

CUPID'S PROMISE

PERSONAL RELATING POTENTIAL REPORT



for

Gwyneth Paltrow

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INTRODUCTION

Your ‘Cupid’s Promise’ Natal Report comprises up to nine individual chapters, each of which interprets your birth chart from a different astrological perspective, providing a balanced combination of contrasting insights into the factors that influence your capacity to form happy, successful relationships.

The Report begins with an analysis of your elemental make-up, the core energy which represents the very essence of your being, before moving on to discuss your outer personality – as defined by your Ascendant and any planets falling in the 1st House of your birth chart – and the critically important information on how you are perceived by others (which may be quite different to how you see yourself).

Focusing on the astrological positions and aspects of the Sun, Mercury, Moon, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in your natal chart, the following chapters then carefully explore: your inner motivation; how you think and communicate; your emotional nature; what love means to you; your drives, passions and sexuality; your moral beliefs and values; and last but not least, your hidden fears and vulnerabilities – all of which have a vital bearing on the form and quality of your personal relationships.

Your karmic blessings and challenges – the personal strengths and weaknesses you may have carried over from past lives into your present incarnation – are also given a special mention in this Report, since they represent deep-seated patterns of particular relevance to your relating potential. By recognizing and making the most of your inborn interpersonal talents, while seeking to overcome your relating challenges, you will discover how to get more out of your love life and all your contacts with other people.

You may notice that certain themes are constantly reinforced in your Report, or that the same text is repeated in more than one chapter, highlighting your most distinctive character traits and the personal issues likely to have the greatest influence on your relationships. If, on the other hand, one statement about yourself appears to oppose or conflict with another statement, this should draw your attention to important personality contradictions (which all of us possess!) requiring careful balancing and integration. The longest chapters of your Report represent areas of particular personal complexity and should be read very carefully.

Please note that if your birth time isn’t known to within approximately 10 minutes, the interpretation of your Ascendant and the House positions of the planets in your chart will necessarily be omitted from the Report. Also please be aware that unless your given birth time is accurate to within 2 to 3 hours, the integrity of your Moon data may, in certain circumstances, be compromised.

YOUR ELEMENTAL MAKE-UP

Your Core Energy

Your fundamental relating needs and values, and your orientation towards the world around you, are symbolized by the four astrological elements. Each person has their own unique balance of these four vital forces: fire (warmth, passion, enthusiasm), earth (practicality, realism, material interests), air (social and intellectual qualities) and water (emotional needs and feelings). As the indicator of your core energy pattern, your elemental type represents your basic mode of being which underlies all the other factors described in your birth chart. Bear in mind that most people are elementally 'unbalanced' in some way, and if you are deficient in a certain element (or elements), it simply means that you need to consciously develop that missing part of yourself.

Air Element is Strong:

You have a great capacity to relate to, appreciate, and understand different people and points of view, and you tend to be quite liberal in your attitudes. You are primarily a thinking person who requires much intellectual and social stimulation, conversation, and interaction. You comprehend abstract reasoning and concepts very quickly and like ideas, language, and culture. You can't imagine being happy in a world without books, films, or interesting companions.

There is an androgynous quality to you, and you relate equally well to men and women, having both male and female characteristics in nearly equal measure yourself. You tend to see someone as a person first, rather than identifying them solely with their gender. Friendship is very important to your sense of well-being; you thrive on camaraderie, teamwork, social participation and sharing. However, you are also quite objective and detached and there is a touch of coolness or impersonality in the way you relate to others.

Your mind is your real gift: thinking clearly, logically, and creatively, planning and organizing efficiently, and communicating intelligently. However, you tend to live in your head - reading about, talking about, and observing life without becoming completely immersed in it and fully experiencing it. Avoid becoming a dabbler. You need to develop constancy, stability, and depth.

Air is Strong and Ascendant is in Water sign:

As you will read in the next Section, you actually come across to others in an intuitive, empathic way, but (as indicated here) you are quite capable of being cool and impartial - more so than you might seem.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

How You Appear To Others

The initial impression you make on those around you is primarily governed by your Rising Sign. This is the sign rising over the horizon at your moment of birth which, together with any planets falling in the 1st House of your birth chart, represents your outer persona (the part of you which is most obviously and immediately apparent to others). Recognizing yourself as other people really see you, and adapting your personality so as to come across in the most advantageous manner, is a major first step toward achieving your optimum relating potential.

Your Rising Sign can be thought of as a kind of mask or costume you adopt in order to face the outside world, which may or may not reflect the 'real you' depending on its similarities or differences to your Sun Sign (see the next chapter of this Report for further details). Since your Rising Sign changes quickly – in fact once about every 2 hours – it can only be accurately determined when your birth time is known fairly precisely.

Pisces Rising:

It's immediately apparent that you are a gentle, sensitive individual with a deep understanding of other people and a very tolerant, accepting, non-judgmental approach towards life. In a noisy, competitive atmosphere you are often receding and withdrawn for you are not an aggressive, forceful type, and you intensely dislike conflict. In fact you tend to be somewhat passive, to wait, watch, observe, feel and know much - but to act little. Letting things resolve or work themselves out in their own way, rather than directing or forcing your will upon them, is often your way of dealing with problems.

