5: Triplet Translations

1. a) The stability at work is undercut; b) The confusion stops the journey; c) A gift to the elder is lucky
2. a) Birds + Dog + Rider; b) Child + Fish + Sun; c) Snake + Letter + Stars; d) Key + Woman + Cross

Practice 6: Triplets in Triplicate

1. a) The man is enthusiastic but confused. (What is holding him back?)
b) The passion of this man is crazy. (What's got into him?)
c) Mixed-up man in love. (Why can't he express his affection clearly?)
2. a) The house needs an assured security system. (What does the house need most?)
b) The renowned house is well established. (Which house has been here longest?)
c) The homesteaders had a key cut for their house. (What did the homesteaders do first?)

3. a) The woman walks a winding road. (How does she approach things?)
b) Complexities bar this woman's path. (What stands in her way?)
c) The devious tactics of this woman! (What shocks you most about her?)

Practice 7: As Above, So Below

1. Tree + Key + Dog: patience unlocks friendship

Garden + Anchor + Letter: invitations to a party to celebrate a return to normal are sent

Tree + Garden: a social environment

Key + Anchor: there will certainly be stability between them

Dog + Letter: a message is sent by friends

Caroline and her boyfriend will celebrate his return at a party or social gathering with friends. Their relationship is sure. Tree + Anchor + Dog suggests that this man is very stable, and maybe a little straight laced, but that's fine.

2. Bouquet + Coffin + Snake: professional skills stop and there are complications

Clover + Book + Rider: lucky break in education is coming

Bouquet + Clover: fortunate in his skills

Coffin + Book: secretly closed down

Snake + Rider: witnessing treachery

Despite choosing a new direction, some part of Sancho is not being used. He is betraying himself by closing down his original training but it is an unconscious impulse. The educational break that is coming along might be a lifeline back.

Practice 9: Topics Predict

1. Moon + **Cross** + Ship = work crisis abroad

Moon + Cross = challenging work

Cross + Ship = foreign crisis

Moon + Ship = overseas work

Final Answer = it depends on the foreign situation

2. Anchor + **Stork** + Clouds L = secure move is confused

Anchor + Stork = restless stability

Stork + Clouds L = overcast move

Anchor + Clouds L = confused about remaining

Final Answer = the move will not happen yet

3. Key + **Sun** + Man = certain happiness with man

Key + Sun = happiness resolves

Sun + Man = man on holiday

Key + Man = man is important in this

Final Answer = yes, he will

Self-Test 3

1. 8 Coffin; 9 Bouquet; 10 Scythe; 11 Rod; 12 Birds

2. Rider; Birds; Bear; Dog; Tower
3. Clouds; Coffin; Snake; Scythe; Rod; Fox; Mountain; Mice; Cross
4. Rider; Clover; Bouquet; Stars; Dog; Heart; Ring; Sun; Key
5. Diminishing; loss; wearing out; reduction; spoiling

Practice 12: A Fistful of Fives

1. Topic: Woman

Past: Cross + Tree = health crisis

Future: Rider + Heart = a pacemaker

Sun + Ring = committing to happiness

Cross + Sun + Heart = critical for the vigor of her heart

Tree + Ring + Rider = health phase is paced

Ellie may have to have a pacemaker fitted. She will have to pace her life more carefully but there's no reason why she should be miserable.

2. Topic: Bear = empowerment or possessiveness

Tree + Fish = financial well-being

Fish + Clouds R + Bear = empowerment is fogged by money troubles

Clouds R + Woman = depressed woman

Tree + Bear = well-being is swamped

Fish + Clouds R = overcast finances

Tree + Woman = woman's health

The line reads: the well-being of her finances is overwhelmed by her depression. Diane is in danger of being overwhelmed by depression caused by money worries. A way forward may be to seek help for the depression and obtain financial advice from a benefactor.

3. Topic: Birds = a need to talk things out; brothers

Stars + House = domestic clarity

House + Birds = talking at home

Birds + Man = brothers

Man + Anchor = breadwinner

Stars + Anchor = secure guidance

House + Man + Birds = proactive discussion at home

Roy is the sole breadwinner in the household which he shares with his brother (Birds), who is perhaps annoying him as he's not earning enough. The solution is to sit down and talk to his brother about contributing more to the household so that there can be peace.

Practice 13: Collecting Compounds

1. Snake + Clover
2. Man or Lily + Bouquet or Fish
3. Man + Letter but we generally use Rider as postman
4. Anchor + Fox + Key
5. Moon + Coffin

6. Book + Key
7. House + Stork
8. Tree + Stork (transmigration) or Ring + Rod (round again)

Practice 14: Loud or Soft?

1.
 - a) You are applying to the wrong firm
 - b) It has been wrongly delivered by the company
 - c) The hospital sent the wrong information
2.
 - a) Your sense of security is certainly going to be limited
 - b) Your wages are locked down due to a crisis (bankruptcy is a possibility here)
 - c) Certainly there will be challenging results for you
3.
 - a) He's a decisive guy who moves about
 - b) It will be a celebratory event that changes everything
 - c) That you're the trusted person to help change the event

Practice 15: Keyword Beads

1. The reliable man has mislaid his documents from work and is searching for them.
2. The dodgy investments have been frozen and there are discussions about why they've been severed.
3. Domestic confusion reigns after important health support

changes.

4. A gray-haired woman is publically awarded for her sophisticated guidance.

Self-Test 4

1. Select and read cards in order: 3; 3 + 2 + 4; 1 + 2; 4 + 5; 1 + 3; 2 + 4; 3 + 5; 1 + 5; 1–5 in forward narration as a statement
2. The context of the question
3. Fox; Bear; Stars; Stork; Dog

Practice 17: Portfolio of Portraits

1. Book is the mystery of his nonappearance, which is caused by Fish, so there may be monetary considerations for his absence.

Corners: Abundant clarity about the meeting is ascertainable.

Diamond: Forgotten affection; faux pas today.

Columns: Abundant affection is secure. Stuck in today's lesson. Sociable beginning of clarity.

Arrows: Abundant success for the meeting. Securely stuck in his mind.

Notes: Denise's boyfriend has just forgotten about the meeting because he is studying and has become immersed. He

will realize his faux pas. She has nothing to worry about.

- 2 Child shows that Leonard is feeling unprepared and child-like when he actually needs to play the Man.

Corners: Man's rival from abroad gets the bonus.

Diamond: Challenging questions about firm's documents.

Columns: Man researches finance. Trial makes him feel small about the documents. Overseas office rival.

Arrows: Man's document goes overseas. Money not forthcoming but going to the rival.

Notes: Leonard is unprepared and needs to do his homework. The chances are that he will not get this post, which will go to a rival unless he steps up.

- 1 Martin has Rod at the center, meaning that he needs to speak well, while Scythe tells us that he needs to speak speedily and to the point.

Corners: Fast cunning brings honor.

Diamond: Domestic rival confident with experience.

Columns: Quick sophistication gets the job. Welcoming questions shows maturity. The award goes to the confidant and most cunning.

Arrows: Quick maturity gets the award. Honor for prudent economy.

Notes: Martin has to pitch fast and furious, while revealing his experience, maturity, and familiarity with the market. He's

got to do some economic corner cutting.

4. Betsy is an elderly cat who's been unwell for a while and under treatment with the vet.

Center card: Her need is for stabilization and it is triggered by repeated exacerbation.

Corners: Repeated approach to a brief solution.

Diamond: Loss of proactive stability; something mysterious is wrong.

Rows: Discussing the diminishing solution. Vet needs to stabilize what the mystery is causing. Chance of an erroneous treatment.

Columns: Discussing the best chance. Loss of stability makes her feel wrong. Solution to the mystery is to visit.

Diagonals: Discussing the stabilization approach. Solution to stability is chancy.

Mirroring: Mice + Fox = Loss and a sense of wrongness. Man + Book = Vet and mystery.

Knighting: Rod knights Fox and Book = A mysterious wrongness repeats. Man knights Key and Rider = Vet may have solution or approach.

Summation: Betsy doesn't know what's wrong with her. She desperately wants to be ordinary again. She trusts the vet to uncover the mystery. Conclusion: Betsy was pronounced too ill by the vet who had tried different treatments. She was put

to sleep.

