Sol da Alma

TAROT READING

In-depth report

Prepared for Sofia

The Horseshoe · 17 September 2026

THE QUESTION

I started a small business eight months ago and I don't know if I can hold on for another year. How will this matter go from here on?

1	The past	**Page of Wands**
2	The present	**Ace of Swords**
3	What is not seen	**Ten of Cups**
4	The obstacle	**The Chariot**
5	Other people	**Two of Pentacles**
6	The advice	**Six of Pentacles**
7	The result	**Three of Swords**

The question and what the spread answers

Your business opened eight months ago, Sofia, and your question carries the mark of the physical and mental exhaustion of someone who feels they are pushing an obstacle that is far too heavy without receiving a corresponding return. Beneath this doubt about your stamina for another year, what your soul is really asking is whether your current effort has a real purpose or if you are simply delaying an inevitable loss out of stubbornness. There is a clear drain on your energy, and the spread answers this concern very directly, stripping the situation of illusions and bringing to the surface the need for a cold, rational evaluation of your project's viability.

The general mood of the table is dominated by a strong practical and mental component, where earth and air cross paths constantly, whilst the initial fire appears weakened and water remains hidden. With only one Major Arcana on the table, the spread indicates that this matter is not under the influence of forces of destiny or factors beyond your control; it is a problem of management, daily choices and personal limits. The table shows that the business demands a constant juggling act from you that is consuming your peace and your personal life. The answer the cards give, taken as a whole, is that continuing this project in its current form is not sustainable and that insisting on the same path without profound changes will lead to a painful rupture.

The past



1 · Page of Wands

The Page of Wands opens our spread in the past position, showing the energy with which this project was conceived and started eight months ago. In this card's image, we see a young messenger firmly holding a wooden staff where small green leaves are beginning to sprout. He looks at the staff with admiration and enthusiasm, standing in an arid, mountainous terrain beneath a clear sky. The suit of Wands represents the element Fire, the force of will, the initiative and the enthusiasm that bring things to birth, whilst the Page is the degree of the seed, the beginning of learning and the voluntary surrender to a new cause.

This card in this position shows that the business was born from a genuine passion and an impulse of creativity. There was a great drive to make things happen, an energy of discovery and the belief that your willpower would be enough to overcome the difficulties of the terrain, which already looked arid. However, the Page also points to a certain practical immaturity, a lack of rigorous planning and the absence of a solid structure that could sustain the initial fire once routine set in. This seed of fire is what brought you this far, but the flame burns out quickly when it does not find enough wood to burn, connecting directly to the cold clarity you now find in the present with the Ace of Swords.

The present



2 · Ace of Swords

The Ace of Swords appears in the present as a sharp edge that cuts through illusions and demands an unequivocal stance. In this blade's image, a firm hand emerges from a white cloud holding a double-edged sword positioned vertically, crowned by a laurel wreath from which hang olive and palm branches, against a background of grey, bare mountains. The suit of Swords belongs to the element Air, governing the intellect, mental clarity, naked truth and the conflict necessary to establish boundaries. Being an Ace, this card represents the seed of perception, a moment of revelation and the need to use reason above all sentimentality.

In the present, this card indicates that you have reached the point where it is no longer possible to sugarcoat things or ignore the numerical facts of the business. The sword demands that you look at the financial and operational reality with absolute coldness, cutting through the excuses and false hopes that have fuelled your persistence. The presence of this blade shows that the clarity is already in your mind, even if you are still trying to avoid it; you know exactly where the flaws lie and what needs to be cut for you to survive. This mental, decisive energy of the present serves as a counterpoint to the invisible drain that the Ten of Cups reveals in the following position.

What is not seen



3 · Ten of Cups

The Ten of Cups occupies the position of what is not seen, revealing the invisible cost this business situation is exacting on your most intimate environment. The blade shows a family beneath a rainbow of ten golden cups, in a green countryside setting with a house in the background, symbolising domestic harmony, family peace and emotional contentment. As the Ten of Cups is the end of the water suit's cycle, it represents the fullness of relationships and the safe harbour that personal life should constitute for every individual.

