

THE
PAPER
ORACLE

A Guide Booklet for the
Lenormand Deck
by Eric Maille

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a Lenormand deck by Eric Maille

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About the Artist:

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Both his interest in art and in cartomancy were passed on to him by his family. He began working on The Paper Oracle in 2020, while finishing his tarot deck, The Ink Witch Tarot Deck.

You can see more of his work at ericmaille.com

The Paper Oracle

A Lenormand Deck

I'd like to begin this guide simply by saying thank you for having purchased the Paper Oracle. This is a project I've poured many hours into, and it has become very dear to my heart. I first became interested in Lenormand decks while finishing my tarot deck, *The Ink Witch*, and wanting to delve deeper into the vast overlap between the realms of illustration and cartomancy. Lenormand quickly became a topic I found almost as compelling as Tarot.

The Paper Oracle deck is modeled after the traditional Lenormand Deck, with a few small changes and additions; so I consider it to be a Lenormand Deck suitable for beginners and experts alike, as well as somewhat of a unique Oracle Deck in and of itself.

Lenormand Decks were named for the French occultist Marie Anne Le Normand, who was alive in the 1700s. Le Normand was influential in the practice of using cards as tools for divination, though the "Lenormand Deck," that was named after her was not her own creation. Rather, it was based off of a card game of chance that already existed; "The Game of Hope."

Much like the *tarocchi* game decks that would later become tarot decks, cartomancers found the images in The Game of Hope appealing and suitable for more esoteric practices than merely as elements of a simple parlor game. While it's rumored that Le Normand may have been one of the people using the Game of Hope cards in her practice, it wouldn't be renamed after her, and packaged explicitly as a divination tool, until years after her death.

While the Paper Oracle is not an entirely traditional Lenormand Deck, it *can* be used as one.

Typically a Lenormand Deck consists of 36 standard cards. The Paper Oracle includes those 36 cards (though some have been renamed and re-imagined) plus seven more. Removing the cards numbered 37-43 would essentially turn the Paper Oracle into a standard Lenormand deck, if that is what you would prefer to work with.

In fact, any of the cards could be removed, and the remainder of the deck would still function as a veritable divination tool. There is really no right or wrong way to use the Paper Oracle, and if you wished to disregard this booklet entirely and simply use your intuition to practice with these cards, that would be fine as well. In fact, I actually suggest spending some time with each card before reading the meanings of each of them, just to see what sort of ideas they inspire without the influence of my own interpretations.

I also recommend using the full 43-card deck if you are after more nuanced and refined readings.

If you are new to using Lenormand decks, know that they differ from Tarot in several ways, including the smaller number of cards. Some of the names on these cards will be familiar to you if you have practiced Tarot before, but the meanings of these cards are not necessarily the same.

For example, "The Tower" card in Tarot is an omen of chaos, destruction, and disruption. In a Lenormand Deck however, "The Tower" card symbolizes authority, isolation, and ego. These distinctions are important if you are wishing to practice with this deck in a more traditional manner. However, I always recommend following your intuition when using tools like Tarot and Lenormand Decks. If something seems to mean something unique to you, I don't think you necessarily need to read too much into the "intended" meanings of these cards.

After all, cartomancy works primarily by helping us to explore the subconscious, so don't feel shy about following your first thoughts to ascribe meanings to the cards yourself, and then connecting the cards in your readings together to form answers. As I said before, there is no wrong way to read this deck.

However, if at any point you feel at a loss, or simply want a place to start from, you can reference this guide to look up the meanings of each card as I intended to communicate them. Most of these, again, will correspond to traditional meanings of Lenormand Decks used by cartomancers for generations.

Note that this is not a comprehensive guide to reading Lenormand decks, and like Tarot, different readers of Lenormand cards may interpret them in slightly varying ways. A more in-depth guide to Lenormand cards can help you to understand the Paper Oracle in more detail, but this guide is not a bad place to start, and will also provide my own personal interpretations of the cards, the intended meanings of the final seven unique cards, and some insights into my artistic and creative decisions when illustrating the Paper Oracle.

READING THE PAPER ORACLE

There are many ways you can read these cards

My suggestion is to start with simple spreads, or by simply asking a question and pulling a few cards from the deck to piece together as your answer.

For example: If you were to ask “What do I need to know about this job opportunity,” and were to then draw “The Mountain,” and “The Snake,” you might ascertain that someone involved in the job opportunity was deceiving you and getting in your way. The Mountain is often associated with obstacles, and The Snake is often associated with lies and tricks. Together they could indicate that a deception was in play and would create a roadblock for you.

