

# H O M E S T A R

Genuine Astrological Guidance



*for*  
***Barack Obama***  
*from August 2011*

Personality Profiles  
Year & Month Guides  
Relationship Profiles

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Symbol Key

SUN ☉	MOON ☾	MERCURY ☿	VENUS ♀	MARS ♂	
JUPITER ♃	SATURN ♄	URANUS ♅	NEPTUNE ♆	PLUTO ♇	
ARI ♈	TAU ♉	GEM ♊	CNC ♋	LEO ♌	VIR ♍
LIB ♎	SCO ♏	SGR ♐	CAP ♑	AQR ♒	PSC ♓

## Your Birth Chart (with Month Guide)

On the following page you see your Birth Chart. This is a picture of the Sun, Moon and Planets in the sky exactly as it appeared at the time and place of your birth. If your soul had a console, this is probably what would be in the middle of it!

Following upon your Birth Chart is your Month Guide which describes how your Birth Chart - your life and personality - is being influenced through time by the Planets as they move on through the sky; what are called Transits. **It can be very helpful to have a Personality Profile** (see items {A} and {B} on the flier at the end of this Guide) as each Transit refers to a specific part of your Personality (Profile) that is being affected (under the Theme section), thereby providing even more personal detail to the interpretations than are given for the Transits themselves.

On your Birth Chart then, the **brown horizontal line** is simply the Horizon - with the visible sky above it, and the non-visible sky beneath it. The arrowed end is called your Ascendant (ASC) - that is, where the Sun, Moon and Planets are seen to rise. The other, more or less **vertical brown line** with an arrow is called the Meridian. The arrowed end of this line is your MidHeaven or MC.

The familiar twelve Signs of the Zodiac (depicted as petals) form an imaginary band encircling the Earth, and this is seen on your Birth Chart as bisected by the Horizon. The Sun, Moon, Planets, Ascendant and Midheaven are positioned in the Signs they were in at the time of your birth. The Sign that the Sun is in is what you know as your Sun-Sign or Star-Sign. Each Sign has the quality of one of the four Elements: **Red=Fire=Intuition/Creative; Yellow=Air=Thinking/Intellectualising; Blue=Water=Feeling/Empathetic; Green=Earth=Sensation/Practical.** The circular area within the Zodiacal band is divided into twelve segments called Houses, marked as the arrowed house cusps in **brown** or **light blue**. The First House begins with your Ascendant, going in an anti-clockwise direction. The Tenth House begins with your MidHeaven.

The various coloured lines joining one Planet with another are graphic depictions of what are called your Aspects. These are determined by any two planets forming a particular angle at the centre of your Birth Chart, i.e. where you were born. However, one of the strongest aspects is the conjunction. These, if you have any, are not marked by lines because they are made obvious by the planets involved being next door to one another.

Immediately below the Chart Wheel, under the section headed "Radix 1" you will see the following information: your Name, Date, Time, and Place of Birth (by Latitude and Longitude, and usually the name of the actual place or nearest town). "Zone" refers to the Standard Time in which you were born, giving the number of hours it was ahead of (East) or behind (West) Greenwich Mean Time. The middle part of this section gives the exact Sign positions by degree of your MC (MidHeaven) and ASC (Ascendant). The right-hand part of this section gives the exact Sign positions of the Sun, Moon and Planets, along with their House placement numbers. The position of the comet Chiron is also given.

Finally, the lower section gives all your interplanetary Aspects, which are like the internal dynamics of your being. You will see that each of your Aspects has a figure beside it which refers to the absolute maximum number of degrees and minutes of arc (10 0) outside of exactitude that are allowed for an Aspect to be made. As a general rule, the nearer it is to 0 0 - that is, being exact - then the stronger that Aspect's influence and significance should be.

Now, by using the table of Symbols set out below, you will be able to see for yourself where the Sun, Moon and Planets are in your Birth Chart, and what Signs and Houses they are placed in. Start out by determining your Sun's Sign position for you probably already know this.

### The Planets

SUN   
MOO 

MER   
VEN 

MAR   
JUP 

SAT   
URA 

NEP   
PLU 

### The Signs

ARI   
LIB 

TAU   
SCO 

GEM   
SGR 

CNC   
CAP 

LEO   
AQR 

VIR   
PSC 

Month transits

BARACK OBAMA: 4 Aug 1961 AD Fri 19 24 00 10 00 W

Aug	2011	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
Sun	Sqr	MC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Opp	ASC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mer	Sqr	MC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Sqr	MC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Nep	Sqr	MC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mer	Opp	ASC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Opp	ASC	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .

Aug	2011	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
Sun	Cnj	Sun	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Sqr	Moo	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Sxt	Ven	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Cnj	Ura	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Sqr	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Sxt	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Cnj	Plu	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sun	Opp	Chi	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mer	Sxt	Ven	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mer	Cnj	Ura	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Cnj	Sun	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Sqr	Moo	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Sxt	Ven	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Cnj	Ura	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Sqr	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Sxt	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Cnj	Plu	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mar	Cnj	Ven	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mar	Tri	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mar	Sxt	Plu	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ven	Opp	Chi	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Mar	Tri	Chi	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .

Aug	2011	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
Jup	Opp	Nep	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Sat	Sxt	Sun	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Ura	Sxt	Moo	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Plu	Sxt	Chi	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Chi	Sqr	Moo	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .
Chi	Tri	Ven	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .

Aug	2011	1	5	10	15	20	25	30
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*YOUR YEAR OR MONTH GUIDE*

Your Homestar Year or Monthly Guide does not try to give you the false idea that your life is a fixed and predictable "story" - any more than a gardener can be sure of how his or her garden will turn out exactly. Neither can much fruit be expected if little is planted or nurtured. Nothing is absolutely fated. What it does do is give you the astrological indications and conditions, and their dynamic potentials, endeavouring to equip you with the information and inspiration that will help you to understand their significance in your life, and to make the most of them. For this reason, I advise you to read this introduction if you wish to get the best out of the above graph of planetary influences and their interpretations that follow (rather than going straight to them), for in this way you will quite simply get the best out of your time ahead, or past, as well.

AT THE VERY LEAST, I URGE YOU TO READ THE PARAGRAPHS BELOW WRITTEN IN CAPITALS!

Ongoing astrological influences are best understood in much the same way as a farmer or gardener would regard the seasons and the climate in which he or she lives. Crops are planted, and tasks are performed, at certain times of year so as to produce maximum yield, or to maintain an optimum of order and harmony, by synchronizing these activities with natural cycles. Conversely, when these cycles are ignored or not capitalized upon, production and provision for the future become poor; equipment runs down and satisfaction diminishes. Similarly, your thoughts and actions may be guided, and your life improved, by familiarizing yourself, and attuning yourself to, the natural cycles which are the movements of the planets. The reasoning behind this is that our individual lives, the Earth and her atmosphere, and our cosmic environment, are all inter-related and interdependent - as we are now becoming only too rapidly aware. It could be said that astrological awareness and ecological awareness are very closely linked; that the planetary situation indicates the situation of your personality. Incidentally, note that it is more accurate to say that planets "indicate" rather than "influence", in the same way that a clock indicates the time rather than actually creates it.

Your personality itself could be likened to the gardener's climactic or environmental conditions - and of course to the garden itself. This is astrologically represented by the positions of the planets and certain points in the sky at the time of your birth (your Birth Chart). Where the planets are placed in the heavens at any given time thereafter, and in relation to your Birth Chart, indicates what "season" it is, or what kind of "weather" you are experiencing. For this same reason, it is very important to appreciate that although that "weather" could be the same for many people, there are as many different responses to it as there are individual "gardens". In other words, although I have endeavoured to give you as broad a range of effects or responses to astrological influences as possible, bear in mind that your particular experience of them may be hidden between the lines.

Now the next paragraph contains three astrological terms that are probably foreign to you. But just as the gardener needs to know a few gardening terms in order to understand the implications of weather, and seasonal and ecological conditions, and thereby make the best of his or her resources, so these three words will help you to appreciate how you too are plugged into and affected by the prevailing conditions of the Earth and Solar System in which she moves.

Your Year or Monthly Guide begins above with a graphic representation of how, during this time, the planets as they move through the sky (what are called Transits), are influencing (or Aspecting) the planets and points in your Birth Chart (called Radix). First, at the top are given your name and birth details, which you should check. Then down the left-hand side of this graph are given the Transits that are occurring over the twelvemonth period in question (three letter abbreviation of planet, eg Jup = Jupiter), the type of influence or Aspect being made (eg Opp = Opposing), and the Radix planet or point that is being transited in this way (again a three letter abbreviation). To the right of these Transits is then displayed their duration through time. This is done with shaded strips. As a general rule, the darker the strip is, then the more intense will be the influence of any given Transit. The strip colours denote the following: Blue=Conjoining (intensifying/new cycle beginning); Red=Squaring (challenging); Pink=Opposing (confronting); Dark Green=Trining (releasing/way-opening); Light Green=Sextiling (effort-rewarding).

The actual meanings of these Transits are then given after this introduction, starting with the date-to-date period of the planetary influence, together with the full name of it. After this I give the general Significance of the type of Aspect the Transit is making. Then comes the interpretation itself, which I have set out in a manner that allows you to quickly grasp the Key meanings and Theme of that Transit, to assimilate its overall effect, along with the Possible Encounters it may bring. Take special note of the Theme of the Transit for this specifically refers to the Planet Profiles in your HomeStar Personality Profile (if you have one), and it is through seeing how a Transit is affecting the complete significance of a planet in your chart that you can more fully understand the Transit's very personal

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effect on you.

**POWERFUL TRANSITS** - THE MOST POWERFUL AND SIGNIFICANT PLANETARY INFLUENCES ARE WHEN A TRANSITING PLANET IS CONJOINING, OPPOSING OR SQUARING A RADIX PLANET.

**CHIRON TRANSITS** - THIS SIGNIFICANT COMET, DISCOVERED IN 1977, NOW HAS ITS TRANSITS (GIVEN AND RECEIVED) INCLUDED IN THE GRAPH ON PAGE 1. NOT ENOUGH IS KNOWN ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF THIS 'WOUNDED HEALER' TO YET GIVE PRECISE INTERPRETATIONS, BUT THE 'TRANSCAN' SECTION AT THE VERY END OF THIS GUIDE GIVES KEYWORDS THAT SHOULD GIVE YOU SOME INSIGHT INTO CHIRON'S EFFECT.