The fact that this card is in the place of what is not seen indicates that you have been so focused on the survival of the business that you have failed to notice how your search for emotional and family stability is being undermined. Your home and your affections, which should be your rainbow of peace, are being sacrificed or pushed into the background due to work exhaustion. This blade warns that your deep desire for peace and domestic happiness is being consumed by your professional activity, and that perhaps true success for you at this moment does not lie in business victory, but rather in preserving this hidden harmony. This need to protect your domestic well-being clashes head-on with the energy of the obstacle that follows.

The obstacle



4 · The Chariot

The Chariot appears in the position of the obstacle, representing the trap of trying to win through blind willpower and excessive control. In this blade, we see a crowned warrior driving a chariot adorned with celestial symbols, pulled by two sphinxes of opposite colours looking in different directions. The warrior holds no reins, controlling the animals solely with his wand and the strength of his presence, which requires constant tension and absolute vigilance. The Chariot is the seventh Major Arcana, symbolising the victory of the ego, determination and the ability to direct conflicting forces towards a single goal.

As an obstacle, the Chariot reveals that your insistence on keeping the business open at all costs is actually an action dictated by pride and the difficulty of accepting that a course may need to be changed. You are spending a colossal amount of energy trying to keep forces together that want to pull apart, personified by the sphinxes pulling in opposite directions. This card indicates that your current obstacle is your own rush to win and the belief that stopping or stepping back equates to personal defeat. This rigid stance prevents the natural flow of exchanges, which should be more fluid, just as we observe in the attitude of the people around you.

Other people



5 · Two of Pentacles

The Two of Pentacles occupies the position of others, describing how clients, partners or the market itself behave towards your business. The image shows a young person in a dancing pose, balancing two large pentacles in their hands, surrounded by an infinity-shaped ribbon, whilst in the background two boats sail on a sea of high, unstable waves. The suit of Pentacles represents Earth, money, physical transactions and practical time, whilst the Two indicates duality, the need for adaptation, fluctuation and the juggling act required to deal with two situations at once.

This card shows that others see your business as unstable or temporary, or that your clients and partners are themselves going through difficulties and doing financial gymnastics, which makes your project's revenues irregular and unpredictable. There is no solid support base from third parties; the people around you are busy with their own fluctuations and cannot offer you the security you need. This external instability forces you into constant adaptation that drains your resources, demanding that you apply the advice of balance represented by the following blade.

The advice



6 · Six of Pentacles

The Six of Pentacles presents itself as the practical advice for your situation, pointing to the need to establish a policy of strict reciprocity and fair evaluation of your resources. The portrait depicts a wealthy man, dressed in a purple robe, holding a scale in one hand whilst with the other he distributes coins to two beggars kneeling at his feet. The suit of Pentacles, at the six degree, speaks of fair distribution, giving and receiving, measured generosity and the recognition of asymmetries in material life.

The advice of this card is that you should carry out a rigorous audit of your energy and your capital. You must stop giving more to the business than you receive from it; the scales must be balanced. If your project demands all your time, your health and your money without returning enough for you to live with dignity and peace, the flow is broken. The Six of Pentacles advises you to seek external support, renegotiate contracts, collect what is owed to you firmly and avoid putting more of your own resources into a bottomless pit. If you cannot balance these scales immediately, the outcome taking shape on the horizon will be inevitable.

The result



7 · Three of Swords

The Three of Swords closes the spread in the position of the likely outcome if your stance of blind insistence continues unchanged. The image of this card is one of the harshest in the Tarot: a large red heart, suspended beneath grey clouds and dense rain, pierced symmetrically by three sharp swords. The suit of Swords, at the three degree, represents mental pain, the disillusionment that results from seeing the truth without filters and the breaking of an expectation we cherished.

This result indicates that, if you continue to push the business without the advised structural changes, the end of the cycle will be marked by a painful rupture and a sense of great loss. Insisting on keeping a financially unviable project going for another year will not bring magical salvation, but rather emotional exhaustion that will affect your health and self-esteem. The Three of Swords warns that the pain of belated clarity is always greater than the pain of a decision made in time. This result makes it clear that the choice to avoid this outcome lies in your ability to act now on the structures of your business.

