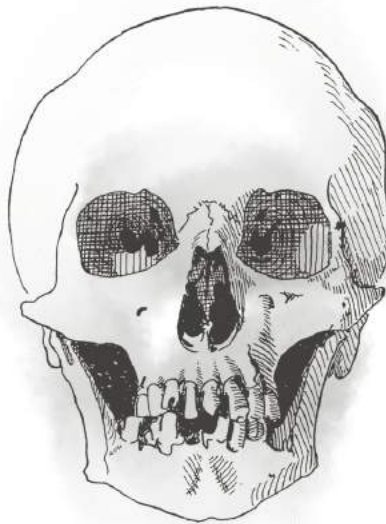


the SEANCE ORACLE

A Divination & Spirit Deck
Presented by E.R. Perkins



Be silent in that solitude
Which is not loneliness - for then
The spirits of the dead who stood
In life before thee are again
in death around thee - and their will
Shall over shadow thee: be still.

- *Edgar Allan Poe*

the WELCOME

Greetings and Gratitude. Welcome to *The Séance Oracle: Divination & Spirit Deck*. You are most welcome here in the circle.



My name is [Perkins](#), paranaturalist and party planner exiled to the wilds of the Pacific Northwest. I will be your introductory guide to this uncommon deck of cards. I shall act as a ferryman across to the gates of the underworld. I'll attempt to explain the deck (mostly) and offer you suggestions (vaguely). I'll do my duty, but I will not dictate your own journey to you. These cards are yours now and may speak to you differently. When we have safely reached the Other Side, I will hand you the oar and disappear; only then will I finally be free.

I'm excited for you. I must say, an atmosphere descends while working with these cards. One that flickers with candlelight and murmurs with voices gathered in the gloom of velvet parlours. I sincerely hope you enjoy working with this deck and that it finds a treasured place alongside your explorations of divination, psychic fairs, séance parties, or spirit soirées.

Thank you for joining the party. Regardless of your destination, it must be said I cannot wait to see what you get up to with *The Séance Oracle*. If I can be of any assistance, I will. Just push beyond the veil to seancepartyhost@gmail.com and make contact.

Yours in Mystery,

E.R. Perkins

The Séance Party
The Séance Oracle

the INTRO

The Séance Oracle merges the timeless archetypes of the Tarot with the evocative images from the Victorian séance table to create a genuinely unique divination tool. *The Séance Oracle* is essentially a two-in-one prophecy and necromancy multitool comprised of an Oracle Deck and a Spirit Deck.

The Oracle Deck comprises twenty-two numbered oracle cards transmuted from the Major Arcana into bold symbols from the Golden Age of Spiritualism. Constructed, as it is, firmly on the immortal foundations of the Tarot, you will find it to be a reliable divination tool. The Spirit Deck is assembled from a set of alphabet cards, two Yes/No cards, two spell cards, and a pointer/planchette. These cards will invite opportunities for spirit communication, either for use in separate sittings or in concert with the Oracle Deck itself.

Over years of testing and refinement, I have found that the more you work with these cards, the more the line begins to blur between these stacks. I believe you will discover a delightfully similar thinning of the veil. Your deck is the product of nearly 4 years of research, refinement, and testing amongst the *crème de la crème* of tarot readers and *séance* hosts. The ones that are still talking to me, anyway. This oracle has been painstakingly designed from authentic spiritualist “flashcards,” once used in the infamous city of Lily Dale, oft employed as training aids for burgeoning mediums.

Joining us on this cartomantic primer are two celebrated members of our field, [Smith](#) and [Hannibal](#). They are both sage advisors whom I trust to join our company. You will benefit from their perspective, tips, and advice. We’ll catch up to them downriver.

the WARNING

Stop! While the chapter dedicated to the ‘Spirit Deck’ opportunities that *The Séance Oracle* provides is much later in this manual, I feel I should pull the boat over briefly and make something absolutely clear: There are rules to spirit communication. One in particular is vital.

ALWAYS SAY GOOD BYE



Even before we get into the deck, card meanings, oracle readings, and alike, *know* that after any attempt to contact the realm of spirits, you must Close the Deck by thanking the spirits and saying goodbye. Be it a talking board or *séance* deck, it is of utmost importance that you conclude the conversation. Don’t leave the line open for other callers. And even worse, DO NOT allow an unwelcome entity to crash on your couch. Be gracious. Be grateful. Say Goodbye. Your *Séance Oracle* deck has a card just for this purpose if you wish, but any honest rendition of “Thank you, Spirits. Goodbye.” will do nicely.

I feel compelled to relate at this time that I sense some hapless soul out there reading this now will ignore the WARNING and stumble blithely to the *séance* table with this deck only to invite unwelcome calamities into their home. And so begins their particular nightmare.

Do spare yourself any such paramorphic misery. And please note that I did try to warn you, Steve.*

**Could be I’m sensing a “Steffi” or a “Standish”. Don’t know. It is unclear. Hasn’t happened yet. Definitely a ST-uh sound. Any further hunches, I’ll let you know.... Maybe “Steele or Stella?” It’s gotta be one of those. Ah, well, best of luck!*

the DECK

A divination and prophecy deck for seasoned readers and esoteric newbies alike, *The Séance Oracle* can also be integrated to commune with the Spirits of Summerland. It's a lively party favor for a group of guests and an intimate tool of intuition and individual guidance.

