
2016
SUN SIGN
BOOK



Forecasts by
Kim Rogers-Gallagher

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Meet Kim Rogers-Gallagher

Kim fell in love with astrology in grade school and began her formal education close to thirty years ago. She's written hundreds of articles and columns for magazines and online publications, contributed to several astrological anthologies, and has two books of her own to her credit, *Astrology for the Light Side of the Brain* and *Astrology for the Light Side of the Future*, both available from ACS/Starcrafts Publishing. Kim is the author of daily e-mail horoscopes for astrology.com, and her work appears in the introductory sections of *Llewellyn's Astrology Calendar*, *Llewellyn's Witches' Datebook*, and *Llewellyn's Witches' Calendar*.

At the moment, Kim is having great fun on her Facebook page, facebook.com/KRGFenix, where she turns daily transits into fun celestial adventures. She's a well-known speaker who's been part of the UAC (United Astrology Conference) faculty since 1996 and has lectured at many other international conferences.

An avid animal lover, Kim occasionally receives permission from her seriously spoiled fur-kids (and her computer) to leave home for a while and indulge her ninth-house Sagittarius Sun by traveling for "work"—that is, talking to groups about astrology (which really isn't work at all). In typical Sagittarius style, Kim loves to laugh, but she also loves to chat, which comes in handy when she does private phone consultations.

She is a twenty-year "citizen" of Pennsic, an annual medieval event, where she gets to dress up in funny clothes, live in a tent, and pretend she's back in the 1300s for two weeks every year—which, oddly enough, is her idea of a good time.

Kim can be contacted at KRGPhoenix313@yahoo.com for fees regarding readings, classes, and lectures.

New Concepts for Zodiac Signs

The signs of the zodiac represent characteristics and traits that indicate how energy operates within our lives. The signs tell the story of human evolution and development, and all are necessary to form the continuum of whole-life experience. In fact, all twelve signs are represented within your astrological chart.

Although the traditional metaphors for the twelve signs (such as Aries, the Ram) are always functional, these alternative concepts for each of the twelve signs also describe the gradual unfolding of the human spirit.

Aries: The Initiator is the first sign of the zodiac and encompasses the primary concept of getting things started. This fiery ignition and bright beginning can prove to be the thrust necessary for new life, but the Initiator also can appear before a situation is ready for change and create disruption.

Taurus: The Maintainer sustains what Aries has begun and brings stability and focus into the picture, yet there also can be a tendency to try to maintain something in its current state without allowing for new growth.

Gemini: The Questioner seeks to determine whether alternatives are possible and offers diversity to the processes Taurus has brought into stability. Yet questioning can also lead to distraction and subsequently scattering energy and diffusing focus.

Cancer: The Nurturer provides the qualities necessary for growth and security, and encourages deepening awareness of emotional needs. Yet this same nurturing can stifle individuation if it becomes too smothering.

Leo: The Loyalist directs and centralizes the experiences Cancer feeds. This quality is powerfully targeted toward self-awareness, but can be shortsighted. Hence, the Loyalist can hold steadfastly to viewpoints or feelings that inhibit new experiences.

Virgo: The Modifier analyzes the situations Leo brings to light and determines possibilities for change. Even though this change may be in the name of improvement, it can lead to dissatisfaction with the self if not directed in harmony with higher needs.

Libra: The Judge is constantly comparing everything to be sure that a certain level of rightness and perfection is presented. However, the Judge can also present possibilities that are harsh and seem to be cold or without feeling.

Scorpio: The Catalyst steps into the play of life to provide the quality of alchemical transformation. The Catalyst can stir the brew just enough to create a healing potion, or may get things going to such a powerful extent that they boil out of control.

Sagittarius: The Adventurer moves away from Scorpio's dimension to seek what lies beyond the horizon. The Adventurer continually looks for possibilities that answer the ultimate questions, but may forget the pathway back home.

Capricorn: The Pragmatist attempts to put everything into its rightful place and find ways to make life work out right. The Pragmatist can teach lessons of practicality and determination, but can become highly self-righteous when shortsighted.

Aquarius: The Reformer looks for ways to take what Capricorn has built and bring it up to date. Yet there is also a tendency to scrap the original in favor of a new plan that may not have the stable foundation necessary to operate effectively.

Pisces: The Visionary brings mysticism and imagination, and challenges the soul to move beyond the

physical plane, into the realm of what might be. The Visionary can pierce the veil, returning enlightened to the physical world. The challenge is to avoid getting lost within the illusion of an alternate reality.

Astrology Basics

Astrology is an ancient and continually evolving system used to clarify your identity and your needs. An astrological chart—which is calculated using the date, time, and place of birth—contains many factors that symbolically represent the needs, expressions, and experiences that make up the whole person. A professional astrologer interprets this symbolic picture, offering you an accurate portrait of your personality.

The chart itself—the horoscope—is a portrait of an individual. Generally, a natal (or birth) horoscope is drawn on a circular wheel. The wheel is divided into twelve segments, called houses. Each of the twelve houses represents a different aspect of the individual, much like the facets of a brilliantly cut stone. The houses depict different environments, such as home, school, and work. The houses also represent roles and relationships: parents, friends, lovers, children, partners. In each environment, individuals show a different side of their personality. At home, you may represent yourself quite differently than you do on the job. Additionally, in each relationship you will project a different image of yourself. For example, your parents may rarely see the side you show to intimate friends.

