

The background features a dark grey field with a central graphic of stylized lips. The lips are formed by two overlapping, wavy shapes: a blue one on the left and a purple one on the right. The interior of the mouth is a solid black. From the center of the lips, a series of ten vibrant, semi-transparent rays of light fan outwards towards the top and bottom edges of the frame. The colors of the rays, from left to right at the top, are red, orange, yellow, olive green, blue, and purple. The bottom half of the image is a mirror image of the top, with the rays continuing downwards.

Wicked Queer

Tarot Spreads

by Evvie Marin
of Interrobang Tarot

Wicked Queer Tarot Spreads

7 Tarot Spreads Written in Memory of the Stonewall Rebellion

Written & Illustrated by Evvie Marin of Interrobang Tarot

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Dedication

To Stormé DeLarverie, Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and all the queer heroes who fought in the Stonewall Rebellion. To those who passed of AIDS, and those who survived. To those loving and fighting today.

To queer tarot makers and authors everywhere, with extra love to Pamela Coleman Smith, the (we're pretty sure) queer woman of color who envisioned the minors and gave us contemporary tarot.

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Use of my spreads does not constitute an endorsement. I don't endorse individual psychics and readers. I take no responsibility for the quality or content of others' readings.

Again, if you have any questions, I'm always happy to chat and work them out!

Have fun reading!

Disclaimers

For entertainment purposes only. Magic not guaranteed. Not a substitute for medical therapy or professional counseling.

The author's only expertise is in the arts. I cannot and do not claim to speak for all queer people. Do take these exercises, as I hope you'd take anything, with a grain of salt. Salty + discerning is a fine way to be!

A Note to Cis-Het Allies

If you feel inspired by these spreads, you are absolutely welcome to adapt them to your own story in your private practice. That goes double for anyone questioning and exploring their gender or sexuality! If sharing them in public, please keep the focus on LGBTQIA+ people and experiences. This project is a gift to the queer tarot community in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, and I'd like to keep it that way. I've got a bunch more spreads coming for the whole class soon. Thanks!

Queer as in Fuck You Tarot Spread

For constructive individuation.
For resisting assimilation.

1.
Queer

2. X 3.
As X In

4.
Fuck

5.
You

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1. Queer: How I diverge from the dominant culture. **2. As:** How my queerness colors how I meet others. **X 3. In:** How my queerness colors how others meet me. **4. Fuck:** Something to joyously bend, warp, play with, or break down through my queerness. **5. You:** Something to leave to others. A point not to assimilate into.

Queer As In Fuck You Tarot Spread

For constructive individuation. For resisting assimilation. For mighty elseing.

“Not gay as in happy, queer as in fuck you!”

1. **Queer:** How I diverge from the dominant culture.
2. **X 3. As X In (Perception):** How my queerness colors how I meet others. X How my queerness colors how others meet me.
4. **Fuck:** Something to mess with—to joyously bend, warp, play with, or break down through my queerness.
5. **You:** Something to leave to others. A point not to assimilate into.

NOTES:

This spread is for drawing distinctions and boundaries between ourselves and our over-cultures, through the lens of queering. Let’s talk about difference and divergence for a minute, because it’s easy to mix these up with othering. Given that confusion, some spiritual folks have a hard time seeing any dividing lines as a positive.

When we speak of othering, we usually mean a toxic pattern by which people exclude or dehumanize others with targeted qualities, usually innate and unchangeable ones like race, sexuality, or disability. This impulse points the finger outward and says “you are not like us. You don’t belong. You are different and different means lesser. You are other than right, other than fully and equally human.” Not our greatest drive.

The polar reaction to othering is to seek unity. (Note that our first ingrained reactions are so often polar. This springs from an over-culture addicted to binaries. It is not the only way to respond, but it is the only way many bother to imagine per conditioning.) Now unity can be grand insofar as it upholds our shared humanity, sovereignty, and inherent worth. Unity sees the whole from the most distant available vantage point. It defines us first by species, then as living critters residing on this planet. Zoom out even further, and we’re all cosmic light beings, right? Just one big, happy space blur.

That telescopic unity perspective is important to take at times, but it wreaks havoc when it becomes the only vantage point acknowledged or allowed. Excessive unity rhetoric erases boundaries and distinctions, throws diversity under the bus, and easily backslides into spiritual bypassing behaviors. That’s a shame because diversity is both a gorgeous, golden treasure box, and a pillar of nature. It’s an unavoidable truth and an invaluable gift.

The other great cost of chasing transcendence and unity is that, when you soften your focus and blast off to the point that everything looks like holism and love, it's easier to overlook the suffering back down on the ground. Not so happy of a space blur, it turns out. So much of that suffering is treatable through attention and care, but attention and care require (metaphorical) sight and acknowledgement.

When we value sight and acknowledgement, and celebrate diversity, drawing boundaries and making distinctions become very useful, practical, and neutral tools. We don't have a lot of good language for constructive self-division. There's *individuation*, *diversity*, *rebellion*, *subversion*, and *boundaries*, and these are all great terms, but none of them mean what I want for this dynamic. I want a term for a kind of reclaimed, empowering, self-driven othering, so I'm going to float a new one right now: how about *elseing*? We're gonna go ahead and verb the word *else* here cause it's 2019 and we can verb what we damn well please.

Elseing doesn't point the finger, but it does point the binoculars outward, and the Vision inward, observes what the group is doing and says, "you know what? I'm gonna do something else." Elseing can be an affirming response to getting othered, not unlike reclaiming a slur. In response to othering, It's kind of a "you-can't-fire-me-I-quit" move, only the sentiment doesn't spring from sour grapes so much as profound differences in core values, morals, and ideology. Of course a person can take initiative and else themselves of their own accord even if they've never been excluded or rejected.

Where unity is a polar response—it has to get as far away from othering and division as it possibly can—elseing is a lateral response. It can occupy infinite possible points in a field, and claim any number of relationships to division. Elseing leaves room to reject *othering*, while still finding beauty and worth in *otherness* (Otherness if you lean spooky or fey-of-center).

Above all, elseing aims to restore power, redistribute agency, imagine and create new culture, and affirm life, whereas othering aims to consolidate power, strip agency, constrict culture, and deny whatever life it finds disruptive or squicky. There's something powerful and courageous about seeing a culture founded on othering for what it is and saying, "I *don't* want to be part of this group. Maybe this is where I began, but these values are not my values. This way is not my way." Note that, within some origin cultures, any amount of elseing will provoke eviction from the group. In more forgiving cultures, elseing can

continue to hold space within and offer change or variance to a group, perhaps with some discomfort, but without ostracism or violence.

This spread is for elseing good and sweet. Now that we've established why we're here, let's talk about culture.

The "dominant culture" mentioned under card 1 means the particular over-culture you are most immersed in and impacted by. This will vary widely by location, class, family, religion, social circle, etc. For instance, the dominant culture I experience as a secular Masshole has a very different flavor than the dominant culture some of my extended family experience within rural, evangelical Protestant communities, even though American culture at its broadest pulls a lot from the evangelical Christian Right at this moment.

In truth, we're all affected by multiple, overlapping over-cultures. This card should default to the one that hits you hardest in the moment cause tarot loves a zinger. However, if you'd like to specify a particular cultural layer to differentiate from, you can do so by stating your intention out loud, or writing it down in your tarot journal before shuffling and drawing this spread. Potential cultural layers to examine include those of immediate family, extended family, workplace, local politics, region, ethnicity, ancestry, and country.

You might even like to look at how you diverge from your local queer community. LGBTQIA+ is a mighty big umbrella. Just cause we have a thing or two in common, doesn't mean we all agree, communicate well, or get along.

VARIATIONS:

1. Crossing & Uncrossing: This spread contains a cross between cards 2 and 3, both on the theme of perception. Card 2 asks how your queerness shapes the way you meet and perceive others and card 3 asks how your queerness shapes the way others meet and perceive you. "Others" here will default to generalized insights on your interactions with the cultural group from card 1. To specify a particular relationship, chose a signifier, or state or write an intention before drawing the spread.

