

ASTROBARRY'S 2013:

'I Survived the Apocalypse,

and All I Got Was This Year-Ahead Forecast'

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INTRODUCTION: Surviving the Apocalypse, Continuing the Revolution

'Oh, shit. What did I do?'

I've been asking myself that every day for weeks now, as I've scrambled to get you these thousands of horoscope-words about your year ahead.

Last year I wrote a book. I slaved diligently away on it for many weeks, with the intention of *finally* achieving one of my biggest life-goals: Since adolescence, I'd wanted to be a professional writer. Knowing the astrological influences of the era—principally, the square between Uranus and Pluto—were favoring this sort of life-redefining risk, I decided it was the right moment. So I wrote the book. I released it. I sold lots of copies, more than I'd expected. I banked this as an unqualified success. Then I went back to my normal life, or so I thought.

Maybe this is obvious, but also conveniently easy to forget: Once you write an annual astrological forecast, you are expected to write *another* one the next year... and then another one after that. A book a year for the rest of your astrological-writing career: no flimsy assignment. When I say I am 'expected' to write a book a year, incidentally, I'm not pinning those expectations on *you*, dear reader. It is undeniably I who holds my own professional self to these lofty aspirations, and by design.

I recall plotting my ascent to this very throne years ago, looking at all those lucrative annual-horoscope trade paperbacks on the bookstore's end-cap display and thinking to myself, 'What a brilliant business concept! A book that has to be *repurchased every year!*' Ever since I began regularly writing online astrology in 2002, I've had my eye fixed on this goal. When I finally *accomplished* it at the end of last year, I hit one of the proudest moments in my professional life. For months after, I still rode high on this sense of achievement.

I hadn't, however, thought much about what should happen *next*. I'd been so single-mindedly focused on simply completing this feat—and then, so happily distracted by each 'squee!' I emitted every time another person bought a copy—I wasn't considering the reality of *repeating* this feat. I held a vague notion that I'd have to sit down and write *ASTROBARRY'S 2013* at some point... but mainly my thoughts centered on the bump I'd again feel once sales for this

second book began pouring in, and the self-confidence I'd further cement as an author by adding to my body-of-work. I had yet to think about any practical logistics such as, for instance, *when* exactly I might write this book or *how long* it would likely take.

Perhaps these details should have been self-evident, seeing as I'd *just* finished an identical project. Admittedly, I got caught in a bit of resting on my laurels. Resting on one's laurels, alas, is a perilous stance... particularly with a squaring Uranus-and-Pluto rubbing their rascally hands together, pondering how next to disrupt any attempt at peace, pressing for constant cathartic transformation, one disconcerting surprise after another, nary a stone unturned. Resting on one's laurels seems a tempting provocation to Fate, does it not?

Successfully writing and publishing my first e-book last year was a *huge* revolution in my life. And for that, I express my deepest gratitude to Uranus and Pluto (among others) for creating the sort of destabilized, risk-demanding astro-climate that supports making this happen. But revolutions aren't *over* once the initial bombastic life-disruption has taken place... a lesson which I painfully learned firsthand during these last several months, and one which I hope to share with you by recounting this personal tale of my continuing transformation.

In revolutionizing ourselves, we must successfully overthrow whatever self-imposed tyrant has been restricting our freedoms—and that's a *monumental* triumph in itself, which deserves recognition. Yet our work as revolutionaries persists far beyond that initiating spectacle. Perhaps, even, the next stage of work is *more* difficult. If we do not address the gaping holes in our habitual structuring processes left by our revolutionary breakthroughs? As with any governing body that's been toppled without a replacement put in place, *anarchy* ensues. This is an intrinsic warning from our Uranus-Pluto era: Transformational creativity requires persistence *beyond* those first triumphant topplings, or the lawlessness can breed its own problems.

Once we muster the strength to leave a lifeless or detrimental relationship, for instance, we imagine all the spacious solace of *not* having to answer to someone else's nags, to ask their permission to do what we want, or to wipe their asses for 'em. Those fantasies help embolden us to take that giant redefining step, even while quietly know there will be a *succeeding* period of messiness... which we'll *then* need to clean up. We usually don't fixate on the stretches of loneliness ahead, the alienating process of reentering the dating world, those moments when a

song or a TV commercial suddenly reminds us we also *miss* the good qualities of the relationship. If we did, we might become so frozen in our tracks by fear, we'd *never* break away.

After the celebratory cocktails and congratulating pats-on-the-back from friends, we *will* have to confront the need to rebuild our life as a solo venture (at least in the short-term)... reassuming responsibility for items our prior partner always handled, attending events or gatherings to ward off too much solitariness and hopefully meet new friends or lovers, forcing ourselves to reach out for support at the very minute we *least* want to face another human being. This sort of mundane everyday self-renewal is the *real* revolution, and it doesn't usually come accompanied by flag-waving or fireworks. If we don't earnestly address what happens to us *after* the breakup, we might find ourselves unconsciously sliding into addiction, depression, bitterness or sloth.

This same rationale applies to *any* revolution... and with Uranus and Pluto remaining in an *exact* square through 2015, it's especially relevant to remember these days, as a large majority of us is both (1) revolutionizing a key aspect of our lives *and* (2) encountering the unforeseen side-effects of having neglected to correspondingly revolutionize *other* aspects, which now require our *immediate* attention due to now-vastly-altered life-circumstances. Not just a breakup, but maybe a sudden falling-in-love, the escalating commitment of a new marriage, a promising job promotion or a defiant fuck-you job departure, a relocation, a line-in-the-sand, some metaphoric or literal death: All such dramatic discontinuities signify merely the *beginning* of a transformed life, not the fully-formed new life itself.

As 2012's months ticked past me, I unfortunately did *not* sufficiently revolutionize the other parts of my life to keep up with my new life as an author of book-length works. I allowed patterns from my previous incarnation as 'proudly self-reliant entrepreneur' prevail, unaltered: piles of administrative tasks stacked on my proverbial plate (instead of wisely delegated, as I quietly knew *had* to happen), travel plans hatched (without heeding my need for an organized annual work-schedule), entire days left to my meandering as they'd always been (justified, in my mind, by how hard I was already working and how 'creative types' *need* our ample room to just *be*). I outlined my structure for *ASTROBARRY'S 2013*. I put in some good work, here and there. But meanwhile, other commitments also called. Deadlines caught up with me. Self-doubt crept in. As the year's remaining moments quickly grew fewer and fewer, I suddenly found myself

wondering whether I'd even be able to finish the project on time. (After all, a year-ahead forecast has a certain inalterable *timeliness*.)

This is the point in our tale, dear readers, where I might launch into my rundown of self-defenses and self-criticisms, since evidently I *did* finish this project (because you are now reading it), though the process of doing so was far more painful and disappointing than I ever expected. Never one to settle for stagnation, I'd set the bar for myself even higher than last year's in terms of what my latest book would include, yet, illogically, started writing it later in the year and totally misjudged the time requirements. I expanded upon the format of the annual sun-sign horoscopes, which consumed so much effort, I doubted how I'd be able to pull *anything else* off. As each day brought me closer to the end-of-year ball drop, I kept willfully ignoring the obvious signs that I wouldn't likely attain the full ambitions I'd devised for this project... instead naively telling myself, as long as I was writing all day every day, everything would be fine. After maintaining a tireless schedule for too many workdays in a row, I began to secretly hope that, yes, the world *would* end on December 21, 2012—if only to deliver me from this mayhem I'd created for myself.

May we pause now for a second to acknowledge *we're all still here*... the Mayans (or, should I say, our modern misinterpretations of Mayan calendaring systems) were *wrong*... and the world, of course, did *not* end in December 2012?

No need to worry, though: I'm sure some supposedly oracular sect of end-timers will shortly arise to fill the role vacated by our discredited 2012ers, hailing their previously-undiscovered-but-now-recovered future date for the *real* End of the World, complete with (depending on the given bent of this sect) its angelic ascensions or fire-and-brimstone destructions. Something in our psyche *craves* the extravaganza. Looking ahead to the End of Times has been a popular human fascination since, well, the beginning of time.

I'd argue that we collectively look to these apocalyptic possibilities with fear *and*, simultaneously, eager anticipation. While we may panic about fiery disaster scenarios, we also quietly *wish* for that sort of game-changing *deliverance* promised by the Messiah's return, the asteroid impact, or the arrival of little green men from the Alpha Centauri star-system. *Nothing*

else would matter at that fateful moment, or ever again thereafter. What drama! And then... can you even imagine the tremendous deafening *relief*?

We might feel pretty happy about having remained alive after an apocalypse *hasn't* happened, but, on other level, we may also experience tinges of *disappointment*. Not only is there no dazzling 'drama!' to gawk at, but we have *not* been delivered from life's responsibilities. In the deflating aftermath, we have no rescue from the still-pressing need to keep our efforts up, to finish what we started, to *persevere*. Reality sets back in again... only now, in contrast to the highs-and-lows of apocalyptic thinking, it's that much more *sobering*.

My reality set in a few days before the completion of this book, when I realized I would *have* to revise my ambitious outline in order to finish relatively on time. As it stood, I was already nearly a month behind on my original timeline for release... *and* I'd already publicly posted a description of what the book would entail (a move I ignorantly hoped might serve as a contract I'd have no choice but to meet). Forget the fact that the annual sun-sign horoscopes I'd already finished were actually lengthier than my entire 2012 book, articles and all, I still could not shake the menacing omnipresence of incredible *disappointment* with myself. (I'm, of course, sparing you all the gory details of every horrible thing I told myself, which centered mainly on 'being a failure' and 'essentially ruining all the career success I'd worked hard over more than a decade to achieve'.) *Maybe* if I worked all hours and into the night, nonstop, for the final few days, I *might* be able to finish everything exactly how I'd wanted it. But I also had to be honest about how physically—but even more so *emotionally*—exhausted I'd become. I simply didn't have it in me. So I had to admit it: I had fallen short of goal I'd set for myself.

Then, alongside this most disappointing reality-check, a very magical thing occurred... the next step in my continuing revolution. I embraced my tender human fragility, and gave *it* what it needed to fight off the impending despair: I granted myself *mercy*.

For those of you who have gotten to know me through my writings over the years, you've probably noticed I'm exceedingly hard on myself. I set sky-high expectations for what I believe I should be able to accomplish... and in the few instances like this when I let myself down (since I usually ensure I'm *not* letting myself down by constantly whipping myself into overdrive), I'm typically inconsolable, as if my very worth as a person depends on every perfect score on every

exam. This attitude is, without a doubt, the single greatest self-limiting factor in my life—which is achingly ironic since it's *also* a quality that's helped me achieve so much I'm proud of. It's kept me working like a dog, resisting the need to delegate, perpetually striving for more. But to become more usefully supportive rather than an endless self-torturing nightmare, such a mindset *must* be properly balanced with merciful, pragmatic realism. I have now begun the revolutionary process of working more faithfully on this balance.

There's a beautiful synchronicity between what I've just shared with you and 2013's astrology, which features the esteemed arrival of greater-benefic Jupiter into Cancer on June 25. Jupiter changes signs once a year; that, in itself, isn't groundbreaking news. However, Cancer is the sign of Jupiter's *exaltation*, a place where he behaves at his most honorable and kind-hearted. Not only will Jupiter be just plain *happy* about his time in this sign, but Cancer also carries an energy of *emotional caring and nurture*... an indicator that we'll tap into our most fortuitous growth-opportunities by consciously tending to our, and other people's, emotional needs.

Once Jupiter's in Cancer, he'll move into a T-square with the ever-destabilizing Uranus-Pluto square—simultaneously forming a square to Uranus *and* an opposition to Pluto—a configuration which has its first exact hit in August, with two additional hits in 2014. On one hand, Jupiter's expansive influence on an already-pretty-massive aspect promises an overall *increase* in the magnitude of revolutionary turmoil we can expect from Uranus and Pluto. As a result, I suspect the most history-altering developments we will witness from this Uranus-Pluto square have *yet to happen*; it appears they may soon be on their way. Yet, Jupiter-in-Cancer's presence also brings a *third* archetypal principle into the Uranus-Pluto equation, which demands its own say amongst the revolutionary transformations we're in the grips of facilitating: heart-centered *mercy*, a guiding value equally important to consider, as we tear down rotting structures before they collapse and/or gamble our sure-footedness on urgently-demanded innovations.

Jupiter in Cancer will repeatedly remind us to follow our gut feelings... and sometimes, they will tell us to be a bit more sensitive, back off from all the harsh chaos, and just *take care* of ourselves and each other. Rewards of great *comfort* naturally follow from there.

Jupiter also joins two other outer-planets—Saturn in Scorpio, and Neptune in Pisces—in the gorgeous synergy of a *grand water trine* (or equilateral triangle), exact in July, reiterating the

primary significance of the *water* element in 2013. With such a watery emphasis on the year ahead, we should count on everybody's emotions running at a more noticeable, and thus more influential, pitch. These water planets are calling on us to better integrate feelings, hunches, intuitions, and sensitivities into all our decision-making. Why else would it become increasingly impossible to preserve those compartmentalizing divisions, between the nuts-and-bolts of everyday mundane existence and their impact on our emotional experience of life, which we've typically used to anesthetize ourselves from sorrow or suffering? Maybe because we *shouldn't* be compartmentalizing or anesthetizing. Maybe because we *need* a whole lot more heartfelt emotional regard in how we manage every day, to counteract the cold and soulless aspects of modern life we've let encroach upon us over the years. What better time to invite it in than during the midst of a revolution, when a great number of us are aching for grace?

Last year, I wrote *ASTROBARRY'S 2012* as my testament to the do-it-yourself sensibilities so strongly favored during this revolutionary Uranus-square-Pluto era.

This year, as my personal revolution continues, I present the next chapter of this journey—*ASTROBARRY'S 2013*, my living symbol of the struggle to mercifully embrace ourselves as emotionally delicate human beings. May my words stir in you the inspiration to be that much more tender and emotionally responsive, with yourself and others, throughout the year ahead.

ARIES

Welcome to the new you...

...less interested than ever in playing by the book! ...less willing to surrender independence to confining commitments or unworthy power-structures! ...less afraid of taking wild-and-crazy leaps of faith based on instinct alone! ...here comes Aries, warrior-pioneer, unapologetically blazing trails which never existed before!

So have you *settled* into this radically liberating way-of-being yet? Not all the way? Didn't think so. Nothing's very 'settled' right now anyhow—and that's *exactly* how it should be.

Perhaps the bitterest pill to swallow regarding your 2013 is the continuing *instability* and *unpredictability* that carries on from your prior year, Aries, leaving you to perpetually wonder what each new day will bring. On the other hand, at least there's no shortage of opportunities offering you chances to branch off, break free, experiment, innovate, and/or try on a completely different outlook. Instability is just a natural consequence of everything shaking itself out, in response to all the changes you've made... and continue to make.