I am proud to offer you all these things and more, using the 54 cards of fate and influence now in your possession. Here's what you got:

- 22 numbered oracle cards transmuted from the Major Arcana of the Tarot into bold symbols from the height of Victorian-era spiritualism.
- A complete, numbered A-Z Alphabet deck for use in Ouija-style spirit contact, utilizing an upturned glass or the included planchette card. These alphabet cards can also be used in cartomancy and oracle readings.



- 1 YES and 1 NO card for use in spirit board or pendulum work.
- 1 POINTER card for use as planchette or for inclusion in divination spread.
- 1 GOODBYE card for closing spirit sessions.
- 1 BANISH card with a spell for expelling unwanted spirits.
- 1 Title card.
- All printed on lovely E27 eco-herbage sustainable card stock made from herbaceous plants.

the ORACLE

Let's examine the beating heart of this deck, those 22 cards that make up the oracle itself.

Each card is rooted in the foundations of the Tarot's Major Arcana. They share secrets and similarities with one another. With two exceptions, each card has two opposing insights elegantly printed on the face.* These "challenges" or "blessings" are merely suggestions of meaning. It is up to you to decipher and apply your own perspective to each card in the way that rings true for you.

As an aside, I'd like to briefly share my personal view on oracles and card divination. I believe that any and all successful decks, methods, or interpretations boil down to just three things;

Ritual - Symbol - Self-Reflection

That's it. The rest is window dressing. All that's needed for meaningful moments of divination is a formalized contemplation of symbols that resonate with you personally.

1. Create a sacred space through simple ceremony.
2. Access symbolism that inspires you.
3. Consider your relationship to those symbols at that particular moment.

Don't worry, Smith, Hannibal, and I will offer you many marvelous options and alternatives to consider as we go, but don't let any of our particular hokum intimidate or befuddle you. Access your own intuition and discover the meaning underneath the cards... for you.

With that in mind, you will find a cheat sheet of the cards, oracle interpretations, and Tarot Twins on the next page.

**Two cards in The Séance Oracle differ from the rest. These two cards represent the duality and dichotomy of this world and the next. One is Very Good, and the other is Very Bad. These two cards balance out the deck. They raise the stakes. There can be no victory without conflict, my friends. Face your fears. Play for keeps.*

MAJOR OR MINOR SUCCESS? WHAT DO THE CARDS SAY?



MISS GERTIE MILLAR, WHO IS TO BE THE HEROINE OF "A WALTZ DREAM," CONSULTS THE PATRS.

0	the DOLL	Freedom / Chaos	<i>The Fool</i>
1	the SPIDER	Manifestation / Deceit	<i>The Magician</i>
2	the PENDULUM	Intuition / Secrets	<i>The High Priestess</i>
3	the CANDLE	Creation / Unwanted Attention	<i>The Empress</i>
4	the BOOK	Authority / Cruelty	<i>The Emperor</i>
5	the SISTERS	Spiritual Guidance / Despair	<i>The Hierophant</i>
6	the PORTRAIT	Relationship / Disharmony	<i>The Lovers</i>
7	the STAIRS	Ambition / Self Doubt	<i>The Chariot</i>
8	the SÉANCE CIRCLE	Strength / Hedonism	<i>Strength</i>
9	the MEDIUM	Insight / Exile	<i>The Hermit</i>
10	the BELL	Destiny / Mishap	<i>Wheel of Fortune</i>
11	the SLATE	Justice / Lies	<i>Justice</i>
12	the TABLE	Revelation / Vanity	<i>The Hanged Man</i>
13	the SKULL	Rebirth / Conclusion	<i>Death</i>
14	the GLASS	Balance / Impatience	<i>Temperance</i>
15	mr. SPLITFOOT	Liberation / Temptation	<i>The Devil</i>
16	the SPADE	Upheaval / Disaster	<i>The Tower</i>
17	the KEY	Hope / Missed Opportunity	<i>The Star</i>
18	the WIDOW**	Illusion and Nightmare / Sorrow and Fear	<i>The Moon</i>
19	the DAWN***	Success / Joy	<i>The Sun</i>
20	the SPIRIT TRUMPET	Awakening / Reckoning	<i>Judgement</i>
21	the DOLL HOUSE	Fulfillment / Emptiness	<i>The World</i>

****the WIDOW.** *I'm not going to lie to you. She is Not Good. Not a bit. She represents everything that stops us. Everything that weighs us down or imprisons us in memory. She is fear and anguish and regret. She is cruel. And she is always lurking just there in the shadows, waiting. There is always good news somewhere, however. She can be overcome and banished back to the dark from whence She came.*

*****the DAWN** *is salvation. It is a reprieve. It is success and validation and joy absolute. It's always there. And just as the WIDOW waits with her arms outstretched, the DAWN will shine down on us all in time.*

the READINGS

How do you read with *The Séance Oracle*? Like too many things, there is no right answer. More than one way to shine a penny, you know.



I imagine many of you have some degree of experience with cartomancy. And I'll wager more than a few of you are grizzled soothsayers who could start a religion with a packet of cards (or have done). Some of us are new here. Regardless, all are welcome at the séance table.

Even if you have never given a card reading before, I promise you that you are more ready than you realize. If the deck is designed correctly, if you connect with the imagery, and the cards feel good in your hands, then you're almost home. Get to know the deck. Examine it. Play. Take notes. It will start to click. Don't let anyone tell you there's Only One Way to Read Cards. For reals. Don't let em.

