

TAROT READING GONE WRONG

by

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INT. PSYCHICS STUDIO - DAY

PSYCHIC rapidly shuffles tarot deck til cards come flying out, grabbing them just as fast, turning them face up on the table. With each turn the psychic gives a varying reaction, ranging from shock, awe, disgust, terrified, appalled, etc. until a row of cards are laid out. Psychic sets cards aside, studying the row. Silent. Eyes darting. A CLIENT watches, engrossed, uncertain.

PSYCHIC

I... this is... I can't believe it...

CLIENT

What?! What is it what do you see...?!

PSYCHIC

Time's up.. it's over.. I..

Client stares. Eyes wide. Face limp. The Psychic is still mumbling under their breath as they glimpse over the cards repeatedly. Studying. Growing more and more distraught. After a long beat,

CLIENT

Do a lot of people show up at
least...?

Psychic remembers the Client is even sitting there, snapped back to reality.

PSYCHIC

What?

CLIENT

At my funeral... do a lot of people,
like... are there people there?

PSYCHIC

(confused)

Your funeral? You're asking about your
funeral? Why wouldn't people show up
at your funeral? What..?

CLIENT

No, I know, I know people would show
up, ha, that's not.. no.

(Beat.)

If you had to guesstimate though, what
would you say... 50ish? you can round
up! 60?

PSYCHIC

At your *funeral*?! Why would I know that? Is this a nervous quirk of yours? Awkward hypotheticals..?

CLIENT

What? No! You just said it was over for me! You saw it in the cards! You said time's up! Like, verbatim, actually..

PSYCHIC

..... Oh, *nooooo*! No! This isn't about you (motioning to cards)

Client is clearly confounded.

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

This is obviously meant for me! Just look at it! Look!

Client has no idea what they're looking at...

PSYCHIC (CONT'D)

The tower... the hanged man... the empress in reverse?! HA! *Reallllly SPIRIT?! Cute*. I just... I can't even...

Psychic is distraught over "their" reading. Client is shell-shocked.

Then,

CLIENT

Heyyyy, hey now. There... there... it's okay! It's.. come on, now. You know what they say...

Psychic looks up, pitiful.

CLIENT

(clearly winging it)
A sad psychic see's no hope.....
ahah..ha..haa....

ba-dum-bum..

Psychic stares. Wipes tears or snot from face, never breaking their gaze.

PSYCHIC

Just go. Please. Leave me. I must rest.

CLIENT

(unsure what to do...)

Uhhmm.. Okay.. Are you okay? Should I...

PSYCHIC

Go.

CLIENT

(making way towards exit)

Going. But, um, will you just refund me I guess, or, how does it work if you pay and don't- can't- get a reading..

PSYCHIC

Please! I'm too vulnerable to discuss finances right now! Have you no heart?!

CLIENT

Oh, you're right, no. For sure. I.. I'm sorry, no rush. I'll, uh, I'll follow up in a few days...

Client's sentence trailing as they start to close door behind them. Before door shuts we hear

PYSHIC

All readings are non-refundable.

FADE TO BLACK.