I'd be more worried about you, to be honest, if either (1) you're desperately holding on to a past that will *never ever* exist again or (2) you somehow claim to be *bored*, despite innumerable options for ways to 'stir things up'. In such cases, you're essentially tempting fate to drop a shocking surprise on you.

The long-term residence of planetary rebel Uranus in Aries (2010-2018) creates an ongoing pressure on you to *do things your unique way*—with little respect for convention or appropriateness. There's no better astrological influence under which to take big risks or reinvent yourself head-to-toe than when freedom-fighter Uranus visits your sign. And this, mind you, is the *only* period during your entire lifetime when he'll be visiting Aries.

Uranus's emancipatory energy *will* be expressed in the lives of all Aries, like it or not. That's why it's so important for you *not* to resist the unstoppable currents of *change*. Despite the obvious distress that often comes with letting go of familiar patterns and daring to behave differently, you have no choice but to bravely proceed as such while on Uranus's watch. (Uranus, incidentally, doesn't give a rat's-ass about *feelings* such as distress.) And if you *don't* release your sentimental grasp on now-outdated situations? Uranus has a funny habit of *pushing* you out of your comfort-zone anyway... in a most sudden and unexpected manner.

Let's put it like this: You're *going* to be 'freed up' one way or another. Therefore, it behooves you to proactively decide *how* you most want to free yourself—and to take at least *one* huge step toward that great unknown, signaling to Uranus, yes, you're willing to play along. Even still, he's probably got another surprise or two up his sleeve.

While a Uranus transit through your sign is big enough news on its own, it's not the *only* relevant headline. During 2013, and for a couple years beyond, Uranus remains in an exact *square* to Pluto, our planetary link to 'the Underworld' (i.e., all those less-polite psychological drives and power-dynamics that underlie human behavior). This incredibly forceful aspect casts a long shadow of once-in-a-generation *revolutionary unrest* over our whole collective existence (in case you haven't noticed)... and you Aries are among those most directly impacted by it. In other words, there *is* a good astrological reason why it seems like everything's been turned upside-down—and, no, this *won't* last forever. (It's still got a decent chunk of time left, though.)

Pluto's presence in your 10th indicates a significant degree of the tension you'll experience in 2013 stems from an awakening *self-empowerment* in your career life (and/or in whatever else you're striving to accomplish out in the world)—a development that's making it increasingly difficult for you to merely sit on your hands or obediently defer to bosses or authority-structures which stifle your ascent. As you probably know, there's a certain amount of respect for accepted protocol or existing chains-of-command you *must* uphold, in order to get where you want to go. Rebellious Uranus would sooner have you *flip the bird* to protocol and hierarchy... and, instead, just set you off on your own path, freeing you from meddlesome tyrants and their bureaucratic bullshit. But then, *all* the responsibility would land squarely on *your* plate. Are you actually *prepared* for all that? On the other hand, how prepared do you *need* to be?

With Pluto in your 10th, your tolerance for professional or public-world situations which hinder your ability to come into your fullest is now reaching *an all-time low*. You are ready to sink your teeth into bigger and more challenging projects... and you'll likely grow increasingly frustrated if, for one reason or another, you're unable to do so. It pays to be as forthright as possible with the relevant players about your ambitions, no matter the outcome. Pretending 'everything's cool' when it's *not* will only fuel an undertow of resentment, which could cause your co-workers to (rightly) identify you as having an attitude problem—and end up leading to a smackdown. Even if you *are* direct with your desires, you might *still* face hostile reactions from threatened colleagues who'd prefer to keep you in your place. Such reactions signal a power-struggle you're unlikely to win.

Throughout 2013, you're caught in a need to balance (1) an unstoppable surge of individualistic self-determination with (2) the necessity of working *within* a certain system or structure, in order to meet your longer-term goals. Even in cases where you've gone your own way, you'll nonetheless have to abide by plans and guidelines... which, though they're of *your own making*, will still often feel like they infringe upon your moment-by-moment freedom. How much 'freedom' is *enough*? And how much is *too much*? Where's the line between self-determination and fruitless impulsivity?

Uncompromising individualism always collides with the conscious considerateness required for healthy relationships, and that meeting-point has been the locus of your Saturn lessons over these past few years... lessons which have *ratcheted up in magnitude* since Saturn hit your 8th house in October 2012. As a result, what's at stake in *any* interpersonal coupling you're involved in has significantly *intensified*.

If you're in a relationship that's *appropriate* to your ever-evolving self, you are due to engage with the meatier issues of increasing intimacy: the joint management of finances; the complications of maintaining ongoing sexual compatibility; confessions of fears, past traumas, or other psychological vulnerabilities. Your willingness to boldly wade through this mud *together* will more solidly intertwine your destinies and profoundly deepen the quality of your connection. On the other side of tough exchanges and negotiations come firmer trust and greater passion. If, however, you *refuse* to openly face these depths of what's really going on between you? You're cementing a pattern of denial and/or dishonesty into the foundation of the relationship—

with lasting consequences that only *worsen* the severity of what'll happen once these issues *do* finally hit a crisis-point. (And they *will*, so don't say I didn't warn you.)

Meanwhile, those Aries who are in the *wrong* relationship can expect to bump unpleasantly against the *restraints* it imposes upon your freedom-of-movement. Whether you're actively removing yourself from such a scenario or just (re)establishing clearer boundaries, Saturn's transit through the 8th is the right time to responsibly *limit* the extent of your entanglements. Your psychological energy is precious, and mustn't be squandered on draining associations. The single among you should *also* be more acutely aware of this tradeoff inherent to any psychological investment: Though your single status may reserve you a fair amount of autonomy, you might be sacrificing potential *depth-of-relation* if you preserve too thick a wall around your vulnerabilities. Like any investment, you won't earn the big payoff unless you're willing to gamble *something*... albeit wisely. This rationale applies to friendships and professional partnerships as well as romantic relationships.

Jupiter's visit to your 3rd (where he's been since June 2012) certainly hasn't done much to mellow the amped-up rhythms of your Uranus-and-Pluto-frazzled life. Jupiter's influence only *magnifies* the sheer amount of information, communication and social circulation you're exposed to (or should I say 'bombarded by?') on a day-to-day basis through the first half of 2013. On one hand, this expansion in social connectedness has left a large number of doors wide open, assisting you in finding opportunities or insightful words-of-wisdom through acquaintances and casual contacts. On the other hand, it's created a lot more extraneous *noise* than you typically prefer... with the potential to grate on your nerves and/or heighten the urge to be short or sharp with chatterbox-types.

Midyear, Jupiter moves into your 4th, increasing the positives you'll reap from placing a greater focus on *your private home life*. From late June onward, you'll feel a noticeable pull toward more consciously tending to your inner needs, which is often best accomplished in a safe and nurturing residential environment. Simply by devoting time and energy to making your home a more pleasant and comfortable place, you can make a larger-than-you'd-think impact on your emotional well-being. If you don't like where you live and/or who you live with, the second half of '13 is an ideal time to *do something about it*. The logistical and relational inconveniences will be lessened thanks to Jupiter's helping-hand.

Deciding to prioritize domestic contentment (and the emotional-health benefits you'll enjoy as a result) in 2013 will provide a supportive counter-balance to the continuing zaniness out in the world... but it won't necessarily be easy to carve out the time, considering the strenuous activity-levels expected of you (by others *and* yourself) are in direct conflict with the welcome advantages of peace-and-quiet-at-home. As the astrology tells it, though, your willingness to thoughtfully engage with this conflict—to give *all* the competing zones of your life their fair due—adds an elusive, dare-I-say *spiritual* dimension to your appreciation of this wacky moment, which will make *all the difference*.

Work / Career / Finances

As I already written, Pluto's ongoing occupation of your 10th house—while squaring Uranus in *your* sign—situates career issues front-and-center throughout 2013. You're in no mood to politely accept imposed restrictions on your capacity to evolve professionally... and you can expect persistent displeasure (or out-and-out *conflict*) if you stay stuck in circumstances that constrain you from exploring your fuller capabilities. You'll receive a definite sign of the relative potential in your current spot early in January, when the outward recognition dealt to you either (1) accurately fits what you've earned or (2) downplays your contributions in a dispiriting manner. Based on what you observe, the couple months that follow will provide you a momentary interval of modest reassurance—or leave you with a near-excruciating urge to move on to the next thing.

The time for impactful self-initiated action begins in mid-March, when a lineup of planets arrives in your sign, rousing your independent streak to a climactic peak. Your go-getter attitude will be impossible to contain. If you're well-positioned to run with it, unfettered by limiting circumstances, you can generate a massive momentum for whatever's got you fired up. But if your hands are still tied, the pressure to break away is likely to culminate in some sort of a big 'bang!' This incredible energetic continues into April, when you may *finally* need to 'tell it like it is' after holding your tongue for what feels like forever. As a result, in the short-term, you might face restrictive financial after-effects; in the longer-term, though, it profoundly benefits you to no longer tolerate dynamics within which you can't be pretty blunt and direct. Use May to help (re)stabilize the money boat.

Welcome a surge of productive potential starting midway through October, when you can leapfrog forward on all that you sketched out in late July and August. Prepare for the fact that *reality* won't look identical to the perfect version you visualized; that's just part of the process of making something *real*. November brings another progress-marker glimpse, showing you how far you've come (or *haven't* come) since the beginning of '13. This time around, you'll be smack in the middle of doing the work you're being assessed on—and will be even *clearer* about whether you're receiving your just rewards or being insulted. A whole new batch of promising opportunities (or are they phantom possibilities?) leaves you hanging on the line right at year's-end. You won't know quite how it all pans out until a few months into 2014.

Relationships / Romance

2013 is decidedly *not* a year for treating relationships lightly or casually... unless, that is, you've been impeccably diligent about explicitly delimiting your level of emotional involvement. And even then, simply speaking your truth may not go far enough in responsibly handling someone else's heart, especially if you instinctively sense they have a different understanding of your situation and/or are becoming more attached than you are. This is sort of an 'all or nothing' moment: If you're going to bother enmeshing yourself at this time, when there's such a strong individualism coursing through you, it ought to be *really* worth the investment—and you'd better be damn willing to invest yourself fully. Otherwise, anything more than a few happy-go-lucky dates with an ill-fitting match will cause you more headaches than you need.

You'll be emitting a dazzling heat in March and April, when the attractive magnetism that naturally goes along with an active engagement in life follows you wherever you go. Don't be coy about what you are—and aren't—looking for. If your straight-shooting scares away a potential suitor, that's ultimately a very good thing. At this juncture, you can't afford to indulge anyone's insecurities. Cutting to the chase will quickly sort the confident individuals from the needy hangers-on. Though there's no shortage of good fun during July, you may have to cut it off sooner than you'd intended if you're being asked for more than you're ready to give. But should you show even one indication of 'stepping it up', the whole thing will suddenly get *way* serious.

If you're really digging someone, August's a wonderful month to make an affectionate gesture of interest. Such a move will demonstrate *a lot* of commitment, especially considering how many other concerns are simultaneously vying for your attention. By September, you should already witness obvious clues as to *how* this relationship's developing. If you're happy with these developments, think of this as a *very* advantageous glance into your future: You may have found a lasting love. But if a red-flag shows itself, please don't turn a blind-eye. This is *also* an omen of things to come: You're seeing a clear hint of what'll ultimately prove to be this pairing's downfall. Be mindful of exactly what you promise and/or how you criticize a partner in October and November, as those words could come back to haunt you. Fair compromises, as opposed to short-fused tempers, are called for later in December.

January

Kick off your year with commanding statements of professional intent, loud and prominent enough that nobody could mistake you for lacking opinion or desire. The power with which you speak *does* hold the possibility of startling certain individuals who'd, perhaps, expected you to wait until being called upon before offering such personal declarations. (Guess they don't know you all that well.) Spend much of January massaging the message into fuller social acceptance, putting in the additional legwork to recruit allies and/or strengthen alliances one conversation at a time. Be somewhat adaptable to whatever small revisions might keep the more inflexible players happy, but hold a hard firm line when it comes to the *big* issues. Don't sign away any decent chunk of control unless you're completely sure of what you're doing—and have confidently protected your interests in a water-tight agreement.

February

Rely on the considerate watchfulness of friends or teammates throughout February, a month in which your mind will be at its dreamiest. With your imagination operating at its peak, this is a perfect time for some behind-the-scenes brainstorming and visualizing... though you may be momentarily lacking the most realistic handle on how to move beyond the idea phase. Don't rush into implementation quite yet. Listen carefully (and obediently) to what those around you are recommending; their protective advice could save you from blindly causing yourself unnecessary problems later. If you are a believer in the mystical magic of the unseen world,

please use this month to cast your fondest wishes upon a star. Create a personal ritual with special significance just for you, including a clear expression of gratitude. Even the skeptics among you can benefit from quiet reflection upon your heart's deepest yearnings.

March

March may start out with a foggy hangover from last month's relative retreat from reality, but the mood dramatically shifts to hyper-dynamic progress by the second half. Let circumstances out of your control work themselves through during the first couple weeks. Don't assess whether this shakeout is a blessing or curse based solely on the appearance of doors opening or closing; at this early point, it's hard to tell what is what. By mid-month, you'll know enough to start taking your next big step forward... even if it feels so incredibly risky, it makes you shiver in your boots. Late March is your best time all year to embody that daredevil Aries spirit and leap off a cliff. Yes, you *are* gambling your place within traditional institutions and/or your reputation among conventional types. But if you *don't*, you might pass up a chance for greater independence and freedom.

April

The excitement continues into April, as you see where this wave of amplified self-empowerment can take you. The flip-side of this 'excitement' is *chaos*, of course: an unsettling but necessary aspect of major change-periods. Each onward move you make will likely be met by some unanticipated response from people or entities either put off by your spunkiness or irresistibly drawn to it. Keep on rolling with the punches. Later in the month, you'll need to put your money where your mouth is... and demonstrate *some* tangible sign of your commitment. That's when you've got to screw your head back on straight and think like a businessperson, not a dreamer. Be willing to go back and forth a few times in any financial negotiations, to ensure you're not hastily limiting your potential gain. Patience will be your bank-account's best friend.

May

Embody the fuller self-assuredness that comes from knowing where you stand. Whether you emerge content with your latest dealings or instead realize they won't progress any further, a

certain 'up-in-the-air' quality to your immediate professional and/or economic situation gives way to a clearer perspective early in May. Proceed with transparent authenticity. Use the rest of your month to experiment with different social crowds or ways-of-behaving, as if trying on a new wardrobe that may better fit the evolving you. You just might befriend someone you wouldn't have been interested in only a year or two ago. If you've been stuck in a rough patch with a sibling or neighbor, this is an excellent moment for reopening the conversation with a fresh attitude. So much has happened since the tension began... and, in case you haven't learned by now, people really *do* change.