You might then wish to draw additional cards for further clarity. If for example you asked “How do I uncover the deception,” and were to draw “The Garden,” and “The Birds,” you could interpret that as an indication to take advantage of your social network and status. The Garden has to do with social gatherings and networks of people, while the birds represent chatter, gossip, and communication. These cards could be telling you to reach out to your network and ask what people know about the job opportunity in question.

You may also adapt these cards to small Tarot spreads

For example, the “Past, Present, Future,” spread is a popular tarot-reader’s spread that can easily use these cards. You may choose to ask a question and draw three cards; the first represents an important aspect of your past, the second is your current situation, and the third represents how it may play out in the future.

In the case of the example above, you might draw “The Fox” as the card in the past, which represents your workplace and career. You may pull the Mountain or Snake to represent the present obstacle in your way. Then finally you may draw the Garden as a clue about the future.

A popular three-card spread used specifically by Lenormand-readers is “The Mystery Spread.”

It involves drawing three cards and arranging them face down in a triangle. The top card represents a situation or “mystery.” The bottom left card can be thought of as an action, and the bottom right card can be thought of as an object of that action.

So, if you drew “The Fox” as your “mystery card,” you could determine that the reading revolved around the workplace, as The Fox often represents a job or career. Then if you drew “The Ship,” as an action, and “The Clover” as the object, you could ascertain that this means that you will be moving forward (The Ship) toward something fortunate (The Clover) in your workplace (The Fox.)

The Nine Card Spread is another popular way to read Lenormand cards.

It can be used to gain more detailed insights into a situation or a question. There are many versions of this reading, but I’ll explain a simple and easy-to-follow version that I prefer for my own readings.

This spread first involves choosing a significator to represent the querent or their situation. These are typically “The Man,” or the “The Woman,” depending on who the reading is for. In this particular deck, those cards are called “The Masculine,” and “The Feminine,” and there is also a “The Non-Binary” card as well, that could indicate an individual with a non-binary gender identity.

Sometimes, significator cards in a reading represent a situation or concept rather than a person, so you could instead draw a card like “The Fox” for readings about the workplace, or “The Heart” for readings about relationships.

You may pull whatever card you choose as your significator and place it in the center of your reading to represent you or a querent, and focus the reading around them.

Next, shuffle the remaining cards, and arrange eight of them into a square around your significator, creating a 3x3 grid of cards with the significator in the middle. A more general reading without a specific issue or question in mind can be done by not choosing a significator at all, and allowing that card to be drawn randomly along with the others.

Once your cards are placed, begin reading from left to right, starting with the top row, then the middle row, then the bottom row.

Each row represents a different aspect of your answer or situation.










Each column represents a phase of time- with the left column indicating the past, the middle column indicating the present, and the right column indicating the future.

The top row of cards indicates what is on your mind, or your motivations. It may contain insights into the things that drive you, such as your anxieties or desires. It can often be thought of as representing consciousness.

Read from left to right, with the leftmost card representing the past, the middle representing the present, and the right representing the future.

The middle row represents your situation. These are things that are affecting your life, like obstacles, your environment, or the people around you. These factors are likely influencing you from an external source, or describe situations and scenarios in which you find yourself. Again, read chronologically from left to right.

The bottom row represents elements of influence. These are the things that you have the most control over, things you already have learned, and lessons you already understand. Often, these cards are associated with the subconscious mind. Remember to also read from left to right, to understand the past, present, and the future.

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
The Conscious Mind			
The Situation in Reality		significator 	
Un-Conscious Influences			

THE CARDS

There are 43 Cards in this Deck

The Traditional Lenormand has only 36, so you may wish to remove the final 7 cards if a traditional Lenormand deck is what you're looking for. I've also changed the names of some of the original cards in the deck in order to reframe their meanings slightly, which I'll explain in more detail in the descriptions of those specific cards.

Generally, the cards in a Lenormand deck also correspond to specific cards in a regular deck of playing cards, so I'll also include mention of which playing cards go with which of the original 36 Lenormand cards.

While each card was illustrated with a specific meaning in mind, my intention is that you read these cards however you like. If a card reminds you of something special and unique to you, or if your intuition seems to tell you that a card represents something contrary to what this guide says; I will always encourage you to follow those instincts. Different readers have their own special associations with certain cards; and so different cards may mean different things to different people.

It is not a bad idea to look through the deck without this booklet before you reference it for the first time, so that you can explore what thoughts and ideas each card conjures to mind automatically without any external influences. Or, if you wish to ignore this booklet completely, and use this deck as an intuitive oracle deck, that is also fine.