All that said, this chapter is chockablock with suggestions for you to consider as you develop your own technique. Take what you like. Make it your own. Forget the rest.

readings with SMITH

Smith is a renowned tarot reader, collector of haunted artifacts and curator of bespoke evenings of theatrical séance, "Twilight Disturbances." His intimate occasions of clairvoyance and strange magic are sought after by the Hollywood elite. Smith was a key advisor in the development of this deck. His 'Moon Canyon Spread' is gold dust to me. Smith's advice on general readings and those specific to these cards is welcome as warm bread.

Greetings Seeker,

Consider that for most of us, we approach all situations, obstacles, and decisions head on. We interpret what is directly in front of us and act accordingly. However, it can be quite helpful to view situations from a different perspective. A different angle. Through a different lens. And that is where these fascinating cards come into play. Personally, I consider these cards a pair of vintage eyeglasses that allow one to see a situation.... differently.



Perkins and Smith at The Magic Castle, 2018

It is that additional perspective, when combined or juxtaposed with the “head on” approach, that can be illuminating if you’re willing to open your mind. In this approach, we endeavor to be active partners in our own destiny.

Suggestions for Enjoyment and Clarity

Preparation:

It can be helpful to interpret and write down specifically what the words on the card mean to YOU during the card spread. Therefore, it is suggested that you procure a designated Oracle journal and pen—a sacred space where the whispers of the cards and your reflections may intertwine.

If you draw #0 The Doll - what does “Freedom” or “Chaos” mean to your query? If you don’t know in the moment, quickly free write whatever enters your mind. Let the words come randomly if needed, but let them flow, at least a few. Do this for each card after all the cards are turned within the chosen spread, for It is when considering the whole picture that true insight and revelations are gained. .



The cards have two opposite possibilities of influence. Upright, it’s positive wind in your sails. Reversed, it’s more of an obstacle or hindrance. Decide whether you want to work with inverted cards, and if not, use a polarity coin when applicable. Any coin will do. Heads read the positive interpretation, tails read the negative.

Ritual:

It is helpful to do your readings in a consistent location. Clear the space with a quick wave of palo santo or sage.

Begin each session by centering yourself. Take a few deep breaths to ground your energy. As you draw cards, let your intuition guide you. Feel the energy each card emits, and listen closely to the whispers within.

Record insights in your oracle journal, creating a chronicle of your journey.

(Of course, the deck is also useful to pull a card or spread for immediate perspective without the dedication of a journal or creative habit.)

the DAILY DRAW

In the early morning, find a quiet moment. Shuffle the Séance Oracle Deck while thinking or speaking aloud, “What do I need to know today?”

Draw a single card. This card shall be your beacon for the day—unveiling insights into the energies surrounding you. Consider the image and words, either invitation or advisory. What are the actions within your power to meet this occasion?

Even obstacles, sometimes *especially* obstacles, *are* opportunities. So dear Seeker, don’t fear any card. Even the Widow card, for she is often simply the harbinger of change and the momentum and creative upheaval, we cannot manifest on our own. Yes, sometimes this can be uncomfortable or downright negative. Don’t fight this current. Ride it. Use it. Though you may never welcome her appearance, in time, you may grow to appreciate her.

the MOON CANYON SPREAD

It is used with a specific question but also works as a daily draw. Formulate your question. Shuffle the deck, imbuing it with your query. Again, I like the mantra “*What do I need to know?*”.

Place the deck in front of yourself. Lift a packet of cards from the top and place it to the left of yourself or the querent and original pile. Place a second packet of cards from the original pile to the right. Turn the top card of each pile. This spread does not use inverted cards but calls for the use of a Polarity Coin.

- **Position 1 (Left) Situation** - Choose the applicable interpretation or use a polarity coin.
- **Position 2 (Center) What Is Hidden** - Use a polarity coin
- **Position 3 (Right) Advice** - Read the positive interpretation.

Reveal the intricate tapestry of answers—each card representing different facets of the situation or area in question. Look at them honestly and gaze at your query with a fresh perspective as an outside observer would. Perhaps the revelation is a flare in the night sky, but more often, it will be breadcrumbs to connect along the forest path.



SITUATION



WHAT IS HIDDEN



ADVICE

readings with PERKINS

I thought seeing how I approach readings with this deck might be helpful. I'll include here something I call the WISHING WELL. This is my go-to format for readings. Works a treat with just about any old deck. Here it is now with *The Séance Oracle* as we sit by candlelight at a barnwood table in the dead of night.

the WISHING WELL

- I separate the 22 Oracle cards from the rest of the deck and hand them to you.
- I ask you to mix them casually. No fancy stuff. Just mix the cards while we talk.
- As you imprint your energy on the cards, we talk about the elegant gloom of séance parlours or the Victorian obsession with mourning or how, in 1848, two young girls, [Maggie and Kate](#), played an early April Fools joke on their mother and invented an entire religion by accident.
- You've almost forgotten that you've been mixing cards, pouring them through your fingers like sand, or slowly stirring them round the table like finger painting. "Gather them up," I say, "Build your deck and stack it just so."
- As you do, I remove three coins from my jacket. Tarnished Victorian pennies. They have such a satisfying sound as they clack together in my hand.
- I'll ask you to remove three cards from the top of the deck and place them in a row before you. From left to right, they are Your Past, Right Now, and finally, your Future Unknown.
- "I have three wishes to give you now," and I reach across the table and drop the pennies in your hand. "One Wish for Your Past. One for Right Now. And one for the Future Unknown."
- You flip each coin. One by one, they sing and clack. If heads, it's placed on the top of the card. If tails, to the bottom. Only you can decide which penny goes where. One wish per card.
- Now, we turn the cards over, one at a time ...