Symbols for the planets, the Sun, and the Moon are drawn inside the houses. Each planet represents a separate kind of energy. You experience and express each energy in specific ways. The way you use each of these energies is up to you. The planets in your chart do not make you do anything!

Signs of the Zodiac

The twelve signs of the zodiac indicate characteristics and traits that further define your personality. Each sign can be expressed in positive and negative ways. What's more, you have all twelve signs somewhere in your chart. Signs that are strongly emphasized by the planets have greater force. The Sun, Moon, and planets are placed on the chart according to their position at the time of birth. The qualities of a sign, combined with the energy of a planet, indicate how you might be most likely to use that energy and the best ways to develop that energy. The signs add color, emphasis, and dimension to the personality.

The Twelve Signs

Aries	♈	The Initiator
Taurus	♉	The Maintainer
Gemini	♊	The Questioner
Cancer	♋	The Nurturer
Leo	♌	The Loyalist
Virgo	♍	The Modifier
Libra	♎	The Judge
Scorpio	♏	The Catalyst
Sagittarius	♐	The Adventurer
Capricorn	♑	The Pragmatist
Aquarius	♒	The Reformer
Pisces	♓	The Visionary

Signs are also placed at the cusps, or dividing lines, of each of the houses. The influence of the sign on the houses is much the same as their influence on the Sun, Moon, and planets. Each house is shaped by the sign on its cusp.

When you view a horoscope, you will notice that there appear to be four distinct angles dividing the wheel of the chart. The line that divides the chart into a top and bottom half represents the horizon. In most cases, the left side of the horizon is called the Ascendant. The zodiac sign on the Ascendant is your rising sign. The Ascendant indicates the way others are likely to view you.

The Sun, Moon, or a planet can be compared to an actor in a play. The sign shows how the energy works, like the role the actor plays in a drama. The house indicates where the energy operates, like the setting of a play. On a psychological level, the Sun represents who you think you are. The Ascendant describes who others think you are, and the Moon reflects your emotional self.

Astrologers also study the geometric relationships between the Sun, Moon, and planets. These geometric angles are called aspects. Aspects further define the strengths, weaknesses, and challenges within your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual selves. Sometimes patterns also appear in an astrological chart. These patterns have meaning.

To understand cycles for any given point in time, astrologers study several factors. Many use transits, which refer to the movement and positions of the planets. When astrologers compare those positions to the birth horoscope, the transits indicate activity in particular areas of the chart. The *Sign Book* uses transits.

As you can see, your Sun sign is just one of many factors that describe who you are—but it is a powerful one! As the symbol of the ego, the Sun in your chart reflects your drive to be noticed. Most people can easily relate to the concepts associated with their Sun sign, since it is tied to their sense of personal identity.

Meanings of the Planets

The Sun

The Sun indicates the psychological bias that will dominate your actions. What you see, and why, is told in the reading for your Sun. The Sun also shows the basic energy patterns of your body and psyche. In many ways, the Sun is the dominant force in your horoscope and your life. Other influences, especially that of the Moon, may modify the Sun's influence, but nothing will cause you to depart very far from the basic solar pattern. Always keep in mind the basic influence of the Sun and remember all other influences must be interpreted in terms of it, especially insofar as they play a visible role in your life. You may think, dream, imagine, and hope a thousand things, according to your Moon and your other planets, but the Sun is what you are. To be your best self in terms of your Sun is to cause your energies to work along the path in which they will have maximum help from planetary vibrations.

The Moon

The Moon tells the desire of your life. When you know what you mean but can't verbalize it, it is your Moon that knows it and your Sun that can't say it. The wordless ecstasy, the mute sorrow, the secret dream, the esoteric picture of yourself that you can't get across to the world, or that the world doesn't comprehend or value—these are the products of the Moon. When you are misunderstood, it is your Moon nature, expressed imperfectly through the Sun sign, that feels betrayed. Things you know without thought—intuitions, hunches, instincts—are the products of the Moon. Modes of expression that you feel truly reflect your deepest self belong to the Moon: art, letters, creative work of any kind, sometimes love; sometimes business. Whatever you feel to be most deeply yourself is the product of your Moon and of the sign your Moon occupies at birth.

Mercury

Mercury is the sensory antenna of your horoscope. Its position by sign indicates your reactions to sights, sounds, odors, tastes, and touch impressions, affording a key to the attitude you have toward the physical world around you. Mercury is the messenger through which your physical body and brain (ruled by the Sun) and your inner nature (ruled by the Moon) are kept in contact with the outer world which will appear to you according to the index of Mercury's position by sign in the horoscope. Mercury rules your rational mind.

Venus

Venus is the emotional antenna of your horoscope. Through Venus, impressions come to you from the outer world. The position of Venus by sign at the time of your birth determines your attitude toward these experiences. As Mercury is the messenger linking sense impressions (sight, smell, etc.) to the basic nature of your Sun and Moon, so Venus is the messenger linking emotional impressions. Venus is found in the same sign as the Sun, emotions gain importance in your life and have a direct bearing on your actions. If Venus is in the same sign as the Moon, emotions bear directly on your inner nature, add self-confidence, make you sensitive to emotional impressions, and frequently indicate that you have more love in your heart than you are able to express. If Venus is in the same sign as Mercury, emotional impressions and sense impressions work together; you tend to idealize the world of the senses and sensualize the world of the emotions to interpret what you see and hear.