The reading as a whole

When we analyse the general layout of the table, the very low proportion of Major Arcana immediately stands out, with only the Chariot making an appearance. This fact confirms that your dilemma does not stem from the impositions of destiny or force majeure circumstances from which you cannot escape. The issue is played out entirely on the earthly, everyday plane, divided between the logical decisions of the element Air and the resource management of the element Earth. The lack of active Fire cards in the present and the future shows that the initial enthusiasm that drove you is no longer the business's fuel; what drives you now is simply the inertia of effort and the fear of failure.

There is a very clear line of force uniting the **Ace of Swords** in the present to the **Three of Swords** in the result. The edge that now presents itself as mental clarity can turn into the pain of disillusionment if you do not use that same clarity to make difficult decisions. **The Chariot**, as an obstacle, shows that your greatest enemy is your own inflexible determination, which prevents you from seeing that your current course is draining your emotional stability, represented by the hidden **Ten of Cups**.

The movement through time is evident: you started from a creative impulse full of hope with the **Page of Wands**, encountered the need for constant juggling represented by the Two of Ouros, and now find yourself under the demand for cold analysis with the **Ace of Swords**. The spread answers your question frankly: the business will not hold out for another year unless you radically change your financial management and your personal stance. Maintaining your course without significant cuts will result in burnout that will force you to close down under worse conditions further down the line.

Advice

The financial balance

Look at your business accounts with the coldness of an accountant unconnected to the project, much as the **Six of Pentacles** suggests. Make an exact list of all expenses and

revenues and determine a maximum limit of equity you are willing to invest to cover losses over the next three months. If this limit is exceeded without the business reaching breakeven, close down the operation in a planned and dignified way, avoiding taking on debts that would compromise your future.

The brake on stubbornness

Abandon the stance of the Chariot warrior who believes willpower solves market problems. Accept that recognising a project's unviability is not a personal failure, but rather an act of intelligence and business maturity. Stop channelling your vital energy into a structure that gives you no return, and direct that effort towards protecting your health and personal well-being.

The conversation of truth

Use the cutting energy of the **Ace of Swords** to have frank conversations with partners, landlords or suppliers. Demand the renegotiation of deadlines, the reduction of fixed costs or changes to contractual conditions that are choking your cash flow. If others show no openness to collaborate on balancing the scales, you will have confirmation there that market conditions do not exist for the project to continue.

Protecting the shelter

Rescue the **Ten of Cups** that lies hidden and restore the space to your personal life that the business has stolen from it. Establish strict working hours, switch off your professional phone at the end of the day and refuse to bring company problems into your home. Your emotional stability and the support of those who love you are assets too precious to be burned on the bonfire of a loss-making business.

Signs to watch

Over the next four weeks, pay attention to your body's reactions and the evolution of your average weekly turnover. If physical fatigue persists in the form of insomnia or constant anxiety, and if clients continue to fluctuate unpredictably as the **Two of Pentacles** shows, you will have a clear indication that the limit has been reached. The

decision to stop before the rupture, Sofia, is entirely yours to make, and the Tarot shows that choosing your present peace is the most courageous path you can take.

About the pictures on the cards

The description of each card in this report follows the original iconography of the Tarot, which is what gives it its meaning. The decks do not always reproduce it in full: a detail described in the text may not be visible in the painting in front of you. In that case it is the text that the card is read by — it carries the traditional meaning.

The code for this spread

This block lays the table again. Copy it and paste it into «Paste a Spread», at www.soldaalma.pt: the cards return to the same places, and from there you can ask for this report again without drawing them anew.

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--- to restore this spread ---
tiragem: ferradura
baralho: tarot_casa
cartas: P11, E1, C10, M7, O2, O6, E3
pergunta: I started a small business eight months ago and I don't know if I can hold on for another year. How will this matter go from here on?
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The cards show tendencies and forces at work, not guaranteed facts.
The responsibility and the decision are always the asker's.
Sol da Alma Tarot · seventy-eight paintings made from scratch for this website, in the style of the canvas that opens the page.