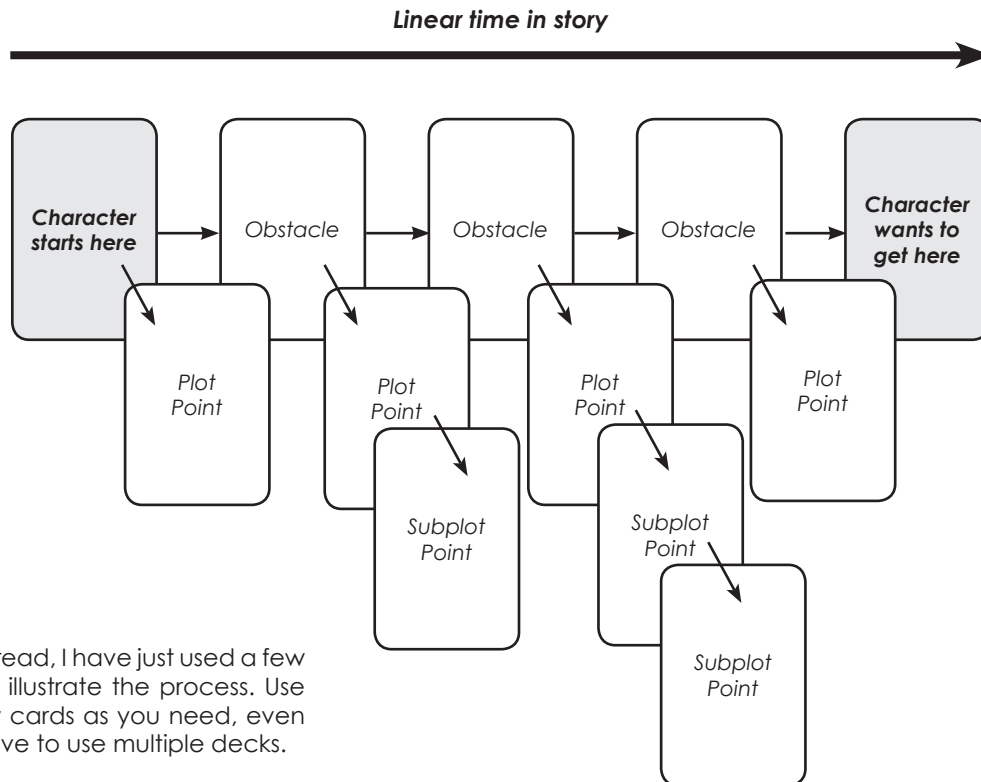


Getting back to fiction, here are two easy spreads you can use to further examine your plot line, scene, or character journey. Using the Tarot in a variety of spreads to look at your story and its individual components helps you weed out any holes or inconsistencies in your narrative. The spread below is a simple “from here to there” layout, with branches that diagram the causality inherent in each point of your story. Try this out when you get stuck on a particular scene, or are having trouble tying together all of the side-adventures your characters experience on their way to their destination.

### Linear Time spread (#2)



In this spread, I have just used a few cards to illustrate the process. Use as many cards as you need, even if you have to use multiple decks.

The purpose of this spread is to give you a quick overview of the order of events that shape the story. You can move things around by moving the cards, and track how one minor event affects a future major event. The process is simple: Start at the beginning of your story, and choose a card that accurately reflects the action, event, or setting. Choose a card to represent the end point of your story and place it several inches to the right. Fill in the space in between the two cards with events and actions that are central to your story.

You can vary this spread in any number of ways. It can be applied to the entire story or an individual scene. You can chart a character’s progress (hero, villain, or even minor characters) to see if you are satisfied with their journey. You can place cards that represent obstacles or achievements, the events of their day, or their evolution. The linear format is simple, quick, and easily adapted to most any need. This is a very handy spread to use in any situation. You will find that it greatly helps you flesh out ideas, as well as verify the continuity of your story.