Mars

Mars is the energy principle in the horoscope. Its position indicates the channels into which energy will most easily be directed. It is the planet through which the activities of the Sun and the desires of the Moon express themselves in action. In the same sign as the Sun, Mars gives abundant energy, sometimes misdirected in temper, temperament, and quarrels. In the same sign as the Moon, it gives great capacity to make use of the innermost aims, and to make the inner desires articulate and

practical. In the same sign as Venus, it quickens emotional reactions and causes you to act on them. It makes for ardor and passion in love, and fosters an earthly awareness of emotional realities.

Jupiter

Jupiter is the feeler for opportunity that you have out in the world. It passes along chances of a lifetime for consideration according to the basic nature of your Sun and Moon. Jupiter's sign position indicates the places you will look for opportunity, the uses to which you wish to put it, and the capacity you have to react and profit by it. Jupiter is ordinarily and erroneously called the planet of luck. It is "luck" insofar as it is the index of opportunity, but your luck depends less on what comes to you than on what you do with what comes to you. In the same sign as the Sun or Moon, Jupiter gives a direct and generally effective response to opportunity and is likely to show forth at its "luckiest." If Jupiter is in the same sign as Mercury, sense impressions are interpreted opportunistically. If Jupiter is in the same sign as Venus, you interpret emotions in such a way as to turn them to your advantage; your feelings work harmoniously with the chances for progress that the world has to offer. If Jupiter is in the same sign as Mars, you follow opportunity with energy, dash, enthusiasm, and courage; take big chances; and play your cards wide open.

Saturn

Saturn indicates the direction that will be taken in life by the self-preserving principle that, in its highest manifestation, ceases to be purely defensive and becomes ambitious and aspiring. Your attitude of defense or attack against the world is shown by the sign position of Saturn in the horoscope of birth. If Saturn is in the same sign as the Sun or Moon, defense predominates, and there is danger of introversion. The farther Saturn is from the Sun, Moon, and Ascendant, the better for objectivity and extroversion. If Saturn is in the same sign as Mercury, there is a profound and serious reaction to sensory impressions; this position generally accompanies a deep and efficient mind. If Saturn is in the same sign as Venus, a defensive attitude toward emotional experience makes for apparent coolness in love and difficulty with the emotions and human relations. If Saturn is in the same sign as Mars, confusion between defensive and aggressive urges can make a person indecisive. On the other hand, if the Sun and Moon are strong and the total personality well developed, a balanced, peaceful, and calm individual of sober judgment and moderate actions may be indicated. If Saturn is in the same sign as Jupiter, the reaction to opportunity is sober and balanced.

Uranus

Uranus in a general way relates to creativity, originality, or individuality, and its position by sign in the horoscope tells the direction in which you will seek to express yourself. In the same sign as Mercury or the Moon, Uranus suggests acute awareness, a quick reaction to sense impressions and experiences, or a hair-trigger mind. In the same sign as the Sun, it points to great nervous activity, a high-strung nature, and an original, creative, or eccentric personality. In the same sign as Mars, Uranus indicates high-speed activity, love of swift motion, and perhaps love of danger. In the same sign as Venus, it suggests an unusual reaction to emotional experience, idealism, sensuality, and original ideas about love and human relations. In the same sign as Saturn, Uranus points to good sense; this can be a practical, creative position, but more often than not it sets up a destructive conflict between practicality and originality that can result in a stalemate. In the same sign as Jupiter, Uranus makes opportunity, creates wealth and the means of getting it, and is conducive to the inventive, executive, and daring.

Neptune

Neptune relates to the deep subconscious, inherited mentality, and spirituality, indicating what you

take for granted in life. Neptune in the same sign as the Sun or Moon indicates that intuitions and hunches—or delusions—dominate; there is a need to rigidly hold to reality. In the same sign as Mercury, Neptune indicates sharp sensory perceptions, a sensitive and perhaps creative mind, and a quivering intensity of reaction to sensory experience. In the same sign as Venus, it reveals idealistic and romantic (or sentimental) reactions to emotional experience, as well as the danger of sensationalism and a love of strange pleasures. In the same sign as Mars, Neptune indicates energy and intuition that work together to make mastery of life—one of the signs of having angels (or devils) on your side. When in the same sign as Jupiter, Neptune describes an intuitive response to opportunity along practical and money-making lines. In the same sign as Saturn, Neptune indicates intuitive defense and attack on the world, which is generally successful unless Saturn is polarized on the negative side; then there is danger of unhappiness.

Pluto

Pluto is a planet of extremes, from the lowest criminal and violent level of our society to the heights people can attain when they realize their significance in the collectivity of humanity. Pluto also rules three important mysteries of life—sex, death, and rebirth—and links them to each other. One level of death symbolized by Pluto is the physical death of an individual, which occurs so that a person can be reborn into another body to further his or her spiritual development. On another level, individuals can experience a “death” of their old self when they realize the deeper significance of life; thus they become one of the “second born.” In a natal horoscope, Pluto signifies our perspective on the world, our conscious and subconscious. Since so many of Pluto’s qualities are centered on the deep mysteries of life, the house position of Pluto, and aspects to it, can show you how to attain a deep understanding of the importance of the spiritual in your life.

The Planets

Sun	☉	The ego, self, willpower
Moon	☾	The subconscious self, habits
Mercury	☿	Communication, the intellect
Venus	♀	Emotional expression, love, appreciation, artistry
Mars	♂	Physical drive, assertiveness, anger
Jupiter	♃	Philosophy, ethics, generosity
Saturn	♄	Discipline, focus, responsibility
Uranus	♅	Individuality, rebelliousness
Neptune	♆	Imagination, sensitivity, compassion
Pluto	♇	Transformation, healing, regeneration

Astrological Glossary

Air: One of the four basic elements. The air signs are Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius.