**REPEATING TRANSITS** - YOU WILL NOTICE THAT IN MANY CASES, TRANSITS REPEAT THEMSELVES, USUALLY THREE TIMES, OVER A PERIOD OF ABOUT A MONTH TO THREE YEARS, DEPENDING ON THE TRANSITING PLANET IN QUESTION . THESE ARE, IF YOU LIKE, SUCCESSIVE WAVES OF INFLUENCE WHOSE INTENTION IS TO GIVE YOU AN INCREASINGLY CLEARER IMPRESSION OF WHAT THAT PLANETARY TRANSIT MEANS IN YOUR LIFE.

**TIMING TRANSITS** - DO NOT TAKE TOO LITERALLY THE DATES ON WHICH ANY PARTICULAR TRANSIT BEGINS OR ENDS, FOR ITS INFLUENCE CAN BE FELT FOR SOME DAYS OR EVEN MONTHS BEFORE OR AFTER, DEPENDING ON THE STRENGTH AND TECHNICAL DURATION OF IT. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SOMETHING TO WHICH NO CURRENT TRANSIT REFERS, OR IF THERE ARE NO TRANSITS HAPPENING AT ALL, THEN LOOK "UP AND DOWN THE LINE" ON THE GRAPH AND YOU WILL LOCATE THE TRANSIT THAT IS OBVIOUSLY HAVING AN EFFECT WHICH IS GREATER/LONGER IN REALITY THAN IN THEORY. YOU SHOULD ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT THE ACCURACY OF YOUR GIVEN BIRTH TIME CAN GREATLY AFFECT THE TIMING OF TRANSITS, ESPECIALLY TO YOUR ASCENDANT (ASC) OR MIDHEAVEN (MC).

IF AFTER ALL THIS YOU STILL CANNOT FIND A TRANSIT TO FIT YOUR EXPERIENCE, THEN IT IS PROBABLY OWING TO A MORE FLEETING OR SUBTLE INFLUENCE, WHICH, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS IS NOT INCLUDED HERE.

**IMPORTANT** - IF YOURS IS AN UNKNOWN BIRTH TIME, THEN DISREGARD ALTOGETHER TRANSITS TO YOUR ASCENDANT (ASC), MIDHEAVEN (MC) AND MOON, FOR THESE WOULD ONLY BE RELIABLE IF YOU JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN BORN AROUND NOON OR THE ASSESSED TIME, THAT IS, THE TIME FOR WHICH YOUR CHART HAS BEEN DRAWN UP.

**ONE MORE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR** TO CONSIDER WHEN READING YOUR TRANSITS IS THE WAY IN WHICH VARIOUS INFLUENCES OCCURRING SIMULTANEOUSLY CAN INTENSIFY OR AMELIORATE, OFFSET OR SERVE, ONE ANOTHER. Indeed, synthesizing a number of Transits is one of the main skills of a professional astrologer; a computer program has yet to be devised that can do this successfully. However, you too may become capable of naturally blending and utilising these combined influences, just as the gardener learns to profit from intermixing his or her flowers and vegetables, according to soil and seasonal preferences, and to the nature of other flora and fauna.

Happy Star-Tracking!

LYN BIRKBECK

BARACK OBAMA

17 Aug 2011 AD Wed 13 38 47 10 00 W 21 18 N 157 51 W

**From about: 1 Aug 2011 to about: 15 Aug 2011**

*\*Saturn Sextile Sun*

*Significance:* This is a mild influence, and you probably need to apply some conscious effort in order to reap its benefits.

*Keyphrases:* Running Smoothly - Healthy Will - Steady Living - Groundwork

*Theme:* Opportunities to be practical and objective with regard to your *Sun Profile*, thereby consolidating your position.

Whatever needs stability and working upon in your life, now is the time to apply yourself to it, for at present you are more patient and disciplined than usual, and likely to synchronize your activities with those in positions of influence and authority. You can now be the 'well-oiled machine' that gets things done efficiently and on time. Any difficulties are simply taken in your stride.

*Possible Encounters:* Responsible Individuals - Helpful Elders - Recognition

**From about: 1 Aug 2011 to about: 9 Aug 2011**

*\*Jupiter Opposition Neptune*

*Significance:* This is a strong influence, and usually attracts confrontations that in turn increase your awareness of the matter concerned.

*Keyphrases:* Increased Sensitivity - Exaggerated Compassion - Questionableness

*Theme:* Forced emphasis upon your *Neptune Profile*, giving rise to a greater sense of what compassion and understanding really mean.

The possibility of contacting your ideals, and the sensitivity that goes with them, is great now. But then so is the challenge to express them, and to come to terms with any misunderstandings that have occurred because of sensitive spots in yourself and others not being properly looked at.

For this is a time when all such issues are put under the magnifying glass, and great honesty and discrimination has to be exercised in order that you may avoid being taken for a ride, feeling excessively disillusioned, or simply wasting your time and energy with misplaced sympathy. You have to make sure that your good intentions are not merely disguising your own emotional wounds.

*Possible Encounters:* False Hopes - Charlatans - Do-gooders - The Nature of the Sublime

**From about: 1 Aug 2011 to about: 6 Aug 2011**

*\*Mercury Sextile Venus*

*Keyphrases:* Loving Words - Artistic Expression - The Art of Diplomacy

You know what pleases now - be it for yourself or someone else. At the same time, you know what does not please! All this gives you a good sense of what appeals or sells, so this is an excellent time for putting together anything that you want to go down well. Art, public relations, discussion, performing, charm and amusement - these are some of the things the positive expression or experience of which are at your fingertips right now. If you wish to make known what is on your mind in an appreciable or agreeable way, do it now.