This deck is for you after all, and you are the one reading it, so it only makes sense for your own insights and intuition to take precedent.

1. THE RIDER

The Rider may be thought of as a herald. They represent news and messages, arrivals, and swift movement. Here, the Rider is portrayed with the Caduceus; not to be confused with the medicinal symbol of the Rod of Asclepius. The Caduceus, much like the Rider is a symbol of heralds and messengers. It's often been associated with the messenger god Hermes; as well as Iris, the messenger of the goddess Hera.

Messages, News, Arrivals, Heralds, Speed, Swift Movement or Travel.

The Rider is associated with the Nine of Hearts.

2. THE CLOVER

A classic symbol of luck, the Lenormand Clover is also associated with other manners of fortune. This card represents opportunities, small happinesses, contentment, and general lightheartedness. It may be worth noting that this is not merely a four-leafed clover of luck, but also a blooming flower; symbolic of a general sense of a blossoming well-being.

Good Fortune, New Opportunities, Small Joys, Lightheartedness, Contentment.

The Clover is associated with the Six of Diamonds

3. THE SHIP

The key theme represented by the Ship is the concept of travel. It may indicate voyages, adventures, or departures. It spans a vast and sometimes treacherous sea, and often refers to journeys over great distances. Its associations with departures and and voyages may also at times be indicative of farewells.

Travel, Journeys, Adventure, Departure, Farewells, Distance

The Ship is associated with the Ten of Spades

4. THE HOUSE

The House may represent the physical concept of a house, but also may also represent a place that *feels* like home, or the symbols associated with a home; like family, security, and comfort. It is important to remember that this card may represent a physical place, or a mental one. It may also represent a state of feeling at-home.

Family Matters, The Home, Security, Safety, Privacy, Traditions

The House is associated with the King of Hearts

5. THE TREE

The Tree can represent a myriad of symbols, but they each revolve around a central theme of health and well-being. The tree is grounded. It has grown from a small seed and will continue to grow larger and stronger. Its roots go deep into the earth, and so it is also a symbol of the past. Consider how groundedness and strength contribute to your overall health.

Health, Growth, Groundedness, Physical and Spiritual Strength, Connections to the Past and the Earth.

The Tree is associated with the Seven of Hearts

6. THE CLOUDS

On this card, clouds swirl around and within a crystal ball; they are the only thing that can be seen by the eye inside of it. This is a card that indicates confusion and the idea of things being obscured from sight or awareness. One may be lacking a clear sense of direction, or may be unable see things that are right in front of them when this card appears.

Confusion, Illusions, Uncertainty, Lack of Clarity or Focus, Negative Conditions, Poor Weather.

The Clouds are associated with the King of Clubs

7. THE SNAKE

Typically the snake is a symbol of deceptions and betrayals. This card may indicate that someone is being manipulative or deceitful. Someone may be lying. Negotiations may go poorly as one party takes advantage of another. This card can warn of manipulation and lies, but can also indicate that you will gain control over important information, or uncover important truths.

Deception, Lies, Secrets, Hidden Information, Betrayal, Temptations.

The Snake is associated with the Queen of Clubs

8. THE COFFIN

The rose painted upon the coffin as it is lowered into the earth is an homage to Pamela Colman-Smith's Death Tarot Card. This is a card of death, but also rebirth. While it is possible that it can represent actual death, funerals, loss, and grieving, it is important to remember this card is just as much a symbol of closure and new beginnings. One thing dies, so that another can grow.

Death, Loss, Grief, Rebirth, Transformation, Closure, Endings and New Beginnings.

The Coffin is associated with the Nine of Diamonds

9. THE BOUQUET

This is an almost entirely positive card that represents kind feelings and interactions. Gifts may be exchanged, a new relationship may flower, one may be receiving appreciation and admiration. The Lenormand bouquet is ultimately a symbol of cordiality, flattery, and good manners. It is often an excellent card to appear in readings regarding relationships, one's social life, or the workplace.

Kindness, Etiquette, Flattery, A Gift, Acceptance, Appreciation, Admiration, Pleasantries.

The Bouquet is associated with the Queen of Spades

10. THE KNIFE

This card stands in place of the traditional "Lenormand Scythe." I chose to replace the Scythe because that symbol is usually a symbol that we will immediately with death, while this card is more about the ideas of cutting, sharpness, and danger. It may be warning of dangerous accidents, hastily made decisions, or could indicate a reckoning. The Knife is also a card of "cutting things away." Problems, relationships, and situations in question may be soon to end when this card appears. Proceed with caution. Cutting ties may be exactly what you want or need; however, the knife is sharp and it is important you take care not to get hurt.