The Wishing Well

- I see you've placed a wish for Your Past on the **BOOK**. This speaks of a time constrained by Rules or the suffocating self-interest of Authority. Perhaps it even speaks to you of a time when the Burden of your own Responsibilities turned your heart cold. Silently now, make a wish to close this chapter and turn the page.
- Your wish for Right Now lies beneath the **SPADE**. Lately, there has been so much Upheaval and Change that you no longer feel like you're standing on solid ground. You might feel overwhelmed, Buried a little more by each shovelful until it feels like the Disaster will never end. Again, silently, make your wish. But this time, make your wish for Tomorrow. Dig yourself out. 'Right Now' is already gone.
- Ah, **mr. SPLITFOOT**, the Devil Himself. However, I see that He has not come to tempt you or lead you astray. No. Your wish for the Future Unknown is for Freedom. To Liberate Yourself from the stuffy attitudes of Decorum and Expectation. This will not be a time to remain "appropriate" under the withering eye of the Conventional. Be bold. Make them openly clutch their pearls. Run with the Devil, but only for a time. Be warned, there will be Temptations along the way that could ensnare you. Make your final wish now for the Future Unknown.
- Granted.



the SPIRIT DECK

Honestly, some of you may never even use this half of the deck. That's fine. I get it. A tremendous stigma is attached to Ouija-style communication with Spirits and the Unconscious Realm. Once all the rage, spirit and talking boards have taken on a rather nasty reputation since 1886.

This formerly great American pastime has been consigned to tales of corruption and Evil (with a long e). To arrange the alphabet in a wheel, spiked with that ominous YES and NO, to place your fingers on an upturned crystal goblet as the candlelight gutters, to cry out to the shivering void '*Is Anybody There?*'... why, to do this is to welcome unholy calamity!

But, let me tempt you.

As long as you remember to Close the Deck and say **GOOD BYE**, you have nothing to dread. In the company of friends, you may visit another realm and experience strange wonders together.

Think of it like scuba diving. Yes. There is some risk, but get your oxygen mix right and stick with your diving partner, and you can plumb the depths of another world. Just don't come up too fast, or your brain will pop.



Have séance, will travel.



Coupon no longer valid. I tried.

Oh my, did I make matters worse with that analogy? Sincerely, it is not as chancy as all that. In this section, we'll discuss a few invocation options and spirit calls. They are not all as solemn as going full monty with a massive replica of Ouija on grandma's good table. Some are decidedly simple and, dare I say it, fun. Once more, for the cheap seats, some guidelines.

the **TIPS, TRICKS** and **WARNINGS** of **SPIRIT CONTACT**

- Always Close the Deck and say **GOOD BYE**. Always. Even if you have not received any answers during your session, thank the spirits and say ‘Goodbye’. Some shy little violets may have joined your circle unnoticed. They should not be allowed to linger.
- Some will tell you to never consult the spirits alone. I think this is hogwash, myself. But if you feel more comfortable using the Buddy System, then by all means, do so. More fun with a friend anyway. Safety in numbers?
- Stick to YES or NO questions to start with. Once things get hopping, then go for the bigger asks like names, dates, whereabouts of bones/untold treasure, etc
- Be patient. Give the Spirits time to “Find the Board.”
- If you are not receiving, try changing up the energy of the room, the lighting, the music, the position of sitters about the table, who is touching the planchette or glass, etc. All of these things can affect the sitting. Reset the vibe. Try again.
- Make it an “Open Call”. My personal belief is to keep things somewhat light. I throw parties, after all. I do not set out with an agenda, like some sort of etheric bounty hunter. I will not try and contact a dearly departed of anyone at the table, nor will I try to dial up Saucy Jack. The emotional empathy can be too raw and powerful to mediate. At the very least, it can dredge up too much grief for a good time. At the worst, it can open the **WRONG DOORS** to the **WRONG GUESTS**. Trust me on this one.
- “Thank you, Spirits. **GOOD BYE**.”



by BELL, BOOK and CANDLE

Sometimes, not very often, but *occasionally*, you *might* have a guest that *overstays* their welcome. For additional insurance, keep the following nearby to use in a traditional banishment spell: a Bell, a Book of some particular importance to you, and a lit Candle. Recite each stanza, preferably in unison with your party, followed by the action described.



By Bell, By Book, By Candle glow

We bid thee, Uninvited, go!

(Ring bell)

By Bell, By Book, By Candle grace

We charge thee, Spirit, leave this place!

(Close book)

By Bell, By Book, By Candle's light

We send thee on. Go. Take thy flight!

