

TAROT READER - KATHERINE KNOWLES

FORTUNE TELLER'S TENT - DAY

Gypsy Rosa sits at a table.

ROSA

Come in! Come in, my child. I was expecting you.

MANDY

You were? Wow!

ROSA

I am Gypsy Rosa, and I sense - yes, I sense you are seeking answers. Let us turn to the ancient powers of the Tarot.

She shuffles the cards mystically. Picks one. It is DEATH.

ROSA (CONT'D)

The Death Card!

MANDY

Death?! Seriously, the Death card? Oh my god! I just wanted to know if Steven was going to ask me out and now I'm going to die?!

ROSA

Do not be alarmed my child. The Death card is rich in meaning. It stands for New Beginnings and Transformations.

MANDY

Not straight-up Death then?

ROSA

The cards are more subtle and nuanced than you imagine. You must die to an old way of life to be truly open to change and renewal.

MANDY

Oh. OK. That's OK, I suppose. Good. Phew. Relief.

ROSA

Let's see what else the spirits have in store for you. I shall pick the second card.

TAROT (Knowles) 2.

Ceremoniously, she selects a card and turns it over. DEATH.

ROSA (CONT'D)

And it's - Death.

MANDY

Again?! Oh No. That can't possibly be ok! It's got to be a sign!

ROSA

No no. The death card really does just mean new beginnings. I expect you have a lot of new beginnings coming up. Maybe a new job?

MANDY

No. I'm never leaving Hershey's.

ROSA

A new apartment, perhaps?

MANDY

No. I'm rent controlled in the Village, so, no way. I'm going to die, aren't I? I know it!

ROSA

Nobody's going to die, but, how about we pick another card to get some clarification.

She meditates, then selects a card.

ROSA (CONT'D)

The spirits have spoken and the card is - Death! Huh.

MANDY

Death?! OH GOD!

ROSA

Um. OK. This is actually a little unusual. This has never happened to me before. I mean, there are only supposed to be 2 Death cards in a Major Arcana set.

MANDY

OH MY GOD IS IT CANCER?

ROSA

So. Um, I think there's a logical explanation.

(MORE)

TAROT (Knowles) 3.

ROSA (CONT'D)

The cards must have got shuffled up, and another pack got mixed in by mistake. That must be it. I don't know how this happened, but you know what? Let's start again. Just a minute.

She shuffles through the cards.

Magician, Lovers, Hermit, Wheel of Fortune, just the two Death cards - Actually, you know what? I think we'll just leave these out too, OK? I'm going to rip them right up. That's settled then. Good. And Focus - This time I'm going to lay out a Celtic Pattern. It's a six card cross - there we go - and a 4 card staff - right. Ok. Let's look into your future. Are you ready?

MANDY

Ready.

ROSA

Good. Your first card is - Death.

MANDY

Aggh!

ROSA

Your second card is - Death. Your third card is Death, and Death, Death, Death, Crippling And Painful Heart Attack - huh, I did NOT know that was a card - Death, Death, Death.

MANDY

OH MY GOD!

ROSA

Wow. I don't really know what to say - I mean, I just don't know why-

She clutches her arm, and slumps to the table, dead.

MANDY

Huh. Well, I guess that explains it.

Blackout.