**From about: 1 Aug 2011 to about: 2 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Square Neptune*

*Keyphrases:* Highlighting Sensitivity - Idealism/Escapism - Compassion/Weaknesses

What is brought to light now is something that has been happening outside of your conscious awareness, or has been kept out of sight. Obviously this can mean any number of things, for example: finding out something that's been going on behind your back, or discovering a mysterious dimension of reality you only ever dreamt of; realising that you identify more closely with certain others and their hopes and fears, or weak spots being exposed in yourself or others. In any event, it is important that you keep a firm grip on reality, yet at the same time remain open to fact or notion that we are all mysteriously united in some way. Generally speaking, your ego is less resilient than usual, so take a back seat and watch life's picture show if you don't feel up to starring in it. Also be extra-careful with drink or drugs for highs and lows are presently very interchangeable.

**From about: 2 Aug 2011 to about: 31 Aug 2011**

*\*Uranus Sextile Moon*

*Significance:* This is a mild influence, and you probably need to apply some conscious effort in order to reap its benefits.

*Keyphrases:* Freedom from Conditioning - New Feelings - Leaving the Past Behind

*Theme:* Opportunities to make original use of your *Moon Profile* through a change of needs, habit, home, or in the way you experience family or femininity.

If you are thinking of taking a chance, now is the time to do so. It is also a time when any changes that you have set in motion begin to take effect, possibly quite suddenly. This is an excellent period for gaining a new and refreshing sense of yourself, and proclaiming a big HELLO to your future.

Your relationships with women, mother, and the female side of your life and personality generally, will now become lighter, more open and aware. Many shadows that have previously darkened your path through life may now be lifted by simply moving into the light of truth.

*Possible Encounters:* Close Friendships - Liberating People - New Horizons

**From about: 4 Aug 2011 to about: 5 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Square Neptune*

*Keyphrases:* Love's Illusions - Precarious Fantasies - Artistic Inspiration

The most romantic and ideal, but equally the most fanciful and illusory, experiences can come your way now. You are more inclined to fall in love or lust, or to be made a fool of, for that matter. A more reliable expression or use of this influence is to involve yourself, with some creative work, have a special time out with someone you have genuine love feelings for, or simply take in a good movie. A new relationship can arise under this influence - but remember that 'under the influence' can be all it amounts to unless you have at least one foot on the ground. Platonic involvements are quite likely - or they turn out to be! Be that as it may, this can promise to be a pleasurable, if rather heady, time. All of the above could equally just take place in your head. On a more mundane note, you could find just the item you were after, or thought you were! Very much a 'what's real?' type of time, so do not take anything at face value - be it exciting or depressing.

**From about: 4 Aug 2011 to about: 7 Aug 2011**

*\*Mars Conjunct Venus Hot!*

*Keyphrases:* Physical Attraction - Beauty in Action - Love / Sex Balance

You now experience a sharpening of your sense of what does, or does not, please. This is most likely to occur in the realm of personal relationships, with you feeling the need for a physical show of love. This in turn could find you attracting or being attracted to someone, or feeling frustrated at no one being available. If you have an ongoing intimate relationship, this would be a time for the erotic. In any event, you may have to find the right balance between making love and having sex, between courtship and seduction, tenderness and desire. Also at this time, any art forms that involve movement - like drama, dance, live music, etc - are favoured or intensified.

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**From about: 4 Aug 2011 to about: 6 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Conjunct Sun*

*Keyphrases:* Happy Birthday! - It's My Life and I'll Be What I Want To Be

This is your astrological birthday, which coincides, more or less, with your calendar birthday. By rights, you should feel very much yourself right now. Whatever you feel you currently are or are trying to be, finds some kind of focus, and what you do and feel now is in a subtle way the 'seed' of your year to come. So experience this time for what it is, and enjoy it for what it is, and try to invest these few days with the essence of what you are and want to be. Remember yourself, bearing in mind that whatever comes through or across during this time is a microcosm of the next twelve months.

**From about: 7 Aug 2011 to about: 8 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Conjunct Sun*

*Keyphrases:* Pleasant Living - Creative Awareness - Happy Day - Love Life Issues

You can now have the classic Venusian experience of or opportunity for love, romance, beauty, value or anything else that makes life worth living. It is also a good time to go out or get down to finding such things. On the other hand, what happens is that the level and quality of romantic or social involvement in your life is now apparent and intensified.

The effect can therefore be anything from having a really good time to feeling in need of having a good time, from looking good to feeling how uphill it is trying to look good, from experiencing love and life as sweet and fulfilling to feeling that everything is superficial and of little value.

A purchase can be just what you wanted or turn out later to be an indulgent waste of money. In the end, Venus is about finding love, beauty and value in whatever circumstances you are in, and not fretting after something that is missing or wanting. Stop wanting and start having; stop craving and start giving. And beauty is only skin-deep if that is only as far as you look!

**From about: 8 Aug 2011 to about: 12 Aug 2011**

*\*Mercury Square Midheaven*

*Keyphrases:* Bad Connections at Home or at Work

Your private life and your public life tend to get in the way of one another at this time. Try to create a balance here, and avoid feeling frustrated if nothing seems to gel or becomes unstuck, for this influence is brief as a rule.

