

Relationship spreads and the court cards.

Wouldn't it be lovely if I had a simple formula to allow you to see which cards meant love and happiness, and which spelt disaster.

Sadly (or gladly) it is NOT that simple.

It is the relationship between the cards, the other cards, your question, and your intuition that can turn the queen of pentacles from loved partner to being treated like a house keeper.

Pages

All of the pages can represent a new relationship, or a relationship re-kindled (perhaps when the kids go to school or leave home).

They can also suggest someone is acting in a childlike way, or being treated like a child in this relationship.

Knights

Can suggest sexual attraction (wands) romantic attraction (cups) mental attraction (swords) or sensuous and loyal (pentacles).

But with knights you need to check this is within the relationship and not wondering out!

Queens

Although they represent someone who is focused on themselves (wands & cups can become selfish) this is a good thing in moderation-as it suggests independence and a lack of co-dependency.

The queen of pentacles is classically a parent or married partner- though can move into smother lover and mothering.

The queen of swords can suggest someone is feeling single, even if in a relationship (a red flag card)

Kings

The kings have responsibility- so they can suggest someone is committed to the relationship or family unit.

Watch out that they are not losing their sense of identity through feeling over responsible though! (especially king of cups).

The King of wands is my second big relationship red flag.

These thoughts don't define a card in a relationship- connect with the imagery, feel the psychology, explore the narrative.. but they might help a little.

Page of wands

Can indicate fascination, fun, enthusiasm. Look to see that it is about the person, rather than an outside interest (or person) that is distracting.

May suggest a short term passionate fascination – rather than a long term sustainable relationship.

Knight of wands

Sexual energy, passion, anger (or even a mix of all). Can suggest a fast moving passionate relationship (may not be stable or long lasting).

Look to the other cards to see if this is a good card or not.

Queen of wands

A card of confidence and happiness- in a good relationship this can be an amazing card.

But it can also be a card of stubbornness and doing whatever one likes, without due regard to our partner's needs.

King of wands

Be careful- that king is edging off his seat, he doesn't want to be here- yet he hasn't left. This can be a card of manipulation and coercive control. (I don't want to be with you, but I don't want to leave either- or I want my cake, and to eat it too).

It can reflect a brilliant, independent thinker, but check carefully.

Page of cups

This can represent feelings of love, a message of love, flirtation or romantic fun.

It can feel a little like play acting, check the other cards- is it real?

Knight of cups

"My romantic partner" often associated with feelings of love.

This can be a little too romanticised though, look for something grounded and based in reality.

Queen of cups

This card can become overwhelmed by emotions, and entangled in another.

It can be deep loving feelings – but I'd want to see communication, reality, or chemistry there as well.

King of cups

There is a gentle maturity to this card that is lovely. But it can fall into caregiver (including working long hours to fund your partners lifestyle) or people pleaser.

Look for a sense of equality between the partners, or a sense of happiness in the king of cups. (king of cups, 3 wands, 2 cups- great. King of cups, 10 of wands, 9 of swords- burn out.)

Page of swords

Can represent anxiety, cross words, mis-communication.

But equally can represent lively conversation and great wit.

Most likely to represent avoidant behaviour and hiding behind words- answering each question with another question.

Knight swords

Expect blunt, direct communication.

For good or bad? Depends on the situation!

(They do tend to assume they are right 100% of the time...)

Queen of swords

Classically linked to a divorced or widowed woman, it can be a sign someone has shut down or feels single with in their relationship.

Look to why the queen is there- are they overwhelmed by family or work and putting down strong boundaries in a time of need? Or have they checked out of their relationship?

King of swords

Emotionally intelligent, engaged with you the reader, balanced, great communication. What's not to love?

He can be a little too in charge, a little too logical- you may feel like your partner is a manager not a lover.

Page of pentacles

Any of the pages can represent either playful behaviour, or childlike and being infantilised, or a child.

Often suggests meeting over a shared interest, or learning something together. The need (or desire) to spend focused time together.

The warning? This page can make you feel the centre of their world. Check in with the other cards- most of the time this is genuine, sometimes its game playing.

Knight of pentacles

Loyalty, genuine, caring, sensuous- there is much to like in this knight in a relationship spread.

They can be a little stuck in their ways, and not prepared to compromise though.

Queen of pentacles

The consummate partner, and/or parent. This can be an amazing card in a relationship reading- showing caring, compassion, and loyalty.

Check in though that this isn't someone feeling like, or being treated like a housekeeper (or wife/mother/partner) rather than being seen as an individual and equal.

Watch out for the queen of pentacles (nurturer) crossed by a card that suggest independence or focusing on emotional needs- because then it can be "I want to break free.."

King of pentacles

A card of joy, happiness, and pleasure- wonderful in a relationship spread (though double check that joy is coming from within the relationship!!)

Can reflect a little too focused on the material, but in general usually a positive card.

I've mostly framed these concepts around a romantic relationship- but I hope you can get the feel for these and transpose these ideas to a friendship, work or family relationship too.

The best way to read court cards in a relationship spread is to understand the psychology, and the narrative between the two individuals.