You're likely to have a deeply spiritual outlook, not in the orthodox sense necessarily, but an intuitive sense of the immensity and underlying oneness of all life. You need peaceful surroundings in order to flourish, and periods of quiet solitude are essential for your emotional balance and well-being. Because you're frequently lost in the world of your imagination, to others you frequently appear rather 'spaced out'.

You are also very compassionate and cannot tolerate seeing any fellow creature suffer - be it human, animal, or even plant! Because you are very giving and forgiving, people in need gravitate to you, sensing your sympathetic nature. Your kind-heartedness, coupled with your passive demeanor, sometimes give others the impression you are someone who can easily be conned or pushed around.

Even when you realize someone is mistreating or taking advantage of you, you have a tendency to overlook or forgive their weaknesses and shortcomings. You attract a lot of love and gratitude through your kindness to others, but if it goes too far and is too much at your own expense, it can also be the source of your downfall. Realism and discrimination are not your strong points!

Though you may be as intelligent as anyone, you do not really have a rational approach toward life, and trying to reach you through logical arguments is often futile. Your feelings, intuition, and heart, not your head, lead you, which may infuriate or bewilder more logically minded individuals. You are not as structured and rigid in your attitudes as most people, which enables you to see many different points of view and to accept all of them as valid. This can lead to vagueness, uncertainty, and confusion on your part - or to a very flexible and holistic way of approaching any issue.

THE INNER YOU

Your Real Motivation

The kind of person you are at heart, the 'real you' who others are likely to meet only when they get to know you at more than a superficial level, is represented by the position of the Sun in your birth chart and the aspects it forms with other major planets. Representing your vital force and your creative essence – the center from which you express your unique identity – the Sun highlights your basic outlook on life, your individual gifts and talents, and how and where you seek recognition from others. The things in life that are most important to you, and how these affect your ego needs and your interpersonal relationships, are the major themes covered in this chapter.

Ascendant in Pisces and Sun in Libra:

Your tolerant, giving and forgiving personality (as discussed in the previous chapter) combines with your desire to relate harmoniously with others (as discussed in the following) to make you very self-sacrificing and willing to go the extra mile for someone else's benefit. Be wary of tendencies to lack discrimination in your charity, to try to help someone who is incorrigible, and to avoid confrontations to your own detriment. You really want an equal, reciprocal relationship, not one that is based on being someone's servant or caregiver. However, you need to learn how to assert what you want and need, for you tend to 'go with the flow' or to simply wait for your needs to be supplied. Consequently, you may feel that you are never able to achieve equality in relationships, somehow always ending up being taken advantage of in some way.

Sun in Libra:

Harmony and balance are your keynotes. You instinctively understand the need to accommodate other people's interests and desires, and you are always fair and willing to meet the other person half way. Tactful, diplomatic, and with considerable social awareness, you do all you can to avoid conflict and discord. You express a spirit of cooperation and compromise and often achieve through charm and discretion what would have been impossible to achieve by a direct, forceful approach.

Getting along with others and pleasing them may actually be overly important to you, for you can be too dependent on others' approval and opinions to make your own decisions. You will rarely act without getting the counsel and feedback of other people. You prefer sharing and doing things together with a significant other rather than on your own. Being alone feels very unnatural to you, and you have a strong need for a partner and intimate one-to-one relationships.

You invest a lot of your energy in personal love and you are very idealistic and romantic about marriage. It's important to you to find a partner who is your equal intellectually, and who is

capable of a mental relationship as well as a physical and emotional one. You make a thoughtful, considerate friend or lover, and you enjoy the traditional symbols of love - courtship, flowers, etc. Relationships are like an art to you, one that requires time, attention, and creative effort. You appreciate a partner who is subtle and polished, never coarse or dull or blunt.

Fairness and equality, both in your personal life and in the world, matter a great deal to you. If you fight about anything, it is often about something you feel is unfair and unbalanced. You strive always to achieve equilibrium and believe in moderation in all things, avoiding fanaticism and extremism of any sort. You also have a strong appreciation of beauty and a natural sense of artistic style and grace, which is reflected in the way you dress, and the way you furnish and arrange your home and environment. For you, everything must be harmonious and aesthetically pleasing if you are to feel at ease.

Sun in 7th house:

You shine your inner light most radiantly, and express your creativity most powerfully, within the framework of your intimate relationships. The truth is you're unlikely ever to fulfill your maximum potential by going it alone: you always do best with a strong, supportive partner by your side. A natural born counsellor and negotiator, you are rightly proud of your outstanding people skills and you seek - and generally receive - due recognition for the work you put into the harmonious functioning of your relationships. To avoid disappointment, be wary of expecting too much praise and appreciation for your efforts, and sulking if you don't receive enough of it!

Sun Conjunct Mercury:

You have a clear, active mind and a powerful need to constantly express your views and opinions. However, because your mind and your ego are very closely linked, you tend to see things only from your own perspective and to be rather subjective. Also, although you enjoy talking, you don't always listen very well to other people. Try to focus more on what your partner and friends have to say, as otherwise they are likely to feel unheard, misunderstood and uncared for.

Sun Trine Moon:

Because you probably had quite a close and supportive relationship with your family, your male-female or yin-yang energies are well balanced. As a result, your conscious intentions and desires blend well with your subconscious needs and feelings, enabling you to approach your life's pursuits relatively unhampered by internal resistance or inconsistency. Your relationships with the opposite sex will especially reflect this state of internal harmony.