(Blow out candle)

the FULL BOARD

This is exactly what you think it is, the entire Spirit Deck laid out in grand arrangement for an evening of good ol' fashioned, spirit-board-style shindig. A bit obvious, perhaps, but set it up for yourself. See how it looks in the room. It makes quite an impression.



the MINI KIT



A favorite of mine. A lean, mean, séance party machine with just four cards and a candle. Don't get me wrong, I do love the grandeur of a Full Board event. It's a decadent paramorphic feast. But the logistics can be a bit tricky. It's all about the table.

I've found the YES/NO sessions to be, consistently, some of the most approachable, active sittings. You can, of course, swap out your planchette pointer card with an upturned glass. By the way, if you've never heard the whirl and swirl of a crystal goblet gliding over a polished wooden table, then you, my friend, are missing out.

the **PENDULUM SPEAKS**

I am sorry. I wish I had more time for a Pendulum Divination for Paranatural Newbies chapter. I don't, though. That is a book unto itself. Do a little research. It won't take you long. Acquire a pendulum or make one from a washer and a length of kite string. Try it, and you'll be hooked.

Pendulum work allows one to go “mono e mono” in those Unconscious Realms. Eschew the pointer, or the glass, for a pendulum and walk the Path of the Spirits. Set out your YES and NO cards, ask your questions, and hold the pendulum over the cards in turn. The spirits will guide the pendulum to swing and ‘circle’ their answer.



Hold it steady. Breath deeply. Allow the spirits to guide your hands.

By the way, pendulum work is a blast in a group setting. Set out party favors for your guests. Stand round the table, just outside the candlelight, and ask the spirits to reach out and move those pendulums. It is an unforgettable moment.

the **SPIRIT SCRABBLE**

This is a fun one. Best for gatherings. Take turns mixing the complete alphabet deck until it is thoroughly imbued with the energy of all your guests. Stack and set it out prominently, or drop the letters in a hat box or fish bowl.

Decide the number of letters you will draw beforehand. I tend to stick to 4 or 5 letters, but having everyone in your party draw a letter can be fun.

Again, deep breath. Put yourself in a relaxed, welcoming state, and ask the spirits to guide your hand. One at a time, throughout your evening, draw your letters.

To conclude the evening, combine your letters and decipher a message from the Spirits. Sometimes, it's nonsense, but I think you'd be surprised how often it is something much more. I've seen some strange messages over the years, but I'll never forget when I hosted a party on New Year's Eve, and this was the message we drew.

Then, at that moment, someone three blocks away lit a firework. Thrilling



the BRIDGE

Now that we are nearing the river's end, are you starting to fathom just how many wondrous strange opportunities can come from this devilishly handsome little deck? Let me briefly offer some suggestions for linking the Oracle Deck and the Spirit Deck for advanced reading techniques. I call it the BRIDGE.

the INITIAL DRAW

Pull the letters and mix your sitter's initials into the Oracle Deck. Deal the cards until you reach that yellow-backed card. Turn that and the next over for your reading. I just did it and received **the BELL**. Destiny or Mishap? Pretty spot on, as it was the eve of launch day for this deck. By the way, turned out to be a bit of both.



the NODDING SKULL

Use the SKULL as a pendulum card. Horizontal movement is a NO. Vertical swing is a nod of YES.

the SPIRIT WHEEL

Build your spirit board with 13 cards: YES, NO, GOOD BYE, POINTER, and 9 cards from the Oracle Deck. Cards chosen from the oracle could be deliberate, based on your line of inquiry, or left to the fate of the draw. *(Perhaps you'd rather rest the WIDOW for this session? Keep Bell, Book, and Candle nearby, just in case.)* Combined with the Q&A format, the imagery makes for a provocative board for spirits and guests alike.



the GOOD BYE

Does anyone read these entire deck manuals? I mean, besides *YOU*, of course. Cheers for that, by the way.

And let me thank you, once again, for joining the circle with *The Séance Oracle*. I sincerely hope you enjoy this deck and find your journey through the Realm of Spirits a rewarding expedition.

Please, allow me a moment to pass along my profound gratitude for the tutelage, inspiration and encouragement I've received over the years from Eugene Burger, Professor BC, Dan Baines, Aiden Sinclair, and Paul Voodini. Massive thanks to BC Smith and Hannibal for diving with me here. Whether they know it or not, they were lifesavers.

We've reached the gates now. Before you are cursed to row others across, I have a final treat for you. Following my departure, you will find a complete list of illuminating translations for each card in the Oracle Deck by my friend Hannibal. Please enjoy.

Here's where I leave you holding the paddle.

Bizarre Regards,
E.R.P - 2024

seancepartyhost@gmail.com

[The Séance Oracle - Party Playlist](#)



Thank you, spirits. Good bye.

The Seance Oracle in the Seance Chamber; A Hannibal Read

Hannibal is Resident Apparitionist and Host of “13 (A Theatrical Séance Experience)” at the historic Stanley Hotel in Estes Park, Colorado. He is a master storyteller. Occupying an exclusive seat at his table is what we in the spirit biz call a ‘must do.’ His insight into each and every one of these cards is illuminating. At the time of this writing, the very deck you hold in your hand is a central tool in Hannibal’s nightly craft.



Hannibal and Perkins in the séance room,
The Stanley Hotel 2023

the DOLL

A simple form, given in love from a parent to a child. She represents the gifts you have been given by your creator. She has zero brain, zero heart, zero personality. She does not yet possess a name. It is up to you to supply these things.

She is freedom. Your imagination is her only limit. What adventures will you go on? What secrets will you confide? Remember, no matter what you trust her with, she will not, cannot ever betray you.

