

ALONE IN THE HOUSE

You are in bed, just about to drift off to sleep, alone in your home. You've been keeping a dream journal the last few weeks. Something raises your awareness, and you don't know if you are dreaming. Especially after what you witness.

Each night has unusual experiences that you observe from the (hopefully) safety of your bed. These occurrences are represented by cards from a standard deck, played face down, and a single die that determines their duration.

To have another attempt at sleep, make your play space as dark as you can and still see your cards, die, and journal. Roll a six-sided die and place cards face down equal to the number rolled.

To flip over a card for an encounter, roll a six-sided die:

On a 1-2 it comes to you.

On a 3-4 you glance it at the edge of your vision.

On a 5-6 it beckons you to follow.

The suit and rank determine the encounter.

Record a short description and your reaction in your dream journal. Decide whether or not to leave your bed. Then roll for the next card.

When you complete a night's spread of cards, turn the lights back on; dawn is here. Give a date to the journal entry.

Try to sleep again.

Play until you can't stand to be alone any longer. If you want to save the record of your nights, hold onto the journal; you might need it later. If you fear others reading about your encounters, destroy the journal.

Diamonds

Diamonds are living beings: attractive people, burrowing fish, Poorly assembled flesh, wolves, raking claws, giant insects, etc.

Clubs

Clubs are objects: Mysterious obelisks, foil lion balloons, bouncing balls, screens left on, old coffins, falling mirrors, etc.

Hearts

Hearts are phenomena: a soft glow, enticing whispers, the smell of cut grass, itching, the taste of strawberries, etc.

Spades

Spades are environments: dirty motels, Expanding walls, sterile halls, quiet rain, crowded classrooms, infinite emptiness, etc.

Card List

A : It grows to tower over you.

2 : It grows to encompass you and replace the world around you.

3 : It moves gently, meandering.

4 : It moves with violence and purpose.

5 : It is perfectly, unnervingly still.

6 : It promises that which you desire.

7 : It threatens the worst you can imagine.

8 : It pleads for your mercy.

9 : It changes you into your worst self.

10 : It is the one you love best.

J : It is the one you hate most.

Q : It multiplies inexplicably.

K : It transforms into the next encounter.