June

Coming to emotional terms with all that's happened so far in '13 may inspire yearnings for some long-overdue peace and quiet. Hopefully, you'll be able to assert proper boundaries with eager co-workers or intrusive family-members so you actually *get* a couple moments to yourself during June. A 'stay-cation' will prove far more relaxing than dealing with the stresses of travel. In fact, you may notice the beginnings of a lengthier trend that redirects more attention to your private life, in self-nurturing balance to your strenuous outside-world strivings. Think about modest (or not-so-modest) ways to improve your comfort at home, so you feel safer and more cared for. A little conscious effort to spruce up your surroundings will go a *long* way over these coming months. For now, just start gathering ideas and making plans.

July

Mark your growing emotional self-reliance with one more defining gesture meant solely to nourish a private personal need. Don't expect anybody else to fully comprehend *why* you're moved to do what you will. (It's not about *them*, is it?) Be careful, however, not to be shady in evading their questions or otherwise 'sparing their feelings'; just give it to 'em straight. You're not responsible for managing others' reactions to you taking care of yourself. Treat things lightly and casually on the romantic front. Though your flirtation quotient may be on the rise, that doesn't mean you're ready to jump into a deeper commitment. Why spoil the hot fun with too many heavy considerations? Save the brooding for your solitary moments. Help unclutter your mind at month's end with a space-clearing reorganization project. Hint: Pick something you'll actually *finish*.

August

August's a good time to push the envelope socially, putting a bit of warm-hearted theatricality and goofiness into your off-hours activities. Reconnect with your childlike innocence, and all the other 'kids' will want to join in your games. You've got an especially *attractive* presence throughout much of the month, making it easier to win people over to your side. This may be your perfect chance to turn a dalliance into a full-fledged relationship, or to initiate whatever adjustments will improve an existing partnership. Be sure not to overpromise, though, if you don't plan on actually carving out enough time from your busy schedule. On the job front, even your best intentions will be met by a sharper pressure to 'make it work'. Maybe you've got to compromise on vision, in favor of real-world manageability.

September

Any interpersonal couplings or collaborations—whether romantic, professional or family-related—must be treated with the utmost attentiveness in September. What you commit to *now* will have lasting ramifications. You must address any developing tensions between (1) the sheer pleasure of enjoying each day as it comes and (2) the looming complications from ignoring the magnitude of 'where this is all going'. The answer, by the way, is *not* just to say whatever will make the other person happy (and get 'em off your case). 'Smooth talking' *will* come back to haunt you. This is also an excellent month for resolving any long-and-drawn-out negotiations related to the *ending* of a prior entanglement. It may require one more excruciatingly awkward interaction; then you'll feel deeply relieved and unfettered, at last.

October

Early in October, you may find yourself on the spot to provide an uncomfortable answer to someone's fairly direct question. This is no time to mince your words, but take care not to say *more* than is required... especially if stirred by a temptation to sneak in a low-blow or offer unnecessarily controversial judgments. Recklessly hurtful statements will hit them extra-hard—and cost you a month or more of active backpedaling. The emotional tone loosens up mid-month, as you grow increasingly excited about whatever adventure your next chapter of life holds in store. Channel this renewed zeal into up-shifting your daily productivity levels. That

pile of work on your desk must be dealt with *before* you can move on with a clear mind. This is the sort of forward-thinking motivation likeliest to foster results.

November

Pretty quickly into November, you will witness *obvious* consequences—good or bad—to how responsibly you navigated the choppy interpersonal waters of your last couple months. If you thoroughly handled your business, you'll be gifted with a fuller grasp on your driving hopes and fears... *and* deepening intimacies with those you've shared these vulnerable details with. If you haven't? Expect nasty pushback, which directly impedes upon how competently you can handle the other areas of your life. Learned your lesson yet? Career takes center-stage midway through the month, as you reach a peak of what's possible in your current position. If you like what's happening, this is your positive sign to continue what you're doing. If you're disappointed, you might have hit an unmovable obstacle. Even in less-than-ideal scenarios, keep consistently working hard throughout November... if for no other reason than the *emotionally grounding* benefits.

December

Too eagerly anticipating what the holidays and next year promise could cause you to inadvertently drop a ball or two early in the month. Try not to project ahead into the future, while details still need your focus in the here-and-now. This undercurrent of antsy impatience also threatens to rouse unrest in personal relationships, as you might not feel up to 'playing the game' of thoughtfully considering others' alternative ways. It's not a 'game' to those whose needs you may be trampling over. Professional developments from last month lead you to a critical crossroads right as 2013 comes to a close. But don't leap in a certain direction as if you *must* decide before year's-end; this story holds at least one more unforeseen twist during the first months of '14. Just when you thought you had it all figured out, here comes something you *hadn't* considered...

TAURUS

Ever since good-ole lord-of-karma Saturn entered your 7th house in October '12, Taurus, your relationship life has been up for *serious* review... and taking an up-close, unembellished look at the state of your interpersonal commitments remains *the number-one task* you're charged with in 2013.

When Saturn visits your 7th (as he'll be doing through mid-2015), *nothing* about your relationships ought to be treated lightly. The conscientious efforts you invest in defining exactly what you seek to gain from your most important partnership(s), as well as honestly evaluating whether or not your current relational circumstances fit the bill, will bring you rewards that endure for years to come. Likewise, *refusing* to deal with this reality now will sadly cement any dissatisfactions into firmer being, and likely exacerbate their severity. There's just no getting around it: Whether you are presently coupled off *or* single, this is a clear make-it-or-break-it moment.

You partnered Taureans are reaching the point in your relationship where inconvenient issues, ignored differences and/or suppressed problems must now come home to roost. If you sincerely want the relationship to satisfyingly endure, you'll have to *work* at it: disrupting the safe (but stale) patterns, gambling the supposedly easy (or is it lazy?) flow for a more deeply authentic and trusting connection... knowing full well the road from here to there is a necessarily bumpy one. How *fantastic* would it feel to rip the covers off that scary subject, to be seen, unashamed, in your fullest light by the person you're sharing life with? Horribly awkward and uncomfortable at first, maybe... but ultimately gloriously *unburdening*. This is why you *must* bother—or else keep carrying around the increasingly heavy weight of whatever you're withholding. Under Saturn's watch, coupled Taureans who *have* satisfactorily put in the work are invited to *reinforce* their commitment; it's not uncommon for compatible partners to get married under this transit.

If you're still trying to decide whether a casual, non-exclusive and/or still-not-official romantic arrangement has the potential to develop into more or has basically run its course, the clock is ticking louder and louder. A lot of these situations persist *way beyond* their reasonable expiration date, largely because one party is willfully avoiding open acknowledgment of a

fundamental *mismatch* in attitudes or life-goals. The fear of being alone is enough motivation for such an individual to remain in a less-than-fulfilling relationship (one might call it 'settling')... essentially preventing them from finding somebody far more appropriate, stimulating, and/or passion-provoking. Saturn's telling you, in no uncertain terms: Don't let promising opportunities pass you by in '13 (and, oh, they *will*) because you're occupying yourself with the *wrong* person. Biding your time until 'something better comes along' is a strategy that *does not work*.

The single among you, first and foremost, need to be honest with yourself about whether you actually *want* a primary partnership. There's absolutely nothing wrong with choosing to stay independent—and investing your relational energies in intimate friendships or close collaborations—if that's your genuine desire. It's often difficult to stand proud in that choice, in light of the considerable social pressure to adhere to the dominant romantic paradigm or face others' assumptions that you're somehow flawed. But that's *your* business, no one else's. Saturn is now testing your confidence in this choice, challenging you to openly accept both its benefits and drawbacks, so *you* get to define the terms of your single status.

And if you're single *and* looking to pair off? You're probably going to have to bolster your determination and start intentionally pushing yourself harder. No more indulging the fantasy that, if it's 'meant to be', your perfect partner will somehow magically show up on your doorstep. Yes, there *is* some truth to the adage that love finds you once you stop looking for it... but only if you don't have any psychological obstacles inhibiting your powers of attraction.

Do you secretly believe you're unworthy, unlovable, or incomplete because you aren't coupled off? Are you ambivalent about entering a partnership due to the lifestyle adjustments you'd have to make to accommodate someone else? Do you always find yourself attracted to the unavailable ones? Has your attitude towards dating been polluted by negative self-fulfilling prophecies about how 'all guys/girls are [insert reductive generalization here]'? Saturn wants you to earnestly address these questions right away, and to cathartically work through any problematic answers—perhaps with the help of a therapist, a support group, or an insightful friend—so you aren't blocking yourself from a rewarding relationship.

There's work to do on the *practical* level, too. You'll have to put yourself more actively out there, if you expect to meet somebody new... which could include joining online dating services,

attending more networking events or other social activities you enjoy (where others who share your interests will be in attendance), or asking friends to fix you up with *their* friends. What most often holds us back from putting ourselves out there? Fear of rejection, of course. The trick to facing that fear: Don't take it personally. Just because we aren't a certain someone's 'thing' doesn't mean there's something wrong with us. Some people like chocolate cake; others prefer apple pie.

Midyear, Jupiter's arrival to your 3rd, a house of day-to-day communication and casual social exchange, will greatly ease your knack for wandering into conversation with local characters, acquaintances, long-lost friends and total strangers—an ideal aspect for nurturing the interpersonal serendipity that could introduce you to your new love or soon-to-be best friend. In this position, Jupiter reminds you that, beneath our self-consciously clumsy small-talk or seemingly well-composed outer personae, we each bear a tender inner core... one which often responds quite well to others' gestures of kind friendliness, sometimes in unexpectedly intimate ways. Rather than getting caught up in your own nervous self-consciousness, think about each social encounter as an opportunity to express *caring* for this one-of-a-kind human soul who's ended up in front of you. Socially extending beyond your usual comfort zone just might deliver very pleasant surprises in '13, especially from June onward.

In fact, 2013's synergistic water-sign combination of Jupiter, Saturn, and Neptune can profoundly enhance your sense of overall social connectedness, allowing you to wander your way toward closer relational contacts. But tapping into this potential requires *malleability* in your responses to other people's influence, so encounters actually *affect* you... and let's be honest, 'malleable' isn't a word usually used to describe Taurus. Can you cultivate a softer, more open-minded sociability, participating without gripping to any advance ideas of where an interaction's headed or whether it's worthy of your attention?

Pluto's long-term presence in your 9th brings the deeper repercussions of this question to the surface, forcing you to examine how any stubborn judgments you hold (about, for instance, what's uncompromisingly 'right' and 'wrong') may inhibit you from experiencing an ever-wider engagement with this incredibly diverse world. Pluto-in-the-9th rouses a penetrating examination of your guiding belief-systems, with the ultimate goal of strengthening your ethical passions, helping ensure your life-choices are tightly aligned with a clear meaningful purpose.

But as part of the process, you're likely to collide with detrimental limitations in your worldview... 'fundamentalist' streaks that, if unchallenged, hinder your ability to relate to those with vastly different outlooks or understandings. How can you *broaden your horizons* if you've always already predetermined whether a given involvement would be a 'waste of time', or that a given individual is a 'twit' because some characteristic they possess falls on your exceedingly rigid no-no list? It's pretty damn impossible to learn anything new, if (ahem) we already 'know it all'.

This arduous pressure from Pluto-in-the-9th demands you take a long look at any preachy or self-righteous tendencies in you, which others might implicitly read as you presuming you hold a monopoly on moral legitimacy. Even if you rightfully acknowledge we all have our own unique notions of integrity, the rather powerful tone with which you express *yours* still threatens to put others off. Yet, this Pluto transit isn't ultimately about *others'* impressions, but whether *your* singular-minded insistences are merely a cover for unconscious worries that you're actually *missing* something in your tidy generalizations. What you might *gain* from challenging them with foreign ideas and inputs?

The unsettling square between Pluto and Uranus, the revolutionary aspect that's defining the 2010s with a surge of transformative chaos, is a most potent agent in stirring such challenges. Uranus's placement in your 12th is an unabashedly *disobedient* energy, constantly lurking in the foggy back-alleys of your psyche, luring bursts of the unexpected and incomprehensible into your life throughout 2013. For every confident Pluto-in-the-9th conviction you put forth as gospel, Uranus-in-the-12th threatens to expose its cracks by rousing an instinct or conjuring an experience that just *doesn't fit the model*. In other words, Uranus seeks to disrupt your plans... but only as a means of disrupting any self-satisfied notions you hold about 'having figured everything out'.

Both the 9th and 12th houses deal with our (for lack of a better term) *spiritual* attitudes. The 9th represents how we consciously articulate our beliefs, and use them in creating guiding principles by which may lead our 'best' life... but the 12th is more the *experiential* realm, a place where we directly perceive the mystical and otherworldly, and/or undergo mind-altering trials through facing situations out of our immediate control, in order to touch elusive insights we otherwise wouldn't. With the Uranus-Pluto square hitting these houses throughout the year, it

helps to take faith in the knowledge that unforeseen ‘disruptions to the plans’ *do* hold a special spiritual purpose—even if, in the short-term, they may frustrate or upset you.

Work / Career / Finances

The first half of your 2013 is more astrologically supportive of both professional and financial goals, especially since benefic Jupiter will remain in your money-ruling 2nd house (where he’s been since mid-2012) until the last part of June. Take expansive action on this front, therefore, *sooner* rather than later in the year. January’s your best month for asserting an appreciable public presence: Those with the immediate power to increase your responsibility level and/or enhance your standing will be *very aware* of what you’re up to. Give ‘em a clear reason to see you as an indispensable asset. There will be a direct proportional link between how enterprising your ambitions are and how financially lucrative the end-results will prove to be. Aim really high if you want your paycheck to soar. You should already be spotting a hint or two of the advantageous effects by February, when your name will be on everyone’s lips. How might you use your rising reputation within your community of colleagues as a bargaining tool?

The biggest potential challenges to maintaining your desired career momentum are likely to be *interpersonal* in nature. Whether your focus is distracted by friends or a romantic partner who desperately requires more attention, and/or your progress is slowed by the necessity of coordinating with a principal collaborator, it’ll be nearly impossible to neatly divorce your work from other people’s involvement. But because your sharpest astrological influences in ‘13 are relationship-related (rather than work-related), any extra consideration paid to someone else’s legitimate concerns is definitely worth the infringement on your work-plan. Please keep this in mind at every ‘stumbling-block’ involving other people... particularly later in February and into March, a time during which your own self-determined priorities are likely to be hijacked by somebody else’s more obviously urgent needs. Once one thing leads to another, and then another, you’ll have no reasonable choice but to *go with it*. You’ll just have to catch yourself up later on.

Reclaim a more self-centered work focus by early May, when you’ll be kicking off your two most financially fortunate months of the year. To channel this truly excellent opportunity for significantly ramping up your earning potential, you should be unabashedly willing to try this,

that *and* the other. (Whatever works, right?) By throwing multiple darts at the money board, you'll increase the chance that at least *one* will hit the bullseye—though you might be surprised by which random shot brings the biggest payoff. Midway through August, you'll alleviate a potential brain-freeze by throwing yourself into tasks or projects which require a lot of work but not quite so much strategic thought. The comparative simplicity should bring you great *relief* from whatever else you've been anxiously preoccupied with. Your productivity will be at its height starting early in December. Rather than leaving organizational to-dos until next year, give yourself the helpful head-start of getting going in advance.