Angles: The four points of the chart that divide it into quadrants. The angles are sensitive areas that lend emphasis to planets located near them. These points are located on the cusps of the first, fourth, seventh, and tenth houses in a chart.

Ascendant: Rising sign. The degree of the zodiac on the eastern horizon at the time and place for which the horoscope is calculated. It can indicate the image or physical appearance you project to the world. The cusp of the first house.

Aspect: The angular relationship between planets, sensitive points, or house cusps in a horoscope. Lines drawn between the two points and the center of the chart, representing the earth, form the angle of the aspect. Astrological aspects include the conjunction (two points that are 0 degrees apart), opposition (two points, 180 degrees apart), square (two points, 90 degrees apart), sextile (two points, 60 degrees apart), and trine (two points, 120 degrees apart). Aspects can indicate harmony or challenge.

Cardinal Sign: One of the three qualities, or categories, that describe how a sign expresses itself. Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn are the cardinal signs, believed to initiate activity.

Chiron: Chiron is a comet traveling in orbit between Saturn and Uranus. It is believed to represent a key or doorway, healing, ecology, and a bridge between traditional and modern methods.

Conjunction: An aspect or angle between two points in a chart where the two points are close enough so that the energies join. Can be considered either harmonious or challenging, depending on the planets involved and their placement.

Cusp: A dividing line between signs or houses in a chart.

Degree: Degree of arc. One of 360 divisions of a circle. The circle of the zodiac is divided into twelve astrological signs of 30 degrees each. Each degree is made up of 60 minutes, and each minute is made up of 60 seconds of zodiacal longitude.

Earth: One of the four basic elements. The earth signs are Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn.

Eclipse: A Solar Eclipse is the full or partial covering of the Sun by the Moon (as viewed from the earth), and a Lunar Eclipse is the full or partial covering of the Moon by the earth's own shadow.

Ecliptic: The Sun's apparent path around the earth, which is actually the plane of the earth's orbit extended out into space. The ecliptic forms the center of the zodiac.

Electional Astrology: A branch of astrology concerned with choosing the best time to initiate an activity.

Elements: The signs of the zodiac are divided into four groups of three zodiacal signs, each symbolized by one of the four elements of the ancients: fire, earth, air, and water. The element of a sign is said to express its essential nature.

Ephemeris: A listing of the Sun, Moon, and planets' positions and related information for astrological purposes.

Equinox: Equal night. The point in the earth's orbit around the Sun at which the day and night are equal in length.

Feminine Signs: Each zodiac sign is either "masculine" or "feminine." Earth signs (Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn) and water signs (Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces) are feminine.

Fire: One of the four basic elements. The fire signs are Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius.

Fixed Signs: Fixed is one of the three qualities, or categories, that describe how a sign expresses itself. The fixed signs are Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius. Fixed signs are said to be predisposed to existing patterns and somewhat resistant to change.

Hard Aspects: Hard aspects are those aspects in a chart that astrologers believe to represent difficulties or challenges. Among the hard aspects are the square, the opposition, and the conjunction (depending on which planets are conjunct).

Horizon: The word *horizon* is used in astrology in a manner similar to its common usage, except that only the eastern and western horizons are considered useful. The eastern horizon at the point of birth is the Ascendant, or first house cusp, of a natal chart, and the western horizon at the point of birth is the Descendant, or seventh house cusp.

Houses: Division of the horoscope into twelve segments, beginning with the Ascendant. The dividing line between two houses is called a house cusp. Each house corresponds to certain aspects of daily living, and is ruled by the astrological sign that governs the cusp, or dividing line between the house and the one previous.

Ingress: The point of entry of a planet into a sign.

Lagna: A term used in Hindu or Vedic astrology for Ascendant, the degree of the zodiac on the eastern horizon at the time of birth.

Masculine Signs: Each of the twelve signs of the zodiac is either “masculine” or “feminine.” The fire signs (Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius) and the air signs (Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius) are masculine.

Midheaven: The highest point on the ecliptic, where it intersects the meridian that passes directly above the place for which the horoscope is cast; the southern point of the horoscope.

Midpoint: A point equally distant to two planets or house cusps. Midpoints are considered by some astrologers to be sensitive points in a person’s chart.

Mundane Astrology: Mundane astrology is the branch of astrology generally concerned with political and economic events, and the nations involved in these events.

Mutable Signs: Mutable is one of the three qualities, or categories, that describe how a sign expresses itself. Mutable signs are Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, and Pisces. Mutable signs are said to be very adaptable and sometimes changeable.

Natal Chart: A person’s birth chart. A natal chart is essentially a “snapshot” showing the placement of each of the planets at the exact time of a person’s birth.

Node: The point where the planets cross the ecliptic, or the earth’s apparent path around the Sun. The North Node is the point where a planet moves northward, from the earth’s perspective, as it crosses the ecliptic; the South Node is where it moves south.

Opposition: Two points in a chart that are 180 degrees apart.

Orb: A small degree of margin used when calculating aspects in a chart. For example, although 180 degrees form an exact opposition, an astrologer might consider an aspect within 3 or 4 degrees on either side of 180 degrees to be an opposition, as the impact of the aspect can still be felt within this range. The less orb on an aspect, the stronger the aspect. Astrologers’ opinions vary on how many degrees of orb to allow for each aspect.

Outer Planet: Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto are known as the outer planets. Because of their distance from the Sun, they take a long time to complete a single rotation. Everyone born within a few years of

either side of a given date will have similar placements of these planets.