She will comfort you when the night is close around you. She will bolster your confidence as you navigate your life’s journey. You can rely on her, she will remain at your side as long as you wish for her to be there. Do not be swayed by others who question her value: she opens the doors. Step through them with boldness.

the DOLL reversed

A messy, untidy room. Toys and books and clothing askew across every horizontal surface. There, among the chaos, is the doll, upside down in the corner. One eye closed in a conspiratorial wink.

You have been careless with your gifts, she seems to say; your path is unclear because you do not separate the wholesome, dear things from the harmful.

It is time, her wink tells you, to get your house in order. Let us toil together and make this a room, make this a life, worth living in. See the goal among the chaos and start working.

the SPIDER

A single strand, emanating from within, creating airy cathedrals; Decorated with dewdrops and shining in the sun. Sitting at the heart of this masterpiece is the spider, a weaver of tales and beauty, the architect of this miraculous mansion.

You hold within you everything you need to survive and thrive. All you need to do is imagine what you want and then, using the gifts inside yourself, manifest them into reality. Share your vision, weave your tale, create your home and sustenance.

the SPIDER reversed

The web is the residence of its own arachnid architect. Not the regal creature of Keats, but the blood-hungry predator who lures its victims close with deceptive beauty. By the time they realize their peril, the spider has them.

There is something or someone in your life tempting you into danger. You are being deceived by pretty pictures and silken words. Proceed with caution: the sticky threads are as merciless as the one who wove them.

the PENDULUM

A weight suspended from a chain, a direct tether from the heart of the soul to the center of the earth. There's a question to be answered and the Pendulum will guide itself toward the truth. Grip it gently, breathe, and allow the path to be revealed.

Two points. Two choices. A path that splits. Trust your instinct, lean into your intuition. Your heart knows the answer to the questions in your mind. Let your commonsense light the way.

the PENDULUM reversed

Something is amiss. Something is not quite right. Even gravity seems to have reversed itself, spiritually. There is a decision to be made, but you do not have all of the information needed to make it.

Someone is keeping secrets. It may even be you. It is time to seek deeper, uncover the truth. Don't let the unknown trip you up. Additionally, make sure you have come completely clean in this situation. Make sure the directions you are giving are clear.

the CANDLE

A wax waypoint, a remedy for the darkness. It has no awareness other than its own function. It is here to provide enlightenment, to allow the work to be done, to allow the road to be seen.

There's something you long to create, so don't allow the darkness to stem your flow. All you lack currently is the starting point. The candle is useless unless it is lit, so prepare to touch flame to your own wick. The fire you bear will also be inspirational to others, they may uncover their own journey simply because you took the initiative to make a light.

the CANDLE reversed

There's a candle in the window. Will it guide friends to your door or will it bring the wolves?

You have ideas and stories to tell. Be wary at this time of sharing too much. Not everyone who listens is an ally. Don't be seduced by the wrong kind of attention.

the BOOK

A well-weathered tome packed full of stories. Heroes and legends overcoming the obstacles in their lives and obtaining glory. Each story has a moral, a lesson to be taught.

Listen closely to the tales of your elders; the authority they wield comes from generations of lives lived and mistakes made. Absorb the words in this history and prepare to add your own chapters to it. Our story is short, create one that someone will want to tell after you are gone.

the BOOK reversed

Leather bound; gold foil stamped. Pristine. A weighty collection of laws and rules. The words within are authoritarian and cold. They speak in absolutes, leaving no room for compassion, mercy, or kindness.

There exists in your life a situation that needs love more than law. Soften the stone in your heart and open yourself to new perspective. Rules are important, yes. Guidance may be needed in learning to understand, but don't become cruel in your reverence.

the SISTERS

They seem ageless and somehow outside of time. Rarely (if ever) seen apart from one another, they share a deep spiritual bond. Not only do they finish each other's sentences, they often seem to communicate without uttering a word. Their shared power allows them to guide the living to their departed loved ones.

The sisters are keepers of the old traditions, the old paths. You are encouraged to return to the rituals or cultural familiarities from which you may have strayed. If you are engaged with a social cause or charity, they may be encouraging you to examine your reasons. They challenge you to question what it is you believe, and why.

the SISTERS reversed

Perhaps it is time to break the bonds you hold dear. The organizations you serve, the faiths you blindly follow. Is it time to break with the old rituals, the ancient traditions? You are expected to conform, but is that really what is best for you?

the PORTRAIT

You may have passed the picture on the wall a number of times, but today you see something else, something that must have been there all along, but this is the first time you've noticed. The proud, well-dressed gentleman in the portrait has an ethereal second figure behind him. A lady affectionately drapes an arm over his shoulder. Clearly the love she has for him reaches across all boundaries, including death.

Believe in the force of love, which bonds all things. Fill your life with it. Be brave in making connection with those that come into your life and offer their hearts to you. Don't be afraid to connect deeply in a reciprocal relationship with someone who mirrors you intellectually and spiritually. Don't forget to offer love to yourself.

the PORTRAIT reversed

Be very careful in the choices you make. There is a danger of a missed connection, or a deceptive false friend. Offering your heart to such a person, whether in friendship or a romantic entanglement, could leave you in emotional, even spiritual despair.

the STAIRS

The path you are on has led you here, and now it is time to make a choice: the difficult upward staircase, leading to light and promise, or the easier descent downward toward comfort and shade? The choice seems obvious, but you are weary from your journey and the effort to climb seems daunting.

