

# *In me, a constellation*



*a cosmic personality quiz by nate kiernan*

*Written and Designed by  
Nate Kiernan*

*Inspired by the many creations of  
Jammi Nedjadi and Maria Mison*

*Images via Unsplash*

*Thanks for playing*

**I**t is a common misconception that who we are is a matter of chance. The imperceptible alignment of planets, mysterious genetic relationships, a token bestowed by each person we meet. All of this is true, but we forget that we are also a choice.

We are the narratives told by and about us, what we do and what we forgo. We are immaterial and we are present. We know ourselves and we know we are not fixed.

But there is still magic in this knowledge. The practicality of our self does not discount the incantations we cast, the stars we interrogate, the divinity we invite inside.

This manual is a means by which we can navigate these bodies. We draw cards and seek answers inside us. They are illuminating, uncomfortable, perplexing, and expected. They bring us closer to ourselves, a self both known and discovered.

*The stars watch and speak in archetypes.  
We align ourselves to them, and in doing so  
create stars of our own.*

# Setup

*In me, a constellation* is a comic destiny personality quiz told through tarot cards and improvisational introspection. It's designed for solo play but could be adapted for more players (or as an aspect of character creation for other games). It is played in three acts and typically lasts 45-60 minutes.

You will need:

- ◆ A deck of tarot cards
- ◆ Something inspiring to write with
- ◆ Something liberating to write on

Divide your tarot cards into major and minor arcana and set the minor arcana aside. With your writing tool, keep track of these things:

- ◆ The name you've given yourself
- ◆ The astrological sign from each of the three draws
- ◆ The adjectives chosen during Conclusions

For ease of searching, here is a list of astrological signs and their corresponding arcana:

- ◆ **Aries:** The Emperor, The Sun
- ◆ **Taurus:** The Hierophant, Judgement
- ◆ **Gemini:** The Lovers, Wheel of Fortune
- ◆ **Cancer:** The Chariot
- ◆ **Leo:** Strength, The Hanged Man
- ◆ **Virgo:** The Hermit, The Magician
- ◆ **Libra:** Justice, The High Priestess
- ◆ **Scorpio:** Death, The Tower
- ◆ **Sagittarius:** Temperance, The World
- ◆ **Capricorn:** The Devil
- ◆ **Aquarius:** The Star, The Fool
- ◆ **Pisces:** The Moon, The Empress

Approach this game with an earnest curiosity. It is meant to be fun but challenging. Lean in to your most dramatic impulses; make it something to remember.

# Safety

If you are playing solo it might be tempting to ignore safety tools, but it is always worth remembering that you have the option to opt-out of anything that might occur during the course of this game.

There is value in facing uncomfortable truths, but also do not send yourself into troubling areas if you are not ready to go there. Things you might want to watch out for include:

- ◆ Symbolic violence
- ◆ Body dysphoria
- ◆ Anxiety
- ◆ Explorations of sex and sexuality

If you feel more warnings should be added here please let me know so I can update the release.

*Give yourself a name.*

*Hold it close as you move forward.*

# *Act i: The Body*

You tumble into this world fleshy and confused. Your vision is imperfect; you reach but cannot grab hold. As you learn to stand the world is made smaller. You wonder of this form, pull at the seams, question its origin.

You feel the space you inhabit. It is so natural as to reject comment, and yet this familiarity only makes you question it more. Why this shape, these hands, the colors populating your skin? Before you the stars shift and lift you up. Their touch is warm but not unpleasant. Your skin clings to them for answers.



*Draw a card and go to its astrological sign.*

*Read the prompt for "The Body" and answer the question of the arcana you drew.*

*Shuffle the card back into the deck and move forward.*



## *Act ii: The Mind*

Though your body has grown, your mind is still young. You feel so certain in your knowledge yet you question every decision. Emotions come with the intensity of your wildest passions and most distressing nightmares. There is so much to learn, so much to feel, so little time to appreciate the vastness of your cognizance.

A restlessness gnaws at your subconscious. Are you capable? Are you too late? Do you deserve the possibilities before you? You close your eyes and the stars speak to your inner voice. They send you deeper, forcing you past things forgotten and ignored.



*Draw a card and go to its astrological sign.*

*Read the prompt for "The Mind" and answer the question of the arcana you drew.*

*Shuffle the card back into the deck and move forward.*





## *Act iii: The Spirit*

You are strong. Your body is sturdy and your mind absolute. But there is an emptiness within you. You speak to the stars but do not understand them. Your faith is not broken, it was never formed. You wander, searching for a purpose that cannot reside solely in yourself.