Danger, Rash Decisions, Accidents, Warnings, Reckonings, Cutting Ties, Quick Changes.

The Knife or "Lenormand Scythe," is associated with the Jack of Diamonds

11. THE BROOM

In most decks, this card is referred to as the "Lenormand Whip." In other decks it may be a "Rod," or the Whip and the Broom may be portrayed as two separate and distinct cards. They are all, however symbols of experiencing, and resolving arguments or conflicts. The broom specifically comes with a connotation of "sweeping away." While this card may indicate disagreements and escalating conflict it also suggests that these things have the potential to be resolved cleanly. The broom has the ability to create a clean slate, and clear away clutter. In some instances, this card may indicate damage or abuse that has already been done, and the need to heal from it.

Arguments, Escalating Conflict, Debate, Working to Resolve Disagreements, Separation, Damage- or the cleaning of Damage.

The Broom or "Lenormand Whip" is associated with the Jack of Clubs

12. THE BIRDS

The name of this card may remind you of the 1963 horror film by Alfred Hitchcock- which is not a bad association to help you remember the meaning of the Birds. This is a card that can indicate chaos or anxiety; but especially when it comes with communication. Lots of people may be trying to make themselves heard, and may be bickering without getting anywhere when this card appears. This card may appear to indicate fruitless arguing, gossip, excitement, or nervousness. Imagine this card as lots of little birds chattering and squawking loudly in the trees.

Large Groups of People, Bickering, Gossip, Poor Communication, Speaking but not Listening, Excitement, Nervousness.

The Birds are associated with the Seven of Diamonds

13. THE CHILD

Literally speaking, this card could represent someone who is a child, however it also represents the symbolic aspect of children and childhood. The Child indicates newness and immaturity. A new beginning or opportunity may be on the horizon when this card appears- especially in tangent with a card like "The Clover." This card may also be indicating that someone is behaving immaturely, naively, or innocently. Often times, embarking on a new venture may place us in a state where we feel naive or innocent and unaware

The Child also represents potential that has yet to be used or discovered.

Youth, Children, Innocence, Naivety, Newness, New Prospects, New Beginnings, Potential, Inexperience, Immaturity.

The Child is associated with the Jack of Spades

14. THE FOX

The Fox is a versatile card that can represent many things; and so I've drawn it as a shape-shifting kitsune. At its core, the main concept represented by the Fox is perhaps the idea of looking out for yourself. The Fox may indicate cunning or trickery, selfishness or self-care, and performing hard work. While the fox may sometimes seem like a deceptive or suspicious character; it takes on this nature to adapt and survive. This card's association with survival means it is very often associated with jobs and the workplace; but also with securing resources, and caring for one's own needs.

Cleverness, Cunning, Trickery, Selfishness, Self-Care, Hustle, Work, the Workplace, Looking Out For One's Self

The Fox is associated with the Nine of Clubs

15. THE BEAR

Traditionally, the Lenormand Bear is a symbol of power. While this can mean physical power, it also refers to the power of authority and leadership. Thus, the Bear may represent an authority figure like a boss or a political leader. It may also indicate strength of character or strong emotions. The Bear has many positive and negative connotations such as a mother bear who protects her cubs, or an aggressive and overbearing boss.

Strength, Leadership, Protective Instincts, Authority, Dominance, Temper, Bossiness

The Bear is associated with the Ten of Clubs

16. THE STARS

The Stars are yet another card that may be familiar to anyone who already practices Tarot. Much Like the Tarot card, "The Star," the Lenormand Stars represent the concepts of hope and optimism. Beyond that, this card may represent progress toward a goal, or the fulfillment of dreams. The Lenormand Stars are primarily a card of wishes coming true. During moments of doubt, the Stars are a reminder that everything will work out in the end. The Stars may also indicate literal stars, and call you to look toward Astrology, or consider your place in a larger universe.

Hope, Optimism, Progress Towards Goals, Wishes Coming True, Spirituality, The Cosmos.

The Stars are associated with the Six of Hearts

17. THE STORK

While the classic symbol of a stork is often associated with children and childbirth, the Lenormand Stork is more about the concept of change and transition. Paired with cards like "The Bouquet" and "The Child," this may indeed refer to a newborn baby, but oftentimes the card merely points us toward new phases of life. Cycles are transitioning when this card appears, and something is about change. This card can indicate physical movement, or other changes in life; but it's a good idea to associate the Stork with ideas like flight and migration.