**From about: 9 Aug 2011 to about: 31 Aug 2011**

*\*Neptune Square Midheaven*

*Significance:* This is a strong to medium influence that challenges you to develop in proportion to your relevant strengths and weaknesses.

*Keyphrases:* Refining Sense of Purpose - Undermining your Position

*Theme:* An air of deception hangs around your *Midheaven Profile*, giving rise to a temptation to use questionable means, or to come clean.

How you experience this period very much depends on how you currently see your role and standing in life. The less this has to do with meeting some kind of social or worldly need, and the more it has to do with just making a living or maintaining material status, the more likely it is that you now feel some kind of unsettling undercurrent.

On the one hand, you may feel that what you are doing in life is rather meaningless or self-serving, and from this can arise a wish to immerse yourself in some completely different pursuit that relieves or enlightens in some way.

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But if you allow your ego to get in the way, or it has not yet occurred to you that there some things in life that are more important than how others see your position in the world, then you are likely to try bluffing your way through current difficulties. This will actually do nothing to diminish your feelings of uneasiness; on the contrary it would complicate things further.

Ultimately, it would be better to be as honest and upfront about any matters that threaten to make you look a fool, for this is far more preferable to actually being one! So face the music and don't try faking it by coming on weaker or stronger than you really are. Such honesty will eventually attract a quite revelatory display of help and compassion from others.

*Possible Encounters:* Embarrassment (Great or Slight) - Defeat (Dignified or Otherwise)

**From about: 10 Aug 2011 to about: 12 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Opposition Ascendant*

*Keyphrases:* Highlighting Relationship Issues - Acceding To Others

The solar spotlight is now upon your relationships or social life in general. Quite what certain others mean and are doing in your life becomes clearer now - so, pay attention! Significant others will appear even more significant, and what or who does not matter will be obvious, or it should be. Alternatively, or additionally, someone important could now enter your life, especially if there are other more longstanding influences occurring, which indicate such an encounter.

**From about: 11 Aug 2011 to about: 13 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Opposition Ascendant*

*Keyphrases:* Love In The Air - Attractive Presentation - Social Pleasures

You have a friendly, attractive aura now. So whatever it is you wish to attract, win over or simply make feel good, now is the time! You may well externalise this effect by having someone attractive come your way. Venus being Venus however, there is no guarantee as to whether such an encounter is the real thing or just a tease. It all depends what you yourself are prone to right now. Make sure you are aware of your own worth and talent now, and not lose yourself in someone else's apparent charms.

**From about: 12 Aug 2011 to about: 15 Aug 2011**

*\*Mars Sextile Pluto*

*Keyphrases:* Initiating Profound Changes - A Healthy Sense of Power

Whatever you feel strongly about in a far-reaching way, can be successfully set in motion now. You may not see the results of this straightaway, but you would sense a sort of 'point of destiny' as you did so. Even in you are not aware of any such burning issue, this is a time when you should feel a certain power in the air. This could take the form of being in the presence of a powerful personality, or a waterfall, or some other impressive phenomenon. In any event, you presently have the ability to impress or be impressed.

**From about: 14 Aug 2011 to about: 16 Aug 2011**

*\*Mercury Conjunct Uranus*

*Keyphrases:* Synchronicity - Being In The Know - Unusual Connections

Whatever is new or unusual now catches your interest. Then again it might be a disruptive element that intrudes upon your working and thinking. In any event, some new method or style is available or necessary. If you are in tune and in time with any necessary changes, then as if by magic, the right person, thing or opportunity appears on your scene. If you are of a nervous disposition, you could feel more jumpy than usual. If this is the case, do some deep breathing or chill out in some way that you know works for you. Your mind is speeded up now, and can be very alive to ideas and inventions. A great deal depends upon how procedure driven or free-spirited you are. The former 'will' attracts disruption, the latter attracts innovation. Another interesting aspect of this influence is that you

either find yourself stuck for words, losing your thread while speaking, or, you can be very intuitive and outspoken. Then again, you may find yourself speaking out of turn, or saying something inappropriate. Everything depends on how informed you are regarding a given subject. Machines, especially computers, could play up now.

**From about: 15 Aug 2011 to about: 18 Aug 2011**

*\*Mars Trine Neptune*

*Keyphrases:* Acting Selflessly - Relaxed Inactivity

This influence can be almost unnoticeable because it is kind of self-cancelling. In other words, the desire to act, and to do nothing coincide. So deliberately doing nothing in the form of relaxing or withdrawing to contemplate what you and it are all about is recommended. Also favoured is doing something that helps others to achieve ends that have little to do with your own. In fact, anything that your ego would normally get in the way of may now be healthily embarked upon.

**From about: 17 Aug 2011 to about: 19 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Conjunction Uranus*

*Keyphrases:* The Electricity Of Love - Unusual Attractions - Unexpected Pleasure

Whatever is out of the ordinary regarding sexual, social, creative or romantic involvements can appear out of the blue now. By the very nature of this influence it is hard to say what will happen. For the same reason it is best not to put too much store by whatever does, because it will most probably be a flash-in-the-pan kind of occurrence. Experimental, shocking or odd - whatever happens now can be anything from extremely exciting to somehow detached - or both even. This influence can trigger the start of an exciting relationship, but it does not predict what way it will go, for the only assurances as far as Uranus is concerned is that you can expect the unexpected, be ready to be woken up to something new. Significant coincidences can happen now, trying to tell you something about how love and life tick. Sudden attractions and/or breaks in relationship can occur also.