Sun Conjunct Mars:

You are assertive, energetic, active, courageous, and vital. Your physical drive is very strong, expressing itself as sexuality and passion, a desire to compete with others, and at times a tendency to fight. Not someone who readily gives in or accepts defeat, you thrive on a little friendly rivalry, which spurs you on and invigorates you.

Although unlikely to personally pick an argument, when faced with an unprovoked attack you tend to defend yourself very forcefully and aggressively. You won't allow anyone to push you around. Learning to express your 'masculine' or 'yang' qualities in a positive manner is a challenge for you.

Sun Square Jupiter:

You have a lot of confidence in yourself and rightly take pride in your talents and accomplishments. You thrive on recognition and applause, but sometimes court unpopularity by appearing rather self-satisfied and conceited. Something of a risk taker at heart, you are prone to over-optimism that can lead to major errors of judgment in all areas of your life, including your love life.

Exaggerating your accomplishments, promising more than is possible, or spending too much in order to impress others and build up your own self-esteem can cause problems for you in your personal relationships. Restlessness and discontent with too many obligations and limitations may also make it difficult for you to fully settle down in a steady partnership.

Sun aspects Mars and Neptune:

Along with your energy and drive you have high ideals and an active fantasy life. There is a dreamer and an idealist in you, as well as a doer and a fighter, and this may be something of a dilemma for you. You want to win but not at others' expense, and sometimes you lack the will to stand up for yourself or tend to back out of a direct confrontation because you're suddenly fearful of losing.

Sun Sextile Neptune:

Sensitive, imaginative, and impressionable, you often have experiences that are unusual and unexplainable by the rational mind. You have an abundance of dreams, visions, and longings, but do not always have the concentrated will and stamina to make them concrete. By worldly standards you may appear to be somewhat impractical and lacking in ambition or a clear sense of direction. You need the kind of people around you who will allow you to dream your beautiful dreams and won't push you too hard into a more materialist path in life. Idealistic, compassionate and giving, often to your own personal disadvantage, you get a lot of satisfaction

from helping the afflicted or the underdog. Your spiritual values color your whole outlook and perspective on the world, giving you an ethereal quality that others find deeply seductive and mesmerizing.

Sun Conjunct Pluto:

You tend to be somewhat fanatical in that it's hard for you to go halfway in anything you do. Your extremism may seem (and at times actually be) rather obsessive and blind. That is, you don't always consciously understand why you feel as driven or intense about a given course of action as you do and you may sense there is a strong element of fate or inevitability about your destiny.

You tend to go through a number of profound skin-shedding or 'rebirthing' processes when major changes - some of your own making, some outside your control - oblige you to completely let go of the past and move on in your life. Your relationships may be subject to abrupt endings after which there is no going back, which can be very confusing and painful, not just for you but also for the people around you. In particular, a significant death or loss earlier in your life is likely to have profoundly influenced you.

You have tremendous inner resources and strength, and a deep belief in your own power and your ability to survive any change and to emerge victoriously from any difficulty. Intense, strong willed, and zealous, you pursue your desires and goals with complete dedication and singleness of purpose, often concealing your motives and intentions until you are certain of victory.

A fear of being controlled may sometimes cause you to try to manipulate others to prevent them from manipulating you, leading to relationship power struggles if the other person is as strong-willed as yourself, or to a bully-victim scenario if they are a weaker personality. Alternatively, you may confront abusive power and tyranny through dominating people in your life who force you to learn about power and the importance of using it only for good.

YOUR MENTALITY

How You Think and Communicate

Known in Roman mythology as the messenger of the Gods, in astrology Mercury rules the urge to communicate, and where and how it is positioned in your birth chart indicates the way you go about this. The configuration of Mercury in your natal chart also describes the nature and quality of your mind and the kind of mental processes you habitually employ to solve everyday interpersonal issues. Pay particular attention to any hard aspects to your Mercury which may point to potential communication challenges which could adversely affect your relating potential. Any planets falling in your 3rd House will be additionally covered here, since this area of your chart also has an important bearing on your thinking and communication.

Mercury in Libra:

One of your greatest relating strengths is your fair-minded and equitable way of thinking which enables you always to see both sides of an issue and to negotiate and bring about compromise and reconciliation. On the other hand, the length of time you can take in reaching decisions - often to-ing and fro-ing several times between different viewpoints - may be irritating to more impatient types of people. Don't allow anyone to pressure you into making your mind up prematurely: it will badly upset your mental equilibrium and usually precipitate a faulty judgment on your part.

As someone whose thought processes are governed largely by logical facts and reasoning, in your relationships you can't be swayed solely by emotion. For this reason, your mind always works best in cooperation with an intelligent and well informed partner who will act as a mental sounding board and help you gain courage and belief in your own convictions. You enjoy a good natured debate but hate nasty arguments. In fact you often shy away from confronting unpleasant but important truths since you're afraid of arousing others' anger.

You're the kind of person that others really enjoy talking to. Your conversation tends to be pleasant, polite and unusually well balanced - being a genuinely good listener, you're normally keen to hear what others have to say. True, those looking for an immediate and forthright response may complain about your endless fence-sitting and procrastination. But because you rarely jump to rash conclusions or badmouth others without good reason, when you finally deliver your verdict, it can be relied upon as just and well considered.