New Phases, Changing Cycles, Transitions, Movement, Yearning for Change

The Stork is associated with the Queen of Hearts

18. THE FAMILIAR

Traditionally, this card would be called "the Lenormand Dog". I've changed it to the "The Familiar" to somewhat adjust the specific details of its meaning, and give the Paper Oracle a little bit more of a "witchy" quality. This card is about friendship and loyalty, but as the Familiar, I hoped the card would better emphasize the idea of "support," particularly from friends and loved ones. This card may indicate a person, but may also refer the concept of leaning on friends in a time of need. The familiar is not only faithful and loyal, but supportive and provides counsel or assistance when called upon.

*Friendship, Ally, Loyalty, Support, Familiarity, Companionship, Confidant
The Familiar, or "Lenormand Dog" is associated with the Ten of Hearts*

19. THE TOWER

Quite different than the Tower found in most Tarot decks, the Lenormand Tower is primarily a symbol of ego. It reaches high above all other things, and in that height it becomes isolated. The Tower may indicate people and authorities who are behaving as if they are elite. One might think of this card as representing an "Ivory," tower. It can represent motivated and ambitious people who try to reach for the stars, or may represent narcissists who merely perceive themselves to be greater than others. The Tower can also symbolize loneliness and seclusion. There is also an element of protection and strength in the Tower. Perhaps the tower rises so high because it comes from a solid and strong foundation.

*Ego, Arrogance, Authority, Ambition, Isolation, Loneliness, Hierarchy, Power
The Tower is associated with the Six of Spades*

20. THE GARDEN

The Garden is a gathering place, and is usually associated with one's social life or network. It may indicate meetings or parties, or any event where crowds will gather. It also indicates things coming out into the open. The Garden may be an indication that a secret is about to be revealed; but The Garden is often interpreted in a very positive light. Someone might be announcing a wedding engagement or other cause for celebration. They may quite literally be planning on "coming out." The Garden generally refers to pleasant social interactions, successful meetings, and being active in nature.

*Social Life, Congregations, Meetings, Spending Time in Nature, Community,
Networking, Public Announcements.*

The Garden is associated with the Eight of Spades

21. THE MOUNTAIN

The Mountain represents obstacles. It may indicate delays, especially when cards like “The Ship” or “The Rider,” appear with it. It may indicate fruitless struggles. Like Sisyphus, you may feel that you are rolling a boulder up a hillside only to have repeatedly roll back down before you reach the top. Though the Mountain represents hurdles and challenges that may or may not always be overcome, it is worth remembering that facing challenges is how we get stronger. Confronting obstacles is a way of growing.

Obstacles, Challenges, Delays, Hurdles, Struggle, Burdens, Slow Movement, Difficulties, Impairment.

The Mountain is associated with the Eight of Clubs

22. THE CROSSROAD

This card is about decision-making. It represents that two or more options have become available to you. Perhaps you are literally at a crossroad, or perhaps you are making an important choice. When uncertain of what your options are, perhaps look to the adjacent cards for hints and clarification. This card may represent a sense of hesitation, and you may be feeling unable to decide between the choices before you. However, this card also indicates a sense of free will. You are the one in charge of the path you take.

Choices, Decisions, Hesitation, Opportunities, Options.

The Crossroad is associated with the Queen of Diamonds

23. THE MICE

They're not as cute as they might look. The Mice indicate decay and a sense that things are at risk; but the mice are small and the way in which they destroy may start out very subtly. You might have something small nagging at your happiness, or perhaps feel a little anxious. Left unchecked, these things may grow into larger and larger problems. Your resources may be at risk when this card appears. Perhaps something important to you is being slowly drained away. Take careful notice of your resources, and recognize that you cannot always ignore the small problems in your life without them eventually developing into larger ones.

Gradual Losses, Dwindling, Depleting, Decay, Disease, Destruction, Nagging Anxiety, Threatened Resources.

The Mice are associated with the Seven of Clubs

24. THE HEART

This is a card of love and emotion. Unsurprising to most, this card can indicate romance and relationships, but it also symbolizes any strong emotion or passion; *usually* in a positive context. It may indicate a job or project that we feel passionate about. It may refer to affection we feel toward friends and lovers, or family. It may also at times indicate self-love, or may simply represent the idea of romanticism. The heart on this card is made of crystal or perhaps glass; a reminder that the concepts represented by The Heart are at times both precious and fragile.

Love, Affection, Romance, Passion, Strong Emotions, Generosity, Feeling.

