

“Train to Nowhere” Missing Person Spread

Locomotive

Pile #1: Purposely absent;
moving about

Pile #13: In the background;
hard to see; not easily found

Caboose

Coal/Wood
Tender

Pile #2: Working; in a
dirty or rough place

Pile #12: Injured;
institutionalized

Hospital Car

Pile #3: A common
runaway; lost

Coach Car

Prisoner
Transport Car

Pile #11: Kidnapped;
imprisoned somewhere

Pile #4: Kept out of sight;
drugged; bed-ridden

Sleeper Car

Cattle Car

Pile #10: Kept with animals;
in the country

Pile #5: Starving; underfed; in
a food storage area

Dining Car

Observation
Car

Pile #9: Kept under
constant surveillance

Pile #6: Kept for pleasure;
sexually abused; in the city

Lounge Car

Mail Car

Pile #8: “Dead Letter Office;”
deceased

Pile #7: In a nondescript location;
kept with others

Baggage Car

This is a grim topic with a grim title, especially as it regards long-standing “cold-case” disappearances. I used an “antique railroad” motif for the spread positions because I wanted a 13-card arrangement, which divides evenly into 78. It's tempting to read the “V” pattern intuitively as standing for “Victory,” but it may more properly mean “Victim.”

Choose a Significator in advance to represent the “quesited” (missing person), and keep it in the deck.

Shuffle, cut and deal the cards face down into thirteen piles of six cards each.

Search the piles to locate the Significator.

Read the Significator and the two cards on either side as a three-part “story” describing the present circumstances of the quesited, including hints of a more specific location, possible movement in the matter or the kind of people that may be involved. Elemental Dignities can be used to assess the likelihood of receiving a correct answer. If more detail is desired, read all six cards in the pile.