Much appreciated for your willingness to give and take, and your talent for tactfully smoothing over volatile situations, you try to promote harmony in all your personal relationships. Be careful, however, not to sometimes do more harm than good by purposely avoiding contentious issues which really need to be brought out into the open. To prevent upsets and make yourself popular, it's often easier for you just to nod, agree and tell others only what they want to hear.

Your relationships will be far more truthful and 'real' if you can develop the courage to honestly speak your mind when it's necessary.

Mercury in 8th house:

Your mind is deeply fascinated by the mysterious, the unknown, the supernatural or anything that is concealed or taboo. You need to know what is going on behind the scenes. Personally, however, you can tend to be quite secretive and don't always reveal everything you are thinking, perhaps because you sense your ideas are too complex for most people to understand. You're good at psychically sensing into the hidden meaning behind what others are saying, while personally playing your cards very close to your chest.

Moon Trine Mercury:

You're a really great communicator! A natural psychologist or counselor, you listen sympathetically, and encourage others to express their inner thoughts and feelings. People trust and confide in you, and you are able to read between the lines and to sense what their feelings are as well as what they are actually saying. Personally, you're very good at explaining your emotions to your partner in a way they can easily comprehend, which helps to avoid problems in your relationship since it minimizes the risk of misunderstandings. But don't be too hard on your lover if they can't express themselves as well as you can!

Mercury Conjunct Uranus:

You have a clever, inventive mind, and your sudden flashes of insight and clear perception generally enable you to grasp new concepts very quickly. However, your retention may be poor, as you tend to leap from one idea to another in a flash, often without thoroughly digesting any of them. Your mind may race so quickly that it is hard for you to sit still for any length of time. You have a highly sensitive nervous system and need a relatively calm, stable environment to be at your best. Avoid over-stimulating, frenetic places in order to stay balanced.

You quickly become bored and restless, and may be abrupt and impatient with people who always think 'inside the box', because you like to be spontaneous and open to inspiration. Independent and open-minded, you dislike being told how to think, for you insist on discovering your own truth. You may be considered rather eccentric and unusual in your interests by more conservative minds.

There is a deeply irreverent side to you that can't resist challenging others' ideas and opinions, especially when they are rather stale and conservative, not necessarily because you fundamentally disagree with them, but just to 'stir things up'. You have a habit of suddenly coming out with controversial or outrageous comments which to some people may appear offensive and disrespectful. Your quick-witted come-backs may well win you friends, but can

also make you an equal number of enemies. Think twice before opening your mouth in situations you can't afford to mess up!

YOUR EMOTIONAL NATURE

Your Instinctive Feelings; Your Home and Family Values

The Moon has a very important influence on your relationships, in that it governs your feeling nature, and your expression of those feelings in terms of your habitual responses to other people. Since the Moon's motion is relatively fast, causing it to change Zodiac signs about every two and a half days, next to your Rising Sign it represents the most personalized feature in your birth chart.

The Moon's position by sign, house and aspect indicates the form and nature of your emotional needs and the kind of relationships and/or partner that will allow you to meet these needs most satisfactorily. It also throws interesting light on your attitudes towards your home and family life since this is where your instinctive moods and reactions tend to have their greatest impact. Any planets falling in your 4th House (the House of home and family) will also be included in this chapter.

Moon in Gemini:

One of the most attractive things about you is your light-hearted emotional response to life and the way you never allow things to get too heavy or boring either for yourself or those around you. Quick witted, fun loving and highly sociable, others tend to greatly enjoy your company. But because you're also quite restless, fidgety and rather high-strung, you hate being stuck in one place or with one person for very long. Both literally and figuratively, you prefer to keep on the move.

Without sufficient mental stimulation you're easily bored and you need the kind of people around you with whom you can readily share your thoughts and interests. The strong, silent type of partner is not for you. A natural born communicator and a compulsive talker, you can make conversation on just about any subject with just about anyone. Be aware, however, that your garrulousness and tendency to constantly flit from one topic to another can sometimes be annoying to others, especially if you don't allow them a chance to get a word in!

As someone who tends to respond very rationally to life, you're good at controlling your emotions and generally have no difficulty in keeping your cool even when everyone else is losing theirs. This gives you great judgment, and a talent for thinking up clever solutions to domestic and practical problems. However, you're not very good at discussing your deep feelings and are often unaware of your own or other people's more complex emotional needs.

Tears and tantrums bewilder you and make you very uncomfortable. You would rather settle differences by talking things out reasonably and logically, and may tend to ignore or poke fun at any attempt to probe your own or others' inner depths. Your emotional irreverence and your

tendency to avoid heavy, demanding emotional engagement can be highly frustrating for more emotionally needy people in your life, including your lovers, friends and family members. However, trying to force you to confront emotional issues, when you don't want to, only has the effect of frightening you away.

For you, emotional wellbeing is linked to a sense of ongoing freedom, choice and diversity. Change and variety are very important to you, for which reason you thrive on periodically moving home or re-arranging your domestic environment.

Moon Trine Uranus:

Many of your emotional attitudes and instincts tend to be quite liberal. You do not want to be caged or dictated to, and you feel everyone is entitled to do as they please in their personal and emotional affairs. Open-minded and tolerant of others' quirks and eccentricities, you tend to surround yourself with people who are unusual, creative and changeable, and your relationships - with women in particular - may be somewhat unstable as a result. However, you do enjoy an element of surprise and unpredictability!