**From about: 17 Aug 2011 to about: 19 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Conjunction Uranus*

*Keyphrases:* Highlighting Uniqueness and Individuality - Expect the Unexpected

How you experience this influence has everything to do with how in touch you are with what is special about life in general and yourself in particular. If you have allowed your life to become too routine and predictable than something or someone could appear on the scene to give you a shock or a jolt, or at least remind you that the world is a wild and extraordinary place. Alternatively, you could be the one to shock others by revealing what is rebellious or highly original about you. Why not make this a date with the unexpected by doing something you'd never normally do? Then with the element of surprise on your side, there is no telling what new ideas or vistas could open up in front of you.

**From about: 20 Aug 2011 to about: 22 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Square Midheaven*

*Keyphrases:* Home/Work Conflicts - Spread A Little Happiness

Love and social life is now inclined to get in the way of your professional or domestic concerns. A case of business and pleasure not mixing, you could say. This could just be a passing thing, or then again it could be something more weighty and important, making itself felt. Being diplomatic and as pleasant as possible to whoever you have dealings with is the best course now.

**From about: 21 Aug 2011 to about: 23 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Square Midheaven*

*Keyphrases:* Private Life/Public Life Balance - Parental Conflicts

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Try and meet both personal and business obligations equally, even though everything will be coming at you from all sides. This only lasts a few days, so don't overreact to difficulties and thereby make things as bad as they momentarily appear to be.

**From about: 22 Aug 2011 to about: 24 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Sextile Venus*

*Keyphrases:* Pleasure Plus - Love Life Enhanced - Spending Sprees - Generosity

Pleasure and harmony are the hallmarks of this time, but so too is indulgence, so watch your pocket and appetite! Be that as it may, Venus says that at times you just must enjoy yourself and not count the cost. The value of having a good time is priceless, and this influence has that very potential. Your love life can also receive a boost now, be it the start of something big, a rekindled romance, or simply an enjoyable evening or two with ones or ones that matter to you.

**From about: 24 Aug 2011 to about: 25 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Square Moon*

*Keyphrases:* Emotional Discomfort - Discord with/between Females - Let It Be

This need not necessarily be a difficult time - it can in fact turn out to be quite pleasurable. However, there is an inclination for social and domestic needs to get in the way of one another. This can also include disharmony on the home front, conflict between mother and lover, or being too accommodating and having to pay the price. Inherent in all this though, is a need for peace, so that upsets are usually righted quite soon afterwards. Feelings and values may clash, but the requirements of security and harmony eventually hold sway.

**From about: 24 Aug 2011 to about: 26 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Sextile Venus*

*Keyphrases:* Being In Tune - Social Harmony - Making The Peace

Things are well-starred socially right now, and if there is a love interest, then you can be fairly sure that if things are going to go your way at all, they will do so now. Making amends, launching any social event, being artistically creative or entertained - these are all liable to go with a swing at this time.

**From about: 24 Aug 2011 to about: 29 Aug 2011**

*\*Mercury Opposition Ascendant*

*Keyphrases:* Intellectual Encounters - Counselling - Criticism from Others

You now receive mental or verbal feedback concerning the way you come across, getting to know what others make of you - be it good or bad. You could come across someone or something that is very stimulating intellectually. If you want a reliable soundboard, now is the time to find one - but make sure you listen.

**From about: 26 Aug 2011 to about: 28 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Square Moon*

*Keyphrases:* Feeling Split - Emotional Conflict - Negotiating Difficulties

You could find yourself in two minds about a certain issue. Such could in turn give rise to discontent and conflict of purpose. You may find yourself in disputes with family members, or feeling generally at odds with the world around you. Succumbing to negative feelings would however be missing the point as this influence offers you the opportunity to see the emotional score, to be less subjective, read the writing on the wall and obey what it says. You can sort out problems as long as you are emotionally honest enough to accept what is your responsibility and what is someone else's - for this is now being made clear.

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**From about: 27 Aug 2011 to about: 28 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Conjunct Pluto*

*Keyphrases:* Deep or Obsessive Love - Powerful Attraction - Sexual Pleasure

You find you feel deeply for someone or something, or that you want to, or that you cannot get someone or something out of your system. In any event, you are experiencing the depth and power of love or attraction - and what you do with it is down to your deepest values. Such a feeling can actually materialise as someone who you feel strongly drawn to. It may or may not be mutual, it all depends upon that deeper state of your emotional being - is it attracting or repelling.

There is this 'Beauty and the Beast' quality to this influence, in that you could experience one of both of these extremes, with someone else on the other end, so to speak. The gulf between what is regarded as appealing and presentable as against what usually has to hide its face, feel anti-social, is a possibility now.

The trick is to go deep but not too deep, to appreciate face values, but not regard them as the entire picture. Be on guard against being manipulated - value yourself above all else - or of manipulating someone yourself, for you would only entrench yourself or get more than you bargained for. Possessiveness and jealousy can rear their heads now, which has something to do with being more in touch what does and does not constitute genuine love.

**From about: 28 Aug 2011 to about: 30 Aug 2011**

*\*Venus Sextile Neptune*

*Keyphrases:* Love Dreams - Pleasing Fantasies - Artistic Inspiration

Any feelings or ideas regarding love, sex, music or art - or social life generally - are now nicely attuned to your ideals and visions of a better life. None of this is particularly dynamic, but this gentle, almost 'hippie' type, influence can be very enjoyable. This is a good time to put aside for any pursuit or pastime that comes into these categories.

