A Song About Maria
A Song-telling Game by Mendel Schmiedekamp

To play A Song About Maria, you need a shuffled deck of playing cards with the jokers removed and something to write on this sheet with. You can play solitaire or get a small group together (2-5 others). If you have a group, take turns describing the people in each verse, and take turns describing how each card in the refrain moves each verse forward.

The Refrain

A Song About Maria has a series of descriptions and card draws which unfold the events of all three verses piece by piece.

1) Describe Maria – fill in three adjectives describing Maria.
2) Draw a card – this determines how Maria meets someone in each verse
   - ♠ seduction
   - ♣ old friends
   - ♥ fall in love
   - ◆ become friends
3) Describe the someones in each verse – filling in a name and three adjectives.
4) Maria goes with that someone to a place – draw a card and describe a place that is:
   - ♠ beautiful place
   - ♣ run-down place
   - ♥ exciting place
   - ◆ posh or wealthy place
5) Briefly describe the trouble awaiting them in each verse, based on that place.
6) Draw a card – this determines what Maria and someone are doing, describe it for each verse.
   - ♠ robbery and/or murder
   - ♣ desperate, risky gamble
   - ♥ having fun, perhaps too much
   - ◆ taking a chance to better themselves
7) Draw a card – this determines the fate of that someone, describe it for each verse
   - ♠ murdered by Maria
   - ♣ killed by the Trouble
   - ♥ Maria becomes their lover, for a while.
   - ◆ overcomes the trouble, success!
8) Draw a final card and find the most common suit, using this last card's suit in case of a tie – this determines Maria's fate in the last verse:
   - ♠ Maria runs far away.
   - ♣ Maria dies.
   - ♥ Maria gets married.
   - ◆ Maria is happy

Maria

(1) Maria is _____, _____, and _____.

First Verse

(3) The First someone is named _____

and is _____, _____, and _____.

(4) They go to _____.

(5) Family Trouble is _____.

Second Verse

(3) The Bad someone is named _____

and is _____, _____, and _____.

(4) They go to _____.

(5) Law Trouble is _____.

Third Verse

(3) The Good someone is named _____

and is _____, _____, and _____.

(4) They go to _____.

(5) Big Trouble is _____.