5. Sun tells us Gervais's conference has a happy outlook, and that it has been originated in order for everyone to discuss important topics.

Corners: Discussions will be popular; a clever woman concludes it.

Diamond: The array of skills gathered here will bring a sense of well-being and good fortune.

Rows: Conference skills are sophisticated. A happy gathering of this branch of learning. A closed opportunity for academics to talk.

Columns: The conference gathers the past. The selection is a glittering opportunity. Cleverness of ancestral talk.

Diagonals: Discussing topics with historical cleverness.

Mirroring: Scythe L + Tree = Ancestral gathering. Rod + Birds = Repeated discussions.

Knighting: Rod + Tree = Ancestral discussions. Snake + Scythe L = Cuttingly clever.

Summation: This is going to be a glittering, if cliquey, event at which some very clever speakers are going to get on together very well, with perhaps a little pride and boasting.

Practice 18: Cards in Their Houses

1. Woman in House of Tree: The woman gets connected to the network.

Sun in House of Book: Electricity has to be routed round the library.
Tree in House of Man: The network is connected by a man.

The installation goes well when the electricity is routed around the book stacks in the library.

2. Fish in House of Lily: A mature transaction.

Birds in House of Bouquet: Talk will be pleasant.

House in House of Stars: Based on good judgment.

Lloyd doesn't need to be alarmed. They will be mature and tolerant enough to have a pleasant and equitable time.

Practice 20: Between Past and Future

1. Hazel has had challenges with the important men in her life that made her feel deceived and restless. Forgetting the old agenda, she chooses happiness and dignity.

Cross + Coffin: she was closed down with the trauma

Key + Letter: she learned important information

Man + Paths: she is choosing to be in relationship now

Fox + Sun: she can be happy vigilantly

Stork + Moon: she wants to be in another place where she can be honored

Summary: Hazel has been injured in the past but by

acknowledging her own needs with respect, she is able to make better choices, albeit cautiously.

2. The moving about made Jose strong and professional but its challenges are no longer to his taste. The marketplace has made him a sensitive delivery man but now he desires more solitude at home.

Stork + Garden: he was sociable in his movements

Bear + Woman: he learned sensitivity and strength

Moon + Rider: he is versatile and professional

Cross + Mountain: he can face solitude and seclusion

Heart + House: he wants to enjoy domesticity

Summary: Jose is more than ready to make this move and maybe work from home rather than moving about all the time.

Self-Test 5

1. Card 5 shows the focus of the issue and Card 1 reveals what instigated it. Read Card 1 with Card 9, Card 3 with Card 7. Read Cards 2, 4, 6, and 8. Read 1, 4, and 7 as the past; 2, 5, and 8 as the present; and 3, 6, and 9 as the future. Read rows 1–3, 4–6, and 7–9. Read arrows 1, 8, and 3, and 7, 2, and 3.
2. Knighting is the special relationship between two cards that

is discovered by tracing the knight's move in chess. Mirroring is a way of relating two cards together by reflection from side to side, up to down, or diagonally in a spread.

3. Ensure that you use pairs of cards to describe one position. Or use House cards for the positions on which you can lay another card, so that there is a dynamic reaction.
4. Garden; Mountain; Paths; Mice; Heart
5. The card is the subject and the House card modifies or describes it.

Practice 21: The Colors of Yes and No

1. One yes + one maybe yes + one no = very likely
2. Two maybe no + one yes = unlikely
3. One no + two maybe yes = perhaps a limited response
4. Two yes + one maybe yes = yes, most likely
5. One no + one maybe yes + one maybe no = not very likely, unless you're very quick

Practice 22: Suit Combinations

1. a) Old sailor; dependable. A dependable old sailor.
b) Changing the gift; obliging. The gift swap is obliging.
c) Happy infant; natural. The infant is naturally happy.

- d) Failure of stability; declining. Stability is failing and in decline.
2. a) Deceitful minx; detrimental. The behavior of the deceitful minx is detrimental.
- b) Male commitment; striving. He strives for male commitment.
- c) Publically shunned; oppressive. Being publically shunned is oppressive.
- d) Secret investigation; complex. The secret investigations are complex.
3. a) Important decision; energetic. The energy to make important decisions.
- b) Melancholic ending; blocked. You feel blocked by this melancholic end.
- c) Friendly phone call; harmonious. The friendly phone call is harmonious.
- d) Female financier; resourceful. The female financier is resourceful.

Practice 23: Playing with Multiples

Yes or No?

1. One no + two maybe noes = Probably not.
Two black Queens = Gossip.

The train will be late due to a surprise problem on the line but you'll have a chance to chat with your fellow travelers.

2. One yes + one maybe yes + one maybe no = Probably.
One red and one black Seven = Worries.

The date will go ahead but you need to clear up any worries caused by the message you posted on a social network.

3. Two noes + one maybe no = No.
Two black Jacks = Bad advice.

Dan won't be coming, which is just as well, as someone's naivety would be played upon by his consistently bad advice.

Lines of Five

1. Two black Sixes = Betrayal.
2. Two red Eights + one black Ten + one red Ten = Infatuation and delays.
3. Three Sixes = Joy.
Two black Kings = Successful lawsuit.

Above and Below

Two black Aces = Bad luck.
Two red Tens = Travel.

Portrait

Two red Jacks = Male gathering.
One black + one red Six = Carelessness.



Two red Sevens = A proposition.

Practice 24: Predominating Influences

Lines of Five

1. A majority of three Clubs suggesting a grave situation; two Spades = obliged. An all-black spread with no Hearts or Diamonds suggests that the client is in a weak and dangerous situation. Two black Sevens is jealousy.
2. A majority of three Diamonds suggest success in this instance; two Hearts may suggest weakness or dreaminess. An all-red spread with no Spades or Clubs suggesting that the client may need to apply some hard work to deal with issues.
3. Two Hearts and two Diamonds suggest that this issue will resolve itself. One Spade may indicate authorization is due. No Clubs suggests it will be without much difficulty. Two Tens of either color = some delays.

Portrait

1. A majority of four Spades suggest this will be a slow task. Two Clubs say it won't be without struggle. Two Hearts say there is a willing love; no Diamonds suggest that there may not be enough energy to effect this reunion. Two Kings of

either hue say strife.

2. Three Hearts and three Diamonds show there is guidance to resolve this. Two Clubs show it will be a contractual struggle. One Spade suggests that some more order would be helpful. Two red Sevens is a proposition, suggesting that this sister might make an agreement with her addicted brother.

Self-Test 6

1. Adventurous, resourceful, daring, or risky.
2. Book; Letter; Man; Woman; Lily.
3. Clubs in Lenormand, Spades in playing card divination.
4. By using a three-card spread. Spades = maybe no. Hearts = yes. Clubs = no. Diamonds = maybe yes.
5. They strengthen, intensify, and confirm the main impact of the suit.
6. Winter cessation or an elder dies. Diamond + Spade = resourceful or risky. Putting them together: resources needed until winter ends; it was risky, so the elder died.
7. Physical difficulties.
8. Means; resources; demeanors; approaches; motives; sociable; gregarious and talkative.

Practice 26: Reading Round

1. Book + Anchor + Stars + Coffin + Heart = Stuck in a digital book, he forgets his date.
2. Child + Fish + Snake + Cross + Rod = Naïve financial pride leads to a swingeing (severe) setback.
3. Rod + Moon + Fox + House + Snake = Discussing work cleverly and familiarly so as to impress.
4. Anchor + Clover + Rider + Mice + Man = Stability is of short duration. A man is sent to undercut progress.
5. Sun + Coffin + Birds + Bouquet + Scythe = Happy conclusion to the talk with a sudden surprise.

Practice 27: A Blessing for the Querent

1. Pips = 34 Fish: "May you smoothly fit into your new home!"
2. Pips = 31 Sun: "May all the happiness you wish shine upon you!"
3. Pips = 35 Anchor: "May you demonstrate the core dependability they are looking for!"
4. Pips = 36 Cross: "I wish you both the special grace to find your first home together!"
5. Pips = 40 = 4 + 0 = 4 House: "May you find just the right moment when he's feeling comfortable!"