The Heart is associated with the Jack of Hearts

25. THE RING

In traditional Lenormand Decks, this card might be illustrated with the manner of ring that goes on one's finger. It is a symbol of promises and commitments, but more than this The Ring is a symbol of union and partnership. The ring of the solar eclipse shown on this card is representative of The Ring's meaning of togetherness and wholeness. Two things come together, and combine themselves into something new. It is a union, but can also be a fusion of sorts. The Ring may indicate things like weddings and marriages, but also contracts, agreements, truces, and cooperation. The Ring also represents patterns and cycles. It may indicate situations that repeat themselves, or represent the idea of "going in circles."

Promises, Agreements, Union, Cooperation, Contracts, Cycles, Repetition.

The Ring is associated with the Ace of Clubs

26. THE BOOK

The Book is connected to the idea of knowledge and study. It is also associated with the discovery of secrets and wisdom that come from learning and education. The grimoire shown on this card is more than a simple book; it radiates power, and to understand it would be to tap into that power. The knowledge that comes with The Book is great, and often incredibly valuable. This card may also be taken quite literally, and may in fact simply be telling you to turn to books for answers, or to focus on your studies.

Knowledge, Learning, Education, Study, Wisdom, Discovery, Uncovering Secrets, Research.

The Book is associated with the Ten of Diamonds

27. THE LETTER

While this card may indicate actual mail or messages, The Letter primarily represents communication and correspondence; especially in the context of documents and paperwork. The Letter may represent legal forms, a diploma, a lease, an e-mail, a text message, a certificate, and so on. This card indicates the sharing of information. Depending on what other cards appear alongside The Letter, you might be about to receive an invitation, a job offer, an acceptance letter, or a love letter.

Communication, Information, Correspondence, Mail, Documents, Messages, Conversation.

The Letter is associated with the Seven of Spades

28. THE MASCULINE

This card is often referred to as "The Man," in most Lenormand Decks, and is used to represent just that-- a man. On a deeper level, the card represents masculinity, and I've chosen to re-name the card to emphasize this. The Masculine can represent any male-identifying person. Perhaps it represents the male querent, or someone's father or husband. It can also represent the qualities one associates with masculinity; whatever those may be for the querent or reader. Because I've chosen an image of Mars and its two moons for this card, I also believe it's fair to associate this card with the planet Mars, and the things it often represents such as energy, aggression, and passion. It is important to consider that masculinity means different things to different people, and there are many ways to interpret this card.

Masculinity, A Man, Father Figures, Brothers, Husbands, Sons, Energy, Aggression, Passion, Mars

The Masculine, or "The Lenormand Man," is associated with the Ace of Hearts.

29. THE FEMININE

Like "The Masculine," this card has been renamed from its traditional name, which is "The Woman." Again, I've chosen to emphasize the card's meaning of femininity, though it can still appear in readings to indicate specific female-identifying individuals; such as a female querent, a mother figure, a wife, etc. It may also simply refer to qualities viewed by the querent or reader as "feminine." This card shows the planet Venus, and so it is also fair to say that this card could represent Venus and the symbols often associated with it such as love, romance, sexuality, and beauty. Remember that there are many ways to interpret femininity, and so this card may mean different things to different people.

Femininity, A Woman, Mother Figures, Sisters, Wives, Daughters, Venus, Love, Beauty, Sexuality.

The Feminine, or "The Lenormand Woman" is associated with the Ace of Spades

30. THE LILY

Often considered one of the most complex cards of the Lenormand deck, the Lily can at times seem as though it has two very different sides. It represents the concepts of innocence, morality, purity, and virtue. At the same time it represent sensuality, sex, and pleasure. Pay close attention to the cards around the Lily to discern which of The Lily's two faces is appearing your reading, but also recognize that the two sides of this card do not always need to be examined as opposites. At times they may coincide. The concepts of sexuality and pleasure are not inherently contrary to the concepts of morality and innocence. I often like to think of this card as representing sexuality and sensuality in a positive and healthy light. The Lily is a card that can represent peace with one's own bodily comfort; sexual or otherwise. While the Lily can exhibit both sexuality and prudence, it is likely appearing in your reading to bring a sense of stability and peace to you and the way in which you enjoy material pleasure.

Harmony, Maturity, Innocence, Morals, Sexuality, Sex-Positivity, Sensuality, Comfort, Peace.

The Lily is associated with the King of Spades

31. THE SUN

"Shining" is a great word to associate with The Sun. The Sun indicates success and accomplishment, but also the joy and energy that comes with these things. The Sun may foretell a burst of motivation or positive fortune to drive you toward meeting a goal. It may represent charisma and growth, or the shining of a light on something previously hidden. All of these things often deal with successful progress in some way. This card may telling you that your goals are attainable, or that a victory is close at hand.