The Stairs tell you that now is the time to master your own thoughts and action, rather than being led by them. It is time to step up, as it were. Take care of yourself, become victorious in your quest, and in this victory, you can then offer assistance and advice to those that come after you. This is your moment. Take a deep breath and climb.

the STAIRS reversed

Your ego is pushing you in a direction that isn't healthy. The reward is tempting, but you have not truly earned it, yet. Do not be compelled into claiming a prize for yourself at the expense of someone else. Master your ego, do not let it control you. Pause and reflect. Choose wisely.

the SEANCE CIRCLE

Figures around a sacred table, lightly touching hands, all in full agreement. Meditating or praying together. Each individual adds their gifts and strengths to the circle, and they all strive to overcome barriers. Veils, time, distance, misunderstandings; these all fade in the collective strength of the group.

You have come to a place where you must muster your inner strengths, both to serve yourself and the people in your sphere. Add your power to the group, serve them your own compassion and understanding. They in turn will help you with the obstacles you encounter that have previously thwarted your efforts.

the SEANCE CIRCLE reversed

There are things that offer you pleasure and immediate gratification that are keeping you from discovering the truth about yourself. Your pride is preventing you from reaching out to others for assistance. Stop coveting the spotlight, take time to listen to the peers around you, offer a hand, or ask for one. Find joy in teamwork.

the MEDIUM

The Medium is the veteran of many epic journeys, mostly within herself. She may have had teachers and mentors, but her greatest discoveries have come as a result of deep introspection. She wanders within the chambers of her own heart and mind so that she can better understand the worlds outside herself. She uses this knowledge to seek connections between these worlds.

You look around and you see the world in chaos. The Medium card tells you that this is a good season to withdraw from the chaotic world and get your own house in order, both physically and spiritually. Truly knowing yourself is critical in knowing how to navigate the outside world.

the MEDIUM reversed

You have eschewed valuable relationships because the voices in your own head have convinced you that you are not worthy of the kindness shown you. You have become a prisoner on an island of your own making. The time has come to come out of exile, see the real value you have and embrace the love you richly deserve. Others see it, it's time you did, too.

the BELL

The doors are closing. The doors are opening. School is in session. Class is dismissed. Someone is at the door. Dinner is served. The bells ring and we all answer the call.

There is a new beginning at hand, a new opportunity. There is a road you are destined to travel. While it is entirely up to you whether you take it, the fates have put this in your path. Don't let it slip away.

the BELL reversed

You have been resisting the changes happening in your life. This has the direct result in manifesting some of the bad luck or missed chances you have been experiencing. The good news is that bad times and back luck do not last. Be patient and be aware of the doors that wait to open for you

the SLATE

A natural way of conveying a message. Though the chalk is erased, the words linger in the dust. The slate stands as an open communication between this world and the next one. Questions may be posed to the higher powers; You may not receive the answer you want, but the answer will always be just.

The card is numbered 11, a perfect balance to the spread; 10 cards behind, ten cards ahead. The appearance of this card indicates that a good choice has been made, a correct decision. You have been gifted sound advice and knowledge, make your next move with confidence.

the SLATE reversed

In your quest for better understanding, you have been given bad information. Someone or something is misleading you. Double check your sources.

the TABLE

Familiar things are acting in peculiar ways. The perspective of the world has become skewed. While resting hands upon the simple wooden table, it rises and moves, seemingly with a spirit of its own.

Right now is a good time to take a look at the familiar things in your life from a fresh perspective. Walk around them, flip them upside down. Don't be afraid to seek joy, even in the troubling things. You just may find a new revelation among the common trappings. Invigorate your mind, heart, and soul.

the TABLE reversed

Lately you have felt that your life has become mundane, even boring. You yearn for excitement, and the adventure you feel you deserve. In truth, you have lost the perspective and the vision of beauty the world that surrounds you. Perhaps you should raise your eyes from the dirt and seek a better view.

the SKULL

A human skull resting in a museum, or perhaps on display in a medical lab. A dome of bone that once protected the brain, the consciousness, the essence of a living person. Now you look into the hollow blackness of its eye sockets and realize that nothing is forever, except perhaps the void.

Something has come to an end. This is natural. And in that emptiness something else waits to take its place. The children playing will grow up and leave home in order to make homes for themselves. Something in your life is over, because it's time to be over. Don't ignore it. Endings and loss are inevitable, and it is good for the soul to embrace the grief and, in time, to move on.

the SKULL reversed

There are good things in your life that are eroding because you are pessimistic about their permanence. While it is true that all things end, that is no excuse for not enjoying them while they are here. Now is the time to live. Now is the time to embrace the preciousness of the finite.

the GLASS

A wineglass sits inverted on the table. It is a subtle message to the steward that we know wine is available, but we choose not to imbibe at this time. We don't remove the glass altogether, so the steward knows to check back later.