Practice 28: Hidden Dynamics

1. Outer pips = 20 Garden; center = Tower; inner pips = 8 Coffin. The retirement home is midway between the world at large and the world of retirement.
2. Outer pips = 2 Clover; center = Child; inner pips = 19 Tower. The fresh start involves choosing between a small opportunity and his return to the service.
3. Outer pips = 18 Dog; center = Dog; inner pips = 7 Snake. Support is between friendship and manipulation. In this instance, Snake may refer to the man's soccer flexibility or movements.
4. Outer pips = 15 Bear; center = Sun; inner pips = 20 Garden. Happiness is pitched between a power struggle and their shared space.
5. Outer pips = 12 Birds; center = Moon; inner pips = 19 Tower. Her working arrangements are between gossip and the office ethic.

Practice 29: Pairing from the Ends

1. Moon + Birds: discussing the work (publically)
Heart + Diamond: guiding; resolving
2. Woman + Snake: unconventional woman; complications for a woman; deceptive woman (in the marketplace)

Spades + Clubs; troubled

3. Cross + Sun: keeping cheerful about the challenge (socially)

Clubs + Diamonds: clever; superior

4. Ship + Man: foreign man; traveling man (as her public representative)

Spades + Hearts: reciprocal; cooperative

5. Stars + Stork: changing her motivations (about how the institute serves the public)

Hearts + Hearts: engaging; passionate

Practice 30: Your Seven Pairs

With six predominant Diamonds I can see you are dynamic and enterprising in your search for a partner. These four Spades suggest you looking for a dependable man only this time. Two Clubs shows how you've struggled. Just two Hearts here signifies that that a reciprocal loving friendship is important to you. I see three Kings here, meaning your plans will work out. Let's see what the cards have to say.

The Woman is your Significator. Behind you are Lily and Clover. Your last partnership was with an older man but it only lasted a short while. A new friendship with a dependable man is coming up. He seems to be an uncomplicated guy who's been in a relationship with a complex woman, which has left him slightly depressed. It looks like you'll meet abroad or on a cruise and that

you'll experience a real sense of flow and connection between you. He is capable of bringing you unclouded happiness. There will be none of the secrets you had in the last relationship. Just be careful, in reference to the King and Queen pair of Clouds and Snake, that you don't replay the bitterness and confusion of your past relationships. The surprise cards show you making decisions to change your way of life, seeking a harmony and attraction that will gladden your heart.

Let's see what the cards confirm of this prediction, as I pair them. Book and Lily say "close the book on this wintry period of your life and step into the most happy opportunity (Clover and Sun)." Woman and Stars show that you are clear about your intentions and that you are ready to meet a boyfriend whom you can depend upon and be supported by (Dog and Fish). Child and Ship say "take a cruise and just relax and play." Clouds and Paths show that you are still a little depressed by the past but you have Snake and Stork, which is the power to change and be your own woman.

Practice 31: Portrait of the Courts

Central card of Garden shows that this is a matter that is in the public eye. The first card of Clover is the opportunism that has caused this.

Corners: Opportunist heartlessness attacks well-being and stability.

Diamond: Secret perplexity changes the contract.

Columns: Opportunism confuses stability. Accounts outed by someone in the know. Well-being suffers a change of loyalty.

Amplifying courts: The principles in this reading can be identified as Alex = Clouds K ♠ while the online scammer is House K ♥ . Stork Q ♥ is his manager and Heart J ♥ + is his legal advisor. House + Clouds shows the two Kings facing each other. Alex's Clouds looks toward the House's K ♥ who raises his sword against him; Hearts and Clubs together create oppression.

Stork + Dog shows Alex's manager bringing in loyal help; it looks like a tracker dog in the context of this question. She can start a web search and get to the bottom of this; two Hearts together create friendly support. Heart + Letter shows Alex's legal advice looking toward a legal letter to send to the online company responsible for this scam; Heart and Spade together create a daring approach.

Knighting: Alex's Clouds knights to both Tree and Heart causes him upset and illness. The opportunist Clover knights to both Stork and Ring, which confirms the change to Alex's contract of trading. His firm's honest stability, represented by Anchor, knights Book and Stork = perceived changes to their accounts.

Mirroring: Clover and Anchor show that the scammer has taken the risk and by a slight opening has made the firm seem

fickle.

Counting Round: Cloud K ♠ + Stork Q ♥ + Ring A ♠ + Clover 6 ♦ + Tree 7 ♥ reads “the confusion and changes need contractual negotiation to return to an easy well-being again.” Pips add to 39, or 12 Birds: get onto the internet server!

Multiples: Two Kings of both colors = strife. Eights of both kinds = coming to an understanding. Two red Tens = travel. Sevens of both kinds = worries.

Summation: Alex is upset by all the worry and strife, but his manager gets digging and his legal adviser sends a letter to the online scammer and an understanding is reached. The internet server is also informed. Alex can prove his honesty by exhibiting his accounts and renegotiating new contracts with his customers. Since travel comes into play when we look at the multiples, he may have to look further afield for new customers.

Self-Test 7

1. That words are framed appropriately in metaphor and content for the client, and that the blessing encourages the client.
2. May your love find a worthy subject!
3. Moon, Key, Fish, Anchor, Cross.
4. By examining the court cards.

Practice 32: What Opposites Reveal

1. Two maybe noes + one no = probably not, but Letter and Bouquet meaning words and deeds suggest he might try a letter of apology as well as some flowers!
2. Scythe and Letter reveal disconnection and communication, while Scythe and Man show us a resolute man. Who might open the way for her and how? What do three Diamonds suggest?
3. Tree + Moon shows growth and fame; Bear + Key reveals forcefulness and subtlety; Dog + Tower shows friend and enemy. What is this building firm looking for? What is their attitude to young employees? What might three Eights reveal? What are the two Tens saying?

Self-Test 8

1. Archetypal reading: Honor of Destiny and Financial Luck brings the Revelation of Luck: a Daughter of Service in Community Service. Basic reading: Honor flows certainly. A partner at the gathering. Insight: He is going to be appreciated more, earn better, and maybe meet his future wife (who might be a nurse or a local government worker) at a social event.
2. Child and Heart reveal platonic/romantic possibilities, but

with Dog, it is likely to remain a strictly platonic friendship.

3. Unlucky + Luck of Choice + Mature Service = an ending; deciding to part from the impotent man. She wants a sex life and will look elsewhere for an alternative.
4. The line reads, "confusion passes for the man who receives the surprise of two contracts." Bouquet and Man reveal an invited man. Birds speak of a pair and Ring of a couple. Red and black Aces speak of confusion. Taken with the opening Clouds card, this doesn't bode well. However, it looks as if this is both a promotion and a partnership that he will receive. His confusion is based on the fact that he doesn't expect both.
5. Destined Delivery meets Fateful Delay around the issue of Mature Service. Destiny has to Survive Fate. It reads basically, "approaching the obstacle of uncle with grace despite his wrong-footing me." Two sets of Hearts and Clubs suggest that she is emotional and oppressed about this. Mountain and Stars make national/universal, which can remind her that she might approach this duty with a sense of the higher good rather than concentrating upon her own rights. Outer pips: 15 Bear; Center: Lily; Inner Pips: 17 Stork. This translates to the strength to change uncle's circumstances. Blessing (total pips read either way have the same result = 44 or $4 + 4 = \text{Coffin}$, also $44 - 36 = 8$. May your patient duty

help your uncle to have a positive experience of death.

Practice 33: Scanning for Topics

1. Man; Stork for changes; Dog for dog and its proximity to Tree for health and Stork again for fosterage; Ship for travel and trade; Fish for finance; House for home and Moon for work.
2. Woman; Snake for a divorced woman; Scythe for separation; Clouds for mental health and proximity to Tree for general health; Lily for client's ex-husband; Man for current boyfriend; Rider for daughter's ex-husband; Fish for money; Heart for love; Ring for commitment.
3. Woman; Heart for love and Ring for commitment (if Ring stands before Heart, the marriage will not endure!); Ship for foreign travel; Sun for summer; examine proximity of Heart (which does double duty for love and for a literal heart) to Rod for exacerbation and Tree for health.
4. Man; Stork for move and change; House for home; Moon for work; Stars for north; Paths for decision; Lily for father in proximity of Garden for sociability; and possibly Clouds for confusion and Mountain for lonely or isolated.
5. Man; Lily for older friend; Rider for one-night stand; Ship for motor bikes; Birds for phone; Snake for betrayal; Scythe for

severance; Heart for affection; and Anchor for stability of the business.