You call out to the divine, hoping someone might answer and give reason to this chaos. This time, the stars have you come to them. This realm is strange. It does not contort to universes you know. But there is peace here. Something in you stirs.



*Draw a card and go to its astrological sign.*

*Read the prompt for "The Spirit" and answer the question of the arcana you drew.*

*Shuffle the card back into the deck and move forward.*

# Conclusions

You have come into yourself. Through your body you experience the world, every sense enraptured by the subtleties and beauty of the earth. Through your mind you know yourself and others, feeling the immensity of emotion that comes out with simple words and thoughts. And through your spirit you see yourself as something greater, a dot among dots painting pictures no individual could conceive.

You watch the stars but you no longer need their guidance. You are whole. You are born. You will find what you seek.



*Take your three astrological signs and pick a word for each from the Constellations chart.*

*Do not think too much on these choices. Pick what you are compelled by.*

*Place them into the closing mantra and say it out loud.*

*I have travelled the stars and searched within myself.*

*I have discovered what was always there, and give it words so the universe may hear:*

*I am [word 1]. I am [word 2]. I am [word 3].*

*With my body, my mind, my spirit, I move forward.*

*I have done much, and there is more still before me.*

# Constellations

## *Aries*

Fearless, Sturdy, Enthusiastic, Confrontational

## *Taurus*

Loyal, Enduring, Encouraging, Protective

## *Gemini*

Charming, Eloquent, Witty, Warm

## *Cancer*

Compassionate, Nurturing, Devoted, Sensitive

## *Leo*

Energetic, Magnetic, Driven, Intense

## *Virgo*

Organized, Sincere, Pragmatic, Healing

## *Libra*

Honest, Prudent, Courteous, Balanced



## *Scorpio*

Intuitive, Earnest, Attentive, Intimate

## *Sagittarius*

Curious, Adventurous, Open, Flexible

## *Capricorn*

Tenacious, Ambitious, Temperate, Steadfast

## *Aquarius*

Liberated, Altruistic, Engaging, Spontaneous

## *Pisces*

Creative, Emotive, Adaptive, Soft

# Aries

The flicker of a candlewick flame floats before you. In the smoke you see a ram, the curls of their wool oscillating through shades of crimson and orange. They are magnificent. You long to move closer to their flame but the heat is greater than its size.

## *The Body*

An ethereal glow ignites down your arms, up your neck, matching the candle's light. You feel insulated, warm against cool night air. There is a new sureness to your steps, a certainty that your feet will fall on stable ground.

## *The Mind*

You feel propelled to action. Anxiety falls away as you take on bigger and more elaborate challenges. Your thoughts are clear, targeted. Fearlessly you embark. You cannot remember what held you still.

## *The Spirit*

You follow the candle's smoke and find yourself within a tepid field. The grass is soft and trimmed. A perpetual orange haze covers the sky as you lay yourself down, preparing for the long watch. You are not tired, you welcome this post.



## *The Emperor*

What structure protects you?

## *The Sun*

What fills you with confidence?

# Taurus

Out of a mountain the structure of a bull molds itself from earth and stone. It is massive but you are not scared. It invites you to climb aboard. Hesitantly, you clamber up onto its back, finding a comfortable nook beneath its horns.

## *The Body*

You are expanding. Muscles encircle you, giving grip to what once slacked, pushing against the ground with defiant force. Strong enough to bend the tide, you welcome the crashing waves. No one will be swept away.

## *The Mind*

You are reminded of your bonds. The people you love, those you've lifted up, the ones still seeking your aid. With each encouraging act you are made that much fuller, driven by a compulsive urge to nurture. The warmth you disperse comes back in time, wrapping you like a blanket.

## *The Spirit*

In the crest of a valley you enter your home. It is small but the walls are well built. It will stand against storms and pests. You take your seat by the fire place, removing the pot of tea which has brewed while you were away. It is a rich flavor. Enough to share.



## *The Hierophant*

What tradition  
restricts you?

## *Judgment*

What belief  
motivates you?

# *Gemini*

Twin shadows float beside you. They have no faces but you recognize something of yourself in them. They match your movements, keeping your pace. When you blink you catch glimpses of them watching you. A mutual fascination.

## *The Body*

You feel out of your body. There is the sensation of looking down, of observing yourself in third person, seeing yourself move but not recognizing the action. But then you are back, and with some practice you find you can move in and out at will.

## *The Mind*

You long to know people. How they speak, what they believe, the foods that delight and repulse them. You are not quite lonely, but when alone you notice the absence and long to fill it with another soul.

## *The Spirit*

You move within a great crowd. Nobody is pushed or trampled, but an energy connects you. You walk as one, traveling great distances through a shared passion. Nobody is sure where they are going, but you are certain you will get there.