There is a certain part of you that craves emotional stimulation and excitement and loves taking risks or breaking the 'rules'. You have an unusual sense of humor, express your feelings quite spontaneously and uninhibitedly, and enjoy acting a little bit crazy or outlandish at times. Often you will do something unexpected or humorous in order to loosen people up and make a few waves. Others find you an exciting person to be around.

Moon in 4th house:

You have strong attachments to your past, the place where you grew up, your heritage, and family traditions. In fact, on some level you may be unable to step out of the habits and roles you learned as a child. Your tie to your mother is very strong and you also seek mothering and protection from your partner and other family members. To feel emotionally safe and secure, you badly need some kind of stable home base. However much your personal freedom may mean to you, having a comforting retreat you can periodically withdraw to is vital to your sense of inner wellbeing.

Saturn in 4th house:

Achieving domestic security, developing your home-making skills, and raising children in a responsible way, may represent major challenges for you. These are areas of your life where, on some level, you lack confidence in yourself, no matter how competent and knowledgeable you are in reality. These unjustified feelings of inadequacy may be linked to a sense of lack or limitation you may have experienced in your childhood - regardless of how loving and supportive your upbringing may actually have been. Letting go of any resentments you have about your early life, whether justified or not, is crucial.

It's very important for you to build your own solid foundation, and investing time and energy into your home, domestic relationships, and parenting duties can help you accomplish this. Karmically, you are challenged to put more effort into creating a happy and secure home and family life than most other people. You may encounter a number of obstacles and setbacks and be required to take on some demanding responsibilities, but these should spur you into working even harder at creating the domestic security you need.

YOUR PERSONAL RELATING STYLE

What Love Means to You and How You Express It

Of all the planets in your birth chart, it is Venus – named after the Roman goddess of love and beauty – which has the greatest affinity with, and probably the most critical bearing on, your relating potential and your ability to form successful partnerships and friendships. As the primary indicator of how you connect and interact with others, as well as how you give and receive affection, Venus's positioning in your birth chart is the primary key to your characteristic style of relating and what love means personally to you.

This chapter will help you to celebrate and make the most of your interpersonal skills and talents, while drawing your attention to the specific problems and challenges you face in your associations with others. By understanding the ingrained patterns, both positive and negative, that help or hinder your personal relationships, you can assess the potential changes in attitude or behavior you may need to make to create your ideal romantic reality. Any planets falling in your 7th House (the partnerships sector of your birth chart) will also be interpreted in this chapter.

Venus in Leo:

Your relating style is passionate, loyal and somewhat theatrical. Intensely romantic, you seek excitement and drama in your relationships and are always happiest when madly in love! As someone who thrives on praise and admiration, a susceptibility to flattery can be your Achilles' heel.

You are exceptionally warm-hearted and loving towards those closest to you, but in return you require quite a lot of attention. If you aren't getting enough appreciation from your lover, you quickly start to feel undervalued and unwanted. You hate to be ignored and do best with a partner who knows how to make you feel really special. You tend to prefer exclusive relationships and quickly become jealous and possessive if you're not 'number one' in your loved one's eyes.

Especially when you're feeling neglected, you can be rather overly demanding and prone to wanting everything on your own terms. You seek friends and lovers who will boost your self-esteem and make you feel positive about yourself. Instinctively, you understand that people who belittle you and undermine your belief in yourself are no good for you at all. Your strong sense of personal pride means you won't tolerate any kind of humiliation or betrayal, and despite your faithful nature you are quick to discard people who abuse you or take you for granted.

Because there is a child-like quality about you, you delight in relationships based on fun, games and laughter. You will probably get on particularly well with youngsters since they connect you with your own 'inner child'. You have a great love of entertaining and are a wonderful host, which makes you extremely popular among your friends and family.

Magnanimous to a fault and known for your grand, extravagant gestures, you value generosity very highly. You don't like people who are petty, stingy or mean-spirited. You want a Hero or Heroine to idolize and adore, someone you wholeheartedly admire and can be proud of. You are tremendously loyal and devoted once you give your heart to someone. But if a friend or lover does something dishonorable that reflects badly on you, you will never feel quite the same way about them again.

Venus in 6th house:

When you care deeply about someone, you like to serve them, for example by performing small thoughtful favors for them and helping them in practical, tangible ways. Conversely, you're not quite as good at accepting assistance from other people as you feel happier in the role of 'giver' rather than 'taker'. Be careful not to try to 'buy' your loved ones' affection by doing too much for them and making a dogsbody of yourself. You will probably enjoy exceptionally harmonious relationships with your colleagues, and may meet many friends and/or lovers through your place of work.

Venus Sextile Saturn:

Although you are cautious about giving your heart away, you are exceptionally loyal and faithful to the one who does win your love. Fidelity and security matter a lot to you, and it's important for you to be able to deeply respect your partner. You look beyond superficial qualities to see a person's inner worth (or lack thereof), before you let yourself really fall for them. In fact, too much glamour or flashiness is something of a turn-off to you; your tastes are simple, even austere, and there is a side to you that does not appreciate frivolity. You are capable of a serious, lasting, loving relationship and seek a mate who is trustworthy and committed. You may be drawn to someone older than yourself, or at least with a mature outlook on life. Casual or superficial relationships don't interest you much, for love seems to get deeper, richer and more satisfying for you as time goes by.