6. Woman; Child for son; Tree for health and Rod for repetition with Stork for mobility and Ship for traveling in a vehicle; Anchor for physical stasis; Book for education; Moon for work; proximity of Fish for financial support with Tower for government.

Practice 34: Piquet Case Histories

Significator: Collette's Significator is in the top row at A2 next to her partner in the House of Clover. She is well placed for an opportunity or lucky window. House, Woman, and Man say that the woman is at home with her partner, suggesting that some self-employment or home-working is possible.

Corners: “Home reports passionately delivered.” This suggests writing or providing information is something she enjoys.

Standout combinations: A4–A7 Dog + Rod + Stars + Birds = “witnessing and arguing clearly for couples.” Rod can mean advocacy or speaking up for others. Then there's C5–C8 Snake + Cross + Book + Garden, which says “complications and crisis resulting from public mysteries.”

Lines: Column 2, or the present, reads, “woman's luck/opportunity is under systemic protection.” The work shown here is likely to be something she is already involved in or

familiar with. The protective aspect refers to the mysteries or what is unknown, and is being used to serve the well-being of the system. Line A reads: "the woman's foundation with her partner offers friendly advocacy/representation that clearly and enthusiastically benefits the couple/relationship."

Diagonals: Her recent job offered stability (Anchor) and security but was ordinary and boring. The future diagonal is Ring + Child + Coffin + Key saying, "Your new contract involves concluding things and finding solutions." Another way of reading Coffin is also as the deceased or the processes around death. In which case, your future work could involve helping people who are left high and dry after a death. Just bringing up all possibilities here!

Topics: The sure money is at D7 Fish on House of Sun = happy, happy money! However Fish also knits to E5 Mountain, C5 Snake, B6 Mice, and B8 Bear = a challenge of deceit/treachery and loss in order to obtain power. Both Snake and Bear can be intelligent or powerful women as well as qualities, so she might find she is up against formidable and intelligent forces to earn her money.

Her A8 Heart is on House of Coffin, showing that she's closed down due to her recent work, and that this gives her a sense of loss B6 Mice. What she really wants is C7 Book = uncovering mysteries. Her direction and choice now is D3

Paths, which is situated between C3 Stork and E3 Moon or change of work. Moon representing her work/career knights to C2 Tree, C4 Child, and D5 Coffin, saying there is a systemic new start to conclusions.

Mirrors: Woman mirrors D2 Lily, A7 Birds, and D7 Fish = the woman's protection of people anxious about their money/inheritance.

Essence cards: Moon + Scythe + Mountain + Key = reaping the rewards of your work skills provides solutions to the impasse.

Summary: There is a strong advocacy aspect to what she is looking for that may involve both writing and speaking, or representing those who have no say. Something having to do with family or systemic health, bereavement, and the legal system are all possible options. The fact that she has Key as the last card means that this career is certain. A strong sense of resolution or bringing some ongoing thing to an end is part of her future work.

Outcome: Collette had actually applied for a post as an investigator at the sheriff's department, without telling me. She got the job, which involves going to scene of a crime, noting evidence, and investigation. This work is clearly visible in Dog + Rod, which can literally translate to investigative police work. It also makes sense of Tree, Child, and Coffin, which is about seeking new ways to end a systemic case, and Snake, Cross,

Book, and Garden, which mean complex testing of public mysteries.

Practice 35: Heart of the Piquet and Seasonal Selection

1. Garden on House of Birds: the social aspect of this trip may be difficult for Meriol's need for private space or silence.

Coffin on House of Child: since this is an archaeological dig, some new finds will be excavated.

Woman on House of Garden: Meriol is going to be very much in the public eye and accessible.

Scythe on House of Mountain: an accident in a remote place.

Book + Garden: sociably educational; Fox + Woman: vigilant woman; Child + Coffin: critical beginning; Anchor + Scythe: danger to safety. Clouds + Dog + Garden + Coffin: friendly confusion and common illness; Stork + Cross + Woman + Scythe: challenging move and cut/injured woman.

Meriol will have her hands full on this trip and may need to step up her health and safety considerations. She will have to be vigilant, especially near the beginning of the trip. People get on well enough after some initial confusion, but a bout of illness soon affects everyone. (Coffin is between Garden and Tower, suggesting that their base camp kitchen could be the culprit.) Getting on and off this island needs special attention as it looks like someone receives an injury. Cross is on its own House, showing that this will indeed be a trying trip, as

Scythe on Mountain suggests: an accident in a remote place.

Outcome: Meriol herself slipped and sprained her ankle getting off the boat. She was able to stay on the island but was immobilized for the first week.

2. Adrian's Week 1: Scythe + Clover = taking the initiative; Paths + Cross = challenging alternatives; Birds + Ring = contractual phone call; Child + Tree = systemic beginning. Adrian gets off to a quick start, but there are some plot twists to factor in. He needs to check his contractual obligations with his agent and may have to begin again. Bouquet rules this week and allows Adrian to show the range of his writing palette.

Week 2: Anchor + Heart = passionately persevering; Rider + Mountain = delays to his progress; Key + Mice = undercutting the importance; Ship + Sun = success overseas. Adrian forges on but cannot progress without some vital information. It looks like an important character or scene has to be cut back or diminished, but then the syndicated series does well abroad so things cheer up. Garden rules this week, which is governed by public interest.

Week 3: Snake + Tower = administrative complexities; Stars + Man = a star actor; Fox + House = residential advantage; Bear + Moon = working powerfully. This week, he is subject to the studio's bringing in a new star for a main part. Adrian has the advantage over the other script team writers and he writes on,

maybe working at night as well now. Clouds overshadow this week but confusion lifts.

Week 4: Dog + Lily = elderly friend; Stork + Coffin = ending the changes; Book + Rod = writing furiously; Fish + Letter = pages flow. In his deadline week, Adrian gets help from an older friend. Nothing can be changed much at this stage, so he writes the script at every possible opportunity. At the last, he has to do the usual update pages. Woman rules this deadline week as Adrian's wife supportively takes over all his other tasks.

Self-Test 9

1. Use the Man and Woman cards supplied for the partner with the more dominant male or female nature within the relationship. You can also use alternative Man or Woman cards, discarding the unused Significator. Other options are to make a blank card or to use the Rider or Snake to represent the partner.
2. The story in brief.
3. It answers the main concerns of the client, as well as subsidiary questions, by examining of the Significator and the relevant topic cards.
4. Something the client understands, factors underlying the spread, or events coming in the near future.

5. a) Grounded by the authorities or contained within official limits; b) Passport check at border control or visa needed for remoter access; c) Accident while traveling on a ferry.

Practice 36: Grand Tableau of Nines

1. Nina's Tableau

Significator: Woman on House of Mountain = Nina is isolated or remote from this momentous decision.

Corners: Rowley takes the initiative despite her opinions and unclarity.

First three cards: The man achieves success through devious means.

Standout combinations: Stars + Child + Birds + House = Conceiving a child or twins in their new place.

Past, Present, Future: Her vertical line reads “successful attempts to win her heart.” Line C reads “the gifting news enables her to travel abroad with a new contract, but poor conditions end this.”

Diagonals: Behind her Man and Dog is lover and friend. Below and behind her, Scythe cuts her off from her past life. Rising forward: Key and Paths = this is an important direction for her life. Sinking forward: love paves the way.

Topics Knighted and Mirrored: Child on House of Key mirrors Garden on House of Clouds; Sun on House of Ship and Bear

on House of Lily: having a child is important to her, despite the fact that it will cramp her social style and her happiness in traveling, but it will establish her as a mature mother. Woman knights Fish on House of House, showing that she will be a breadwinner from home.