Success, Victory, Meeting Goals, Charisma, Warmth, Secrets Being Revealed.

The Sun is associated with the Ace of Diamonds

32. THE MOON

The Moon represents our subconscious, as well as the darker hidden aspects ourselves. It may represent dreams or intuition, or a sense of gravity. It may appear in readings when we are in a place to be observed-- like a bright light in a dark sky, pulling the tides to us. In this sense, The Moon can represent things like recognition and fame. It may be telling us that we are in a favorable position to draw in whatever we desire. It is a great card to appear for anyone who is creative, as it can especially represent success with endeavors that rely heavily upon imagination.

Intuition, Dreams, the Subconscious, Hidden or Repressed Feelings, Recognition, Fantasy, Imagination.

The Moon is associated with the Eight of Hearts

33. THE KEY

Fairly straightforward, The Key is a symbol of unlocking. It may represent the concept of openness, such as having an open mind or open heart. It may indicate new opportunities becoming available to you, or may refer to a sense of understanding things that have only just been made clear. The Key is also a symbol of being freed, and may be telling you that you are about to be released from some burden or undesirable situation. It may represent new access and opportunity.

Unlocking, Openness, Freedom, Revelation, Achievement, New Doors Opening, Access.

The Key is associated with the Eight of Diamonds

34. THE FISH

Primarily, The Fish card is indicative of commerce. It has to do with wealth, money, and business. The card may appear to represent your finances or source of income. While The Fish may refer to wealth and abundance in the shape of money, it also asks us to evaluate what we consider as "wealth." The Fish may allude to anything that we find valuable, and may even refer to more abstract concepts such as things that are emotionally valuable.

Finances, Commerce, Wealth, Abundance, Values, Gain

The Fish are associated with the King of Diamonds

35. THE ANCHOR

A versatile, but fairly straightforward symbol, the Anchor represents stability and the concept of weighing something down. It may indicate that a project or a job, or anything long-term. It may also indicate that movement has halted, or that something is keeping you in place. The Anchor also represents things that help you to feel secure, stable, and grounded. When this card appears, you are likely to be held in place for a while, for better or worse.

Stability, Stationary, Grounded, Long-Term, Safety, Burdens, Lack of Movement.

The Anchor is associated with the Nine of Spades

36. THE CROSS

The cross is one of the oldest and most widely used symbols in the world. Through out history, it has appeared in many different cultures, places, and time periods. In the traditional Lenormand Deck, the Cross often shares a close tie with the symbol of a crucifix, and can represent pain, burdens, and sacrifice. More than that however, The Cross is a symbol of responsibility and destiny. The image on this card is of a "Celtic Cross" Tarot reading, with all of the cards still laying face down. This symbol represents fate and spirituality, but also reminds us that these things are often interconnected. Spirituality, destiny, and responsibility often go hand in hand to such a point where it can be hard to separate them at times. Pain, burdens, and often spiritual work are a part of life that we must deal with in order to grow, and in hopes of one day realizing our higher calling.

Spirituality, Religion, Duty, Responsibility, Burden, Pain, Sacrifice, Higher Calling, Destiny.

The Cross is associated with the Six of Clubs

The Following cards are not a part of the traditional Lenormand deck, and are either unique to the Paper Oracle, or something found only occasionally in similar decks. They are not associated with any traditional playing cards.

37. THE NON-BINARY

I first saw a card like this in *“Scrying Ink,”* a deck created by artist Siolo Thompson, and I loved it so much I wanted to incorporate it into my own. While gender and sexuality are complex things that cannot be solely defined by "Male, Female, and Non-Binary," this card may be used to represent a specific person who identifies outside of the male-female binary. When it isn't indicating a specific person, it may represent the idea of thinking outside of the box, viewing things in a non-traditional way, or seeing shades of gray rather than merely a black and white binary. It cautions us to not cling to dogma or preconceived notions. I chose Pluto as the illustration on this card, for the way in which Pluto is not a traditional planet, and to tie this card to two others; "The Masculine," and "The Feminine." This card may also represent concepts often associated with Pluto, such as transformation, regeneration, rebirth, the subconscious, and distance.

Non-Binary Person, Gender-Fluidity, Thinking Outside the Box, Shades of Gray, Pluto, Regeneration.