Planet: The planets used in astrology are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. For astrological purposes, the Sun and Moon are also considered planets. A natal chart, or birth chart, lists planetary placements at the moment of birth.

Planetary Rulership: The sign in which a planet is most harmoniously placed. Examples are the Sun in Leo, Jupiter in Sagittarius, and the Moon in Cancer.

Precession of Equinoxes: The gradual movement of the point of the spring equinox, located at 0 degrees Aries. This point marks the beginning of the tropical zodiac. The point moves slowly backward through the constellations of the zodiac, so that about every 2,000 years the equinox begins in an earlier constellation.

Qualities: In addition to categorizing the signs by element, astrologers place the twelve signs of the zodiac into three additional categories, or qualities: cardinal, mutable, or fixed. Each sign is considered to be a combination of its element and quality. Where the element of a sign describes its basic nature, the quality describes its mode of expression.

Retrograde Motion: The apparent backward motion of a planet. This is an illusion caused by the relative motion of the earth and other planets in their elliptical orbits.

Sextile: Two points in a chart that are 60 degrees apart.

Sidereal Zodiac: Generally used by Hindu or Vedic astrologers. The sidereal zodiac is located where the constellations are actually positioned in the sky.

Soft Aspects: Soft aspects indicate good fortune or an easy relationship in the chart. Among the soft aspects are the trine, the sextile, and the conjunction (depending on which planets are conjunct each other).

Square: Two points in a chart that are 90 degrees apart.

Sun Sign: The sign of the zodiac in which the Sun is located at any given time.

Synodic Cycle: The time between conjunctions of two planets.

Trine: Two points in a chart that are 120 degrees apart.

Tropical Zodiac: The tropical zodiac begins at 0 degrees Aries, where the Sun is located during the spring equinox. This system is used by most Western astrologers and throughout this book.

Void-of-Course: A planet is void-of-course after it has made its last aspect within a sign but before it has entered a new sign.

Water: One of the four basic elements. The water signs are Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces.

Using This Book

This book contains what is called Sun sign astrology; that is, astrology based on the sign that your Sun was in at the time of your birth. The technique has its foundation in ancient Greek astrology, in which the Sun was one of five points in the chart that were used as focal points for delineation.

The most effective way to use astrology, however, is through one-on-one work with a professional astrologer, who can integrate the eight or so other astrological bodies into the interpretation to provide you with guidance. There are factors related to the year and time of day you were born that are highly significant in the way you approach life and vital to making wise choices. In addition, there are ways of using astrology that aren't addressed here, such as compatibility between two specific individuals, discovering family patterns, or picking a day for a wedding or grand opening.

To best use the information in the monthly forecasts, you'll want to determine your Ascendant, or rising sign. If you don't know your Ascendant, the tables following this description will help you determine your rising sign. They are most accurate for those born in the continental United States. They provide only an approximation, but can be used as a good rule of thumb. Your exact Ascendant may vary from the tables according to your time and place of birth. Once you've approximated your ascending sign using the tables or determined your Ascendant by having your chart calculated, you'll know two significant factors in your chart. Read the monthly forecast sections for both your Sun and Ascendant to gain the most useful information. In addition, you can read the section about the sign your Moon is in. The Sun is the true, inner you; the Ascendant is your shell or appearance and the person you are becoming; the Moon is the person you were—or still are based on habits and memories.

Also included in the monthly forecasts is information about the planets' retrogrades. Most people have heard of "Mercury retrograde." In fact, all the planets except the Sun and Moon appear to travel backward (retrograde) in their path periodically. This appears to happen only because we on the earth are not seeing the other planets from the middle of the solar system. Rather, we are watching them from our own moving object. We are like a train that moves past cars on the freeway that are going in a slower speed. To us on the train, the cars look like they're going backward. Mercury turns retrograde about every four months for three weeks; Venus every eighteen months for six weeks; Mars every two years for two to three months. The rest of the planets each retrograde once a year for four to five months. During each retrograde, we have the opportunity to try something new, something we've conceived of at the beginning of the planet's yearly cycle. The times when the planets change direction are significant, as are the beginning and midpoint (peak or culmination) of each cycle. They are noted in your forecast each month.

The "Rewarding Days" and "Challenging Days" sections indicate times when you'll feel either more centered or more out of balance. The rewarding days are not the only times you can perform well, but the times you're likely to feel better integrated! During challenging days, take extra time to center yourself by meditating or using other techniques that help you feel more objective.

The Action Table found at the end of each sign's section offers general guidelines for the best times to take particular actions. Please note, however, that your whole chart will provide more accurate guidelines for the best time to do something. Therefore, use this table with a grain of salt, and never let it stop you from taking an action you feel compelled to take.

You can use this information to gain an objective awareness about the way the current cycles are affecting you. Realize that the power of astrology is even more useful when you have a complete chart and professional guidance.

Ascendant Table

Your Time of Birth						
Your Sun Sign	6–8 am	8–10 am	10 am–Noon	Noon–2 pm	2–4 pm	4–6 pm
Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra
Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio
Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius
Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn
Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius
Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces
Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries
Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus
Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini
Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer
Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo
Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo

Your Time of Birth						
Your Sun Sign	6–8 pm	8–10 pm	10 pm–Midnight	Midnight–2 am	2–4 am	4–6 am
Aries	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries
Taurus	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus
Gemini	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini
Cancer	Aquarius	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer
Leo	Pisces	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo
Virgo	Aries	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo
Libra	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra
Scorpio	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio
Sagittarius	Cancer	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius
Capricorn	Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn
Aquarius	Virgo	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius
Pisces	Libra	Scorpio	Sagittarius	Capricorn	Aquarius	Pisces

How to use this table: 1. Find your Sun sign in the left column.