Summary: Although Rowley is calling the shots, it is Nina who is likely to be the best earner. A child is coming soon and Nina will find ways of lucratively working from home.

2. Seasonal Selection

Bear on House of Tree: The strength of her rootedness in her work. Although this has been a shock, she will not be moved.

Child on House of Fox: There is an injury to innocence at this underhanded change by her employer.

Tree on House of Mice: Worry and loss affecting the health of her work. Here growth falls on the House of decay, causing a stalemate.

Moon on House of Moon: Her focus is on her work. With this kind of determination, she can weather this blow.

7 Jan–17 Jan: Fish + Woman = a generous woman; Garden + Scythe = severed from the group; Rider + Mountain = delayed news; Man + Fox = deceiving man. Bear rules this ten days in which Garnet finds herself “sent to coventry” (given the cold shoulder) by her firm and kept purposely in the dark about their intentions. She will need all her strength not to be

overwhelmed by this dark week.

18 Jan–28 Jan: Heart + Snake = betrayal of trust; Sun + Rod = overexposure to criticism; Clover + Ring = contractual chance; Bouquet + Stork = change of skills. For this portion of the time Garnet is smarting over what has happened and the implied, or real, criticism of her employer's action. She will have to adapt her skills. Child is the card to sustain her. Rather than stewing in injured innocence, she has to make a fresh start.

29 Jan–8 Feb: Anchor + Book = learning how to stabilize; Clouds + Lily is a classic combination for a falling out between a long married couple, a pair of exes, or a long-term partnership. It's a power-clash of the King and Queen of Clubs, where both hold stubbornly to their respective positions. It means candid confusion or bitterness; Key + Tower = office solution; Paths + Letter = alternative documents. This ten days sees Garnet discovering how to return to some kind of routine amid a harsh environment that reveals how little her employers understand what they have done. It looks as if the penny drops here and they offer her a way continuing work in a different way. Tree on House of Mice governs this period, in which it may be hard to make headway or feel comfortable when so much has been undercut.

9 Feb–20 Feb: Mice + Stars = clarity about the loss; Ship + Coffin

= stopping the transaction; Birds + Dog = talking to a friend; Cross + House = domestically challenged. Moon on House of Moon shows her getting back on the horse of her work after this shock, but with Coffin and Cross in this period, it looks as if Garnet gains enough perspective to pull out of this employment as it upsets her home arrangements too much.

Practice 37: Tableau Tools

1. Woman on House of Clover; Clover on House of Sun; Sun on House of Woman. This can be a chance for happiness.
2. Woman: Letter + Snake = betraying letter. Bear + House = domestically strong.
3.

Bear	Sun	Rider
Tower	Woman	Man
Snake	Stork	Mice
4. Woman on House of Bouquet at B1 and Bouquet on House of Paths at C4. Between these lie Scythe on House of Scythe and Mountain on House of Rod above, and Sun on House of Garden and Clover on House of Mountain below. A total break with repetitive blockages imposed by her employers is necessary for her to stand tall in public and take her chance without delay.

Self-Test 10

1. Woman on House of Letter; Letter on House of Tree; Tree on House of Woman. Indira's concern about her documentation and her health is the agenda of this spread.
2. Divide into four sections of eight cards each with the central fifth column as the trunk or spine.
3. Because some part of the picture or story is known to the reader and some details can be checked.
4. Woman on House of House and Cross on House of Heart. Bear on House of Fox and Coffin on House of Bear; Sun on House of Paths and Rider on House of Mice. Despite being female and therefore not the most authorized person (Bear on Fox) in Jewish society, she remains strong to the end. On that day early she brings the news to those who have lost.
5. Woman: Letter + Key = important messenger. Man: Book + Key = revealer of the mystery. Rider: Mountain + Clover = lucky rock (Petrus or Peter = rock!). Dog: Man + Ship = traveler to foreign parts.

Practice 39: Near and Far in Smaller Spreads

1. Fish as the topic card reveals that the package contains something Katie has bought.
Snake + Mountain = unhappiness and opposition.

Stork + Ship = a change brings enrichment.

Mountain + Fish + Stork = blocked package moves.

The line reads: After a complex delay, the package moves from overseas. (I used the keywords to read the line.) Fish + Ship suggest that the firm who sent the package will be helpful to her.

2. Certainly love surrounds you. Yes, she does!

3. Moon + Rider = good news about honor is his current concern.

Mountain + Tree = opposition to his hopes is what he experiences.

Scythe + Sun = danger to his happiness in the past.

Clouds R + Mice = a loss coming shortly.

Heart + Ring = harmony and contract are restored.

House + Cross = an unlucky transaction. House is beneath the Man so he needs to be cautious.

Robbie has been experiencing opposition and friction at work that endanger his happiness. It looks as if his work contract is going to be secure but that he will suffer some loss of status due to an unfortunate transaction.

Practdice 40: Near and Far Tableaux

1. **Significator:** Woman is on House of Tree, so this may affect her well-being.

Corners: “Peace at home brings well-being in public.”

Near cards: Ship, Rod, Scythe, Mice, and Paths. A trip; domestic disappointments; danger of a remediable loss; finding a way. It looks as if repeated trips to this company might be necessary and that she may lose more than she gains by taking this way.

Midway cards: Letter, Moon, Fox, Child, Bouquet, Bear, Cross, Book, and Stars. There is the prospect of happy news and honor as a result of this project, but she needs to be aware that there will be attempts to take advantage of her simplicity. There is satisfaction and happiness in this undertaking, but she should be aware of a short run of bad luck and possible misunderstanding around this series of books.

Far cards: Anchor, Garden, Tower, and House, which speak of misjudgment, a false friend, and bad business. These cards suggest she needs to think carefully about this firm's reputation and how they may treat her.

Standout combinations: Scythe, Mice, Book: a dangerous loss surrounds this project. Woman, Scythe, Bouquet, Heart: since Bouquet is about illustration or art, she needs to be aware of not being severed from her illustrative integrity. Clouds have their lighter side toward Alex, but it is also the last card of the tableau in the House of Cross. This is work

likely to be so burdensome that she will experience depression.

Essence cards: Rider, Clover, Stork, and Clouds say “news about a brief opportunity that changes into confusion.”

Summary: Although there may be some satisfaction in executing this project and possibly overseas recognition, Alexandra is warned that this company may take shortcuts that compromise her integrity. The knightings of Fish to Mice on House of Child and Snake on House of Woman indicate that they will attempt to pay her less due to her inexperience. The message of the corners looks like the best advice: “peace in the home brings wellbeing in public.”

2. **Significator:** Jenny is at C3, Woman on House of Tower, revealing that there is an institutionalized attitude involved here.

Corners: remaining in a muddle about happiness due to institutionalization.

The first three cards: remaining complications about money.

Standout combinations: Fox and Coffin block in Jenny in column 3. The wrong comes to an end. Heart, Bouquet, House, and Ring are in the same column. Love blooms domestically and commits. Bear and Lily are together in column 5, with Jenny's mother in the Essence cards,

reflecting the fact that it is Jenny's father who is the more active parent. Both lie between Woman and Man. Lily is on House of Woman, showing that the father is acting protectively, while the Bear on House of Anchor and Knighting to House on House of Tower shows the mother is thoroughly rigid in her home and also not able to be very flexible in her attitudes. The Man is at B8, a long way off, on House of Stars. He is currently not attainable. Book, Ship, Scythe, and Man suggest that keeping the secret, she might separate herself from her parents by going abroad with the boyfriend.

Near cards: Stork, Letter, Moon, Fox, Ring, House, Bouquet, and Coffin. Fox is over Woman and is warning her that there is a deception. Stork, Letter, and Moon is a change or move due to news of work. Fox, Ring, and House tell of her being wrongly bound to her home. Bouquet and Heart speak of the invitation of affection.

Midway cards: Tower, Mountain, Cross, Anchor, Snake, Fish, Stars, Mice, Book, Garden, Lily, and Bear. This is a fearful set of difficult cards for poor Jenny. A long happy life is circumscribed by a powerful enemy, there is short-term misfortune for Jenny's faithful love and unhappiness in her affairs, while her ambitions are undercut. Their secret friendship is up against strong parental disapproval.