When I read crosses, I almost always read them as two intersecting and equally present stories. I've paired these two cards in a cross because there's so much interplay between the way we meet others and the way others meet us. The cross is an invitation to look at both the individual card meanings, and the story they tell when viewed as merging. Do they say something extra when you smoosh them together?

If that's too complicated—it may be a bit much especially for beginners—simply uncross them and draw them as distinct cards.

One of the most common ways to read a cross in tarot spreads is to view the bottom card as a baseline, and the top card as something that eclipses the base, or “crosses” it in the sense of complicating or foiling it. I don't recommend applying that method to this spread because it projects a hierarchical and antagonistic relationship between the two cards, which is helpful in many contexts, but probably not in this case.

2. Relationships: Instead of pointing this spread to a particular cultural layer, you could point it at a relationship as a guide for drawing boundaries and recognizing your differences in an appreciative way. This could be very helpful if you've developed a twinsie dynamic with a longterm partner and you need to separate back out a bit, or if you're experiencing tension around your differences in a relationship.

You might try drawing the reading together, or each drawing one and comparing notes. Exercise caution if tensions are already running high. After all, this spread does say *fuck you*. If you're past the point of being able to say “fuck you” with a tender, loving heart and a sense of humor, this spread is probably going to fuel your breakaway oomph, and could get unpleasant. That might be just what you need, but I recommend keeping the reading to yourself and taking private space to decide how to act upon it.

In the context of relationships, the card meanings shift subtly. I'll use *partner* in the breakdown to refer to the person you're contrasting yourself with, as in your partner for this reading. The relationship could be romantic or platonic.

If your reading partner is also queer, the focus on how your queerness impacts your relations becomes somewhat redundant. The meanings might fall more like this:

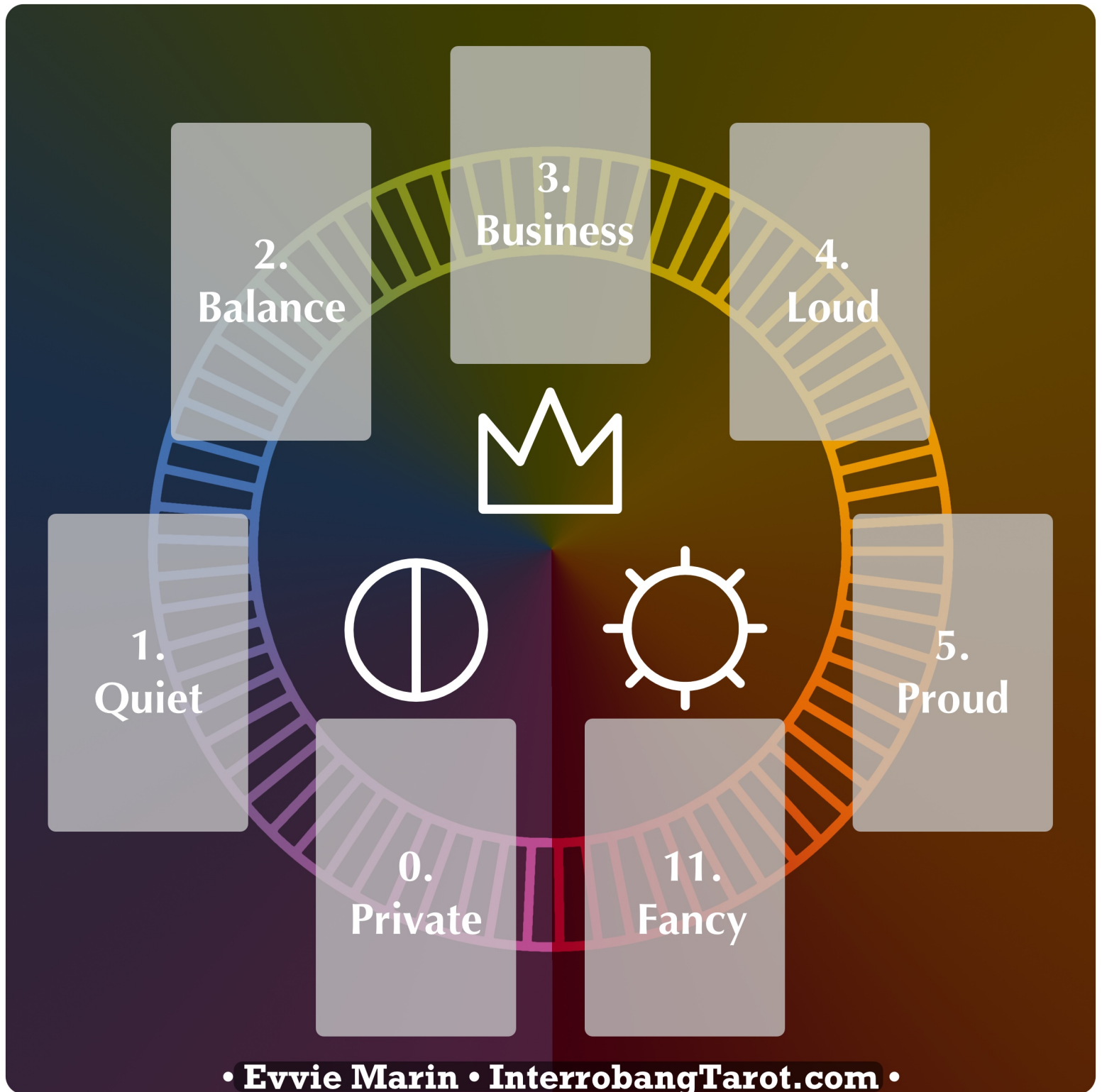
- 1. Queer:** How I diverge from my partner.
- 2. X 3. As X In (Perception):** How how I meet and see my partner. X How my partner meets and sees me.
- 4. Fuck:** Something to mess with—to joyously bend, warp, play with, or break down in our relationship dynamic. (Or hey, with consent, you can take this one literally.)
- 5. You:** Something to leave to my partner. A point not to concede, but to agree to disagree on. A difference we can honor or celebrate.

If you're examining a relationship with a cis-het reading partner, or someone who is differently queer, you might like to bring the layer of queering back in:

- 1. Queer:** How I diverge from my partner.
- 2. X 3. As X In (Perception):** How my queerness colors how I meet my partner. X How my queerness colors how my partner meets me.
- 4. Fuck:** Something to mess with—to joyously bend, warp, play with, or break down in our relationship dynamic through my/our queerness.
- 5. You:** Something to leave to my partner. A point not to concede or assimilate into. A difference we can honor or celebrate.

Queer Volume Tarot Spread

For striking a healthy, enriching, & strategic balance between public expression & sweet, restorative privacy.



1. Private: What experience to keep to myself? **2. Quiet:** What to dial down for my own well being? **3. Balance:** How to strike a healthy balance between expression and privacy? **4. Business:** Where to be assertive but sedate for the sake of strategy? **5. Loud:** Something to speak out about. **6. Proud:** Something to take pride in and stand up for. **11. Fancy:** Where to show off and make a scene for my own joy?

Queer Volume Tarot Spread

For striking a healthy, enriching, & strategic balance
between public expression & sweet, restorative privacy.

“Where do the quiet gays go?”

-Hannah Gadsby, *Nanette*

“These go to 11.”

-Christopher Guest, *Spinal Tap*

- 0. Private:** What experience to keep to myself?
- 1. Quiet:** What to dial down for my own well being?
- 2. Balance:** How to strike a healthy balance between expression and privacy?
- 3. Business:** Where to be assertive but sedate for the sake of strategy?
- 4. Loud:** Something to speak out about.
- 5. Proud:** Something to take pride in and stand up for.
- 11. Fancy:** Where to show off and make a scene for my own joy?