There's a wise compromise on the table, if you are willing to take it. Take a look at what feels out of balance in your life and be ready to make adjustments. Check your habits and make reasonable compromise. Don't discount your joy and happiness, but temper those things with responsibility. Living on extremes can be dangerous, even harmful. Balance is the long, satisfying road.

the GLASS reversed

You've become tired of waiting and have started living on the edges, trying impatiently to force change. Your interests, your desires, the excessive chances you are taking are causing disharmony in your life. Step back, breathe, and say no a little bit more.

mr SPLITFOOT

You step into the room and lock eyes with a being that exudes lust, desire, selfishness, hunger, and rage. He looks at you, unblinking. You feel deep fascination, a little fear, and allure. You have never met a being so animalistic, so complete in his base cravings. You are drawn to this creature. You step closer and reach out a hand ... only to touch the cold glass of the mirror in front of you.

When we strip away the higher visions we have of ourselves, we must be prepared for the animal that lies within. The snake under the rock. Examine your life to see where you fell into bondage, where you became a servant to your more primal self. Did you choose your addictions or did they choose you? Can you take control of the animal within and force it to serve you?

mr SPLITFOOT reversed

Your curiosities are becoming obsessions. You cannot liberate yourself and evolve until you learn to deny the temptations that prey on you daily.

the SPADE

The spade is shiny and sharp, a tool for destruction at its core. Before the tree can be planted, before the road can be laid, the spade must cut into the ground and remove the obstacles.

Remove the problems. There will be a sudden, scary upheaval in your life that may be intense and frightening. Don't fear! This destruction is needed in order to create new things. They may be completely out of your control, or you may be holding the spade yourself. Dig deep and remove all that is in your way.

the SPADE reversed

You are ignoring a critical step in the plans you are making. Left unchecked, the coming upheaval will spell disaster. Change is necessary, and inevitable.

the KEY

An old key to an old lock. It's heavy, sturdy. It has but one function: to provide entrance where the way is blocked.

There's something you want. Something you need in order to make your way forward. The key provides a simple, practical solution to the obstacle you face. It may be a literal key, a tool for moving tumblers aside, or it could be a plain solution to a frustrating puzzle. Either way, you hold in your hand the path to healing and fulfillment.

the KEY reversed

You are in a situation to which you see no solution. Trapped in a room of locked doors. There existed a chance, but you have let it pass. The doors remain steadfast, and you must learn to exist in this confined space.

the WIDOW

There's a lovely woman walking a dark path through a graveyard. Mysterious, moving. She does not even seem to disturb the leaves at her feet, but her presence affects everyone she encounters. In her palpable grief She is at once the tides of the ocean and the sign of the coming harvest. Trust in her, and she will make you whole.

Revealing the widow indicates the journey to healing. Be prepared to be brave in the face of a world that expects you to be weak. Your straight posture and gentle countenance are but illusion as you battle the nightmare manifesting itself in the black of night. Do not forget that within you lies the light you need to navigate the dark. Note also that others see you as a powerful force, though you may feel insignificant.

the WIDOW reversed

Lately you feel as if your faith has betrayed you. You wander with a feeling of crushing loss. You are being manipulated by fear, which is so present it is preventing you from moving forward, even as you feel the darkness growing ever more dense. What you need most is forgiveness, both giving and receiving.

the DAWN

It is dark and it is cold. Despair strives to bloom inside your chest. And then, just when everything seems darkest, the sun peeks a sliver of itself on the horizon. Soon (and very soon) it rises majestically into the sky, warming your painful joints, lighting your face with luminescence. Morning has broken. You survived the night.

Know that all shall be well. There is light, and it is good. You are on the verge of success. Happiness is seeking you, and that meeting will bring enlightenment.

the DAWN reversed

Ironically your pursuit of what you consider "success" is keeping real happiness out of your grasp. You are so focused on unimportant things that you are missing the natural beauty happening in your life. Put down the meaningless busywork and the unhealthy obsessions. The sun has risen, go outside and turn your face up to it.

the **SPIRIT TRUMPET**

An angelic instrument, awaiting the breath of the messenger to wind it. When it is blown all accounts will be due. Recognition and awareness will be known to all souls. For now it sits, pregnant with anticipation. When will it be put to use, and what will its song reveal to us?

It is time to go, and this time on your own terms. Nothing outside of yourself influences your choice anymore. You no longer crawl in the mud; your self-awareness has gifted you mighty wings. There is no fear, because you know what the judge will reveal when the trumpet is blown. Move on, move up.

the **SPIRIT TRUMPET** reversed

You can forgive anyone but yourself. You hold on to mistakes like treasures. You fear what the future may bring because you have little faith in yourself. Your loneliness and absorption are preventing your growth.

It's not yet too late for salvation, but you must be your own advocate.

the **DOLLHOUSE**

The journey is over and is time to come home. Your path has built this comfortable haven in which you might rest. As you look through it, you recognize the lessons and trophies you obtained along the way. Welcome home.

The circle is complete. You have worked hard in your journey and now the fruits of that labor are ready for harvesting. Celebrate the life you lived to get here, but do not forget the what you learned and the hearts you encountered along the way.

Now that that this story is complete you can choose to begin again, or rest in your accomplishments, or go in any direction you desire. A new journey, perhaps?

the **DOLLHOUSE** reversed

You are at the end of the path, and there is place to rest, but you find that place empty. No one waiting for your return, no affection. No one with whom to share your story of adventure. You may have achieved what you once considered success, but you find it empty and lifeless. A new quest is needed to bring real light and love into this place. The good news is that you now know where that light resides. Godspeed, friend. Your hard journey is done; the new one shall be much easier.