Relationships / Romance

From the extensive coverage in your general forecast, it should be pretty obvious that relationships are arguably the single most *vital* concern for Taurus in 2013. You can thank authoritarian Saturn for that: His placement in your house of one-on-one partnerships (the 7th) all year clearly signifies that conscious work in this area is required. Whatever interpersonal seeds you sow—and whatever destructive dynamics you allow to take root, or to continue unaddressed—will have an even-stronger-than-usual impact on what you end up reaping. Whether you reinforce a relational involvement, remove yourself from it or delay the inevitable, seek a new match or solidify your single status, please be mindful (rather than *avoidant*) about what you're doing. Each move you make *matters*, perhaps more than you can immediately understand.

A fierce independent streak during the second half of April and into early May could force you to confront the far limits of what an existing relationship can bear... or, if you're discontentedly single, might give you an insightful glimpse as to *why*. What you experience as an 'unnecessary' and inconvenient complication might be, from the other person's angle, simply a case of your need to more patiently respect their desires. (What's 'necessary' or not isn't solely *yours* to determine, by the way.) Later July through later August is a period in which you're likelier to attract flirtatious affections from a potential suitor—not by hogging the spotlight, but by happily going along with the crowd and allowing it to carry you somewhere you wouldn't have expected. How nice would it be to just make the most of *whatever* social circumstance fate situates you in, instead of feeling as if you must assert a particular say in the matter? This easy-going quality will greatly *appeal* to those who are sharing the experience with you.

Mid-September is a symbolically climactic moment in your process of discerning the *true* reality of your present relationship status. ‘What exactly *is* going on right now?’ you should seriously ask yourself. And when you answer, please do not embellish the story or downplay the severity of any challenges. This is an exceptionally *telling* microcosm of your overall situation: Shades of all the positives *and* all the drawbacks are glaringly apparent, including the stark awareness of how your emotional history may be causing you to sabotage your attempts at intimacy. *Take it all in.* October and November are ripe for heart-to-heart conversations about the more difficult aspects of sharing your life with someone else, which can bring you two closer together—if you’re open to letting your feelings shift and develop over the course of several weeks, rather than rushing to preach the correctness of a particular answer. Hopefully, by December, you’ll have established a new *looseness* in the tone of such discussions going forward.

January

As January opens, you’ll be holding a strong forward-thinking purpose for the year ahead, allowing you to inspire both your own actions *and* those around you. Though your plans may be grand and therefore require passionate commitment, be sure to include the realistic likelihood of unexpected developments pushing you onto a different course. That shouldn’t ultimately be a problem—unless you’re so single-minded, you cannot leave room for serendipitous surprises. You’re also pushing hard on the career front this month, as you rightly see that taking initiative now will directly profit you. Just don’t try to slip these full-steam maneuvers past a certain someone, whether it’s a colleague whose feedback is instrumental or a partner vying for more of your attention. Otherwise, they’ll *really* block you.

February

Even as you’re already starting to see positive career effects from last month’s efforts, you’re temporarily thwarted from steadfastly pursuing your own ambitions by the escalating needs of your larger community. Friends, teammates, and/or a group or organization you’re part of could suddenly absorb a huge amount of your energy... but if that’s the compassionate response this situation requires, what else are you going to do? Providing this help should warm your heart. Be sure to observe, however, whether the needy party is actually productively *benefitting* from

this outpouring of support, or if they're stuck in victim mode and doing little to help themselves. If you're displeased with what you're observing, take this to mean you need better boundaries.

March

As everything in your social world shakes out in continuing response to February's events, you might find yourself playing the role of *hard-ass*... asking the difficult questions to fill holes in their story, and offering tough-love-flavored feedback from a personal-integrity perspective. Yes, a relationship *might* be at risk; if it ends, it'll only be because you're unwilling to indulge the other person's denials. The second half of March may well prove the most volatile time of your year; it could be a result of either unexpected external events or a sudden change in your inner-world. Don't get caught in regret, frustration or sorrow if your well-set plans get derailed. There *is* a larger reason it's all happening this way—just don't expect the universe to *let you in* on that reason quite yet.

April

Hang in through the early part of April, when you may still be burning off your unsettled reaction to recent twists-of-fate. If you accomplish very little of what you'd hoped to, the world will go on just fine. Yet, if you can keep any mopey or panicky feelings at bay, you might stumble upon a magnificent breakthrough in your thinking during this time. Midway through the month, you'll experience a major energetic shift in the air as a lineup of planets moves out of your 12th and into your 1st. Suddenly, you can get things done! And suddenly, everyone's looking at you with a smile on their face (or an alluring glint in their eye)! You're back in the saddle again. Don't let this empowering sea-change go to your head, though: You still have interpersonal commitments to meet—and if you *don't* meet 'em, there could be hell to pay. Compromise is key.

May

You're at the center of all the action in the first couple weeks of May... which is not only exciting, but also brings an opportunity to further your driving purpose with one more commanding broadcast. Nothing about this moment is 'casual'; behave, therefore, with shrewd awareness of how much is on the line. Channel this dynamism into tangible gains as the month progress,

especially on the financial front. Late May could put a lucrative feather in the cap of this past year's Jupiterian influence on your money house (where he's been since June '12). Right now, it's more important to ink the arrangements of this deal than to start collecting the actual cash. You'll have plenty of time to collect during the following couple months.

June

How good are you at allowing the conversation to *meander*? June's social goings-on provide you the chance to practice these skills, as you find yourself a much-desired participant in exchanges that seem to 'go nowhere' and/or meet-ups with acquaintances you aren't sure you'd like to know any better. Maybe that's the whole point: to enter your day-to-day social interactions with a more open mind (rather than a restless urgency), and see how it goes. The controlling urge to prematurely define the end-purpose of an interpersonal encounter will block you from pleasantly surprising turns. Just focus on the quality of the moment shared between individuals. On the practical side, keep pushing your financial standing forward... even if you have to try more than one tactic at the same time.

July

You might experience other people as *obstacles* to your private peace-and-quiet time during July... *or* you could just graciously accept that they need an increasing amount of your companionship. Don't underestimate how powerfully helpful you're being to your friends, just by listening and bearing witness and offering kind supportive words (minus the pushy advice)—and what a wonderful boost to *your* mood their appreciativeness can provide. It *is* important, however, that you're able to steal *some* relaxing moments alone at home. Be very specific about when you're *not* available to others, but please give them an alternative option so they're not just left hanging. Late in the month, you'll be in a better space to actually relish an amped-up social pace... and maybe even attract some, um, *interest*.

August

With enough downtime to think things through earlier in August, you may at last be able to articulate your personal stance on an emotionally charged issue. Chew on your conclusions for

a little while, instead of rushing to inform the relevant party before you've allowed yourself to first settle into understanding. The last couple weeks of the month are better for the actual divulging... though you might not receive a clearly comprehensible response or a reliable sense of what they're *really* thinking, as if you were speaking into an echo chamber. Give them time to digest. Meanwhile, use that time to happily get back to mundane business: It'll feel *fantastic* to restore a good productive balance to your workdays.

September

September proves to be a pivotal juncture in your relationship life, either solidifying a commitment or helping you find peace with an inevitable limitation. Whatever direction it's going, you'll get the best results by respectfully acknowledging the complicated give-and-takes... and sticking with any logistical problem-solving discussions until a mutually workable approach is found. Beware of your knee-jerk reactions, which may be more a case of your projecting a painful flashback from your past than what's actually transpiring right now. Don't conflate this situation with your leftover shit; instead, let your handling of it *break* the pattern. Workwise, you might have to make a slight big-picture compromise, in order to embrace what'll realistically produce the best results.

October

Conversations that *need* to happen (if you don't want a bunch of unaired emotion polluting the energetic environment) should be initiated early in October... with the expectation that one single talk *won't* be sufficient. If everyone's being thoroughly honest, this process could last well into the second half of next month. Bear with it. This is an excellent moment for clearing the air, with the goal of putting to rest any notions (on anybody's end) that the interpersonal dynamic between you is somehow 'unfair'. In *all* relationships, each party brings something different to the table; it's how you both *agree* to navigate these inequities that'll even out the playing field. By the second half of the month, you'll be ready to celebrate... but *what* exactly? Whatever it is, others will notice—and want to join in the fun.

November

As this culminating point in your interpersonal life continues into November, you are certainly *not* without options. You can double-down on your current situation (whether you're coupled off or flying solo), solidifying your roots while coming to terms with any tradeoffs you *must* make to remain where you are. Or you might consider throwing in your cards and drawing a new hand, since you're presently wielding an assertive charm that'll attract romantic prospects of your liking. The right answer for you is not merely a matter of chemistry, but whether your life-philosophies are in alignment. The last thing you'd want is to invite constant ideological difference into your personal life as an enduring characteristic... or is it?

December

Just as the year's winding down, your tangible work output is significantly ramping up. The actual process of *doing* will likely reveal the gaps in your prior thinking, demonstrating yet again that you can't confidently plan for everything. Tackle each day's challenges and opportunities as they come. The larger re-prioritization of your guiding strategies will need to take longer, so you can have more time to distinguish what's *really* important from all the other impossible perfect-world hopes you'd been holding out for. You'll see the whole situation more clearly by March '14. Until then, every small advance should be treated as its own victory, to keep your enthusiasms up. Throughout December, be careful not to hastily take personal digs; if you're careless, your words are likelier than usual to hit the other person in a super-sensitive spot.

GEMINI

You Geminis enter 2013 in something of an odd spot, caught between (1) the stubborn hangings-on of whatever extreme complications, entanglements, or life-and-death conditions have weighed you down over these past few years, and (2) a renewed optimism about what this next chapter of your life-story might bring, hopefully fueled by grateful acknowledgment that *everything* in this world (including our darkest moments) is temporary.

In other words, Gemini, the spot you're in this year is simultaneously tough *and* wonderful. The more consciously you can remember *both* these interpretations of your circumstances, the better off you'll be in '13. Thank heavens, then, you're the sign best equipped to hold two different narratives at the same time.

Jupiter, the planetary good-luck-charm, has been visiting your sign since last June—and, along with lesser-benefic Venus's unusually long four-month residence, helped make 2012 a clearly favorable *turning point* in your development. Jupiter remains in Gemini through the first half of 2013, continuing to spread his expansive energy across all zones of your life. Under Jupiter's influence, you'll find it much easier to reach beyond prior limitations, stretching into unfamiliar frontiers in order to explore possibilities you'd maybe never considered. While Jupiter won't necessarily knock down your door with lottery winnings or your dreamboy/-girl (though it's been known to happen), he *does* provide a supportive, benevolent boost to any actions you initiate on behalf of your desired growth. Don't waste this synergistic boon: Jupiter leaves your sign at the end of June, and won't return again until 2024.

Yet, even with Jupiter's help, there's no denying the climate of continuing instability (not just for you, Gemini, but for *all of us*) that comes along with the square between Uranus and Pluto, which remains at its height of intensity into 2015. For Geminis, the harshest part of this scenario is the placement of Pluto in your 8th house, a long-term transit that forces you to confront some of *the* most difficult psychological aspects of the human experience... usually due to close encounters with sickness and mortality, financial debts or disagreements, uncomfortable intimacy issues, and/or another person's dark side and the consequences of being enmeshed with them.

Quite likely, you've already gotten a telling glimpse of—if not a full-on *assault* from—this Pluto energy (as it first entered your 8th back in 2008), and you therefore understand its general vibe. Whatever else you might say about Pluto-in-your-8th, you can't deny it's provided your personality an amazing new level of depth and wisdom that wasn't there before. From here on out, you can confidently laugh off any now-meaningless accusations that you Geminis are doomed to superficiality.

While you probably shouldn't expect to be officially 'out of the woods' with any such complications during 2013, you *are* growing increasingly familiar with navigating Pluto's sticky spiderwebs... and, consequently, are less vulnerable to experiencing the persistent effects as utterly debilitating shocks-to-your-system. You're slowly becoming *acclimated* to this magnified seriousness. You're learning how to live with it on a day-in-day-out basis, without letting it destroy your will. And hopefully, like any of the billions of souls in horrendous conditions all over the world who still manage to find enough joy so as *not* to succumb to sorrow, you're coming to cherish all the less-complicated pleasures that, all this while, *are* available to you. Maybe they're even starting to assume a more *significant* role in your consciousness.

One of these 'pleasures' with the most exciting 2013 potential for you can be found among your wider network of social relationships... if, as Uranus's presence in your 11th suggests, you're willing to take a few crazy risks in who you reach out to and/or how freely you share with them what's been going on. Every personal experience we endure, including our most extreme struggles, is *also* an open-ended invitation to connect with others who have been through similar situations and/or might benefit from the insights we earned. This is the obvious silver-lining to whatever the heavier specifics of your life-circumstance: a reinvigorating shakeup of your place in the social world.

Uranus-in-the-11th, for instance, might inspire you to join up with a new group of folks who share a common interest of yours, to attend meetings or events that'll introduce you to potential allies, or to volunteer your time for an organization or cause you believe in. Such participations remind you to adopt a more *collective* approach to tackling problems, enjoying activities, or seeking personal support... rather than, say, limiting yourself to the ego-confines of your own modest capabilities. Daring to engage with others on this broader group level not only provides

you direct benefit, in the form of new friends with helpful input; your very presence just might change the course of someone else's life for the better, in ways you probably can't imagine.

Uranus could also stir unsettledness in your relationships with existing friends or teammates, especially if the changes you've gone through in the recent past leave you less content to play your same longstanding role among the group. You may be ready to publicly confess more personal details, with fuller emotional weight, which might unsettle those who aren't as comfortable with that much intimate exchange. (Guess you're discovering they are more 'casual acquaintance' than 'true-blue friend'.) Or perhaps you've finally grown tired of tolerating a certain someone's unacceptable behavior... and you're starting to call them out on it, much to their chagrin. Don't try to preserve the social dynamics as they used to be; freely allow them to evolve, along with your (and everyone else's) personal evolutions.

On the mundane front, Saturn's residence in your 6th house—which began in October 2012 and continues into 2015—is a harbinger of increasing pressure to treat your day-to-day responsibilities with as much conscientious attention as possible. Saturn is asking you to nurture a more consistent *discipline* in how you fulfill your earthly duties: your on-the-job work, your household chores, your health-and-fitness habits. Of course, these duties comprise the supportive building-blocks of any physically productive lifestyle, regardless of what zodiac-sign you are or where the heck Saturn might be. But under Saturn's sway, how you choose to manage these 6th-house concerns throughout 2013 will carry additional implications for the overall healthfulness of your productive life.

Saturn-in-the-6th is a godsend for anyone who seeks to establish, or improve upon, *regularity* in their everyday routines... which, upon first mention, *could* sound like soul-sucking tedium to the average Gemini, who is better known for boundless curiosity and a hunger for constant novel stimulation. But there are some real-world results you *cannot* attain unless you repeat the same effectual steps, dependably, over a length of time—not least of which is the *grounding sanity* that comes with knowing generally what to expect on any given day, without having to reinvent the wheel each morning or grapple with excessive amounts of relatively minor decisions because too many variables were left open.