38. THE HOUR GLASS

I added this card to indicate the concept of time passing. While some cards in the traditional Lenormand may reference periods of delay, waiting, or advancing quickly, I wanted to add a card that merely indicated the passage and understanding of time. It may appear to tell you that you are not quite ready for something and will need to wait patiently, it may indicate that one is "biding their time," stalling, waiting something out. Paired with cards like The Mountain, it would indicate delays; with The Letter, it may indicate waiting for a message; with The Garden, it could be signaling that one is waiting for a social engagement; and so on. The Hourglass may also represent the effects of time, and appear when you need to consider how the passage of time has affected you.

Time, The Passage of Time, Patience, Stalling, Waiting, Biding One's Time.

39. THE CAULDRON

While there are cards in the traditional Lenormand that refer to transformation (such as The Stork or The Coffin) these cards often seem to refer to grand metamorphosis that happens as a part of life whether you desire it or not. I created this card, The Cauldron, to refer to transformation and creation as a result of our own hard work. The Cauldron refers to our ability to take things, physical and otherwise, that already exist and change them ourselves. It also refers to our creative power. It may appear to indicate that you have hard work to do on a creative project, or that you need to work hard to make beneficial changes in your life.

Creative Power, Transformation, Alchemy, Adjustment, Experimentation, Hard Work, Improvement.

40. THE STORM

The Storm is a card unique to this Lenormand deck, and it represents turbulence, things being shaken up, or destroyed. It's separate from The Mountain, which has to do with obstacles, because turbulence can be as advantageous as it can be a hindrance. Oftentimes, our lives need a good shaking up. The Storm merely predicts that things are about to become chaotic and tumultuous. Perhaps a relationship is about to be shaken by something, or a job could become hectic. Remember that there are pros and cons to chaos. While it can feel negative to have one's life stirred up, there are often situations in which it may be favorable; secrets and deceptions can be dredged up and revealed, malicious leaders and institutions can be brought down, and both good and bad change be wrought.

Chaos, Turbulence, Shaking Up, Tearing Apart, Tearing Down, Destruction, Change, Disorganization.

41. THE SCALES

Another card unique to the Paper Oracle, "The Scales," of course represents balance. The Scales also represent the idea of weighing things out, and potentially dealing with different options available when making decisions. It may represent finding harmony after a period of careful tempering. Paired with The Cross, the Scales could indicate balance within one's spiritual life, and suggest that they have found peace in their spiritual duty. With The Heart, The Scales could indicate balance in a relationship. With the Crossroad, you may be being advised to consider a path carefully instead of rushing in without thought. Scales are also a symbol of justice, and might appear to represent the idea of karma of fairness. Try placing a card on either side of the Scales to help you see where you need to seek out balance.

Balance, Trial and Error, Refinement, Harmony, Justice, Karma, Weighing, Decision-Making.

42. THE STRANGER

I wanted to add this card to this deck to represent the concept of the unknown. Try as we might to shine a light on the world, some things are meant to remain hidden; and this card is a reminder of that. The Stranger represents mysteries, and the concept of accepting that we cannot always discover everything. Things will become unveiled to us when they need to be, but for now, this card may telling you to let them lie. You may note an obvious connection between The Stranger and The Familiar. The Stranger is in some ways a counterpart to the Familiar. It may indicate someone or something that is hiding or lurking, be they friend or foe. It may indicate a mysterious person, who keeps their feelings and motives a secret. The cat on this card has a third eye on its forehead-- a reminder to trust your intuition. When we cannot see everything that is before us, it does not necessarily mean that we shouldn't take any action at all. Usually, we can often rely on our instincts and intuition to guide us, even in the dark.

The Unknown, Mysteries, Mysterious People, Actual Strangers, Trusting in Oneself.

43. THE WHEEL

The Wheel represents chance and fortune, but also the idea of fate, destiny, and our connections to others. The Wheel is represented by a spinning, spool of thread that may be either unraveling or winding up into itself. It is symbolic of the Fates, and the threads our lives that they spin, measure, and cut. It is also representative of "The Red Thread of Fate," which creates invisible connections between people who are destined to meet or influence one another's lives.

This card indicates that circumstances are often out of our control, and that something unexpected may be about to happen. It may represent sudden changes or opportunities, or may be advising us against taking risks, or encouraging us embrace change. Depending on what cards appear with it, The Wheel may linking two or more things. It is also closely tied to our relationships with others, and is a reminder that everything is connected.

Consider using this card as a signficator when trying to understand how people or events are connected.

Chance, Fortune, Fate, Lack of Control, Risk, Sudden Change, Opportunity, Unexpected Events, Connections.



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