Far cards: Sun, Man, Tree, and Clouds. Discouragement about the man, but health and clouds passing. With Man so far away in House of Stars, it looks as if Jenny is setting her sights quite high. Man knights to Dog on House of Paths, which means he might find a way. Man knights to Key in House of Clouds. If the boyfriend is to take the initiative, he needs to be a lot clearer about it. While Woman knights to Heart, she is stuck between Letter and House, otherwise known as house rules.

Essence cards: A chance at love helped by a strong go-between. She will need some help to break out of this situation, possibly a male go-between (Rider), which is the last card. This might be the friend of her boyfriend.

Summary: Jenny can get free, but it will have to be by removing herself with her boyfriend. It is doubtful that the parents will accept him soon, as they are too protective of their little girl who has become a woman. The Man has Sun over his head, showing that he can make Jenny happy. They have a lot to overcome, not least the possibility that Jenny herself may take a while to shake off the house rules of her parents.

Self-Test 11

1. Far cards may influence in-between cards detrimentally if

they are unfortunate or beneficially if they are fortunate.

2. This is when a card is in the vicinity of one or more of the following challenging cards: Clouds, Coffin, Snake, Scythe, Rod, Fox, Mountain, Mice, Cross.
3. Starting from the cards to the left and in the line below the Significator.
4. Loss of health for a short while. Three Sevens means physical difficulties.
5. Woman of House of Book: A woman with a mystery or secret. Stars on House of Coffin: happiness circumscribed by a succession of misfortunes. Cross on House of Clover: bad luck in the short term. Clover on House of Rider: sadness is relieved by some happy news.

However hard this woman tries to conceal her secret, the more unhappy she becomes. Fortunately there is a chance that the secret is going to be revealed.

Practice 41: Tell the Time

1. Paths = April; Ship = 3; Clouds = Friday. Friday April 3.
2. 8, 20, and 21 are possible dates. Man = July. Key is the mute card.
3. Total pips = 16. Answers will be variable.
4. Man on House of Clover, near: now. Woman on House of

Scythe, near: autumn. Ring on House of Key, far: subject to access. Tree on House of Ring, far: continuing for the duration. This has the sense of being bound in, since Tree is slow in effect and Ring can have the sense of forever. Cross on House of House, near: December. The Man would like to marry now, while the Woman wants an autumn wedding that can be planned, since she is upon Scythe, she wants it all gathered and planned. The family could prove intractable for a long time and they could be pursuing this and that date for ages. The church is available in December so a big marriage there is definitely subject to access. The couple may as well please themselves within reason, without having to tiptoe round the family.

Practice 42: Where Is It?

1. Clearly in sight, left in the ATM slot.
2. In a cupboard or box.
3. On the road where you passed.
4. Gathered up with other clothes and moved.
5. By the sink.
6. An exclusive holiday camp where you can hole up and also do some riding.
7. A friendly research establishment overseas in the Alps.

8. House on House of Stars = a home in a good atmosphere. Child on House of Heart = favorite or congenial. Man on House of Anchor = a coastal town. Woman on House of Cross = a cathedral town. Tree on House of Bear = a spectacular place in nature. Roy sees a coastal town as better, while Manda's priority is a sacred site. Child is between Tree and Mountain in column 6, which speaks of a wooded region in a higher elevation. Clover and Key speak of the child's condition by which asthma is unlocked by grass, spores, etc.

Practice 43: What Do They Look Like?

1. Tower + Sun + Scythe
2. Woman + Child + Fox + Bouquet
3. Man + Child + Book + Fish
4. Woman + Lily + Cross
5. Tower + Dog + Clover + Paths

Practice 44: Building Vocabulary Specializations

1. He will get the secondary male lead in a touring show but he will have to get into shape and start exercising.
2. Rosemary is likely to have a premature birth or need

medical intervention, so it is important she follows a prescribed course of treatment. Her pregnancy will proceed without other complications, though a hospital birth will be necessary.

3. Read either for both partners or just Arnie. In answer to the question “am I infertile?” the vas deferens is blocked and not delivering sperm.

Self-Test 12

1. Pips = 29 or Woman, which stands for May.
2. Between one thing and another, looking like something else in the set-aside place.
3. He'll have green eyes, a delicate build, and light brown hair.
4. There will be warm audience response and good advertising exposure for the play.
5. A midwife will ensure an easy delivery of your twins.

Practice 45: Sticking with Your Cards

1. Moon = Work or honor.
Tree + Letter = Family appeal.
Ship + Clover + Ring = Yearning for a lucky break to meet the commitment.

Clover shows that she will be lucky or have a brief chance here.

Ship + Tree + Moon = overseas family's honor.

Moon + Letter + Ring = evening-work news agreement.

Fiona can appeal to her family overseas for help, or she can take an evening job.

2. What is going on now? Mountain + Key + Mice + Woman + Tower: Blockages needing resolution in a deteriorating partnership. What needs to change? Key + Mice + Tower + Mountain + Woman: A solution to the poor state and remoteness of a woman. What action can be taken? Tower + Mountain + Woman + Mice + Key: Address the lonely introversion of the woman that begs for solution.

What factors enable change? Woman + Tower + Mountain + Key + Mice: The woman needs official sequestration to unlock her disempowerment.

What results? Mice + Woman + Key + Tower + Mountain: The disempowerment caused by the woman is resolved by official estrangement.

Practice 46: Chanting the Story

Two of every suit shows that she is reasonably balanced but a little ungrounded around this issue. It turns out she doesn't want to fly because her replacement knee means that she gets patted down at

every checkpoint since it sets off the alarms. Her fear and loathing of these procedures means she wants to take the more arduous option of a ferry, which at her age is not so desirable. So here the ship literally means a ship!

The Old Story: For Mary, leaving home to go to the country for her holiday is a pilgrimage. She is expecting her younger friend to be strong, protective, and supportive of her need to pray at a holy shrine. For this key service Mary is willing to pay handsomely.

The Way Forward: The rearrangement of the cards now includes the new card of Heart. Because there were only eight cards, these can be read as the journeys both there and back. (You could also read these as vertical pairs along the two rows.) The top line reads: Mary could actually pay for the journey upfront herself and cover all expenses for the trip. Her friend is of a spiritual disposition and is more than happy to be accompanying her. After her pilgrimage, Mary is likely to meet or run into a significant person who will give the trip extra depth and security.

Looking at the vertical pairs (some of which you might not reveal so openly to the client): Fish and Bear show that Mary is a woman of wealth; Ship and Key reveal that this trip has a greater significance than you are being told, especially when you read Cross and Heart. There is a suggestion that this trip will be Mary's last one and that at some level she knows it. Dog and House may carry a suggestion that, as a single woman, Mary may be testing

her idea of making her friend a chief beneficiary and that she might inherit her house or that the friend might live with her. Note too that the first spread begins with the House, while the second one ends with it.

Practice 47: Giving Voice to the Spread

1. Someone who is as nervous and reluctant as this is going to take your words very seriously. Be careful not to spook her. Emphasize the support and resources that are available for both Elaine and her child from what the cards show. If necessary, continue with a larger spread to find this reassurance for her and ask, “What resources help support the child?” This can invite strength and help into the mix.
2. This issue concerns another person but the question is neutrally framed, so it is acceptable. Read the cards in context to Heimo’s needs rather than prying too personally into his mother’s. There is the possibility that things won’t change or resolve in a satisfactory way, since his mother has been consistently outspoken. However her proximity to death may change things. Lily for peace might stand as well for reconciliation.
3. Florence’s question is assumptive. Before accepting it as it stands, you might wish to establish whether marriage has been offered or its possibility has been entertained. If it has,

then the question is fine. But if marriage is not explicitly on the cards, then the question needs to change to a more general one about the relationship. If the cards reveal that her boyfriend's possible intentions toward her are not good, try to ask her questions that help her to have more of a perspective, like, "Has he asked you to do things you don't like very often? How does that make you feel?"