There's also a powerful *physical-health* component to Saturn's 6th-house visit, an indicator to take your relationship to your body's natural strengths and limits more seriously. If there were an ideal astrological transit for motivating you to improve your diet or sleep patterns, jumpstart your exercise regimen, moderate your drinking and/or finally quit smoking, Saturn-in-the-6th is it. Remember: These are not changes that miraculously occur overnight, but require daily effort. The key to your success in this area will be, above all else, *repetition*. On the other hand, be warned that your *refusal* to address problematic habits while Saturn's in your 6th is likely to *worsen* the bodily consequences that have been accumulating as a result. After all, Saturn is known as 'the lord of karma'... and any physical actions you take (especially over and over again) will create a corresponding physical effect.

Likewise, Saturn can definitely help you stabilize your work situation in '13—if, that is, you are actually willing to *work* longer and harder. Again, wherever Saturn's concerned, you *will* reap what you sow. This may be your best year to settle into a steadier job and/or a more predictable schedule, one that makes more efficient use of your productive hours and also supports a healthier self-care routine. Throwing yourself more fully into work can *also* produce the fringe side-effect of reducing your anxiety, which is often a factor of spending too much time thinking and not enough *actually doing stuff*.

Of course, working longer and harder brings the additional promise of *more income*, a result which is doubly favored by Jupiter's entrance into your earned-money house (the 2nd) in late June. The second half of 2013 is an excellent time financially speaking, especially when combined with Saturn-in-your-6th *and* the longtime-resident-of-your-10th-house Neptune. There's a lot of *water-sign* energy involved in heightening your financial potential in '13... a hint that you're liable to tap into your most profitable possibilities by following gut-level emotional instincts, as opposed to rational means. Mentally angling to figure out 'what you're supposed to be doing'—on the big-picture, career-building, life's-purpose level—will *not* likely yield a clear plan-of-attack. Just (1) work your job longer and harder and/or look longer and harder for another one, (2) bank your hard-earned cash, and (3) let subtle non-verbal clues inform you as to where your professional efforts might be put to their most meaningful service.

Work / Career / Finances

I've already gone into quite some detail about how important work and money issues will be during 2013, with significant planetary action in all the relevant houses. Saturn in your 6th house is the most structured of these energies, tightening up how productively you apply your everyday efforts. Therefore, your success hinges, first and foremost, on holding yourself to a busy and fruitful day-to-day routine. No matter the particulars of your job (or whether this is what you're 'meant to do'), you must give it your best shot. Beware of an increased temptation to escape your duties and/or sabotage your reliability in the second half of April, when your reluctance to keep your butt in gear could cost you weeks of progress. If you take this call to heightened self-discipline seriously, you should expect to be in a gratifying groove by September. The personal rewards for your diligence will be obvious: a better mood, a more efficient rhythm, and a stronger faith in your own competence.

Neptune's still at the beginning of his 14-year visit to your 10th (which lasts through 2024), the house where your career path unfolds as a cumulative effect of your ambitious strivings... a transit which often brings an air of idealism and/or confusion to your notions about which direction to head. Neptune's influence over your 10th encourages you to dedicate your professional self to something greater than mere ego-gratification, in order to serve a vision or calling that makes the world a better place. Neptune is known to inspire altruism, creative imagination, and spiritual purpose. But because Neptune speaks in evocative, mystical intimations rather than clear tangibility, you must listen for the divine hints and follow the breadcrumbs he's scattered to guide you by feel. The events of February and early March will be rich with Neptunian data about where and how you're being called to serve... with doors mysteriously opening or closing, circumstances turning deeply unbearable or suddenly feeling very 'right'. Proceed by hunch, faith and/or principle.

With Jupiter landing in your 2nd house midyear, 2013 offers you greater economic promise than any year in recent history. For some of you, this could be your perfect 'fresh start'... giving you a much-needed opportunity to simplify your financial life after having dealt with a costly breakup, a bankruptcy, or a problematic business partnership. June and July are your best months to proactively hunt down avenues for bringing in a few extra dollars, including extra shifts or a second part-time gig. If you're hoping to be self-employed someday, this would be a good time

to get your feet wet with preliminary experiments on the side. Don't get too down if your solid standing is threatened by the reappearance of a money-draining entity from your past sometime in August. While it may suck that you're still paying off this karmic debt, it doesn't mean you aren't moving forward at the same time.

Relationships / Romance

For the sake of supporting your own consistent self-reliance—a primary task for Geminis in 2013—your romantic life might need to take something of a backseat to more practical priorities. Does that mean you ought to expect to be without any lovin' all year? Not quite. However, you should be pretty careful about how *far* you get into it with a potential partner, since Pluto's 8th-house position warns against investing too many of your own eggs into a shared basket. In other words, throwing yourself *all the way* into an intimate relationship could end up absorbing every last drop of your life-force... leaving you with nearly *nothing* left to bring to your other social commitments or your work. Such extreme interpersonal intensity is a direct threat to your ability to meet Saturn's high practical demands. And besides, aren't some of you Geminis still in the process of extricating yourself from your *last* all-consuming involvement?

Casual dating seems a more suitable option in '13... especially with the variety of fresh new possibilities available to you, if you heed Uranus's encouragement to seek out alternative friend-groups, team or organizational affiliations, or communities of interest. If you're already deeply engrossed in an intense coupling, you might feel some tension between the impulse to 'give your all' to that one relationship and the urge for *other* social outlets. Even in the healthiest relationships, you should plan on engaging in some meaty discussions about the pitfalls of too much interpenetration into each other's lives. Otherwise, jealousy or disrespect could create a stubborn undercurrent. You'll want a lot of freedom to explore your options in May and June, as you both attract more notice *and* possess an enhanced knack for making things happen as you'd most like.

You'll experience stronger romance-related astrology during the second half of the year, inaugurated by an abundance of appealing diversions that crops up midway through August. This is the perfect climate in which to show off your charming conversation skills at cocktail hours and dinner parties... if, that is, a certain someone with a heightened investment in what

you're up to doesn't take personal offense to your openly flirty ways. Are you doing something 'wrong'? Depends on what you've agreed to, I suppose, but a clarifying discussion should probably ensue. October is an excellent month for relationships, with Venus traveling through your 7th and helping you more easily connect. Yet, should you throw *all* caution to the wind, the pace at which it intensifies could blow your mind—and leave you dealing with the side-effects for months to come. Even if you *are* cautious, you might still find yourself tiptoeing through a minefield of complications into early 2014. A few sharp, unmistakable words of self-assertion in December could nip all that in the bud, of course... if that's what you want.

January

Your year opens with a reminder that life never truly offers 'clean slates'... and yet, at the same time, you're becoming better able to spot the obvious bright-side to these last few years' turmoil. Draw on your recent struggles as an *asset* rather than a liability. Spend the first weeks of January trying to bank a tangible benefit that's legitimately owed to you. Use a calm, steadfast approach to maneuver your way past each potential excuse or delay, step by step. (Hysterics will *not* help your case.) Don't get so caught up with these hanging-over details, though, that you're unable to look enthusiastically ahead to what the rest of your year holds. You're in an excellent spot to refresh your belief in *how much more there is* in store for you. Find yourself a future thrill to visualize into being.

February

February's a month for throwing yourself wholeheartedly into career-related activities, even if you're split between multiple focuses and cannot discern which the 'right' one is. You may have to put in overtime until one or another option reveals itself as more distinctly auspicious. Don't indulge any internal fighting against the *obvious* need to work harder than you have in a while. You're in the midst of being subtly repositioned so your unique talents can better serve people's needs. At this in-between point, you're basically straddling the old and new incarnations of your professional self. Confusion about where you belong is totally understandable. Until you receive your next clear sign from the universe, you just have to live like this—and put in the extra hours without complaint.

March

A still-heavy load of responsibilities extends into March, keeping you in no position to slack off—not only since you’re going to have to take care of this stuff sooner or later anyway, but *also* because others are assessing your capacity to follow all the way through on it. Thankfully, you really *do* have the wherewithal to keep up the good efforts these days. Your ideal antidote to these demanding workdays? Taking the lead within your social network, organizing activities that most interest *you*... and choosing the cast of characters *you* would most like to see. From midway through the month, you’ve got an unusual knack for generating palpable *electricity* among your group of pals or teammates, spurring them to act a bit crazier. You may even help a certain ‘new best friend’ type come further out of their shell, to everyone’s delight.

April

Your amped-up social calendar remains in stimulating effect through the first half of the month, when your instincts to share a rather unfiltered version of your personal story gives everyone plenty to talk about. Who said you’ve got to gloss over the reality of your circumstances, in order to have a good time? Even as some folks might be shocked by your candor, you’ll pleasantly impress others with the noticeable *depth* you’ve developed. Later in April, you’ll be ready to slip away from the constant noise of so many yammering voices... though your day-to-day demands prevent you from as total an escape as you’re craving. Accept these constraints like a champ—and when you’re *not* needed for this chore or that project, steal every possible moment of quiet retreat you can. Your psychic health requires it.

May

Use your first couple weeks of May to shed the dead skin, privately scrubbing off any crusty bits of leftover trauma and fatigue. At the same time, tap into your conscious appreciation for *all* facets of human experience—including those which, though difficult or painful to live through, have *strengthened your character* forevermore. Treat this as a spiritual practice, in whatever manner is most personally meaningful. By the middle of the month, you’ll be ready to step back out with a reinvigorated glow beaming off of you. Later May is a most exceptional moment for you, blessing you with at least one favorable indicator of just how much you’ve grown since last

year's birthday. Your words are temporarily kissed with a super-seductive influence, enabling you to talk just about *anyone* into just about *anything*. Hmm, the possibilities are endless...

June

June represents the 'first day' of the rest of your financial life, which means no more turning a blind eye to the *practical* ramifications of your chosen priorities. Over the next few months, you have a chance to realign your whole relationship to vocation and economic self-sufficiency, based upon a notion of more stably *caring* for yourself by doing something that expresses care for *others*. This is a matter of following your heartfelt intuition, not some rational formula for generic success. If you have to work this hard *anyway*, you might as well work on direct behalf of someone else's improved well-being, right? Making this commitment to a more emotionally meaningful livelihood may *also* bring some eye-opening new allies into your life... folks who shake up your whole view of collective responsibility, and radically inspire you in the process.

July

Hold your own monetary interests at the top of your list throughout July, even above keeping other people happy. You'll probably face at least one frustrating instance of having to cut a lively chit-chat short or say no to a fun-filled evening out, simply because you have too much shit to get done. That's the breaks: This newly disciplined you knows all too well that shirking a day's duties only prolongs the inevitable stress, ultimately making it worse on yourself. (Plus, you're not really missing anything *that* significant.) As the month wraps up, invest a bit of time and/or money in sprucing up something on the home-front that's been a mess for too long. This improvement will not only provide you immediate pleasure, but it'll also eliminate a disorderly influence that's subtly infringed upon your inner well-being.

August

Still got your eye on the bank balance? This heightened level of financial diligence should be thought of as your 'new normal'; hopefully you're starting to get used to it. As August proceeds, you'll have more of a chance to catch up with friends' latest gossip... and to go create some of your own. Seek out avenues for your inner goofball to come out and play, even if certain

naysayers might accuse you of acting childishly. What's so wrong with a little harmless childishness, especially if you've been so damned *adult* all day long? Late in the month, you may need to clarify some misperception a family member has about what you're up to. Though they may struggle to understand the gradual professional transition you're undergoing, that doesn't mean you should assume they're unsupportive.

September

Shhh! What's that I hear? Is it the sound of you starting to (gasp!) *enjoy* the grounding regularity of this settling routine? Despite the obvious advantages to your physical, mental, and financial health, there's still no getting around the glaring infringement upon your freedoms that such a tight schedule creates. You mustn't completely ignore the restless urges to disrupt your recent purposefulness with some totally trivial time-wasting distraction, or it'll only get worse. Put a few leisurely lunches or early exits on your schedule, to ensure this piece of your personality is adequately fed—*before* you start acting out. That way, you can properly plan for the much-desired dilly-dallying. In potentially flirty settings, don't bother being coy. Instead, say the very thing no one else would dare to mention. You'll leave an impression.

October

Stay out in mix-and-mingle mode throughout October, especially if you're looking to meet a new playmate. With Venus heating up your 7th house most of the month, you can likelier translate a moment's interpersonal chemistry into a more enduring connection. This is also a prime astro-influence for explicitly expressing your gratitude for an existing relationship, or maybe even renewing the sparks between you. Workwise, don't get too irritated if instructions get mangled or objectives change midstream. Instead of griping about 'wasted time', simply accept that the result will be much better in the end—not despite the delay, but *because* of it. Towards the month's tail-end, you might need to (re)open a psychologically dicey Pandora's-box, if a family member or other intimate isn't respecting your boundaries. This could feel like a haunting replay; please remind yourself you've gotten better at this since the last time.

November

Hang in through November's extended ironing-out of October's logistical hassles. There's a deeper lesson here which applies beyond this situation's specifics, with helpful insight into your ongoing relationship with work. Due to this unavoidable outside-world strain, however, it's more important than ever to uphold strict standards in what you'll tolerate at home. Your earnest attention to creating a nourishing domestic environment for yourself has a *direct* impact on your on-the-job patience level. If you get bitten by the conflict bug, don't mistakenly wage war in your work life. What you're *really* mad about is your dire need for some after-hours peace and quiet: Fight fiercely for this right, and fight *against* anybody who's blocking you from it.

December

By the second week of December, you should notice a distinct lightening-up in your attitude, perfectly timed for you to make the most of the holiday party season. Please don't hesitate to volunteer as the wide-grinning button-pusher at this year's festivities. If you're curious about a certain someone's feelings, bluntly blurt out a direct inquiry... *before* you have a chance to worry about what answer they might give. Right as the year fades out, you're due to receive surprisingly encouraging news about a longstanding thorn-in-your-side. You may be in for another several weeks of false-starts before the details finally reveal themselves more clearly, but this development could change your entire framework for understanding the situation. Sometimes, in hindsight, what was once our worst nightmare ultimately proves to be one of the *best* things that ever happened to us.

CANCER

2013 is a *huge* year for Cancers... and not only because of the ongoing tumult forced upon you by the once-in-a-generation square between Uranus and Pluto, an aspect of collective revolution and transformation.

There is *more* big news: Jupiter, the planet of benevolent growth and expansiveness, arrives in your sign in late June for his once-every-dozen-years visit, with the potential to *greatly improve* your outlook on life—if, that is, you're willing to stretch yourself in unfamiliar ways. Otherwise, how in the heck would you be able to reach out and snag those bountiful opportunities? Certainly not by maintaining the same postures you've been holding for god-knows-how-long.