NOTES:

Two of the biggest queer stereotypes are volume based: we're either super loud and flashy, or quiet and kinda weird. So much queer representation and storytelling in the media (especially media by cis-het makers) has centered around either campy, flamboyant spectacle or quiet desperation. If you're not in the closet, you're on top of the parade float in a feather boa and gogo boots. If you're quiet, you're miserable and possibly antisocial. If you're loud, you're loud 24/7/365.

Not so reflective of genuine experience, this model. Most of us live somewhere between 0 and 11 on the amp, and most of us turn the volume up and down as desired or needed for joy, strategy, and safety.

Meanwhile, we've grown up in cultures that tend to reward consistency and punish variance. We internalize the stereotypes and scripts that say we're supposed to be one steady thing. This can make it difficult and confusing to embrace the nuanced range of presentations necessary to navigate a meh to hostile world, for safety's sake, and to embrace our own natural shifts in mood, for health and pleasure's sake.

If I don't feel like partying this pride, am I queer enough? If I'm a trans man and want to try femme drag sometime, would that undermine my trans-ness? If I go back in the closet while traveling through a place with high risk of physical violence, am I betraying myself and my people? If I put on a suit to attend a city counsel meeting, am I stuck on respectability politics or selling out?

Questions like these spring from pressures within and without the queer community, and they can do a number on our inner peace. Even for those unhaunted by like pressures, it can be tricky to figure out what experiences to telegraph, what to keep low-key, and when. Social media makes it harder and harder for everyone to strike a satisfying balance between publicity and privacy.

This spread is for giving each of the inner quiet gays, business gays, and loud gays their due, and getting them all to get along within the self.

The focus throughout this spread should be on what works for you, and not on meeting others' preferences and expectations. This gets tricky, because many of us live in or pass through hostile climates, and sometimes we do have to make concessions or adopt expressions we wouldn't otherwise to acquire and maintain our rights and safety. Whenever possible with this spread, put your needs first, and when compromise is needed, *make sure you get something out of it*. That's the key.

When we dial down the volume, it should be to soothe our peace of mind and protect ourselves, over satisfying others' judgmental whims. When we meet the over-culture where it is, it should be out of personal taste or to accomplish a goal, and not to police our own or others' aesthetics. And when we get loud and flamboyant, it should be for the sake of our joy and self-expression, and not to fit in with our peers or to entertain gawkers who don't respect us. (Intimidating or messing with gawkers who don't respect us is another story...)

I fully recognize that there's some cognitive dissonance baked into this exercise. It's tricky to figure out, tricky to keep in balance, and tricky to feel good about, because it's tricky terrain. Hopefully, that's where tarot can soothe and help.

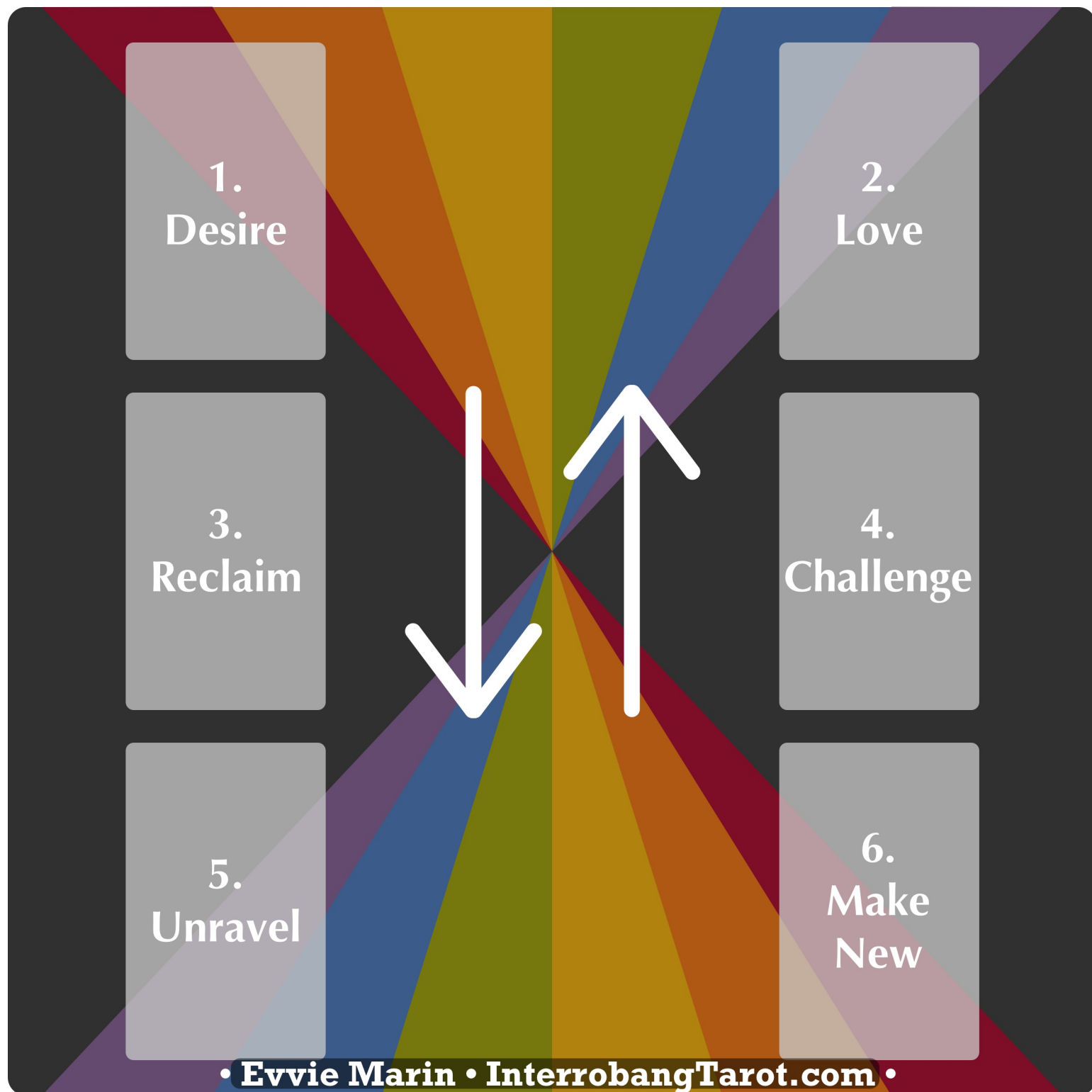
VARIATIONS:

1. Comfort Stretch Mini-Reading: If you're already pretty comfy at one setting on the amp, and you'd like to step out of your comfort zone, you can do a mini reading exclusively on the area(s) you'd like to stretch into. Cards 1 and 2 correspond to calm, quiet, and privacy. Cards 3 and 4 correspond to balance and business (assertive but sedate). Cards 5, 6, and 11 correspond to being loud, gregarious, and showy.

2. Situational Volume: Weigh the best volume of expression for a given situation by drawing a card each for likely outcome of being silent, quiet, sedate, loud, or fancy. That's a lot of options, so it may help to supplement and organize your interpretations with a yes or no code for the reading. I like upright-yes-reversed-no.

Queer Magic Tarot Spread

For channeling & directing that queer magic you've got.



1. Desire: A desire to explore. **2. Love:** A love to feed. **3. Reclaim:** A criticism or attack to reclaim, make mine, and make powerful. **4. Challenge:** A pattern to question and challenge. **5. Unravel:** A toxin to break down or dissolve. **6. Make New:** A generative project. Something stale to re-envision and re-create.

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NOTES:

Queer Magic, alright! To dig deep with this spread, we first have to reckon with our definitions. *What even is magic? What even is queering?* And how do they fit together?

(Big note right up front: there's a huge difference between exploring and claiming magic for yourself, and having it stereotypically thrown at you like a tired TV trope. We're about to talk a lot about magic, but this is not about the magic of channeling your inner sassy fairy-godmother for the benefit of some cis-het Cinderella.)