Venus aspects Saturn and Uranus:

Where love is concerned, you are apt to feel pulled in several directions at once. In addition to your desire for depth and for security in your relationships, you have an impulsive side and need a lot of variety and excitement, as discussed in the following. These urges do not have to conflict, but they certainly can, especially if you act on your spontaneous impulses without much consideration for their long-term effects on your personal life.

Venus Sextile Uranus:

Open and progressive in your attitudes towards sex and romance, you are likely to enjoy an exceptionally exciting and varied love life. Because your love feelings are easily aroused, your romantic relationships usually begin with a sudden electric attraction. On the other hand, they often end abruptly, and you may be in and out of love frequently - especially in your younger years.

You need a lot of emotional and romantic stimulation, and may not be very interested in having just one mate or love partner. Spontaneity and freedom are quite important to you, and 'settling down' isn't that appealing. You get on well with people of every different kind of background and orientation and tend to surround yourself with creative, unconventional types who keep your life lively.

A relationship in which both you and your partner have a good deal of space and independence will hold your interest much more than a safe, predictable one. Once a love affair becomes boring and monotonous, or starts to encroach upon your freedom, you have a tendency quickly to lose interest in it. Although you can enjoy a lasting relationship, this is more likely when you choose an unusual and/or non-possessive kind of partner.

Sun in 7th house:

You shine your inner light most radiantly, and express your creativity most powerfully, within the framework of your intimate relationships. The truth is you're unlikely ever to fulfill your maximum potential by going it alone: you always do best with a strong, supportive partner by your side. A natural born counsellor and negotiator, you are rightly proud of your outstanding people skills and you seek - and generally receive - due recognition for the work you put into the harmonious functioning of your relationships. To avoid disappointment, be wary of expecting too much praise and appreciation for your efforts, and sulking if you don't receive enough of it!

Mars in 7th house:

Your 'warrior side' expresses itself quite strongly in your one-to-one relationships, especially your romantic partnerships. There is a part of you that tends to thrive on a certain amount of argument and conflict with your 'significant other', which you may experience as a powerful sexual turn-on. You are attracted to feisty, dynamic, strong-willed people; you enjoy a good fight and prefer the kind of partner who will give as good as they get and won't allow you to boss them around. A tendency always to want your own way and a reluctance to back down or give in can make you extremely combative and aggressive at times, and if your partner is equally hot-tempered, you are likely to be constantly at each others' throats! Managing your anger and learning the art of compromise is a critical relationship challenge for you.

Pluto in 7th house:

Emotional intensity, compulsive attraction, and a sense of fate or destiny characterize your one-to-one relationships. It's as if you simply cannot have light, superficial relationships; they are inevitably profound, intense experiences which reveal your depths to you. You may be drawn to powerful, charismatic, willful people who challenge, thwart, and ultimately evoke your own power and strengths. Your close partnerships are likely to be the source of some formidable control dramas, but also the arena for your greatest growth.

YOUR PERSONAL DRIVES AND PASSIONS

What Turns You On and How You Achieve Your Goals

In essence, Mars's positioning in your birth chart describes how you assert yourself, what gets your adrenaline flowing, and the things you feel the urge to fight for in life. Through its sign and house placement, and the configurations it forms with other planets, it throws fascinating light on the nature and quality of your energy drive and the areas of life into which you channel it. Since it also provides a clear picture of your conflict handling style and the shape and form of your sexuality and libido, it is clearly of vital importance with regard to how you approach your intimate relationships.

In terms of your interactions with others, Mars signifies how you get your will across, how you go about fulfilling your personal wants and needs, and how you react when your desires are challenged. Named after the Roman god of war, Mars is the primary indicator of your anger behavior patterns: what triggers your anger, how you express it, and how you respond to other people's anger. As such, it may bring you face to face with some (perhaps unrecognized) personality traits which are highly destructive to the harmony of your relationships. Alternatively, you may be pleasantly surprised to discover the character strengths that empower you to accomplish anything you desire in your love life.

Mars in Virgo:

Your work is a ruling passion in your life - you may even be a workaholic. Doing a job well is very important to you, and you may labor over minute details that others wouldn't bother with. A born perfectionist, you often feel that if you want something done 'right' you must do it yourself, for others do not do as thorough a job as you do. You strive for accuracy, efficiency, and precision, and become very irritable when other people don't meet your high standards.

Somewhat nerdy by nature, you carefully organize your life according to your own tried and trusted systems, techniques and methodologies and are upset by disturbances to your routines and schedules. Sexually too, you're likely to be technically savvy and always keen to learn more, although your emotional reserve can make you uncomfortable with taking the initiative or expressing much sexual emotion.

On the other hand, you can become so much of a perfectionist and so self-critical that you will not even attempt many activities and projects, feeling that your efforts simply won't be good enough. While usually modest and realistic in assessing what you can accomplish, you often tend to underestimate yourself. Of course, practice makes perfect, and if you do apply yourself diligently in some area, you gradually gain self-confidence as you master skills and develop expertise. However, an unwillingness to take risks or venture from the beaten track can sometimes limit your opportunities. In short, you may not aim high enough and settle for too little in life.

Your perfectionism is also often the root cause of your quarrels with others and merciless criticism, dressed up in a particularly biting form of sarcasm, is your weapon of choice. With your superior intelligence, penetrating powers of analysis - and little interest in sparing others' feelings - you are prone to pointing out your opponent's failings with such undeniable accuracy, they will most likely want to crawl away and die! A skillful strategist who plans and organizes your battle campaign in minute detail, you know how to cleverly play on your enemy's weaknesses and inefficiencies to get the upper hand.