## *The Lovers*

How are you made  
closer to others?

## *Wheel of Fortune*

How do open yourself  
to change?

# Cancer

In a shallow pool a crab floats on a current you can't discern. It doesn't look up as you approach but you can tell it is listening. Without realizing it you spend your secrets into the pool and the crab absorbs them without question. They are happy to listen.

## *The Body*

Your vision falters and then you are seeing colors that never existed. Complex hues and shades seem to explode from every surface, light spilling new textures as it bounces from point to point. You gaze at your skin, the individual pigments. It is as if a sheet has been pulled from the world.

## *The Mind*

You are searching for a home for your thoughts. Your expression is warm and you hope this heat will cultivate those around you. There is a natural calm around you. People invite your opinion.

## *The Spirit*

A wide raft drifts lazily across a still ocean. You do not recall setting out but neither are you concerned at finding yourself in this water's body. You trawl your fingers over the edge and feel all manner of creatures beneath you. You are not lost, they are carrying you.



## *The Chariot*

What pushes you  
forward?

# Leo

Under the shade of elephant ear leaves a lion calmly sizes you down. From their paws fresh coals singe the ground, producing a dry heat that hangs between you. The lion acknowledges you, signals that you should sit. Not too close, but close enough.

## *The Body*

You hear your voice as if within a wind tunnel. It echoes before you, rich and focused, every syllable captured, each nuance carried clear. As you speak creatures gather around, captured in your words, hanging on the vibrations sent from your lips.

## *The Mind*

You place yourself on a game board. The pieces move without you having to ask, calculations paying off as if an elaborate performance. You search for greater challenges, eager to test wits. A new game, or something grander.

## *The Spirit*

Sitting on a cloud you gaze through the mist at the movement below. People watch as you pass, excitedly shouting your name up, up, up. You wish to invite them to float with you, but this platform is thin and any more weight could send you all apart.



## *Strength*

From where do you draw your strength?

## *The Hanged Man*

What has been sacrificed?

# Virgo

The wheat fields shift in a breeze as a woman in lilac and bronze gathers fresh strands. You work beside her, shifting wheat from weed, building bundles that stand like totems. Long shadows stretch across the field as the woman finally turns to you. She is crying, but for what she doesn't say.

## *The Body*

You are not sure what has changed but something in you is different. Your clothes hang strangely off your frame. You take them off but still it isn't right. In a mirror you interrogate every fold and freckle, searching for what has gone amiss and left you off balance.

## *The Mind*

Your restless thoughts file themselves in tidy cabinets. Moods. Names. Childhood memories. Each is exactly where you expect it, orderly, comprehensive and comprehensible. You relax at last knowing no tangent was forgotten, no information left behind.

## *The Spirit*

The woman's bed is softer than you expect. You lay beside her, an arm draped over her chest, the soft rise and lower of her breath slowing your heartbeat. Now you are crying. A beautiful, violent crying that embodies everything you have been denying yourself. It may never stop.



## *The Hermit*

What truth are you seeking?

## *The Magician*

What desire is being manifested?

# Libra

Tucked within the half-lit halls of a dusty library a pair of scales dip back and forth. With each descent you feel pulled a little closer, a desire to freeze this movement overwhelming your senses. But you dare not touch the scales. Their momentum is not the simple force of gravity.

## *The Body*

In your toes, your spine, the flexing of each articulated knuckle, you are aligned and balanced. Gestures adopt a new grace and particularity, your voice spoken in the wave of a hand and the length of your stride. Watching you feels intimate, like you are revealing part of yourself in each move.

## *The Mind*

You are flattened, neutered, evened out. You operate from a base detachment, the better to see clearly the lines that divide people. You are a skilled negotiator, and yet you wonder if feeling nothing is a worthy trade.

## *The Spirit*

In a blank room a door poses like a question. On one side, a handle. It twists easily, the door sighs as the seal is broken. The other side is blank. Swirls of color crawl across the surface and with a touch your hand passes straight through. You could leave, but of course you could never actually forget.



## *Justice*

How do you make  
peace with yourself?

## *The High Priestess*

Whose voice  
calls to you?

# Scorpio

Arriving at a desert spring, you dip your lips into the cool water. The taste of salt bites your tongue, and as you lift your eyes they meet a black scorpion perched an arms length away. They could be made of stone but you can feel them watching. Waiting for you to react.

## *The Body*

An outer layer is peeled away. You bundle yourself against this new cold, this awareness to each breeze and chill. Slowly, you adjust. You shed your covers and embrace the icy air. Breathe in. Feel it rush through your lungs. A kiss from a ghost.