Of course, in this day and age, *nothing* is as elementary as we might wish it to be... not even reaping Jupiter's lucky breaks. See, Cancer, once Jupiter enters your sign, he moves into a challenging T-square position with Uranus and Pluto: At the same time, Jupiter both squares Uranus *and* opposes Pluto. In order for you to take as full advantage of Jupiter's beneficence as possible, then, you *must* bravely heed the Uranus/Pluto call to revolutionize and transform your life. And thanks to Jupiter's involvement, the pressures bearing down on you will be that much starker and more intense. But that *also* means the rewards you'll welcome, if you *do* take a few forward-moving risks while radically releasing your attachment to too-well-worn patterns, will be that much more *fantastic*.

For better and worse, the Uranus-Pluto square (which stays at its exact peak into 2015) impacts you Cancers with a stronger wallop than many of the other signs, due to the fact that both planets land in your solar chart in critical spots. Uranus shakes up your 10th house, sparking continued instability and dynamism in your zone of career (or other public-world participations), while Pluto dredges up the dirt in your 7th, raising whatever inconvenient issues or difficult dilemmas are keeping you from uncompromising frankness in your one-on-one relationships. Considering career and relationships are the two most common concerns people consult astrology to gain insight about, you can clearly see why the specific positions Uranus and Pluto hit Cancer from are so powerful.

You cannot, therefore, count on wonderful things from Jupiter *unless* you're actively engaged in directing the ever-changing circumstances in both professional *and* interpersonal settings to your liking. And the developments you effect in these two areas of your life are *unusually* likely to be inextricably interconnected.

As your 10th-house agitator, Uranus presumes you're ready to radically depart from 'the safe route' when it comes to pursuing your professional ambitions... and, in order to help awaken the necessary audacity in you, creates situations that essentially *prevent* you from proceeding by business-as-usual habit. Uranus's main job is to *liberate* us from constraints on our individuality, though he often initially does so by fairly disruptive or disorderly means. From your 10th house, he is an agent of career- and/or outer-world-related *independence*, inspiring you whenever possible to strike out on your own, to seek greater freedom and/or variety in your responsibilities. No other astrological influence better favors crazy leaps off the professional cliff, for that combination of terror-of-the-unknown and full-throttle exhilaration which leaves you feeling like you're 'really *living!*'

If instead you perch on the edge, shivering in your shoes, and *refuse to jump?* Well, let's just say Uranus might sneak up behind you and give you a giant *shove*. You're due to leave the nest of soul-sucking 'job security', one way or another.

Throughout 2013, you remain under this erratic Uranus-in-the-10th influence on your work life... a reminder not only to expect the unexpected, but to bravely read any symptoms of increasing unsteadiness as a sign to decisively embrace creative innovation and/or major risk-taking. Any glimpse you catch of a looming reorganization or a sinking ship, a mentor's departure or a boss's good-riddance, a layoff or 'forced-retirement' or flat-out firing? This is your invitation to venture out, to turn sharply left, to do your own thing, and/or to kiss a permanent goodbye to whatever's become utterly boring, played out, or absent of fresh things to learn or experience.

One clarifying point: It's entirely possible you'll have to *invent* a whole new career-path for yourself, making up the rules as you go along, if you don't want to squeeze your square-peg self into a round hole. With its Jupiter-Uranus combination, this year (especially from June onward) is an ideal moment for such a reinvention.

As potent as this independence-seeking Uranus-in-your-10th pressure may be, Cancer, you're simultaneously confronting the consequences of your habitual relationship tendencies, courtesy of Pluto-in-your-7th... which, if unexamined, could negatively impact just how independently you are able to take action. Pluto's purpose as a longtime excavator in your relationship house: forcing you to deal with any psychological dynamics that *disempower* you in your one-on-one partnerships, out of submission to another person's desires or an unhealthy obsession with whatever they're up to, at the expense of attending to your own goals.

Put another way, Pluto in your 7th refuses to let you ignore any major differences between you and a key partner, or to push away the potential complications so that everything stays 'perfect'. If you're going to participate in a primary relationship, you must be willing to *give it your all*—with no issues off the table, no secret hopes withheld, and no commitments passively agreed to without sincere consideration and negotiation. Otherwise, the whole arrangement will feel increasingly heavy, dark or menacing; you'll have essentially signed away your autonomy for some form of indentured servitude.

You Cancerians are commonly known as kind-hearted nurturers, always first to happily tend to the needs of your loved ones... a lovely tendency that's *also* often taken too far in your closest relationships, particularly if you're coupled with somebody who's quite content to let you take complete care of their every wish and whim. Pluto asks you to dig beneath the surface of any such relationship, to engage with understanding how these power-dynamics might inhibit you from taking greater control over the course of your life.

The drawbacks to any interpersonal coupling in which your identity hinges on your serving someone else, submitting to their agenda while setting yours aside, are probably pretty obvious. What may be less obvious is how *you* may be (consciously or not) engineering such an arrangement in order to fulfill *your* need to be needed—perhaps even when the other person *wouldn't* otherwise need you. (At your worst, Cancers are notorious for providing 'care' that's neither asked for nor wanted.) Now is an important moment for working to better understand any instances in which your undue concern for another individual is conveniently overshadowing a more directly *self-serving* issue you really ought to deal with.

Pluto-in-the-7th remains an *intensifying* factor in your one-on-one relationships throughout '13... whether it's intensifying the intrinsic problems in a dynamic *or*, on the upside, intensifying the emotional quality of the connection through greater intimacy or deeper trust. But even the positive intensifications aren't easily won, as they depend on you openly addressing whatever nagging fears or hidden shames or suppressed desires lurk unspoken between you. Whatever it is you keep desperately hoping *not* to have to face? Don't be surprised if Pluto lets the cat out of that bag in the most *inopportune* manner... unless you *choose* to let it out yourself, before that has a chance to happen.

You single Cancers also have your Pluto-in-the-7th call-to-action, particularly if you've been indulging any doubts about how worthy or lovable you are, as a result of lacking a romantic partner. Just like those who base too much of their self-identity upon the relationship they're in, you're placing too much importance on what somebody else is doing—in your case, an imagined ideal you're playing to and/or an unavailable prospect who's rejecting you—and not enough on appreciating your own singular existence to its fullest. Future relationship success will be a matter of flipping this perspective on its ear: getting so totally involved with what *you're* interested in, you can only form lasting partnerships with individuals who *honor* your self-determined life-choices.

Jupiter's arrival to Cancer midway through '13 can be something of a *game-changer*, not necessarily limited to any single area but closely interconnected with both your Uranus career shakeups *and* your Pluto relational intensifications. Think of Jupiter as part confidence-booster, part enthusiasm-amplifier, with a couple squirts of luck-juice for good measure: While he won't drop amazing life-transformers into your lap if you sit back and do a whole bunch of nothing, he *will* add extra dimensions of synergistic advantage to whatever self-enhancing efforts you *do* put forth. In combination with the Uranus-Pluto stirrings-up, Jupiter helps embolden your willingness to put *yourself* first... which, of course, is the number-one element required for revamping your professional and/or relationship life so that it's increasingly to *your* liking. The conflicts along the way (with others or yourself; with habit or tradition) could be more dramatic than you're used to—perhaps an effect of you taking a firmer me-first stand—but the likelihood of *you* ultimately triumphing is also enhanced.

The personal challenge Saturn has in store for you during 2013, from his position in your 5th house, is nicely aligned with Jupiter's promising opportunities... as it's all about practicing accuracy and genuineness in your outward self-expressions (as opposed to other-people-centered *compliance*), to ensure you're fairly representing yourself *and* setting yourself up to most authentically *enjoy* your life. Because the 5th house symbolizes how we pursue pleasure and play, there's an onus on you to be very specific about your predilections and propensities. Your leisure moments are so precious, you mustn't squander them by merely going along with anyone else's idea of a good time. Once again, the astrology points to your assuming a stronger self-gratifying agency—or risk finding even less joy from activities you previously tolerated (though perhaps never *really* found that entertaining).

Work / Career / Finances

2013 is due to deliver another year of unstable and/or unpredictable twists and turns in the ever-unfolding story of your career, thanks to Uranus still hanging in your 10th house. This can come as very welcome news to you Cancers who are eager for nonstop stimulation, open to radical departures, and/or full of the entrepreneurial, innovative spirit essential to any self-made success. On the other hand, this astrology could bring *shocks* to those desperate to preserve an existing status-quo, even while it's blatantly evident that change is in the air. Because of Uranus's square to Pluto, your ability to advance on your own initiative is perpetually threatened by interpersonal pressures (whether from your personal life or by a professional colleague), which you must persist in pushing through *despite* any tense exchanges or struggles for power. This sort of relational tension could impact your work life more strongly during the first half of January... and again in mid-November, when you're especially under the gun to tell others *exactly* what you think.

Mid-March through the first half of April is unquestionably your most bustling period career-wise, as multiple planets travel across your 10th and conjoin Uranus. This is your single best moment all year to bust free from limiting circumstances, declare your need for greater structural autonomy, take big steps to start your own venture, and/or embrace any adventurous gamble that excites your sensibilities. Be on the watch for sudden breaks or out-of-the-blue openings that require a split-second, lightning-fast response: If your gut instinct says 'go!', you mustn't think twice about it. It's probably smarter to take the decisive action *before* you make any

official announcements (which are best timed for the middle of April), so there's already something tangibly in progress to talk about.

Financial options will be most lucrative starting at the very beginning of July... though to land your best deal, you might have to refuse one low-ball bargain offer and hold out for what you *really* believe you're worth. Should talks extend into August, be sure to uphold a pleasant social tone in the exchanges, even if the bottom-line terms remain an issue of contention. By September, you'll be ready to take money matters into your hands—either thanks to a successful renegotiation or because you're now under the gun to explore other alternatives. Practical work duties should go delightfully smoothly in October, particularly if you're able to put more of your creative self into them. As December brings the year to a close, your mind will be swimming with ideas for how to streamline your methods in '14.

Relationships / Romance

This is decidedly *not* your year for incidentally slipping into offhand dating situations without much forethought... unless you are prepared for them to sneakily absorb more and more of your energy (like the alien blob that takes over the whole town), or to otherwise introduce ensnaring intricacies into your life. In no way does this mean 2013 is a *bad* year for romance—quite the opposite, actually, *if* you commit to being quite deliberate about *seriously evaluating* any and all interpersonal involvements, based upon how well they fit your specific inclinations and guiding ambitions. The '13 symbiosis between Saturn-in-your-5th and Pluto-in-the-7th will benefit Cancerians who invite their full selves to participate in relationships, including those aspects with the potential to strongly turn off or repel the wrong people. Your ability to be uncompromisingly *real* strongly enhances the depth of your connections. If, however, you put on an insincere show in an attempt to attract a suitor or please a partner inappropriate for you, worsening dissatisfaction or unhappiness is likely to ensue.

As early as January, you'll have a chance to mold a new or longer-term coupling to whatever specifications will better suit the *other* lifestyle goals you have in mind... rather than allowing everything else to play second-fiddle to the relationship's demands. Discussing specific methods for particular results—instead of just going back and forth with romantic notions about feelings and such—is definitely the wisest approach. Your powers of attraction can work some

potent magic during June, drawing the affection of those who appreciate how you've lately become such a go-getter. Once you've gotten a bit more accustomed to being the *pursued*, you'll have the bolstered confidence you need to actually start *pursuing* the object of your desires by mid-July and into August.

September tests how solidly you insist upon both expressing your unique romantic preferences *and* holding out until they're satisfied. You could face the choice between participating in a marginally appealing romance or sticking it out alone (and filling your time with solo activities you actually *love*)... in which case your willingness to *resist* the inadequate option (no matter how 'nice' the person may be) will send a powerful message of intention to the universe. Just as relationship developments are coming to a head in November and December—are you two getting more serious? or is it just the *problems* between you that are getting more serious?—the start of a pivotal Venus-retrograde in your 7th during the final days of the year may bring a surprising reversal in perspective. These new considerations will keep certain interpersonal questions up in the air well into 2014.

January

You enter the year on the brink of a newly self-empowered role in your relationship with a certain someone... and/or in your stance toward other people in general. Its realization hinges on your accepting that it's perfectly okay—in fact, quite preferable—to first decide what *you* want out of the partnership, and *then* to assess any particular individual's fitness in providing you that. Don't resist being so overtly goal-oriented, as if that's somehow dubious or 'unromantic'. January seems to demand your restless engagement with these complicated interpersonal issues, one way or another: Might as well fight *for* your fair share, instead of consuming yourself with fighting *against* someone else's potential encroachment on your territory.

February

If you feel perplexed about how exactly to proceed in February, step back from your up-close-and-personal view, and foster a more philosophic perspective on the situation. If you're too 'in it', you're liable to overlook the clarifying angle of *what's most obviously fair*. Think about what

you would advise someone else in your position to do. Or consider how you might defend your choices in a hypothetical discussion of the issues-at-hand, rather than merely in the context of your personal narrative. Just because you may care about the other player(s) involved, that isn't a good enough reason to enable questionable behavior... on their part *or* yours. Have faith that making your most ethically consistent decision, even if it temporarily upsets one party or another, will ultimately yield you a result you can proudly stand behind.

March

Early in March, you may need to reiterate your stance on last month's ethical matters... or, perhaps, allow it to *evolve*, if the other person has pointed out a legitimate blindspot in your thinking. This 'evolution' should not be considered *caving in to their pressure* unless it leaves you feeling like you've sold out your integrity—in which case, you'd probably benefit from an uninvolved third-party's feedback, to help you attain clarity. Midway through the month, fast developments in your professional (and/or public-world) sector require you to drop nearly everything else so you can respond most competently. Hurry! There's no time to think every last detail through; on-the-spot judgment calls are your only option. If a certain someone doesn't like that your attention has shifted elsewhere (meaning: away from them), *screw* their selfish attitude.

April

April opens with continuing action on the career front... and no, you may *not* assume a supporting role in this production. Your unrivalled touch will make *all* the difference in the quality of the final product. If instead you cede the spotlight to someone else (who maybe gives off a more take-charge attitude, but lacks the actual skills or knowledge to get the job done), you'll have nobody to blame for the disappearing opportunities but yourself. Even once the collective involvement of other colleagues or teammates becomes more pronounced later in the month, you *still* shouldn't take your eyes off the situation at hand. It's less a question of not trusting them—and more about simply ensuring your creative mark unmistakably remains, since, after all, you *will* be judged on this group effort.

May

Keep adding your distinctive imprint to the team maneuverings during the first part of May. You'll want to distinguish yourself as someone willing to gamble your own convenience for what'll ultimately benefit everyone—a quality likely to deepen your personal friendship with one or more key allies. By the middle of the month, you'll probably be pretty tired of all this social interaction... and *more than ready* to disappear from sight for a few. Be sure to use this time to replenish your energies, since your activity levels will soon spike again. If you therefore don't 'produce' much in the way of tangible results during the latter part of May, please grant yourself the psychic leeway. You may well need to temporarily indulge these escapist tendencies, as a matter of proper energetic balance, so you're better able to persevere in the long haul.