Mars in 7th house:

Your 'warrior side' expresses itself quite strongly in your one-to-one relationships, especially your romantic partnerships. There is a part of you that tends to thrive on a certain amount of argument and conflict with your 'significant other', which you may experience as a powerful sexual turn-on. You are attracted to feisty, dynamic, strong-willed people; you enjoy a good fight and prefer the kind of partner who will give as good as they get and won't allow you to boss them around. A tendency always to want your own way and a reluctance to back down or give in can make you extremely combative and aggressive at times, and if your partner is equally hot-tempered, you are likely to be constantly at each others' throats! Managing your anger and learning the art of compromise is a critical relationship challenge for you.

Mars Square Jupiter:

You usually enjoy good health and high vitality and have a positive, confident, 'can-do' attitude toward life, sometimes bordering on 'cockiness', which most people will find very attractive, but some will interpret as big-headed arrogance. Ever on the lookout for new opportunities and promising new ventures, you have a strong will to succeed, and you are willing to take risks if you sense that something is going to be a winner. No matter how much you accomplish, you never seem to be completely satisfied. You always feel you can do more, and set your sights on another goal.

You feel frustrated in limited circumstances, and you will leave secure and reasonably successful situations if they do not offer challenges and potential for growth and expansion in the future. You like to keep stretching your limits, and do best with the kind of partner who will allow you the freedom to explore how far you can go. Sometimes you overextend yourself or promise more than you can actually achieve, due to an overly optimistic or overly confident assessment of your own capacities. Be careful not to get too carried away by your enthusiasm and exuberance. Unless you learn to think carefully before you act, you are likely to make some reckless decisions and/or to be accident-prone.

Mars Conjunct Pluto:

You have a powerful will and when you want something, you go after it with passionate zeal. In fact you get so deeply involved in whatever you are pursuing that you lose all objectivity and become one-sided, even fanatical. You often try to overpower anything or anyone you perceive as an obstacle, if not physically then by the force of your will. You can be utterly ruthless when it comes to achieving your ambitions and goals in life, no matter what the costs or how hard you must work for it.

Sometimes, if you cannot get what you want directly, you'll try to dominate, manipulate, or seek power in a covert, secretive sort of way. Your forcefulness may be veiled or subtle, for often you do not reveal your real aims and intentions to others until they cross you. You stubbornly refuse to back down or give in until you have gained your own way, or have been utterly annihilated. You are a relentless and fearsome warrior who will 'fight to the death' if necessary.

You have enormous energy and are capable of extraordinary effort and great achievement, but must beware of burning yourself out. You are highly ambitious and could easily become a compulsive workaholic. Competition can become a deadly serious and rather ugly thing with you, as if your very life depended upon winning or conquering. Intense power struggles, often of a sexual nature, are likely to represent a dominant theme in your relationships. Learning to let go of the compulsion to win or maintain control is a critical relationship challenge for you.

YOUR MORAL BELIEFS AND VALUES

Your Personal Strengths and Karmic Blessings

In astrology, it is the planet Jupiter which rules our philosophy of life – how we interpret the purpose and meaning of our existence – and the codes of morality we follow on the basis of our fundamental beliefs and values. In our relationships, the position of Jupiter in our birth chart reflects the ethics and principles governing our treatment of others, and in turn the standards of behavior we expect from them. Traditionally known as the planet of good fortune, Jupiter indicates where we feel most confident and optimistic in life, and thus attract positive opportunities and situations towards ourselves. However it can also point to where over-confidence on our part results in bad judgement, foolish risk-taking, and excesses of all kinds.

Spiritually associated with good karma (the law of cause and effect), Jupiter's position by sign, house and aspect reveals the unique strengths and talents you have acquired through past-life 'right action' and now bring forward with you into this incarnation. Be sure to make the most of these precious gifts and blessings, using them to benefit and enhance your passage through life and bring more joy into all your personal relationships.

Jupiter in Capricorn:

You believe strongly in the importance of 'getting on' in life. Taking a responsible role in society, gaining worldly status and respect, and accumulating tangible material assets strike you as the 'right' approach to life. When it comes to your ambitions, you won't readily compromise on what you want, no matter how long it takes. Dropping out, giving up at the first hurdle, or depending on others to provide financially for you seems morally reprehensible to you.

Doing a professional and ethical job matters a great deal to you, no matter what field you are in or how humble the task may be. If you feel you have given something less than your best, you feel deeply disappointed in yourself. Morally, you veer toward the traditional and the conservative. You tend to support the status quo and believe in cooperating with rules, regulations and authority systems. You attach a high value to personal maturity and dignity, and have little respect for people who behave in a childish and irresponsible way.

Your relationships always fare best when you behave dependably and honorably towards your partner, while conforming to traditional relationship roles and values. Faithfulness and commitment bring you the greatest romantic happiness. If you betray your core principles of duty and integrity by breaking the 'ground rules' of your relationship, however you may define them, you tend to be less lucky in love.

Your strengths lie in your innate shrewdness, strong business instincts and indefatigable drive and ambition. You possess an innate confidence in your ability to succeed. Karmically, you are destined to achieve a high position in life, either professionally or materially, due in part to your influential connections and in part to your principled and ethical approach to worldly affairs in your former lives.