Magic first. OK. This word has A LOT of potential definitions, and if you're into the M-word, it's useful to journal out what you reckon it contains, yourself. I'll cover a handful of themes here. You don't need to believe in or practice magic to use the word symbolically and get something rich out of this spread. I'm writing from the perspective of an artist and folklore nerd, myself. Treat it like a story and follow along at your comfort level.

In the internet district of Occultsville, the most common definitions of magic you'll encounter are a handful of Crowley derivatives that all go something like "change in accordance with will." That's a fine start, but it's open enough to cover all intended change, and that's a bit too broad for my taste. I prefer to narrow the field with some (admittedly still broad) qualifiers:

Magic -n.- 1. The practice of causing or influencing desired change, or obtaining a desired result, through uncanny and indirect methods drawing on any combination of mental, emotional, ritual, spiritual, or symbolic activities, petitions, or crafts.

-n.- 2. The metaphysical force that allows and carries willed change through indirect, abstracted, symbolic, or psycho-spiritual means.

If *work* is the power that allows us to cause change by tactile, physical means in the waking world this side of the veil, then *magic* is the power that allows us to cause change through intangible, non-to-semi-physical means, with possible routing through dreaming worlds or the Other side of the veil. That's a fine occult definition.

We can't ignore the artistic and pop-culture sides of the word, either. In workaday speech, magic crops up most frequently as a catch-all for weird, wondrous, and awe-inspiring things we don't fully understand. Art, technology, natural phenomena, and illusions that wow us all feel magical when we don't get to see their back-end processes and causal chains. That wow-response generates strong feelings. Then there's the magic of sci-fi and fantasy—an imagined creative force that makes all zany, natural and human law-breaking things possible.

When we use magic in these contexts, we almost always understand that magic in any occult or religious sense is not actually in play. However, we simultaneously understand that its specter moves us in powerful ways, as in *the magic of childhood*, of holidays, of theatre, of fiction, of ground-braking technology, and so on.

Magicians and spiritual kids do well not to overlook these latter, secular and folkloric definitions of magic. They have artistic, creative, and occult significance. Not least is the fine chance that what we categorize as occult magic and paranormal phenomena are themselves illusions produced by natural happenings we don't understand yet—back-end processes and causal chains we're not privy to from this vantage point.

The common thread shared by each of magic's definitions is this: *when stuff happens and we don't know quite how*. **Magic is the action of mystery.**

The above definitions represent magic's primary traits, but it comes with a host of secondary markers, too. To lean on a spoonie analogy, we might diagnose magic based on the criteria I've just covered, but we can also trace a range of secondary-markers and comorbidities that tend to crop up in many, but not all of its manifestations for reasons as yet unknown. Oddly enough, these **secondary markers of magic bear an uncanny resemblance to primary markers of queerness and queering**, so we'll cover both together.

Liminality & Marginality: Magic gravitates toward liminal, edge-centric spaces, times, and states like crossroads, borders between ecosystems, banks and shorelines, and the moments between dreaming and waking. Queer people are marginalized by society, but

thrive in underground subcultures. Many of us blend or hold space between genders or gendered roles, which is a liminal state in its own right.

Multiplicity & Shapeshifting: Magical beings and creatures have a reputation for shape-shifting and complexity, holding multiple bodies and conflicting qualities either simultaneously or in succession. Many magical critters change form on a dime by necessity or whim. Others undergo singular but profound metamorphoses. The broad queer community has a like penchant for shapeshifting. Many of us like to alternate between a range of presentations. As a cohort, we're better in touch than the general population with our inner Masculine, Feminine, Both, and Neither, and this gives us an innate multiplicity that some find unsettling, if they can wrap their heads around it at all.

Artistry, Creativity, & Glamor: Art, creativity, illusion, and artifice are cornerstones of magical workings. There's a reason they call it the *Craft*. Meanwhile, it's hard to find a queer kid who isn't some kind of artist, author, crafter or maker. Every single arts and entertainment industry owes its life blood to queer and POC makers. Theatre, burlesque, masquerading, fashion, and glamor are queer as a Rococo unicorn rollerskating down a catwalk, and involve no small degree of ritual to pull off right.

Playfulness & Trickery: Magic either attracts or generates tricksters, I'm not sure which. Maybe a bit of both. The Trickster archetype is as playful as hazardous. Mischief is the meeting point between danger and play, and nothing could be feyer. Life on the margins of society seems to do something similar to living, human critters. The Queer archetype has a tricky, playful aura, perhaps born from defiance under persecution, and the resilience of artistry and bliss in the face of threatened survival.

Daring & Courage: Practicing magic and living openly while queer are both quite dangerous, and so require daring, tenacity, and grit.

Mystery & Secrecy: Magic and queer life have both been persecuted for millennia, and have both persisted through subtlety, discretion, hushed meetings, and secret codes.

Subversion, Rebellion, & Lawlessness: If magic works, it's a tremendous threat to the powers that be because it subverts and rebels against authority by placing power back in the hands of those who'd otherwise have none. As a neutral force, both creative and destructive, it has an anarchic and amoral nature. No surprise that common folk magical practices have been criminalized historically.

Queer bodies, desires, and values pose a similar threat to anyone in power whose primary goals include population control, outbreeding their enemies, enforcing narrow social scripts around sexuality and family structures, and consolidating and maintaining the primacy of one gender and/or race above all others. These motivations aren't antiquated quirks. American Evangelicals and Christo-fascists preach the imperative to "breed an army for God" today. (Their language, not mine. Yes, this is really a thing—a big thing in some regions.)

In the US alone, one of the more tolerant countries today, entrapment and arrest of LGBT folx didn't even think about slowing down until the 1970s. The US supreme court struck down same-sex sodomy laws in several states through *Lawrence V. Texas* in 2003. Trans women get arrested on false prostitution charges *today*. **Even in tolerant countries, five of six living generations of queer human beings were criminalized in some way at our time of birth. World over, that's 6/6.** Chew on that for a spell.

Power: Magic is a power, so it follows that magical practice is an exercise of taking and directing power. So is queering, and so is Pride. When we show up queer without apology, we take power back from the people who made us grow up without language for ourselves, and without equal representation, community, and rights. When we change what gender and gender roles mean within ourselves, through queer sexuality or gender, we change what they can possibly mean in the world. That's some fucking magic, or I don't know what is.

That's the magic this spread is all about. It's for showing up queer and making the kind of change, through your queerness, that feeds spirit, first for yourself, then for your beloveds, and lastly for the ripple effects it'll throw into the hive mind.

In card 1, explore a desire. You have to pull your will into focus before you can pull it into being. In card 2, name a love to feed. Queer love is beautiful, and beauty comforts, charms, and beguiles. In card 3, consider a criticism or attack to reclaim. Reclamation is alchemy. In card 4, name a pattern to question or challenge. Challenging and questioning the powers that be is gold. If your magic isn't disrupting the cruel designs of wickeddy royals and landlords, what is it even doing? In card 5, find a toxin to break down or dissolve though your queering. Magic digests, undoes, and crosses over as much as it brings forth. Sometimes the old has to step aside and decompose to make way for the new. And finally, in card 6, pick a generative project. Re-envision and recreate through your queer arts and Crafts.

VARIATIONS:

1. Magical Projects: This spread has additional applications if you do have a magical practice. The first sets queering aside to become a magic project generator, Like so:

- 1. Desire:** A desire to explore through my magic.
- 2. Love:** A love to feed through my magic.
- 3. Reclaim:** A criticism or power to reclaim through my magic.
- 4. Challenge:** A pattern to question or challenge through my magic.
- 5. Unravel:** A toxin to break down or dissolve through my magic.
- 6. Make New:** A generative project. Something create through my magic.