2. Find your approximate birth time in a vertical column.

3. Line up your Sun sign and birth time to find your Ascendant.

This table will give you an approximation of your Ascendant. If you feel that the sign listed as your Ascendant is incorrect, try the one either before or after the listed sign. It is difficult to determine your exact Ascendant without a complete natal chart.

2016 at a Glance

Saturn will continue his march through Sagittarius all year, putting this “just-the-facts-ma’am” energy in the mood for a laugh. More and more, we’ll tend to get our news from humorists and political satirists who don’t pull any punches, à la Sagittarius, a sign that’s nothing if not blunt. In this expansive sign, Saturn will also draw our attention to news of a global nature. This no-nonsense planet will call on leaders in the fields of religion, politics, education, and international finance to account for their actions, and since Sagittarius doesn’t keep secrets well, anyone who hasn’t been forthcoming will be called to task. This planet/sign combination will also come in handy as we continue to reevaluate our laws and societal traditions to better fit the people we are today, as opposed to who we were when those laws were written.

And speaking of calling to task, intense, perceptive Pluto will continue to dig up the facts from his position in Capricorn, the sign that’s the personal property of Saturn. With Pluto in Saturn’s sign, unearthing and exposing the untruths told to us en masse will continue to go on throughout the year. Our collective awareness will be running on high, and we’ll want serious answers to serious questions—global warming in particular.

Now, startling Uranus is technically no longer in a square aspect to Pluto, but that doesn’t mean the tension between them has gone away. This square has been going on for years, pitting Uranus—who wants change and wants it now—against Pluto—who’s a big fan of change, but only when you know everything you need to make a sound decision. The good news is that in this action-oriented aspect, genius and perceptivity go hand in hand. Uranus is a whiz with electronics, computers, and the like, so we can expect to see more remarkable inventions of a futuristic nature—many of which will be downright unbelievable. Our quest for adventure on other planets will pick up speed, and as always when Uranus is in the neighborhood wearing a sign as impulsive and spontaneous as Aries, surprising finds are probable rather than just possible.

Neptune will continue on her path through her very own sign of Pisces, inspiring inventions of a wireless nature. Neptune dissolves boundaries and rules all things ethereal, by the way—like “the Cloud,” for example. Now, this planet also rules water, so droughts and water shortages may still concern us, especially since factual Saturn will spend several months squaring off with her. The good news is that Neptune’s real mission is to pull us all together under a common cause, and although she doesn’t move fast, she doesn’t fool around. Anything that threatens our ability to connect with one another will gradually disappear.

[contents]



Aries

The Ram

March 20 to April 19



Element: Fire Glyph: Ram's head

Quality: Cardinal Anatomy: Head, face, throat

Polarity: Yang/masculine Colors: Red, white

Planetary Ruler: Mars Animal: Ram

Meditation: I build upon my strengths Myths/Legends: Artemis, Jason and the Golden Fleece

Gemstone: Diamond House: First

Power Stones: Bloodstone, carnelian, ruby Opposite Sign: Libra

Key Phrase: I am Flower: Geranium

Keyword: Initiative

The Aries Personality

Your Strengths and Challenges

You, Aries, are the first sign of the zodiac, which means you're basically the infant of the zodiac—and that certainly does explain a lot. After all, when infants don't have what they need, they create quite a fuss until the situation is remedied. So while you might not throw temper tantrums on a daily basis, you are most certainly an expert at getting the attention you need to obtain just about anything you want. That doesn't mean you're not totally charming and endearing—after all, what's not to love about someone who is totally honest and upfront about their feelings at all times? The thing is, deceit takes time and planning, and you, Aries, have no patience for that sort of thing. It's a waste of time

and energy, and you cherish both too much to waste them.

Your ~~modus operandi~~ is simple: point A to point B. Period. The end. Roadblocks will not be tolerated, and any type of obstacle will be plowed through immediately. The thing is, your ruling planet is Mars, the ancient God of War, an extremely assertive, aggressive, and often quite angry fellow, and you're named after Ares, his Greek counterpart. Needless to say, when you're riled up you're quite intimidating. When you're not, however, you're also pretty darn intimidating. You're famous for being impatient, and the longer you're made to wait—regardless of why—the more other people can feel the emotional steam you're putting out. The good news is that all you really need to do to get over the whole situation is to vent—but it's got to be a big-time vent. You'll yell or at the very least speak quite sternly, but once you know your point has been made, you're done being angry. For all these reasons, it's easy to see why your energy has often been likened to a bullet. You move in a straight line, you have no time to waste, and once it's over, it's over. You crave adrenaline, so exciting experiences are your forte and impulsive playmates are a must. Your mission is to slow down long enough to consider your target and aim before you fire.

Your Relationships

You tend to be pretty darn choosy when it comes to selecting a primary other, Aries, mostly because you're not just looking for a lover. When you consider taking on a partner, it's not just because they appeal to you physically (although that's a good part of it). It's mostly because they've proved themselves to be a friend and a confidant—and, most importantly, a worthy opponent. You're the child of Mars, so it's in your nature to be a warrior, and anyone who can't deal with a few fireworks every now and then simply won't qualify for the position. Truth be told, you enjoy sparring with your sweetheart. If it ever turns physical, however, that's your warning sign. Fiery is fun, but volatile is dangerous. You need to avoid anyone who pushes your buttons in the wrong way—and you know exactly what that means.