4. Cal's question concerns a possible cultural clash in his new job. Stick to what the cards have to say and read in context. You could use Garden for the social customs of the indigenous hosts and Tower for the organization that he is working under. You might need to highlight any dichotomies between the two as potentially offensive or difficult.
5. This question is about satisfying different people's expectations, which may not be entirely possible. Again, a Grand Tableau might reveal more possibilities and enable you to read in more depth, since you would be able to choose suitable Significators for all parties.

Self-Test 13

1. Answers will be variable.
2. Those under the age of majority; those with diminished responsibility, mental confusion, or inebriation; the overly

gullible; those who want to read about third-party issues who have not given you their consent.

3. Confidentiality is the agreement between the reader and client to not divulge information that arises from a reading with a third party. This is essential for your own discretion and integrity, and for the client's protection and trust. However, in troubling cases it may be necessary for you, the practitioner, to seek the help or advice of a mentor concerning the case in a professional manner. If matters of criminality, violence, or imminent danger of death arise from the reading, contact the police or the necessary authorities rather than put risk to yourself or others.
4. Matters of health or legal advice, grave issues that put the onus upon you to decide serious matters, and third-party issues.
5. Answers will be variable.

APPENDIX II

Order of Practices, Spreads, and Studies

PRACTICES

Chapter 1. Learning the Language of Lenormand

Practice 1: Pairs Together

Practice 2: The Significator Is Revealed

Practice 3: Pick a Card

Chapter 3. Creating Sentences with Pairs and Triplets

Practice 4: Pairs with a Purpose

Practice 5: Triplet Translations

Practice 6: Triplets in Triplicate

Practice 7: As Above, So Below

Practice 8: Finding People in the Cards

Practice 9: Topics Predict

Practice 10: Translating the Headlines

Chapter 4. Storyboard

Practice 11: Storylines

Practice 12: A Fistful of Fives

Practice 13: Collecting Compounds

Practice 14: Loud or Soft?

Practice 15: Keyword Beads

Practice 16: Dear Diviner

Chapter 5. Taking the Portrait

Practice 17: Portfolio of Portraits

Practice 18: Cards in Their Houses

Practice 19: Creating Your Own Lenormand Spreads

Practice 20: Between Past and Future

Chapter 6. Waking the Pips

Practice 21: The Colors of Yes and No

Practice 22: Suit Combinations

Practice 23: Playing with Multiples

Practice 24: Predominating Influences

Practice 25: Wearing the Colors Together

Chapter 7. The Art of Cartomancy

Practice 26: Reading Round

Practice 27: A Blessing for the Querent

Practice 28: Hidden Dynamics

Practice 29: Pairing from the Ends

Practice 30: Your Seven Pairs

Practice 31: Portrait of the Courts

Chapter 8. Secrets of the Lenormand Universe

Practice 32: What Opposites Reveal

Chapter 9. The Piquet Tableau

Practice 33: Scanning for Topics

Practice 34: Piquet Case Histories

Practice 35: Heart of the Piquet and Seasonal Selection

Chapter 10. The Grand Tableau of Nines

Practice 36: Grand Tableau of Nines

Practice 37: Tableau Tools

Practice 38: Uncovering the Mystery

Chapter 11. Near and Far Method

Practice 39: Near and Far in Smaller Spreads

Practice 40: Lessons in Tableaux

Chapter 12. Expanding Fluency

Practice 41: Tell the Time

Practice 42: Where Is It?

Practice 43: What Do They Look Like?

Practice 44: Building Vocabulary Specializations

Chapter 13. Becoming the Storyteller

Practice 45: Sticking with Your Cards

Practice 46: Chanting the Story

SPREADS

Chapter 3. Creating Sentences with Pairs and Triplets

Spread 1: Above and Below

Spread 2: Crossing the Significator

Spread 3: The Ladder

Chapter 4. Storyboard

Spread 4: The Line of Five

Spread 5: Variations on a Line of Five

Chapter 5. Taking the Portrait

Spread 6: The Portrait

Spread 7: Layered Houses

Spread 8: Linking the Past with the Future

Chapter 7. The Art of Cartomancy

Spread 9: The Abacus

Spread 10: Etteilla's Seven Pairs Spread

Chapter 8. Secrets of the Lenormand Universe

Spread 11: The Four Paths

Chapter 9. The Piquet Tableau

Spread 12: The Piquet in Full

Chapter 10. The Grand Tableau of Nines

Spread 13: The Grand Tableau

Chapter 11. Near and Far Method

Spread 14: The Near and Far Crossroads

Spread 15: Near and Far Tableau

Chapter 13. Becoming the Storyteller

Spread 16: Know Your Boundaries

Spread 17: The Reconciler

Spread 18: Ringing the Changes

Spread 19: The Pyramid

Spread 20: Chanting and Disenchanted the Story

STUDIES

Chapter 1. Learning the Language of Lenormand

Study 1: Learning the Lenormand Alphabet

Chapter 3. Creating Sentences with Pairs and Triplets

Study 2: Topic Cards

Study 3: The Effects of Cards

Chapter 4. Storyboard

Study 4: Gauging the Scale

Study 5: Mute Cards

Chapter 5. Taking the Portrait

Study 6: Knighting and Mirroring

Study 7: Introducing Houses

Chapter 6. Waking the Pips

Study 8: Appreciating the Pips

Study 9: Suit, Number, and Color Predominance

Chapter 7. The Art of Cartomancy

Study 10: The Queen ♥ Faces Left

Chapter 8. Secrets of the Lenormand Universe

Study 11: Complementary Opposites

Chapter 11. Near and Far Method

Study 12: Translations from Near and Far

Chapter 12. Expanding Fluency

Study 13: Timing

Study 14: The Timetable

Chapter 13. Becoming the Storyteller

Study 15: Reading for Others

Study 16: Reading for a Client

APPENDIX III

Quick Reference

LENORMAND KEY MEANINGS AT A GLANCE

1. Rider	news; announcements; go-between; updates; messages
2. Clover	luck; opportunities; risk; easy; carefree; good fortune; charmed
3. Ship	travel; transport; abroad; far-seeing; navigation; yearning; wishes
4. House	home; hearth; family; hospitality; refuge; shelter; domestic
5. Tree	health; environment; well-being; ancestry; roots; long-lasting
6. Clouds	confusion; uncertainty; doubts; shielding; hiding; emotional weather
7. Snake	jealousy; temptation; difficulties; alternatives; manipulation; untrustworthy
8. Coffin	endings; closure; final; stuck; dead end; illness

9. Bouquet

gifts; award; beauty; appreciation;
abundance; grace

10. Scythe

danger; rupture; severance; sudden
accident, cut, division

11. Rod

aggravation; disputes; cleaning up;
discussion; argument; brush off;
layoff; rough; repetition

12. Birds

gossip; fashion; word on the street;
couples; excitement; oral

13. Child

child; young person; innocence;
naivety; spontaneity; fresh vistas

14. Fox

cunning; trickery; vigilance; lies;
discretion; outsmarting

15. Bear

strength; power; possessive;
protecting; overwhelming;
grandmother

16. Stars

inspiration; vision; guidance;
destiny; healing; improvement;
harmony

17. Stork

change; migration; nesting; caring;
fostering; adoption

18. Dog

loyalty; trustworthy; friendship;
patience; support

19. Tower	institutions; ambition; professions; private interest; indoors
20. Garden	countryside; social gatherings; public interest; outdoors
21. Mountain	obstacles; delays; impasse; altitude; withdrawal; isolation
22. Paths	choices; decisions; options; fair- mindedness; free will
23. Mice	loss; theft, gradual decrease; stress; debts; disease; poor conditions
24. Heart	love; romance; generosity; affection; fellow-feeling; compassion
25. Ring	union; contracts; marriage; agreements; bonds; obligations
26. Book	knowledge; secrets; information; history; experience; study; teachings
27. Letter	communication; correspondence; documents; written; certificate
28. Man + other cards	man; men's business; boyfriend; lover; partner
29. Woman + other cards	woman; women's business; girlfriend; lover; partner

30. Lily	maturity; old; peace; wisdom; passion; intention; grandfather
31. Sun	confidence; happiness; vitality; success; the conscious; charisma; daytime
32. Moon	honor; work; creativity; dreams; the unconscious; night
33. Key	solutions; revelation; open or close; breakthroughs; escapes; freedom
34. Fish	money; fluidity; circulation; exchange; income; luxury
35. Anchor	security; establishing a base; targets; livelihood; obligations
36. Cross	spirituality; sadness; fate; tests; suffering; crisis; necessity