2. Queering Your Magic: You might also use this spread to creatively merge your magical practice and your queer experience. That iteration goes like this:

- 1. Desire:** How does my queerness shape my will?
- 2. Love:** How does my queerness shape what I love and value?
- 3. X 3.5 Reclaim:** Turn this one into a cross. Your base card asks how queer oppression and magical oppression intersect for you. Your top, crossing card asks how you can transform that dynamic into something powerful that works for you.
- 4. Challenge:** How does my queerness challenge or complicate my magical practices, beliefs, and/or traditions?
- 5. Unravel:** An aspect of my practice at odds with my queer experience that just might need to step aside and decompose.
- 6. Make New:** Something queer AF to create through my magic.

3. Talents: In tarot, The Magician is steward of talents, charism, and showmanship. Use this spread as a prompt to explore your unique talents within the spheres of desire, love, reclamation/alchemy, resistance, loving destruction, and creation.

4. Mini Manifestations: The six cards in this spread are grouped by themes of love (desire/love), rebellion (reclaim/challenge), and creation/destruction (unravel/make new). Draw a mini two-card spread of any given row to explore how you can navigate and manifest desired outcomes within those themes.

Looking for love or romance? (This works for platonic, romantic, or sexual connection.)

- 1. Desire:** What do I need to know about the state of my desires?

2. Love: How can I attract more love?

Working through a tough challenge or looking to boost your activism?

3. Reclaim: A criticism or attack to reclaim, make mine, and make powerful.

4. Challenge: A pattern to question or challenge.

Stuck on a creative project?

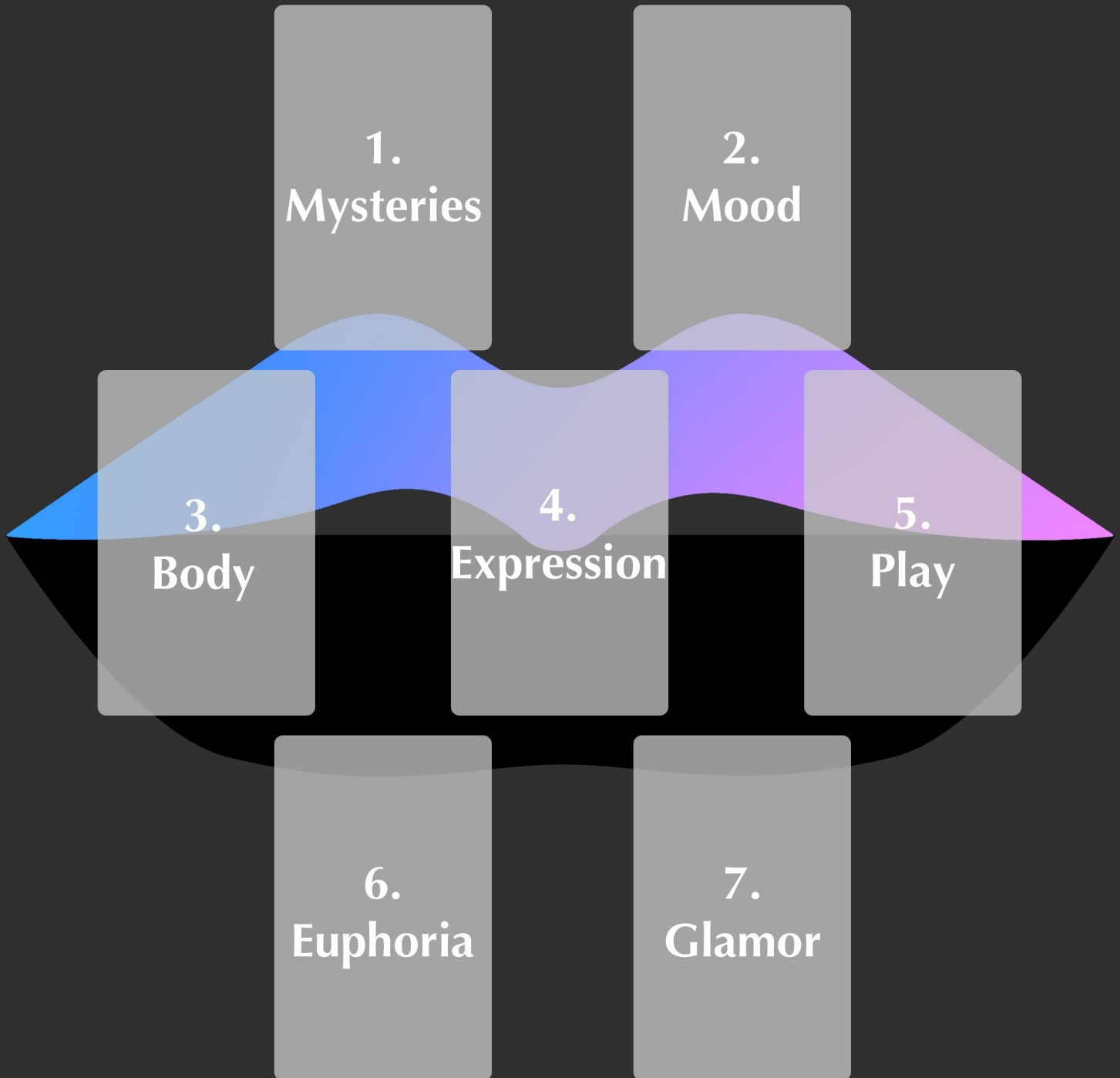
5. Unravel: Something to scrap or edit.

6. Make New: Something spruce up, add, or re-iterate.

Gender Feels Tarot Spread

For navigating complex gender moods.

For exploring, soothing, & boosting gender expression & play.



• Evvie Marin • InterrobangTarot.com •

1. Mysteries: Mysteries of my gender. A secret from my spirit. **2. Mood:** Mood of my gender. How I'm feeling about it now. **3. Body:** How to better sit in this physical body. **4. Expression:** A resource or theme to use in my gender expression **5. Play:** Somewhere to play, stretch, or experiment with my gender. **6. Euphoria:** A strategy or energy for fueling gender euphoria. **7. Glamor:** A tool to craft how I carry myself and how others perceive me.

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NOTES:

This spread is for people of all genders! You do not have to be trans or genderqueer to play along, although I expect that people of different genders will get different things out of this spread. We all receive conditioning around gender, and that impacts us all in different ways and to different degrees. Tired and toxic gender scripts hurt absolutely everyone. I encourage any cis-het allies reading along to give this one a shot!

In card 1, you can take *mysteries* in a mystical or mundane direction. Genders are greater than the experience of any one person, and that means they all have their mysteries by default. Mysteries are even more pronounced for genders that have seen their language and histories razed through the centuries. If gender carries mystical or spiritual meaning for you, you can go there with this card. If not, mysteries can simply mean something you don't know or understand about your gender.

In card 3, the body, please do not feel pressure or obligation to sit comfortably and feel good in your body. That doesn't have to be your goal, and you do not owe perfect embodiment to anyone. Skip this if it's likely to be triggering, or unlikely to help.

And in card 7, under glamor, understand that we never have total control over how others perceive and react to us. We can control how we present and carry ourselves and that certainly influences how others see us. Keep the focus on what you want and what feels good to you. You are not required to be pretty or perform glamor for others. It is not your fault when you're doing your best and don't get the reactions you desire or deserve from other people. Be your gorgeous you. Haters can go suck a rotten egg.

P.S. to any gender-questioning readers—I'd like to paraphrase and pass along a message I've seen making the rounds from a few different voices on social media this Pride season: If you think about gender all the time, if something about the way you get gendered low-key (or high-key) bugs you on a routine basis, and if you keep circling back to gender questions over and over for weeks, months, and years, it's likelier that you don't identify with the gender you were assigned at birth than that you're cis. It's okay to try on labels like *trans*, *genderqueer*, *nonbinary*, *androgyne*, *agender*, *genderfluid*, and more to see how they feel. Start by speaking to yourself, perhaps in a journal, then with close friends or a support group you can trust. Maybe one of these labels will fit, or maybe not. You are the only person with the ability and right to name, feel, and express your own gender. It's as fine to be cis as it is to be trans, nonbinary, or gender-non-conforming, and there are many, many ways to be each of these things. It's okay to take your time questioning. You can spend a lifetime deciding or pondering, and that's nobody's business but your own.

