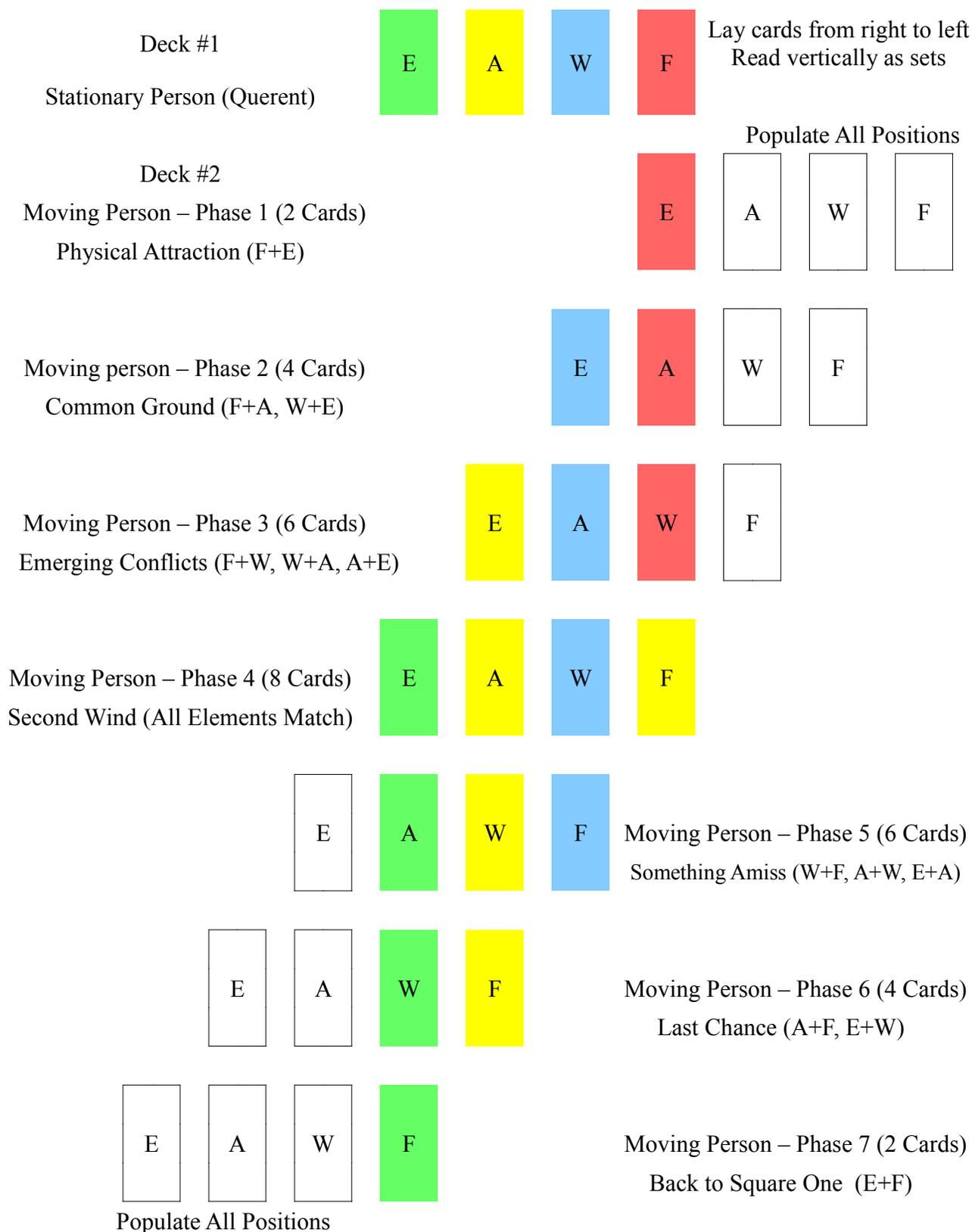


“Just Passin' Through” Romantic Interlude Spread



This spread is intended to be used when considering the advisability of making overtures to a potential love interest (for example, when eyeing the proverbial “workplace dalliance”). Given the relative impermanence of modern romantic liaisons, it's not an accident that the layout simulates a question mark.

Many of us have had the bittersweet romantic experience of someone we're smitten with entering our lives, lingering for a while, and then moving on when things don't pan out to his or her satisfaction. This spread uses a right-to-left “moving line” concept and Elemental Dignities to describe the interaction between two individuals as their relationship blossoms, comes into focus and then potentially fades. The seven iterations of the “moving person's” profile show the evolving complexion (and complexity) of the relationship as the two people size one another up physically, grow emotionally and intellectually closer, and then rethink their level of commitment via the various elemental combinations.

The cards are read vertically in increasingly larger and then decreasingly smaller sets as the two parties to the affair “pass in the night,” first two cards, then 4, 6, 8, 6, 4 and 2, with the 8-card set showing the best that can come of the situation before it succumbs to inevitable “adjustment.” The spread requires a separate deck for each individual, and all positions should be populated from right-to-left even though only the colored ones are read. The unread cards can reveal aspects of the “moving person's” character that are not brought into play during the tryst, perhaps showing personal secrets or unresolved prior “baggage” on the front end and residual regrets or “hard feelings” upon parting. On the other hand, a group of positive unread cards at the bottom left could bode well for an eventual reconciliation, beyond the vestiges of physical infatuation that are often the last pleasurable interludes to vanish in a failing relationship.

The nature of the cards in the comparative sets will show how well or poorly the two are situated for a long-term connection. “Good” cards in combination will increase the “staying power” of the relationship, while “bad” cards will hasten its demise. “Bad” cards at the very beginning could suggest that the relationship will never really get off the ground, and if things look that bleak going in there may be no reason to conduct the full reading. Just file it in the “lost cause” category.