BLENDING THE COLORS TOGETHER

	SPADES	HEARTS	CLUBS	DIAMONDS
	Mild Black	Extreme Red	Extreme Black	Mild Red
SPADES	Serviceable		Humbled	Businesslike

Responsible

Mild Black	Dependable	Obliging	Declining	Conclusive
	Sturdy	Reciprocal	Troubled	Natural
	Compliant	Cooperative	Obedient	Decided
HEARTS	Creative	Passionate	Emotional	Successful
Extreme Red	Daring	Supportive	Depressed	Resolving
	Recognized	Engaging	Oppressed	Guiding
	Rewarded	Friendly	Heavy	Decisive
CLUBS	Obliged	Striving	Fateful	Difficult
Extreme Black	Oppressive	Contentious	Detrimental	Complex
	Indentured	Frictional	Grave	Clever
	Mandated	Combative	Uncompromising	Superior
DIAMOND	Adventurous	Attractive	Blocked	Lucky
Mild Red	Resourceful	Harmonious	Dangerous	Energetic
	Daring	Intriguing	Inimical	Enthusiastic
	Risky	Illuminating	Determined	Opportunistic

Footnote

*1. Please ignore the additional upside down word on this playing card, as this deck can be used for both Lenormand and playing card divination.

Endnotes

INTRODUCTION. THE RETURN OF THE TRADITIONAL ORACLE

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CHAPTER 7. THE ART OF CARTOMANCY

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CHAPTER 8. SECRETS OF THE LENORMAND UNIVERSE

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CHAPTER 9. THE PIQUET TABLEAU

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CHAPTER 10. THE GRAND TABLEAU OF NINES

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Resources

LENORMAND RESOURCES AND THE LENORMAND COMMUNITY ONLINE

These websites are correct at the time of going to press. If a site goes down, try a web search on the blogger's name to discover their new site.

Websites

Andy Boroveshengra teaches and reads Lenormand with a wealth of wisdom: www.boroveshengra.wordpress.com.

Ana Cortez discusses divining with playing cards: <http://anacortez.com>.

Mary Greer's informative Tarot Blog includes Lenormand cards too: <http://marygreer.wordpress.com>.

Britta Kienle's site offers instructional downloads and training books: www.fortune-telling-lenormand.com/index.php.

Donnaleigh de LaRose offers podcasts and videos in which you can see Lenormand in action in very practical ways: www.divinewhispers.net/lenormandlessons.htm.

Le Fanu's cartomantic site explores a wide range of divinatory concerns: <http://mycuriouscabinet.wordpress.com>.

Lenormand Card Study Group is a lively, international

community of Lenormand card users:

www.facebook.com/groups/LenormandCardStudy/?ref=ts.

Lenormand Heritage International is a group for the preservation and promotion of traditional Lenormand readings, using both old and new methods of this rich heritage.
www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/groups/LenormandHeritageInternational.

Helen Riding provides historical and practice information about Lenormand method: <http://lenormanddictionary.blogspot.co.uk>.

Madame Jozefa Seaqueen's "Ask My Cards" site gives valuable advice, looking practically at spreads and interpretations of Lenormand and other small oracles: www.seaqueen.wordpress.com.

The Tarot Guild of Australia offers practical Lenormand workshops, based on visual linguistics, to read skillfully and ethically. www.tarotguild.org.au.

Traditional Lenormand Fortunetellers' Guild is an association of readers who are dedicated to traditional Lenormand methods of reading: <http://lenormandguild.wordpress.com>.

The Traditional Petit-Lenormand Practice Group offers practice exercises and peer group exchange with traditional decks and reading methods based on the teachings of Andy Boroveshengra, Björn Meuris, and Caitlin Matthews.

www.facebook.com/groups/121981791305988/

Iris Treppner is a respected German teacher of the Lenormand method who produces resources in English:
www.irstreppner.com/index.php?id=573.

LENORMAND DECKS, DVDS, AND COURSES

Many traditional Lenormand decks are published and remain in print, but be aware that the self-published ones are not always available. Details of modern decks featured in this book are correct at the time of going to print.

Decks

Enchanted Lenormand Oracle. Caitlin Matthews and Virginia Lee.
London: Watkins Books, 2013.

Game of Hope Lenormand. Daveluy, Stralsunder and many other facsimiles of original cards reprinted by Lauren Forestell.
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Japanese and Vintage Lenormands by Paris DeBono, from
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Lenormand Revolution. Carrie Paris and Roz Foster. Available as a deck, IOS app, and e-book from <http://lenormandrevolution.com>.

Magisches Lenormand. Sandy Pfutsch and Gabriele Buttner.
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www.shopohm.com/Magisches-Magical-Lenormand-7-magic.htm.

Palimpsest Lenormand. Bertrand St Guillain. www.tarotparis.com.

Victorian Lenormand. Willis Briggs.
<http://viclenormand.wix.com/victorianlenormand>.

DVDs

An Introduction to the Petit Lenormand Deck. Mary Greer. <http://globalspiritualstudies.com>.

Petit Lenormand Past and Future. Caitlín Matthews. <http://globalspiritualstudies.com/>

Courses

The One and Only Petit Etteilla Course, Caitlín Matthews (includes a full English translation of Etteilla's *La Seule Maniere de Tirer les Cartes*). www.cartomancy.net/en/courses/petit-etteilla.

LENORMAND HOUSE CARDS AND SPREAD CLOTHS

Sets of House cards are larger than the smaller sized Lenormand cards, so that you can see where you are placing your spread.

Deck of Lenormand Houses. Tierney Sadler.
www.tierneysadler.com/p/purchasing-my-decks.html.

Houses and Elements Deck. Kendra Hurteau.
www.undertheroses.wix.com/undertheroses.

Spreadcloths for the Grand Tableau of Nines, overprinted with the House titles in English, can be bought by the yard from:
www.spoonflower.com/spelunks?type=&q=Lenormand+spread+cloth&x=11&y=8.

About the Author



Caitlin Matthews is the author of over sixty books. She is the originator of four tarots: *The Arthurian Tarot*, *The Da Vinci Enigma Tarot*, *The Celtic Wisdom Tarot*, and *The Steampunk Tarot: Gods of the Machine*, cowritten with John Matthews. In addition, Caitlin has created a number of divination systems including *The Enchanted Lenormand Oracle*, *The Celtic Book of the Dead*, and the *Celtic Wisdom Oracle*. Caitlin has made a special study of ancient and historic cartomancy for this book. She speaks at international conferences on divination and tarot, and she teaches worldwide. She is a cofounder of the Foundation for Inspirational and Oracular

Studies (FIOS), which is dedicated to the sacred and oral arts. Caitlín lives in Oxford, UK. For details about her books, courses, and events see www.hallowquest.org.uk. To follow her divination blog online, see <http://caitlin-matthews.blogspot.com/>. For courses see www.hallowquest.org.uk.

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The Septrionic Order and the Naipes Cards

by Marlene Dobkin de Rios, Ph.D.

How to Read Signs and Omens in Everyday Life

by Sarvananda Bluestone, Ph.D.

Mystical Origins of the Tarot

From Ancient Roots to Modern Usage

by Paul Huson

Sacred Geometry Oracle Deck

by Francene Hart

The Book of Grimoires

The Secret Grammar of Magic

by Claude Lecouteux

The High Magic of Talismans and Amulets

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Ship, Clover, House, Star, Heart (*Enchanted Lenormand Oracle*):

May fortune travel blessedly to every home and heart!

Birds, Fish, Paths, Fox, Lily (*Stralsunder Lenormand*): Through speaking fluently, may you cunningly walk the way of tradition!

To send correspondence to the author of this book, mail a first-class letter to the author c/o Inner Traditions r Bear & Company, One Park Street, Rochester, VT 05767, and we will forward the communication, or contact the author directly at www.hallowquest.org.uk or <http://caitlin-matthews.blogspot.com>.

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