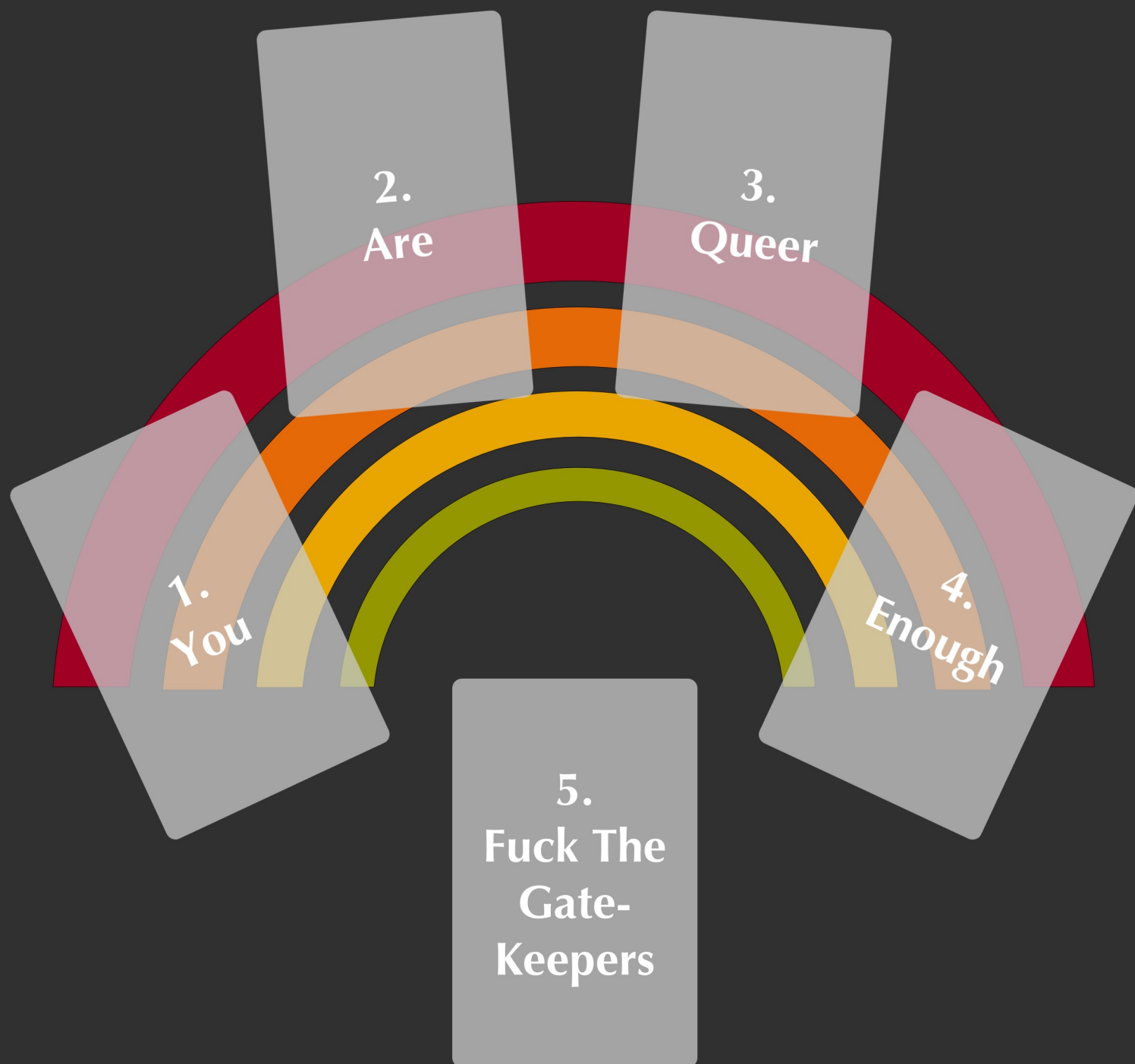
VARIATIONS:

Skip any topic that is likely to trigger dysphoria for you. You have my full blessing and encouragement to cherry-pick this one as you please.

Queer Enough Tarot Spread

For celebrating your queerness.

For evading gatekeepers and silencing inner & outer critics.



• Evvie Marin • InterrobangTarot.com •

1. You: Your emotional baseline at this moment. **2. Are:** What happens when you show up true to yourself. **3. Queer:** What makes you weird & wonderful. **4. Enough:** What you're getting so right. **5. Fuck The Gatekeepers:** Strengths and strategies to deal with gatekeepers and bullies.

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NOTES:

Oh puppies, why, after all that we go through, do we turn around and be so hard on ourselves and each other? It hurts my fuzzy wee heart that we need this spread, but we do. This one's short and sweet and to the point. Fuck the gender and sexuality police. Fuck bullying, from within or without the queer community. Fuck gatekeeping. You have every right to be yourself, to take up space—especially in your own sphere and within the spaces you create online and in community. You're wonderful, you're queer enough, and let's see what you're doing great!

VARIATIONS:

1. **Inner Critic:** Direct card 5 toward either external opposition or your own self-talk.
2. **Pep-Talk:** If you're not feeling any pressure from received or internalized criticism, you can skip card 5 and do a sweet and simple little pep-talk reading with cards 1-4.

Rainbow Tarot Spread

Inspired by the designs of Gilbert Baker, Daniel Quasar, AVEN, Amber Hikes, & Monica Helms.



• Evvie Marin • InterrobangTarot.com •

1. Pleasure: Notes for greater pleasure & sensuality. (Optional: Notes to improve sex life.) **2. : Life:** How to raise passions & inspire lust for life. **3. Helaing:** A resource for my healing. **4. Sunlight:** Where to shine my light. **5. Nature:** A message from nature. **6. Art & Magic:** A good project to exercise my arts & Crafts. **7. Serenity:** How to cultivate serenity & stillness. **8. Spirit:** A message from (my) spirit. **9. Ace Readers:** A message for my helaing & celebration. **Allosexual Readers:** How to be more inclusive to my Ace friends. How to strengthen my platonic relationships. **10. QTPOC Readers:** A message for my helaing & celebration. **White Readers:** How to do better for the QTPOC in my community. **11. Trans & GNC Readers:** A message for my helaing & celebration. **Cis Readers:** How to do better for the Trans, nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender-non-conforming people in my community.

Rainbow Tarot Spread

Inspired by the designs of Gilbert Baker, Daniel Quasar,
AVEN, Amber Hikes, & Monica Helms.

- 1. Hot Pink/Pleasure (Sex):** Notes for greater pleasure and sensuality. (Optional: tips to improve my sex life.)
- 2. Red/Life:** How to raise my passions and inspire lust for life.
- 3. Orange/Healing:** A resource for my healing.
- 4. Yellow/Sunlight (Openness):** Where to shine my light.
- 5. Green/Nature:** A message from nature.
- 6. Turquoise/Art & Magic:** A good project to exercise my arts and Crafts.
- 7. Blue/Serenity:** How to cultivate serenity and stillness.
- 8. Purple/Spirit:** A message from (my) spirit.
- 9. Gray & Purple/Ace Pride & Platonic Love:**
 - ACE Readers:** A message for my healing & celebration.
 - Allosexual Readers:** How to be more inclusive to my ace friends.
How to strengthen my platonic relationships.
- 10. Black & Brown/QTPOC Pride:**
 - QTPOC Readers:** A message for my healing & celebration.
 - White Readers:** How to do better for the QTPOC in my community.
- 11. Blue, Pink, & White: Trans & Gender Queer Pride:**
 - Trans & GNC Readers:** A message for my healing & celebration.
 - Cis Readers:** How to do better for the trans, genderqueer, and gender non-conforming people in my community.

NOTES:

This collection just wouldn't be complete without a spread designed around all the Pride flags!