## *The Mind*

An anxious longing intoxicates you. Like swimming beneath a crashing wave you bubble up only to be pushed back down again. Learning the rhythm of the wave helps you know when to dive, when it's safe to surface, but still you are at sea. The feeling lurches out, desperate for an island where you can rest.

## *The Spirit*

You have been following the scorpion, those little tracks in the sand almost immediately rubbed away. They have led you deeper still into the desert, and here at the center, the oasis once again. The scorpion doesn't stop. They will do this loop many more times before the sun sets.



## *Death*

What path is ending?

## *The Tower*

What disaster looms over you?

# Sagittarius

Flaming arrows soar overhead, disappearing into the horizon as you drop to the ground. Slowly you rise, as you recognize these shots are not aiming for you. Where the arrows fall you find a white horse resting on the ground. They nod to you as you sit beside them, resting your head on their mane.

## *The Body*

It is as if shackles have been loosed from your ankles. You feel light, energized. You could walk for days, see the places you've dreamed of, the ones you can't yet imagine. You begin to run and find it hard to slow down.

## *The Mind*

They say you have a wandering mind, but it is more that you are curious of everything. You delight in the tiny things, make an event of every engagement. If you seem absent minded it is only that you have wandered onto something newly compelling. There are so many wonders to know.

## *The Spirit*

The horse carries you further than you knew the world spanned. They stop only to feed and hydrate, scarce moments of stillness punctuating the miles crossed. At one point you inquire why you couldn't stop a bit longer, but the horse does not respond. The names and stories of these lands are for others to learn.



## *Temperance*

What peace have you been granted?

## *The World*

How have you been made whole?

# Capricorn

You stumble along the rocky mountainside, trying to keep the translucent goat in your sight. It moves not with grace but purpose. Its hooves dislodge rocks soundlessly into the abyss, and once or twice you could swear it melted into the fog. You scramble onto a solid ledge and watch the goat move upward until they are lost to the mist.

## *The Body*

Your shoulders dip and your hips oscillate as you strut, pronounced, announcing yourself with your body's language. It would seem exaggerated were it not so attractive. You appear comfortable, relaxed even. Perhaps you were only acting before.

## *The Mind*

Methodically you unwind yourself. It is important to tend to your thoughts, to make peace with the contradictions and confusions. It is like the unloading of a ship, a tedious process that nonetheless is necessary for future voyages. You are well practiced now so release comes easy, but it was not always this way.

## *The Spirit*

At night specters visit you, sometimes people sometimes formless sometimes as the goat which led you here. You are comforted by their company. Over time you learn their names, and if you whisper in the air at night they come to you.



## *The Devil*

What obsession  
distracts you?

# Aquarius

Beside a stream a clay pot leans against a tree trunk. Nobody has come to fill it, so you dip the mouth into the current and feel the weight of the water grow. As you lift the pot another's reflection stares back at you, uncannily lifelike. In shock you drop the pot back into the water, watching it float away, its mouth never going beneath the surface.

## *The Body*

You appraise yourself in a mirror. You were not always happy in this body, but as you have grown it has begun to feel more like your own. You search for the things you used to scorn but can no longer find them. You are happy. You would not ask these pieces to changes.

## *The Mind*

It is difficult to accept there are things you will never know, never understand, never even have the opportunity to explore. You meet this realization at first with force, then a tenderness. You need not take on the whole of creation.

## *The Spirit*

You doze off beside the stump, and when you awake the clay pot is back beside you, the face no longer looking out from the copper interior. You fill its mouth again and this time find only water inside. You take a sip and feel your fatigued melt away.



## *The Star*

How have you  
been renewed?

## *The Fool*

What new beginning  
has opened?

# Pisces

You plunge into the lake, water filling your lungs. You do not struggle, oxygen continues to flow out of the water into you. As you descend two great fish begin to circle you. One dips by your feet, while the other swims by your head. As your feet touch the muddy floor the fish swim off in opposite directions, leaving a trail of bubbles lazily floating upwards.

## *The Body*

The circumstances were not ideal but you have adapted with resounding success. Nobody can tell you were not always here, not always so prepared and presentable. You take their praise, realizing they will never know how much work it takes.

## *The Mind*

You wonder if there can be too many thoughts for one head. Yours is all bursting, a wellspring of creativity and enthusiasm. It is all you can do to put these thoughts to paper, canvas, napkin corner, the ear of a partner. But just as you are emptied new thoughts fill you up again.

## *The Spirit*

As soon as you taste the air you know you cannot return to the lake. You pull yourself to the shore and watch the two fish breach and crash, sending small waves against your feet. You smile at this game. Some day you'll join them again.



## *The Moon*

What are you afraid to admit?

## *The Empress*

Have you grown closer to nature?