June

Early in the month, while you're still wondering whether you're even ready to reemerge into that crazy outside world, you'll find yourself on the receiving end of a lucky break or fortuitous turn-of-events. Presumably, you'll recognize just how silly it'd be to say no, despite wishing you had a few more moments to chill. Please send a signal to the universe that you're open to exploring these expansive possibilities, no matter your nervousness about the many unknowns. (There's no reasonable way you *could* know what's coming; that's the whole point of a *new* opportunity.) Your next several months of promising growth potential depend on your willingness to embrace the inevitable chaos, especially in terms of career and/or public-reputation. Not *everyone* in your life will likely support your risk-taking, particularly if they're concerned about how it might affect *them*. But are you going to let *their* worries constrain *your* future?

July

Can you feel those winds of *change* swirling through the air? If you've been courageously responding to the rapidly shifting circumstances, you should now spy at least one significant indicator of *how much more* is immediately possible than a mere year ago. Don't allow anybody else to hold you to what you told 'em a month or two ago, guilt-trip-style... as if it isn't totally okay for you to change your mind, and then to change it again, if you so choose. By the middle of July, your patience for others trying to manipulate or control you (consciously or not) will run

very thin. Any interpersonal conflicts you've been holding at bay will finally bust out into obvious expression—as well they should, if that's what's needed for you to (re)claim the independent will to determine your own destiny. This is your time to *definitively* assert self-serving agency.

August

You remain in the hot seat throughout August, but with a greater ability to *define* the terms of any discussions or debates (rather than merely responding to others' priorities) than you've possessed in quite a while. What do *you* need to fulfill *your* newly-materializing ambitions? Don't be too timid to ask directly. That's your perfect starting-point. From mid-month, you will delight in investing more time and energy in your domestic life... perhaps taking on a home-improvement project or treating yourself to a decadent stay-at-home spa weekend. At the same time, you'll be increasingly eager to catch up with friends you haven't had time to see recently. The perfect blend of these astro-influences? Play the happy host, and invite pals over for home-cooked comfort food or a fancy cocktail party. Have fun arranging all the little details just as you like.

September

Unapologetically *refuse* to squelch your strongest desires and self-expressions in September, when you're likely to hit a new peak of *self-confidence* as a direct result of your unwillingness to settle for disconcerting mediocrity. Yes, your unwavering individualism *will* necessarily rule out a large number of poorly-suited activities or inappropriate admirers... but so what? Such a weeding-out will, thankfully, reduce the noisy static that'd otherwise impair your awareness of the *correct* options. If you've been effectively working towards *authenticity* at all costs, you may well catch the adoring attention of someone who's impressed by your sincerity. The only compromises you'll need to make this month are *financial* in nature. Also, spend a bit of extra-sympathetic communicative effort to help nervous family members adjust to the evolving you.

October

Can you bear *all* the consequences, both good and bad, of freely and loudly speaking your truth? October's astrology provides a test in this regard: If you attempt to self-protectively

moderate the full power of your words or wriggle away from a prior statement once you're questioned about it, you *will* pay the price over the coming weeks. On the other hand, admitting whenever you're internally conflicted or not quite sure about something will be a most honorable response. Let conversations drag on for a while, if it'll help you figure stuff out. Meanwhile, trying to keep someone else happy—at the expense of your own philosophic consistency—is the *worst* strategy possible. Surprisingly, focusing more intently on your *work* might just be your best way to find a few moments of easier peace.

November

Though it's undeniably challenging to hold firm to your preferences and proclivities, the ultimate reward of increased *pride* in yourself is well worth it. This month's developments very much rest directly upon how committed you are to living out your self-determined vision: Auspicious interpersonal commingling is in store if you've properly resisted the 'anybody will do' temptation and held out for a romantic prospect who really *does* it for you. But if you're stuck in the wrong situation, you'll become even more acutely aware of its joylessness. In either case, rely on your friends and neighbors to expose you to new social influences, so you have more outlets for expressing your newfound enthusiasms—and so you can see what else (or should I say *who* else) is out there. It's *your* responsibility to keep life pleasurable enough to hold your interest.

December

As December begins, your eager mind will be overflowing with ideas for how to get your usual jobs done more efficiently, so you can free yourself up for more creative departures from the work norm. The later part of the month, however, threatens to devolve into interpersonal unrest... particularly if a family member or housemate is attempting to force you back into an outdated role you've outgrown. The last thing you need is *more* pressure; it's already hard enough to push yourself into unfamiliar territory without someone else adding to the challenge. As the cumulative result of multiple stress-factors converging simultaneously, your fuse could be extra-short. While you may have legitimate beef with whomever you're upset with, please take care not to unleash every last bit of your unresolved anger on them; some of it has absolutely *nothing* to do with them.

LEO

On the surface, Leo, 2013 may *not* be the year that provides you the heart-pounding thrills or full-body life makeovers... though that's not to say it won't have a profound impact on your development. If you take this year *seriously*, in fact, you just might walk away with a stronger core of self than you've ever before possessed. And as a result, it'll be that much harder for anybody else's drama (and/or their attempts to stir it up in *your* life) to *ever* knock you off-center, regardless of how intrusive they may try to be.

Your path to a more solid self points you down a long humdrum road, however, not an especially scenic highway... and you'll only reap the best rewards by faithfully following every step with another, over and over and over and over again, in a fairly repetitious manner. Doesn't that sound like *the most amazing fun ever?!?* (Insert sarcastic chuckle here.)

Just so we're clear, it's not like you won't be overflowing with plenty of brilliant ideas for brave new adventures that *could* rescue you from too routine an existence. Maybe you'll even field an offer to jet off somewhere fantastic, to throw yourself into an exotic interest or totally immerse yourself in some strange consciousness-blasting journey *way beyond* your usual frame of reference. Such expansive impulses come courtesy of Uranus-in-your-9th, a planetary mind-opener who wishes you to stay aware of all the wild-and-crazy surprises available to you, whenever you choose to leap into the wide unknown. For the record, though: Uranus remains in your 9th into 2018, so there's no urgency to *act* on all these impulses right away. Do, however, take note of whichever far-off destinations, uncharted areas of fascination and/or engaging life-philosophies carry an indelible personal appeal. At the very least, you can start *reading up* on these matters.

Uranus remains in a long-term power-struggle with Pluto, who's presently occupying your 6th house... a stubborn conflict between (1) the electrifying appeal of that next 'brave new adventure' and (2) the countervailing need to establish and/or strengthen more *sustainable* day-to-day patterns, to support both your physical well-being *and* a confident sense of productivity. While Uranus's influence is obviously the more attractive one (and in better fire-element flow with your natural Leo ways), Pluto's call to consistent duty must *not* be ignored.

Pluto demands you stay on top of how you arrange your everyday schedule throughout 2013. First and foremost, a purposeful commitment to ongoing work—whether in a consistent job, as a volunteer or assistant, or through some other regular undertaking—is your most *essential* building-block to psychological health. This is not an exercise in proving your worldly status or climbing your way up some ladder, but rather is about investing your physical energies in processes that yield tangible results. If for some reason you are unable to work in a traditional sense, there's an even stronger pressure to find *some* avenue for productively utilizing your intrinsic fire. Staying purposefully productive is *key* to enduring health.

At the same time, you should also tune in to your bodily rhythms more closely, listening for any symptoms that an adjustment to your personal habits might be necessary. Potent Pluto provides an injection of will-power that can help kick-start healthy steps of self-improvement: better diet, increased fitness, more consistent sleep, an end to smoking or substance abuse. All of these initiatives, by the way, require more than just sincere intentions and dramatic declarations—such goals can *only* be achieved over a length of time, through day-to-day repetitions. If you resist this 'one day at a time' approach to improved wellness, Pluto-in-the-6th can be notorious for *worsening* latent or mild health problems that already exist, essentially *forcing* you to change your habits in response to your body's changing needs. Hopefully, you'll *choose* to treat your physical self-care more responsibly... *before* any such 'worsening' manifests.

Without a doubt, this clash between Uranus and Pluto bears the potential to significantly *try your patience*... especially considering the day-to-day diligence demanded by Pluto only makes the allure of some crazy Uranus-style leap of adventurous possibility that much more alluring. It *is* important to foster this adventuresome enthusiasm, to ward off the disgruntled sense that life is a meaningless expanse of the same-ole-thing: There *will* be an exciting 'something next'. Yet if, in 2013, you too hastily dash away from the right-here-right-now, you'll be essentially *skipping* a developmental step in the area of practical earthly duty—and, as a result, missing out on a certain aspect of psychological maturation, to instead live a constant whirlwind of excessive external stimulation.

This pressure to *deepen* into yourself, through maintaining a relatively *rooted* position, shows up again in Saturn's visit to your solar 4th. The 4th house represents your overall relation to

emotional self-nurture... and how you cater to your own needs by building a safe and comfortable home for yourself, a sanctuary in which you can retreat from the stresses of the outside world and recharge your batteries. When Saturn's in the 4th, you're asked to treat this self-nurturing task with more earnest attention, to realistically evaluate whether you feel properly comforted and cared for in your domestic living-situation—and to make any necessary adjustments, despite the potential hassles. That's why, from the Saturn-in-your-4th perspective, any urges to attempt an 'escape' from discontentment at home should be viewed as *suspect*.

That's not to say a residential move would be out of the question under Saturn's watch. If you are living in the *wrong* place—in a geographic location that doesn't feel like home; in a dwelling that lacks enough personal space or some feature that's really important to you; in an incompatible housemate arrangement—you should probably take at least one significant step toward addressing this mismatch during '13. Saturn is all about *boundaries*. As a 4th influence, he's pressing you to establish and/or firm up whatever boundaries are necessary to ensure you're deriving the maximum emotional benefit from your domestic setting... even if you must separate yourself from certain people or places, for no other reason than it *feels* like the most self-nurturing thing to do.

Sometimes the boundaries we most desperately need to draw are in our relationships with the family we come from, another factor governed by the 4th house. While you may love your parents (or parent-figures) deeply, you might *also* be able to reach a new height of *emotional self-reliance* in '13 by refusing to allow their subtle (or not-so-subtle) maneuvers and manipulations to unduly impact your self-assuredness. This work might include actual boundary-setting conversations with overly involved family members... or, just as likely, it'll involve *you* claiming authority over the parental-like voices inside your head which prevent you from enjoying inner peace. As adults, we usually assume the role of nagging parent for ourselves—speaking in words that closely resemble those our actual parent(s) spoke to us, and often showing even less mercy—and must take active responsibility for disassociating our sense of self from this harsh character.

To succeed at this most important challenge in 2013, you must *refuse* to allow any familial voice (especially your own) to chip away at your self-esteem, due to how you've diverged from the family's expectations... and to conscientiously nourish that unshakable emotional core of 'I'm

OK', as if you were (re-)raising yourself as your own child. (In a sense, you *are*). If you're relatively happy with your home life and/or your current familial dynamics, Saturn-in-the-4th firmly requests you make some appreciative, reassuring gesture to signify your *commitment* to sustaining this advantageous situation. Invest in home improvements. Plan a special celebratory experience to share with your family. Nourish your roots.

Though much of what you have to work on in 2013 is highly personal and thus fairly solitary in focus, there's no shortage of easier pleasure to draw from staying connected to your chosen community. Benevolent Jupiter remains in your 11th house through the first half of your year, as an encouragement to reach out to friends, peers, teammates and/or like-minded individuals with whom you share a common experience. If ever there were a positive astrological influence under which to join a new group or organization, or to step up an existing social involvement, Jupiter-in-the-11th is *definitely* it. You won't be able to understand every fortunate nuance you';; invite into your life by throwing yourself more fully into wider social participations, embracing the 'togetherness' vibe. Not only does it offer you a great foil to too much aloneness, but your presence also promises to enhance the lives of those you join forces with, more significantly than you'll know.

Once Jupiter drifts out of your 11th in late June, he'll disappear behind the foggy 12th-house veil through the middle of next year. This only further accentuates the notion that '13 is more a year of *preparation* and *anticipation* than full-on excitement. When luck-hound Jupiter's hiding out in your 12th, you can only detect the faintest early stirrings of something you *will* become excited about later, barely beginning to manifest yet still a bit further out on the horizon. Once Jupiter finally crosses into your 1st, which occurs in July 2014, the exciting opportunities will come more tangibly into being, and life will expand into a whole new dimension. Doing your absolute best to dutifully *steady* your relationship to the fundamental building-blocks of life—work, health, home, family—in 2013 will leave you in excellent shape to make the most of a cheerier period beginning midway through '14.

Work / Career / Finances

As we covered in your general forecast, 2013 is a year for prioritizing *consistency* in your work life over, say, too much wrangling for position or striving to get noticed. Focus on making *real* progress on long-term projects, incrementally rather than in frantic fits (which are usually followed by full-body burnout). What *could* be seen as little more than a mind-numbing lack of variety in the day-to-day routine is, in fact, your ticket to a different kind of freedom. Without leaving you to worry anew each morning about what you ought to be doing, a predictable schedule actually reserves your mental energy for deeper thoughts. Settle into peaceful acceptance of this reality early in January, when you're in a position to actually *look forward* to such a routine. The veritable simplicity will immediately help clear your head. If you're without a job or some regularly slated obligation, find yourself one ASAP.

Your dutiful endurance may falter in March and early April, as you're tempted to ditch this whole exercise in restraint in favor of a sparkly *something else* that promises to deliver you from the doldrums. But if you give yourself over to it, what'll happen *after* that? Eventually, you'll be back in this same boat (or maybe *further* adrift than you were before). Perhaps you can strike a bargain with yourself, which permits a *modest* break from the routine... followed by a faithful return to responsible form later in April, when maintaining the rightful *appearance* of skillful management is as important as actually handling the tasks themselves. This is *not* the time to let your inner brat act out at work. In fact, May is your best moment all year to reach for an expanded position. Be aware, though: In the immediate future, this will likely mean an increased workload *first*—before you receive the corresponding recognition or pay.

Due to Neptune's influence over your 8th house, you're highly susceptible to overly idealistic notions about how it might go if you joined economic forces with another person or entity. While you needn't selfishly keep your money to yourself if someone you love is in need, you shouldn't assume they have the same attitudes about financial matters as you do. This is especially relevant in February, when you could be deluded by your own wishful thinking about such a joint involvement. Take *nothing* for granted as you iron out a mutually favorable agreement. Start planning for your end-of-year expenses as early as July and August, when your head will be in the right place... and while you still have time to revise your spending habits. By November,

you'll be in better economic shape—or it'll be exceedingly apparent you'd better have *major* work changes in store for the new year.