Gilbert Baker designed the first gay pride flag in 1978. The original flag had eight colors, each symbolic. The pink and turquoise were eventually dropped for logistic and reproduction reasons, leaving the iconic six-color rainbow flag we know and love today. I love Baker's eight-color design, so I've included his intended meanings in the card descriptions above.

The only change I've made from Baker's symbolism is to assign the hot pink as pleasure. Pink originally stood for sex, but that's not relevant to everyone in our community. Draw this card as you please on the topics of sex, sensuality, pleasure, and/or embodiment.

In recent years, designers have re-envisioned the pride flag to actively include POC and asexual, trans, and gender-nonconforming folx. The final three cards mark these additions to the Pride flag, inspired by Daniel Quasar's redesign, and referencing the ace flag, which was designed and voted into being by members of AVEN; Amber Hikes' addition of black and brown stripes to the Philly pride flag; and the trans flag designed by Monica Helms.

For each of these identity cards, if you are a member of the represented community, draw a card for your own healing and/or celebration, whichever you need most—maybe both! You might separate into two cards here for clarity. If you are not a member of the represented community, draw a card to brainstorm how you can be a better ally. This might be an area to educate yourself, something to examine in your life and thoughts, or an action to take. I encourage readers not to skip these cards! There is always something more we could learn or do better.

VARIATIONS:

1. The More the Merrier: There are so many identities and communities within the LGBTQIA+ umbrella—more than can fit on one page! If you have close ties to a group not listed, either as a member or an ally, feel free to draw an additional card for that group. This can extend past the umbrella, too, especially for those with complex identities. For example, you might like to draw a card for celebrating your experience as a disabled or neurodivergent queer person.

2. Rainbow Squared: For next-level queering, point this spread back to your experience as a queer person, and check out how that experience colors your life across this symbolic spectrum. Like so:

- 1. Hot Pink/Pleasure (Sex):** How does my queerness affect my sensuality?
- 2. Red/Life:** How does my queerness affect my passion for life.
- 3. Orange/Healing:** How does my queerness affect healing? Where has it healed me?
- 4. Yellow/Sunlight (Openness):** How does my queerness affect what I have to share with the world, and how I deliver it?
- 5. Green/Nature:** How does my queerness affect my relationship to nature?
- 6. Turquoise/Art & Magic:** How does my queerness affect my art and/or magic?

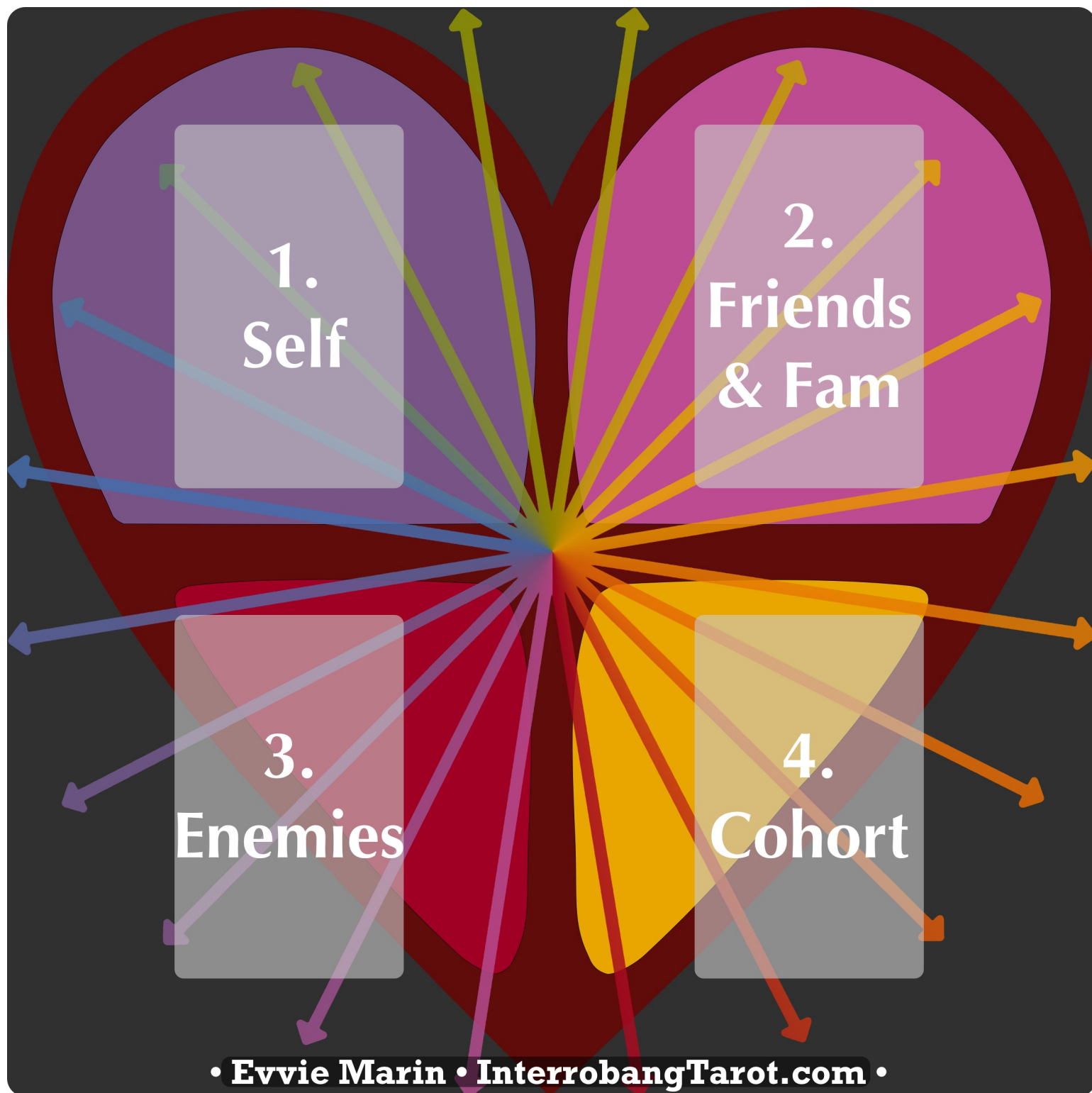
7. **Blue/Serenity:** How does my queerness affect my peace of mind?
8. **Purple/Spirit:** What does my queerness have to say to my spirit?

OR, flip the script:

1. **Hot Pink/Pleasure (Sex):** How does my sensuality shape my queer experience?
2. **Red/Life:** How does my passion shape my queer experience?
3. **Orange/Healing:** How does my healing shape my queer experience?
4. **Yellow/Sunlight (Openness):** How does my openness to the world shape my queer experience?
5. **Green/Nature:** How does nature shape my queer experience?
6. **Turquoise/Art & Magic:** How does art or magic shape my queer experience?
7. **Blue/Serenity:** How does my level of calm shape my queer experience?
8. **Purple/Spirit:** How does my spirit shape my queer experience?

Queer Love Tarot Spread

For strengthening & radiating love for self & others.
For queering romantic or platonic expressions of love.



1. Self: How best to cultivate and queer my love for myself? **2. Friends & Fam:** How best to express love with my closest partners, friends, and family? **3. Enemies:** How best to maintain love in the face of adversaries, and those who mean me harm? **4. Cohort:** How best to project love out to my community, culture, and generation?

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NOTES:

Aw heck yeah love! This spread is for exercising your capacity to love, strengthening your bonds, and keeping one foot in your better nature when less than loving relationships try your patience.

Possessing a queer identity in a world that tries to crush it out of you presents unique challenges and opportunities in the realm of love and relationship. Bigotry can cost us relationships, and shared experience can deliver us to community and chosen family. Of course, biological family members can make the cut for those you keep as chosen family, too. (Spoiler Alert: I've got a Chosen Family tarot spread coming up for you all real soon! Keep your eyes on the blog.)

