

The Mystic Explains

TESSA LIVINGSTONE

The Eight of Cups is a card of change.

The mystic lays down the image of a cloaked man, descending into darkness.
His back turned on a stack of eight golden goblets. The moon frowning down.

She tells me, *When you get what you want, you must give it up. This card is not an image, but a command.*

I think of a prized racehorse. The wreath of leaves hanging from its neck.
The intoxicated shouts, the shuffle of winnings. Its copper coat, gleaming.

I think of Lorraine, without fingers, without toes.

I didn't get what I wanted, I tell her. Did you?