**From about: 30 Aug 2011 to about: 31 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Conjunct Pluto*

*Keyphrases:* Experiencing Power: Degeneration or Regeneration

The underlying fact of life that everything is born, evolves, decays, dies and is born again, now enters your consciousness - in some way, great or small. The opportunity to tune into this cycle of birth and rebirth is well worth taking up, because it gives you a glimpse of the fact that you are a vital part of this cycle. As such, you may sense what is profound and powerful in you and your life, or what is wasteful and degenerate - but you will probably have to peer or delve some way beneath surface appearances in order to do so. You may also encounter manipulators of this power - be they benign or malignant. It could well become necessary for you to let go of decadent elements, and strive towards regenerative ones.

**From about: 31 Aug 2011 to about: 31 Aug 2011**

*\*Sun Sextile Neptune*

*Keyphrases:* Going With The Flow - Attuned To Spirit - Creativity and Entertainment

This is a fine subtle influence, which you could miss unless you are alive to the unseen, mystical or imaginative elements of life and your personality. Any kind of creative or spiritual pursuit - either active or passive - is well starred under this planetary effect. You are more attuned to subtle and emotional vibrations than usual, and possibly sense that struggling with issues only prolongs or complicates them. An enjoyable time listening or playing music, communing with Nature, or any activity involving the sea, is some of the possibilities right now.

## Postscript

General ways of making good use of your Year or Month Guides

1. Quite apart from the actual Radix Planet(s) being transited at any given time, a predominant influence upon your life by a particular transiting Planet may be interpreted accordingly:

*Pluto Transits* - These are, or should be, life changing in a profound way. Pluto's influences are those of intensification, upheaval, elimination (of what is outworn), probing and deepening, purging, obsessing or concentrating, and are empowering or dis-empowering.

The best way to respond to Pluto is therefore through letting go of what or who you no longer need or is no longer there; getting more in touch with your deeper urges, feelings and fears; recognizing what or who is powerful in your life; and making the distinction between a positive expression of power and a negative one.

A Plutonian period in your life can be likened to a journey down and through, or an encounter with, the Underworld - that is, your deep subconscious mind. A Pluto Transit to one Radix Planet lasts around two to three years overall.

*Neptune Transits* - These are, or should be, life-changing in a subtle way. Neptune's influences are those of sensitisation, softening, mystification, fascination, temptation, inspiration, compassion, delusion, addiction, irritation, and are enlightening or undermining.

While very much under its influence - for Neptune is like a drug or gas, literally or metaphorically - you are advised to let things take their course without struggling or resisting too much, go with the flow, but at the same time avoid giving in to your weaknesses. Any pursuit that relieves, enlightens or entertains is a positive way of channelling

Neptune's influence - like healing, music, painting, writing, dancing, acting, any activities involving water, or that transcend the ego, like meditation, yoga, mysticism, etc. Most of all, an attitude of acceptance is appropriate.

A Neptunian period in your life can be likened to a voyage across or beneath, or an encounter with, the sea, attuning you to personal undercurrents or collective moods. A Neptune Transit to one Radix Planet lasts around two years overall.

*Uranus Transits* - These are, or should be, life changing in an unexpected way. Uranian influences are therefore those of revolution, rebellion, liberation, innovation, suddenness, explosiveness, originality, accident, co-incidence, and are awakening or disrupting and out of the ordinary.

The ideal way of responding to Uranus is with open-mindedness, a sense of experimentation, a willingness to look at things with alternative means that may well surprise or shock others, and by appreciating that you are receiving a message or an instruction from your unconscious, even though you might be unaware that such a thing could happen!

In effect then, Uranus is loosening up your idea of reality in order that you may adopt a more scientific, technological or esoteric overview of life processes. So a Uranian period in your life can be likened to flying or seeing the world from a higher vantage point. A Uranus Transit to one Radix Planet lasts around a year to eighteen months in all.

*Saturn Transits* - These are life stabilizing or life-testing in some way. Saturnian influences are therefore materially supportive or restrictive, consolidating or separative, firm or heavy, authoritative or oppressive, and are generally in aid of getting you organized and of making you aware of the status quo.

So it is advisable to meet Saturn with a sense of practicality, preparedness, matter-of-factness, a willingness to confront issues, and through using time as your instrument rather than being ruled by it. Saturn is about objectivity - which means to say that seeing things for what they are, and establishing and achieving your objectives, can and must be attended to, or begun to be so, under its influence.

A Saturnian period in your life is, or is like, an encounter with a figure of authority - and whether this is helpful or hindering, it is still in aid of your getting yourself together. A Saturn Transit to one Radix Planet lasts about a year overall.

*Jupiter Transits* - These are life-expanding or life-overdoing in some way. Jupiter's influences are therefore growth inducing or excessive, faith-inspiring or promising/expecting more than can be delivered, magnifying or exaggerating, and are generally in aid of showing you the bigger picture and how you fit into it, and how you can make more of yourself and life.

It is a good idea to meet Jupiter with a sense of enterprise, optimism and goodwill that is tempered with a sense of modesty and reality, and to keep an intuitive eye out for signs of where you are supposed to go next - for they will be there; and to cultivate enthusiasm for the overall feel of how things are developing, rather than attempting to prove logically or account for everything item by item.