This spread starts at home with love of self. Whenever it occurs in life, and at whatever rate, the metamorphosis through which we come to notice, then accept, then embrace, explore, and express our queerness can be a profound shakeup and a beautiful gateway to greater self-love and understanding. It's not a transformation that happens once or overnight. It can take a lifetime and longer to deprogram all the nonsense that teaches us to hate and distrust ourselves. Use this card to explore another step in that journey, or to ask how you can lean on the transformational power of queering to better know, accept, love, and trust yourself.

Card 2 asks how you can better express love with the people you most care about. Few relationships are ever truly easy, but this category probably represents the people easiest to love and feel affection for out of the bunch. These are your favorites—the ones who make the chosen family cut.

Card 3 is where it gets tricky. Enemies here may apply to people in your personal life, or those on the national and global stage opposing all of our rights and well being. When you scale back, we've all got people denying our humanity and attacking our rights, and encountering those asshats can make it hard, even if just for a moment, to feel any kind of loving at all.

So let's talk about our serrated-edged feelings. Let's talk about love crossed with anger. Love and anger are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they can be expressions of one another.

Note that the enemies card asks how to maintain love in the face of adversaries, and not how to love one's antagonists. While you're absolutely welcome to ask that question here, it will not be beneficial for everyone. Rather, this is an anchoring question, which evokes others: How do I stay true to myself and my better nature while under attack? How do I keep my rage and pain away from the people I love? How do I defend myself and hold my own space without ceding too much ground to hate? How do I fight my opponent(s) without becoming them? If you're currently under fire, you might draw an entire spread with a card for each of these sub-questions, and any others that arise for you.

You do not need to love your enemies. If you feel called to, or adhere to a religion that encourages this kind of love, then that is your path and your challenge—good for you. More power to you if you can muster up that kind of love! That is not my path, and not something this spread requires, or even necessarily encourages of its readers.

Many of us are frightened to face the muck of our toughest feelings, and depending on the feeling, that fear can be perfectly rational. Get willing to do it anyway, if you can without sacrificing your health. Anger, grief, and revulsion are natural and powerful responses. Personally, I have difficulty trusting people who claim never to feel these things. Too often, the primary benefit of denying harsh and undesirable emotions within the self is to stroke an ego that believes to *feel* bad is to *be* bad. Given the inevitability of feeling bad, this forces the ego into a state of denial, defensiveness, and fragility. From fragility, we do unnecessary harm.

In my book (of unpopular metaphysical opinions), how you carry anger and what you choose to do with it says much more about your integrity than *whether* you feel anger, and how much. What and how you hate says more than whether you hate at all.

That doesn't mean it's healthy to pour gasoline on the fire, but meet yourself where you are, listen to what your anger has to say about what is and is not acceptable, and through that embrace, reckon with how to hold to your center and your love. Anger is an arrow. If it points to what you can't abide in one direction, it probably points to what you most love and feel called to protect the other way.

Finally in card 4, check out how to project love through broad social circles. What do you have to give to your community, your fellow queers, your generation, and the next? You may ask this openly, or specify a particular broad group to speak to. The answer could take the form of an archetypal energy pattern, an action, or a project.

VARIATIONS:

Friends & Relations: Stretch card 2 into multiple categories as needed. You might need to draw separate cards for strengthening connections and expressing love with lovers, partners, friends, or family.

Name Names: Point cards 2 or 3 to individual relationships by choosing a signifier, or by writing or stating the name in question before shuffling and drawing.

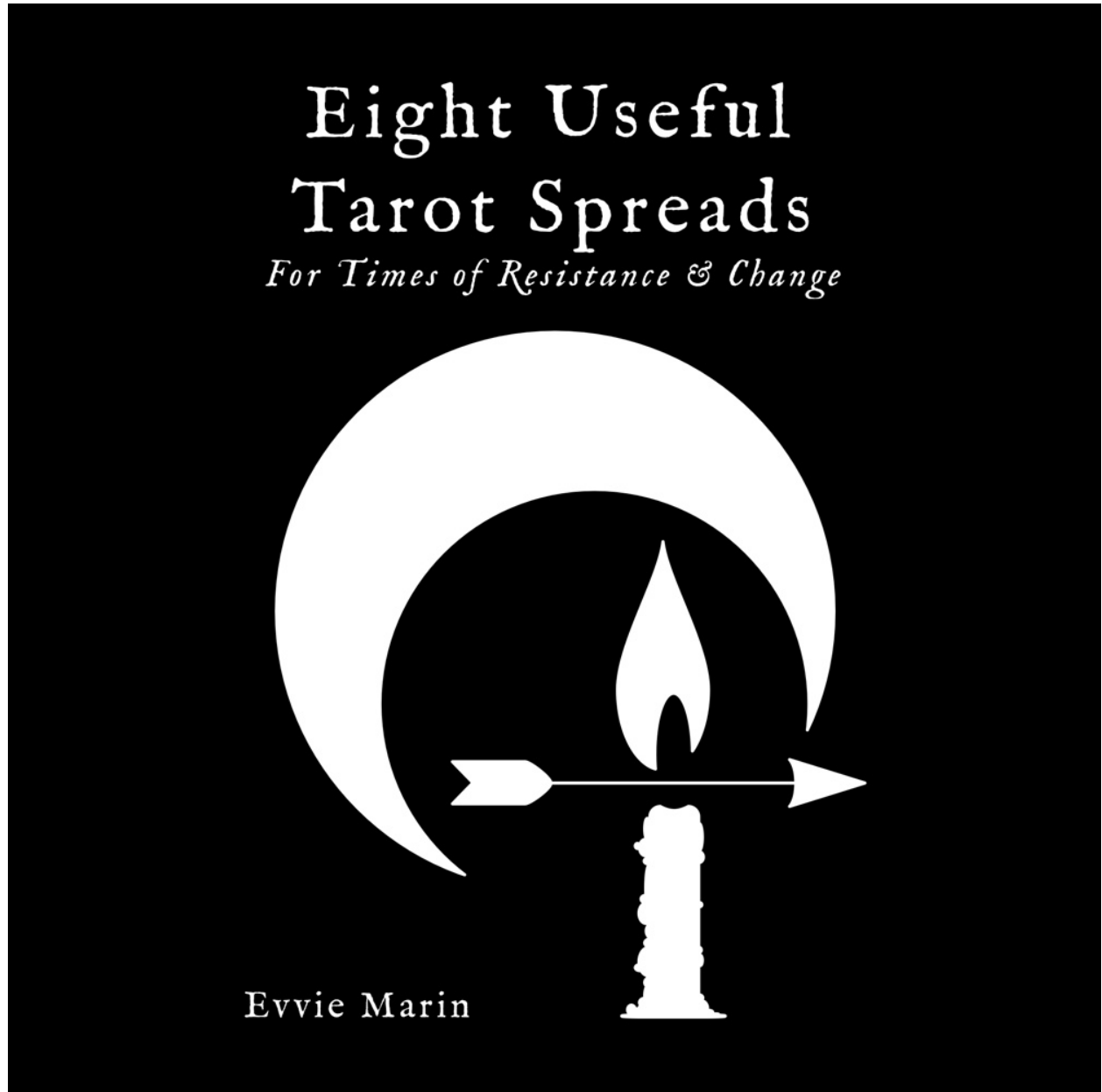
More Queerer: Draw a pair of cards for each of the four categories: one to better cultivate your love and relationships, and one to better queer your love and relationships.

Happy card-slinging, love buckets! Have fun. Keep being. Be well.

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Coming Soon! The Interrobang Tarot Deck



About The Author



Evvie Marin (they/them/she/her) is a nonbinary queer, spoonie author/illustrator from the woods of northern Massachusetts, where *wicked* means “very.” Evvie’s a massive nerd for tarot cards, nature things, and folklore stuff. They blog solo tarot tips for creative misfits at InterrobangTarot.com/blog and dish on all things creative process at EvvieMarin.com/blog. Evvie’s been arting and taroting both for nineteen years and counting.

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Thanks so much for your time and support!