You're feisty, but you're also worth the effort, because you have no choice but to be honest with those you're involved with. Deceit is too time-consuming for your impulsive nature, so you're generally quite trustworthy. Besides, in your opinion, if you have to lie to someone to make them happy, it's just not right between the two of you, and the situation should be ended, posthaste. It's not that you don't care, but only that you can see things right away that most of us might miss.

In partnerships, you tend to do best with someone who is fiery and impulsive but also sensible—no easy qualities to come by in one neat package. For that reason, the other three fire signs will often catch your fancy, because they share your love of adventure and new experiences. In the long run, you might begin to think of Leo as high-maintenance, and you do enjoy the spotlight yourself every now and then; so if you're signing up with a lion, be sure they're willing to share the applause of the crowd. Sagittarians make great playmates and lovers, and the air signs (Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius) are always fun and quite appealing. Their curiosity and willingness to try anything once are two qualities you absolutely must have in a long-term companion.

Your Career and Money

Fire is your element, Aries, so occupations that involve dealing with it are well suited to your nature. Firefighting is a natural match. After all, who other than you and your fire-sign cousins would run toward a fire rather than away from it? Welding is also a good match. The thing is, you feel entirely comfortable around the element of fire. You understand it, so it's only natural that you'd make your living dealing with it. Fire also rules the spiritual side of life, however, so if you're not happy and fulfilled wherever you're working, your time there will feel like a jail sentence. Life is too short for

that, Aries, as you well know. Fortunately, if you've had it with your current occupation, unpredictable Uranus will see to it this year that you are presented with opportunities to free yourself up and head off for greener, more exciting pastures.

Your sign also rules tools made of iron and steel, so surgery is often your calling—but if the sight of blood makes you queasy, remember that florists wield knives every day as well, as do hair stylists. Whatever you do, your only mission is to be sure that you can exert your energy in a positive way. Your sign rules the muscles in the physical body, so working as an exercise trainer or coach would also suit you just fine.

Your Lighter Side

What's fun, Aries? Well, how about riding your motorcycle—standing up, on one leg—en route to your weekly skydiving lesson? If you're not of a certain age, danger might appeal to you, but if you've been there, done that, and tossed the t-shirt, then an action movie will do the trick—provided there are car chases, explosions, and nonstop thrills. Truth be told, anything that allows you to exert energy—from hiking to exercising to ... well, more tender activities—will allow your feisty spirit to come alive, again and again. Not that you'd want this secret to be made public, but you also enjoy a good old-fashioned argument every now and again—followed by a good, old-fashioned making-up session.

Affirmation

I believe in myself and acknowledge my strengths.

The Year Ahead for Aries

Your ruling planet, fiery Mars, will spend an unusually long time this year in Sagittarius, a fire-sign cousin of yours that you've always gotten on well with. Sagittarius energy blends nicely with your own, since this sign is always game for a new adventure and always ready to take off with you at a moment's notice. That said, from March 5 through May 27 and again from August 2 through September 27, Mars will be storming through your solar ninth house, where long-distance travel, new adventures, and educational experiences are handled. Needless to say, your thirst for adrenaline might just take you to some distant shores—and you'll love every minute of it. With career-minded Saturn also on duty in this house and this sign, you might even be able to mix business with pleasure. From March 25 through August 13, Saturn will be moving retrograde, which signals that it's time to review, redo, and return, so you might be taking a trip back home or to one of your old stomping grounds. You might also return to school to brush up on your skills or amp up your resumé.

Now, from May 27 through August 2, Mars will retrace his steps through intense Scorpio and your solar eighth house of joint resources, finances, and intimate partnerships. You might feel as if you're reliving the events of late February, so a loan may need to be paid back, an inheritance might need your attention—or an old lover might resurface. If that's the case, be careful. Don't go back unless you know you have new solutions to old problems. On the other hand, since this house also indicates how we deal with loss, something you lost and thought was gone forever could be returned to you—and wouldn't that be nice!

Jupiter will spend most of the year in your solar sixth house of work and health, all done up in meticulous Virgo. Jupiter expands the qualities of the sign he inhabits, so your attention to detail on the job will probably surprise even you. This is a terrific year to begin a new health regime, if you haven't already, and since Jupiter will also do the retrograde dance from January through May, getting back to the gym or possibly even returning to an old job might also be on the agenda.

On September 9, the fun begins, when Jupiter sets off for charming, personable Libra and your solar

seventh house of one-to-one relationships. If you're already attached at that time, you two will probably begin a very, very good year together—during which, more than once, you'll congratulate yourself on your good taste in partners. If you're single, prepare yourself for a veritable parade of admirers interested in capturing your heart.

What This Year's Eclipses Mean for You

Eclipses occur every six months, ordinarily in pairs, and this year is no exception. In March, the cycle will begin for 2016, featuring a Solar Eclipse on the 8th in ultrasensitive and highly intuitive Pisces, which will directly affect your solar twelfth house of secrets and subconscious thoughts. If you're hiding anything, it will stay hidden for a while, but not forever. Plan on bringing the issue to the surface by September 16, when a Lunar Eclipse will shine its light on this very private area, exposing what was previously hidden. The good news is that if you have been trying to gain information about certain someone, all that digging you're doing now will bring you results by mid-September. As per usual for you, waiting won't be easy, but it will be well worth it. Sit tight.

