

YOUNG ALLIE

Come on, Mattie. I ain't got no piece of paper...

BESS

Me neither.

YOUNG ALLIE

...but I'm as good a wife as any. I don't need no paper, and neither does Virge.

BESS

Married is married. Everybody knows you're Wyatt's wife.

YOUNG ALLIE

A good man is all you need. And I never thought Wyatt was that good a man. You just don't want to hear it.

BESS

Once the King of Wands come up in a card readin', and that very day I met Jim. And we been together ever since. So it ain't got nothin' to do with a fancy piece of paper.

MATTIE

Bess, do me a readin'. Read for all of us.

YOUNG ALLIE

That's a good idea, Bess. Might lighten up our spirits.

BESS

No. I been feelin' somethin' a little strange lately. Somethin' not exactly right.

YOUNG ALLIE

Oh, come on, Bess. There's nothin' in them cards anyway! Just a little fun.

HATTIE

Mama's right. The Tarot ain't nothin' to mess around with.

MATTIE

Please, Bess. Let's have some fun.

**(MATTIE goes and gets a deck of Tarot cards which are wrapped in a beautiful piece of silk.)**

Tell us what the cards say.

YOUNG ALLIE

Read Hattie first, just to get warmed up.

HATTIE

Aw, Mama, do I have to?

BESS

Well, I suppose it won't hurt nothin' just this once.

HATTIE

Mama, if you really don't want to...

YOUNG ALLIE

C'mon, Hattie, be a sport.

*(BESS settles into a chair at the table and begins to unwrap the Tarot deck. The Earp women seat themselves around a table. HATTIE begins to shuffle, cut, hands cards to BESS who lays out a hand for a reading.)*

BESS

Now everyone, concentrate.

*(Sings.)* I'LL CUT

CUT THE CARDS

CUT FOR WISDOM, NYMPH,

THE MOTHER, AND THE CRONE

CUT THE CARDS

TO THE LEFT

WITH THE CARDS,

YOU NEVER FEEL ALONE...

*(Spoken.)* That's you, Hattie... the Significator.

HATTIE

Mama, please... I don't really want to do this right now...

BESS

NOW, LOOKIT HERE.

EVERYTHING IS IN TRANSITION...

AND WHAT IS THIS?

WHAT IS THE BIZARRE POSITION

OF THIS CARD?

IT'S IN THE CARDS, IN THE CARDS

SOMEONE HAS HER HEART SET ON

A MAN WHO'S WRONG

IN THE CARDS

LOOK, THE LOVERS UPSIDE DOWN

MEANS THAT IT'S BEEN GOING ON ALL ALONG...

*(She glares at HATTIE)*

HATTIE

I don't know, Mama...