A Jupiterian period in your life can be likened to having a sense, literally or symbolically, of being on life's highway, with the journeys, adventures, opportunities and destinations that this can lead to, and with the possible realisation that all is in aid of some sort of divine plan. A Jupiter Transit to one Radix Planet can be relatively fleeting or last overall for up to one year.

### Month Guides Only:

*Mars Transits* - These are highly significant, especially when Conjoining, Squaring or Opposing a Radix Planet, because they can trigger the bigger, longer Transits described above, or they fire you up for good or ill. It has to be said that 'for ill' usually means losing one's temper, or someone losing theirs with you or near you. And so knowing your Mars Transits is vital if you wish to avoid or minimise conflagrations. This can also be crucial with regard to driving or sports, for you may be vulnerable to accident and injury during one of them

Mars Transits normally only last two to five days, but sometimes when the Planet goes 'stationary', or it transits a number of Radix planets in quick succession, you can have that hair-trigger energy around for up to a month. It cannot be emphasised enough how much knowing your Mars Transits can help you to prevent upsets and regrets, while enabling you to use that energy wisely and productively.

*Venus Transits* - These are mild and usually pleasant, creating harmony and ease. There can be an inclination to indulgence or indolence though! Venus Transits are fleeting unless the planet has gone 'stationary' when one will last up to ten days or so.

*Mercury transits* - These are not that dynamic, but can cause you to feel mentally sharper or more on edge - depending on the type of aspect and your own temperament. Mercury Transits are similar to Venus in duration.

*Sun transits* - These 'high-light' the quality of the planet in your chart that is being transited. The Transiting Sun is indicative of the prevailing life circumstances around you. It indicates whether or not this general current of events is in or out of harmony with you. Sun Transits always last two or three days.

2. Last but by no means least, you need at all times to be aware of the possibility of **Psychological Protection**. This is probably the most commonly confusing trait of human nature, for it is our inclination to live out unconsciously parts of ourselves through others - because we cannot accept them as coming from ourselves, as they seem either too bad or too good to be true.

So in this way, any Transit can manifest its influences in the life, character, dilemma, or creative expression of one person or many people apparently distinct from yourself - but not really. **Introjection**, or the taking back of one's projections is the major key to both self-awareness and the future of Humanity. So watch and wonder, perceive and ponder - and admit it.

**'Transcan'**

'Transcan' allows you to discover for yourself how any particular transit (in Year Guides only) relates to you very personally. For example, supposing you had Uranus Transiting your Mercury, then you would interpret this by linking the Uranus Keywords on the Left with the Mercury Keywords on the Right.

So for instance, you could be experiencing something that was Awakening your Perception of life but which also had a Disrupting effect upon the way you Work. Be imaginative and experimental with 'Transcan' and you'll tap into the dynamics of your life. Note: Words in "quotes" are recommended general responses to those transits.

**Transiting Planets:**

*Pluto's* influence when positive is *Regenerating*, when negative it is *Degenerating*. Key Response "Let Go".

*Neptune's* influence when positive is *Sensitising*, when negative it is *Undermining*. Key Response "Let It Be".

*Uranus's* influence when positive is *Awakening*, when negative it is *Disrupting*. Key Response "Loosen Up".

*Saturn's* influence when positive is *Stabilising*, when negative it is *Testing*. Key Response "Learn".

*Jupiter's* influence when positive is *Developing*, when negative it is *Exaggerating*. Key Response "Launch".

*Chiron's* influence when positive is *Healing*, when negative (but not really) it is *Revealing Wound (concerning Radix Planet being transited)*.

**Radix Planets:**

*Sun* being influenced affects *Life in General, Vitality, Will, Creativity*.

*Moon* being influenced affects *Feelings, Emotional Security, Care*.

*Mercury* being influenced affects *Perception, Reason, Communication, Work, Study*.

*Venus* being influenced affects *Love-Life, Art, Values, Pleasures, Money*.

*Mars* being influenced affects *Energy, Anger/Danger, Self-Assertion, Sex-Life*.

*Jupiter* being influenced affects *Plans, Morals, Beliefs, Opportunity, Enthusiasm*.

*Saturn* being influenced affects *Life-Order, Status, Material Security, Responsibility*.

*Uranus* being influenced affects *Freedom, Originality, Technology, Alternatives*.

*Neptune* being influenced affects *Sensitivity, Imagination, Illusion, Ideals*.

*Pluto* being influenced affects *Insight, Power, Obsessions, Destiny, Endings*.

*Ascendant* being influenced affects *Persona, Outlook, Relationships*.

*Midheaven* being influenced affects *Worldly Position - Home/Family Life*.

*Chiron* being influenced affects *Wounded part of self that also contains Key to Healing that Wound*.

*Discovering a clear direction in life*

From reading your *Year or Month Guide*, I hope that you have been able to make the most out of any advantages and opportunities, and to learn and profit from any lessons or challenges that your planetary transits have presented you with along your life track.

Most of all, I would like to think that you have been able to sense that there is something about you and within you that is trying to get you or keep you on course with your true direction - often in spite of where you think you want to go!

The way I see it is this: Humanity has lost its way somewhat, and it is only through each one of us as individuals finding our way back to our true path that we as a species will do so as well.

There really is a rhyme and a reason to life - yours and mine. But I believe we have to look at life from a different perspective in order to perceive this. Astrology can provide you with this new perspective.

*Lyn Birkbeck.*

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