Jupiter in 10th house:

Past-life right action and moral integrity in your public life or career bring the potential reward of professional success and prosperity in your present life. The generosity and fair play you once applied to your public duties and business activities return to you now in the form of opportunities to gain worldly status and acclaim. Keep your good karma going by continuing to work for the benefit of society as a whole rather than solely for your own benefit. But avoid pursuing your career goals at the expense of your personal relationships and home life, which may suffer unless you keep your ambitions within reasonable bounds.

Jupiter Square Pluto:

You are apt to have very strong convictions and beliefs, and some might say you border on being fanatical. Whatever your religious or philosophical standpoint, you can be quite dogmatic and inflexible in your views. You may also have a tendency to force your beliefs and values onto others and try to 'convert' them to your own way of thinking.

You can be somewhat judgmental of people whose moral values are different to your own. Try to guard against an overly rigid sense of moral righteousness, or of always having all the answers, which may attract furious opposition and resentment in those around you. Being more allowing of alternative ways of looking at the world, and more prepared to admit that you aren't perfect and can sometimes be wrong, will help to avoid your relationships running into unnecessary trouble.

You have an unshakeable belief in your personal power and capacity to bring about positive reform in the world. Your eagerness to embrace change and engender deep, transformative experiences for growth and self-improvement, both in yourself and in others, is one of your finest karmic attributes. Be careful, however, of riding roughshod over other people's rights and foisting change on those who don't want it. Your relationships tend to be more successful when you let others move at their own pace.

YOUR HIDDEN FEARS AND VULNERABILITIES

Your Karmic Weaknesses and Challenges

Each one of us is prey to a host of subconscious doubts, fears and feelings of personal inadequacy which insidiously undermine our belief in ourselves and our ability to form successful relationships. Facing up to our hidden weaknesses and vulnerabilities represents a critically important step towards disempowering their hold over us, but certainly isn't easy. Fortunately, Saturn's positioning in our birth chart helps to throw valuable light on the negative attitudes and behaviors – often carried over from childhood or earlier incarnations – that lie at the root of our difficulties and sabotage our chances of experiencing the love we truly deserve.

Traditionally known as the planet associated with hard karma, wherever it falls in our chart Saturn instils us with an overwhelming and often troublesome sense of responsibility, possibly a consequence of unfulfilled obligations and debts left unpaid in past lives. By challenging us in the form of limitations, obstacles and set-backs, often profoundly frustrating to our relationships, Saturn tests our patience, resolve and long-term commitment to overcoming our shortcomings – qualities which generally come more easily as we get older since Saturn is also known as 'the Father of Time'.

Saturn in Gemini:

In common with the generation of people born within the same two and a half year period as yourself, you are somewhat lacking in confidence in your mental capacities, often doubting your own intelligence and/or your ability to communicate effectively with others. No matter how clever, smart and eloquent an individual you may be in reality and regardless of your educational qualifications and status, you frequently have an inexplicable, and in most cases totally unjustified, fear of appearing ignorant or lacking in knowledge.

To compensate for your subconscious sense of inadequacy, you may work very hard, perhaps even obsessively, at developing your mind, expanding your intellectual horizons, and improving your language skills. However, because you are fearful of making mistakes - especially early in life - you may be reluctant to enter freely into discussions without carefully rehearsing what you are going to say. Taken too far, this overly serious and earnest approach to communication can have a detrimental effect on your relationships, inhibiting spontaneous conversation and making small talk quite difficult at times.

Further honing your intellectual skills in a more balanced and relaxed way - acquiring greater mental self-discipline without becoming too rigid in your thinking or closing down to others - represents an important karmic task for you. This is one of the key steps on your soul's journey toward wholeness and perfection which unfolds within the context of many different relationships and over the course of many lifetimes. Getting to grips with this challenge

becomes much easier after your 'Saturn Return', which occurs around the age of thirty when transiting Saturn, the planet of karma, returns to its natal position in your birth chart.

Saturn in 4th house:

Achieving domestic security, developing your home-making skills, and raising children in a responsible way, may represent major challenges for you. These are areas of your life where, on some level, you lack confidence in yourself, no matter how competent and knowledgeable you are in reality. These unjustified feelings of inadequacy may be linked to a sense of lack or limitation you may have experienced in your childhood - regardless of how loving and supportive your upbringing may actually have been. Letting go of any resentments you have about your early life, whether justified or not, is crucial.

It's very important for you to build your own solid foundation, and investing time and energy into your home, domestic relationships, and parenting duties can help you accomplish this. Karmically, you are challenged to put more effort into creating a happy and secure home and family life than most other people. You may encounter a number of obstacles and setbacks and be required to take on some demanding responsibilities, but these should spur you into working even harder at creating the domestic security you need.

Saturn Trine Uranus:

In meeting your challenges and difficulties in life, you have two important allies: your ability to tolerate tension, uncertainty and discomfort and your willingness to compromise when necessary. Remaining steady in the midst of a relationship crisis or sudden change is an aspect of this, as well as knowing when to wait and when to make necessary changes. Because the 'responsible adult' within you is well balanced with the more rebellious side of yourself that desires unfettered freedom and excitement, you manage to fulfill your obligations and duties to others without much sense of restriction or loss of personal independence. Your freedom is very important to you, but you realize that, in the interests of partnership and togetherness, it must have its limits.