The first Lunar Eclipse of the year will arrive on March 23, illuminating partner-oriented Libra and your solar seventh house of one-to-one relationships. If you were born during the first few days of your sign, you will feel this eclipse most intensely, especially if you have been dealing with a relationship issue that seems to be unsolvable. The good news is that it isn't. The tough part will be committing to a decision that has long-lasting effects. The best news is that if you can actually compromise, you two might be able to work things out. The key is to be totally honest.

The second series of eclipses will begin on September 1 as the Solar Eclipse in health-oriented Virgo sets up shop in your solar sixth house of health and work-oriented relationships. This powerful meeting of the Sun and the Moon will prompt you to consider new beginnings, so if you aren't happy with your physical self or your diet, and your exercise habits are not to your liking, it's time to fix things. Get busy and make some serious changes, ASAP. If you're already on a good diet and exercise plan and you'd simply like to step up your game, this is the time to do it. Virgo energy is all about getting healthy—or healthier—and getting things in order, and with expansive, generous Jupiter willing to pass out some blessings from his spot in this same sign, just a bit of physical effort will earn you some wonderful results and inspire you to invest a lot more time and energy in the project.

The final eclipse of the year will be a supercharged Full Moon, set to arrive on September 16, and done up in woozy, dreamy Pisces. Now, Lunar Eclipses illuminate matters that were previously hidden, without much warning and quickly, too. Since this is your solar twelfth house of Privacy, Please, while you might actually want to keep just a bit of your personal life to yourself—especially if you've been enjoying the romantic fantasy—you should keep in mind that Full Moons don't allow for that privilege. If you want to keep something quiet, keep away from it for a few weeks. No, it won't be easy, but other than breaking the news to the world, it's your best bet.

Saturn

Saturn moved into Sagittarius and your solar ninth house of long-distance relationships back in 2011 in Aries, and while you're ordinarily quite fond of Sagittarius energy, Saturn is a tough customer and pretty darn hard to please. That said, if you're planning on indulging in ninth-house activities, such as travel or education, you should be prepared to pay your dues before you're allowed to pass Go and collect your 200 dollars. Unlike generous Jupiter, Saturn gives us what we deserve—nothing more and nothing less—so whatever comes your way now will be exactly what you've earned. The good news is that whatever Saturn bestows is permanent, so you won't need to worry about the carpet being pulled out from under you down the road. His gifts are long-lasting, so raises, promotions, and the ability

further yourself in your chosen field via fortunate connections are all possibilities.

Of course, since Saturn also has a lot to do with geography and geographical roadblocks, it might be that scheduling a trip or vacation has been tough, to say the least. Still, if you're determined, serious Saturn will be only too happy to help you make plans to be with someone you love—although in the typical Saturnian style, it will not happen overnight and you may have to jump through a few hoops. Think about it, though. Anything worth having really is worth working for.

Uranus

This startling, unpredictable guy has been on duty in your sign and your solar first house personality and appearance for years now, Aries, and since he's impulsive and you're impulsive, you've definitely raised some eyebrows over that period—and you'll raise some more this year. The thing is, Uranus enjoys shocking and amazing the masses by going against the status quo and rebelling, and so do you, so with this energy added to your own, it's not hard to imagine you suddenly deciding on a Saturday afternoon that you'd like to live on a beach in Bali—and sitting on that beach by Monday morning. Before you hop on that plane, or quit your day job, or dash off to Vegas to get married, you might want to consider the effect of what you're doing over the long haul. Yes, Vegas and Bali are delightful, and yes, those adventures would be fun to talk about, but please do consider the consequences of your actions—just this once—before you do anything too drastic. No one is saying you can't exercise your right to be free and enjoy life any way you see fit, but planning for at least five years down the road wouldn't be a bad idea. You might even find a happy balance between staying put and taking off for destinations unknown. Put your things in storage and consider this phase an extended vacation.

Neptune

Neptune reminds me of Glinda, the Good Witch, from *The Wizard of Oz*. She arrives in a pink bubble, waves her wand, and promises to make everything perfect for Dorothy and the Munchkins. And then she disappears. So when Neptune arrives by transit, you can count on feeling a whole lot like Dorothy—not to mention Toto—because you'll feel as if you're protected, but whoever or whatever protecting you will be tough to pin down. That said, since Neptune is in Pisces, the sign right next door to your own, her influence by semisextile won't be all that potent unless you were born between March 27 and April 4. In that case, you'll most definitely have the feeling that you're not in Kansas anymore—or wherever you were when you started this journey. Much like Dorothy, however, you're going to learn a lot in the process, through symbolism and “coincidental” encounters with others. Your mission is to be kind to whoever or whatever you meet along the way home. You'll feel as if you've been gone for a bit when this transit is over, but when you wake up, you'll realize that you were right there in your room the whole time—and that guardian angels were by your side every step of the way. In the meantime, avoid the tendency to escape from the harsher side of life via Neptunian escape hatches like drugs or alcohol, and if you feel a bit blue, talk to a professional.

Pluto

Just as he has for the past eight years, Pluto will spend the year in Capricorn and your solar tenth house of career matters, reputation, and dealings with authority figures. If you were born between April 3 and 8, this powerful planet will form a square with your Sun—which can be a very tricky aspect. Squares are irritating. They push us into action to relieve tension and settle matters that call for closure. In your case, a power struggle that's been going on behind the scenes for some time might actually rear its testy little head, and this time around, you won't be able to ignore it or pretend you're imagining things. Pluto asks us to take control of our lives, and from his spot in this professional

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