

An in-depth look at Rach.

Rach has come to see me as an independently wealthy married woman with a teenaged daughter. There is nothing seemingly wrong with her life, but she is agitated and unhappy- even though her husband is loving, and her daughter is doing well.

Looking at her reflection spread can you find somethings that might be causing a problem?

Consider the central card (lovers) is what she most wants, what do the other cards say together?

We have two 7's – how do they work together?



None of these cards are inherently “bad” but together they begin to build a picture of someone whose mental health is a little “off”. If I bullet point with the more negative words for all except the central card; Hanged man: suspended, no control.

7 swords: lies, deceit.

7 cups: addictions, unsatisfied.

King cups: people pleaser, addictions, unsatisfied. Knight

cups: Dreamer, only seeing the best in something 9

wands: trauma.

We have two 7 cards- cards connected with lies and a dream world- this felt important to me in unlocking the reading.

With the central card representing an ideal relationship (equal and loving), and the knight of cups often representing a romantic ideal.

I questioned Rach about whether she was distracting herself from the reality in her life, if she was lost in an affair (lies/addictions) or if there was an area of life where she had lost control.

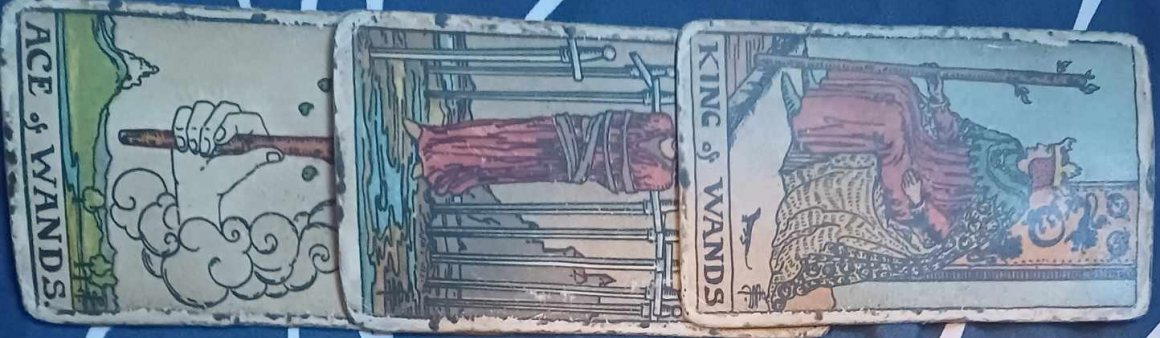
These cards worried me- as they suggested she wasn't fully aware of how lost in addiction she might be.

Rach was surprised by my reading (expecting me to pick up on depression instead) and admitted she was in love with her daughter's teacher. That they were having an illicit affair and the guilt was causing her to drink to avoid thinking about it. As the teacher is also married, and neither see any future in a relationship, I decided not to do a relationship spread, rather a 9 card spread looking just at Rach.

Situation (1-3)

Advice (4 -6)

Likely outcome (7-9)



I was immediately drawn to the Emperor. Now I know he can represent a strong masculine figure, but he can also represent taking control, self discipline- and I felt that Rach was sucked into the aLair rather than actively seeking it. It was a distraction, an addiction, something she “felt” she had no control over.

Why is the aLair happening (cards 1-3)? A sexual chemistry (ace wands) boredom (4 cups) fear of making the changes in her life she needed to make (2 wands).

Together the 2 & 4 told me Rach needed to move forward with her life, and distracting herself with the aLair was easier than making bold choices.

Advice (cards 4-6) Notice how they are all swords! I felt Rach was creating a mental prison for herself (8) where she felt so bad about what she was doing (5) it was hurting her (3) but she had no-one to talk to (8) and so the pattern and cycle was becoming more and more intense.

I was very firm about how damaging this was for her mental health, and how it was isolating her from anyone who could help. (note she did not tell me she was having an aLair- it was the cards that opened that for me.)

Likely future (cards 7-9)

I don't like that king of wands! I think this is the teacher- he doesn't want to be in a relationship with Rach, but neither does he want to let her go. We discussed how perhaps in her marriage she felt like the king of cups (spread 1) as if she was a caregiver- which is what made the aLair seem so exciting.

The ace of pentacles I linked to the 2 wands/ 4 cups- what does she really want to do? What is the dream, or hope that is blocked by fear? **Remember we don't need to answer all the questions-sometimes our job is to ask the right ones.**

I know people love the 9 of pentacles, but there is an isolation in this card. As a 9 it needs to change, it is the end of a cycle- just as the ace is a start.

This trio of cards fascinates me. The aLair is there as the controlling king of wands, Rach is the 9 of pentacles- she's worked hard to get to this point in her life, but she is stagnating, and that is why she is having the aLair. The only answer is to seize the potential in the Ace of pentacles- and have a new start in some way!

This reading was done in person and took a full 50 minutes.

I shared this because I did not answer what her ace of pentacles was, I highlighted that a change was needed- but it took a lot of emotional courage and energy for Rach to get to this point. There was no bandwidth (or time) to go further.

Sometimes helping someone to understand their mindset is more important than predictions.

Rach came back some months later- she had taken on a course of learning, to be a florist, a dream from her younger days.

Her family were having to fend for themselves a little more, she had stopped over nurturing them (king cups) ended the aLair, and was enjoying meeting new friends and learning a new skill (ace pentacles.)