Relationships / Romance

With Neptune in your 8th (the house where we get deeply intimate and merge our lives with others), your heart is pretty wide open to the possibility of sharing your life with someone. Yet, Neptune can also leave you looking at your relationship situation through rose-colored glasses, showing you only the highest possibilities of connection... while clouding your view of whatever significant *differences* (including potential deal-breakers) may exist between you. Because so much else of your 2013 astrology deals with both practical *and* emotional self-sufficiency, there's a danger of you looking to interpersonal relationship(s) as a blissful escape from solitary personal challenges. With that in mind, proceed in all romantic matters with your realistic side intact: You cannot expect anyone else to swoop in and rescue you from your ongoing responsibilities—and, on the same token, please no rescuing others from *their* life-lessons. Only become involved as already-fully-complete individuals who complement one another, *not* as each other's 'other half'.

If you're coupled off, you'll probably have *a lot* to negotiate and debate throughout January, a month of potentially heightened conflict *if* you aren't both willing to be fair with each other. Run your thoughts past a reasonably-minded friend or colleague, to see how an outside party perceives your take on things. If there's one irrational sticking-point you can't let go, be honest about it... and then find other areas where you can more easily compromise, to keep the tradeoffs even-steven. Your friends' opinions are *even more critical* to your clarity in February and March, especially if a romantic entanglement is absorbing far too much of your time and/or competing with the other important relationships in your life. If anybody suggests you're 'losing yourself', please take their feedback seriously.

From late May into June, the single among you have an enhanced chance of meeting someone new... if, that is, you make the effort to more conspicuously participate in community groups, team activities or other socially-bustling leisure occupations. The best part? You'll already share an obvious common interest or value with the folks you encounter in such contexts. You're giving off that special aura of magnetic appeal in July, courtesy of Venus. Don't hide

yourself away at the very moment you're likeliest to garner extra attention. If you've been waiting to ask a certain special individual an important question, do it under these Venus blessings. You may attract someone in October who really gets you fired up about your future. Take their inspiring impact for what it is, but don't necessarily count on them to stick around. Think of 'em as a *muse* who passes freely in and out of people's lives, but cannot be tied down.

January

Don't mind-trip yourself with epic New Year's resolutions that'll start your 2013 off with unreasonably high expectations, a recipe for disappointing yourself. A better approach for January fixes your focus on consistently healthy and productive day-to-day rhythms. If you're trying to change your habits, concentrate on each day's successes rather than projecting too far into the future. Jump-start your feelings of practical effectiveness with a day or two of thorough cleaning, sorting and organizing mid-month. On the relationship front, you may find yourself caught between (1) demanding more from your partner or potential love-interest and (2) feeling guilty or uncomfortable for being so demanding. Acknowledge your needs, but be exceedingly mindful of your tone. You'll probably get better results by speaking philosophically about relationship values and ideals—and laying off any finger-pointing.

February

Relationship tensions soften a bit, even as the stakes somewhat intensify during February. It's more difficult than ever to separate your own interests from what you imagine to be good for both of you, though you may be operating under a potentially befuddling idealism. Don't fill in the blanks of what someone's *not* saying with your own wishful assumptions. Ask distinct detailed questions, and really listen to their responses. Beware of too generously volunteering to help anybody climb out of a hole or turn their life around: Do you have enough energy (or money) to go around? What are you expecting in return? Be specific in any agreement about what you're both committing to. Kind-hearted as you might seem by giving them every benefit of the doubt, please proceed based only on who they actually *are*—not who they're *capable* of being in a perfect world.

March

Start March by wrapping up any open-ended negotiations left hanging from last month. Though there may be plenty of unresolved feelings flowing back and forth, the *logistical* details mustn't be allowed to dangle that freely. Otherwise, you'll be slowly leaking psychic energy (through undue worry or concern) that could be put to far better use. A wave of excitement arrives midway through the month, due to a sudden opportunity to travel, return to school, or otherwise expose yourself to some eye-opening new experience. Split-second decisions may be required, in order to take full advantage of what's shown up... but the need for quick action isn't enough of an excuse to totally abandon certain responsibilities. If you want to thoroughly enjoy this opportunity, please be sure to adequately arrange for your duties to be covered, in advance of dashing away.

April

Whatever hubbub you're in the midst of as April begins, be consciously reflective about what it all means. How does this fit into the overall trajectory of your life's-journey? This occasion has brought you that much closer to *what really matters* to you... and, as a result, makes it that much harder to swallow certain tradeoffs you might've been okay with before. Career takes on added emphasis later in the month, when there are lots of eyes on you *and* your accomplishments. You might struggle to find as much comfort in the spotlight as you usually do, due to emotional sensitivities you'd rather handle in relative privacy. Don't fall prey to hyper-self-consciousness. They can't see your inner struggle as clearly as you fear they do. Treat your professional obligations with a matter-of-fact attitude: no need to worry about adding the extra showy flourishes.

May

Keep up a steady work momentum in early May, when your relative level of *consistency* will make or break the impression you create among the important players. It's totally fine if you haven't scored 'the big win' yet... as long as you demonstrate a genuine *refusal to give up*, no matter how challenging the process of getting there. Gain renewed inspiration from friends or teammates, who are readier than ever to lend their hands or some supportive words. All you've

got to do is ask. If you insist on keeping your ideas to yourself, you're squandering a heightened potential for good fortune that'll only come from embracing a *collective* mindset. Plus, you'll have a lot more fun if there are like-minded individuals working alongside you toward the common goal. If your career is necessarily a solo endeavor, tap into this fortune during your off-time, through group activities and/or a more markedly *social* outlook.

June

At the first hint of burgeoning conflict amongst your peeps, you should step *out* of the fray and take some time to yourself. You're likely to be on a different wavelength than most everyone else... which, in itself, is not necessarily a bad thing, though it'll be harder for them to understand you (and vice versa). And what is that vague unformed sense of some stimulating new adventure just starting to brew? These are only the earliest whispers, so you have to be quiet if you want to hear what they're telling you. Meanwhile, you mustn't let the anticipation tempt you into neglecting your responsibilities in the here-and-now. The mundane repetitiveness you're living with now will *not* last forever, but your 'rescue' from the grind is not yet ready to deliver you. Think of this as a phase of *psychological self-strengthening*, in preparation for some more interesting future developments down the road.

July

Venus's sparkle is yours to enjoy throughout much of July, affording you an easy-to-get-along-with air that'll help compensate for a persistent underlying moodiness. Behind the scenes, you're charged with pushing deeper into any anxieties that have cropped up; to do so, you'll need a decent amount of *distance* from any pressures to 'have it all together' on someone else's behalf. Bending over backwards to ensure other people feel cared for is probably just a distraction (albeit a kind-hearted one) from privately showing that care to *yourself*. You might find it difficult to say no to others' effusive admiration or affection—and why should you?—though you must *also* ensure you're not letting the contact buzz keep you from much-needed alone-time. Nobody else's loving gestures are an effective substitute for self-love.

August

Speak aloud your developing ideas for what you might dare to do next year and beyond. Though you may still be several steps away from lift-off, you'll gain mad encouragement from talking it out with folks who've had more experience in such matters. (Unsupportive family members, on the other hand, are best kept out of the loop for now.) In the meantime, don't overlook the familiar social options: You're probably overdue to catch up with pals who have been absent from your day-to-day life for too long, despite how close they live. Reestablishing these lines of communication will surprisingly feel more significant than you would've imagined. Take this as your reminder to savor what's nearby, instead of looking far and wide for something of interest. At month's end, be aware of where your money's going—and when it'll come back to you. Responsible financial boundaries are essential.

September

September promises a unique opportunity to reach a new level of peacefully accepting where you come from. But coming to peace with your relationship to family doesn't necessarily mean *actually making peace* with manipulative family-members. In fact, to authentically assert who you are, you must be willing to *displease* those who'd prefer you cater to them. Even if this is a wholly *internal* battle for emotional well-being, you still might need to face the ways in which you've taken a divergent path from your upbringing. Proudly owning this self-understanding will serve as your firm foundation for taking other independence-asserting stands in life. Consider discussing this inner experience with siblings or cousins who've shared a similar process. Though you might handle the ins and outs your own way, it'll be helpful to hear other perspectives... and to know, without a doubt, you're not the only one who's dealt with this.

October

There's a self-protective line-in-the-sand you need to clearly articulate, so the offending housemate or family-member hears it straight from your lips. But if your main point is too clouded by residual bits of disowned resentment or hurt, you're unlikely to get the results you'd hoped for. Instead, you'll open up a larger conversation which, though you hadn't counted on talking about *all that*, is probably worth having. When you're not knee-deep in processing, get

yourself out on the party circuit. You're something of a 'good-time magnet' through most of October... which lures those hot types who may make you tingle, but probably *aren't* ideal 'marriage material'. Shift into high-gear on the income-earning front later in the month, as you move into what could be your most productive phase of '13 *if* your mind's in the money game.

November

November's a month for *fortifying* the more secure components in your life, with appreciative *simplification* as a worthy goal for your efforts. Settling into your present situation, rather than striving for greater variety or vastly expanded horizons, is your most appropriate stance for now. Slowly but surely, you're incubating a subtle-but-powerful *grounding* in who you are... one that can *only* arise from consciously seeking to minimize the dramatic fluctuations of day-to-day existence. If you're in fast motion all the time, you never have a chance to contemplatively connect the dots—and you'll miss out on the threads of continuity which weave you a unifying sense of purpose. Relative *stillness*, though it makes you itchy from time to time, currently assists you in drawing insight from your most recent bumps-in-the-road, so the *next* great adventure isn't as personally destabilizing.

December

Healthful habits have been a requisite mainstay of your whole 2013... and, despite the holidaytime appeal of throwing caution to the wind, December calls for a continuance of this streak. Right through the end of the year, you're expected to uphold a diligent work ethic. That doesn't mean there isn't plenty of revelry in which to partake, though. You hold a special role in these festivities: keeping the conversation flowing between unacquainted friends, nervous neighbors, estranged 'black sheep', and/or anybody who's feeling a little shy. You're the official social glue of the season. When an awkward moment arises, redirect the attention by cracking a self-effacing joke. As long as you're performing these wacky routines, nobody else will have a chance to indulge their own deeper-and-darker dramas.

VIRGO

How insistent are you that others bear witness to what makes you uniquely *you*? How strongly do you demand your personal desires are outwardly known? Are you committed to partaking of the specific pleasures *you* most enjoy... or will you docilely make the best of *whatever* wanders itself into your life?

You Virgos are not typically known as a sign who presses your distinct agenda into front-and-center position, expecting others to fall in line behind your expressed wants just because *you want them*. Sure, if we were talking about a certain project or problem that might best be tackled by one method over another, you might be likely to stand firmly behind the better option... because it makes clearer sense, or is more efficient, or guarantees the highest-quality result, but not just because you said so and your ego wants its gratification. You'd merely be fulfilling your Virgo role as the rationally-minded one, making endorsements on behalf of what'll work most smoothly and effectively.

But what about matters of pure personal *preference*... in which there's no logical reason things should go this way instead of that, other than because that's what'll most gratify you? Deciding to prioritize *these* matters too, as something to speak up about and even to *push hard* for, can make the profound difference between (1) satisfactorily taking care of your day-to-day business and (2) thoroughly *relishing*, on a day-to-day basis, your experience of life.

You, Virgo, must choose to up these stakes, from securing what you need to *grabbing what you desire*. And nobody's going to just hand it over to you; you must explicitly *go get it* for yourself.

Pluto's continuing occupation of your solar 5th house (where he's been since 2008) stimulates in you a *passion* for self-expression, one that's hopefully provoking you to more fiercely pursue your personal desires. The first half of 2012, which featured an unusually long transit of Mars through Virgo (due to a retrograde), was a key turning-point in this deepening pressure to assert yourself more prominently... or expect to suffer increasing dissatisfaction, resentment and/or envy. This pressure persists throughout 2013, daring you to confront any fears which might inhibit the drive to create your life as you want it to be. Of course you risk alienating those who cannot (or will not) understand why you want what you want. But the ultimate payoff can be

extraordinary, in terms of instilling a prouder feeling of *personal ownership* over the direction you're headed.

Pluto-in-the-5th can mean you *finally* throw your all behind that creative venture you've been eagerly tossing around in your head, and start to write or paint or sculpt or knit whatever masterpiece is aching to emerge from you. It could stir you to *at last* take that cooking class or singing lesson, attend weekly samba night at the local community center, regularly play bridge or soccer or competitive Scrabble, and/or spend more time at the beach, in the mountains, or downtown. It might also involve stepping up your direct engagement in how your kids are developing, getting more involved at their school, ensuring they're gaining pleasure and self-esteem from their extracurricular activities, and/or volunteering to coach or provide guidance.

All these possibilities I've suggested (and plenty more) center on you *intensifying* the personal agency you claim in creatively nurturing *your* 'baby'—that is, your special contribution to the world—in the very particular manner *you* desire. If other people don't like it, they can *fuck off*. According to Pluto-in-the-5th, you shouldn't give a rat's-ass if anyone sees you as too stubbornly concerned with satisfying your own vision. *Who else's* vision should you be satisfying, if not yours?

This notion is also extremely important to bear in mind with regards to interpersonal dynamics in '13, Virgo... especially with hyper-idealistic boundary-dissolver Neptune as an influence over your relationship house (the 7th) for many years to come. Neptune-in-the-7th significantly eases our ability to establish sympathetic connections with others, but, at its very worst, can move us to *sacrifice* our own distinct desires so we might better serve the needs of the other person and, thus, the uninterrupted unity of the coupling.

With your relationship life under Neptune's influence, you must be on constant guard against any instinct to view the behaviors of a partner or potential match through a lens of unrealistic wishfulness, to rescue them from their 'bad' urges, to surrender your needs and/or shuffle your truth in order to keep them happy. Heeding Pluto-in-the-5th's call to put your own desires *first* is a perfect antidote for Neptune's sacrificial temptations.

Your 5th house is also pertinent here insofar as it's said to be the house of *love*... not proper ongoing relationships (which, as I said, is the 7th), but the 'honeymoon stage' of simpler flirtation and fun. Pluto's presence, then, suggests a heightened capacity for injecting passion into your romantic life during 2013. Yet, this type of passion can *only* arise when we are authentic about what we want—and what we *don't*. If Pluto-in-the-5th is put to purposeful use in this fashion, combined with Neptune's effect on your 7th, you're on track to attain *profound* personal fulfillment and emotional connectedness in your most important one-on-one relationship(s)—but only because you refused to settle for anything less. If you *don't* work consciously with these energies? You might end up enduring quite the opposite effect: an increasingly sour feeling of debilitating invisibility, all while you bend and swerve and duck to continue giving and giving and giving to individuals who don't or won't return the favor. (That's Pluto's indirect way of worsening your dissatisfaction until it's so bad you can't take it anymore... and *snap* into action.)

Uranus's square to Pluto from your 8th house further addresses this impact of intensifying self-expression on your interpersonal life. Basically, Uranus-in-the-8th asserts an erratic and unpredictable influence in your most intimate entanglement(s), shaking up how you've enmeshed yourself (or not) in the meatier complexities of interrelating... which can include the financial, sexual, psychological and/or spiritual issues we must confront in each other, if we intend to deeply and thoroughly join forces. Rebellious Uranus does not specify whether you are due for an existing entanglement to radically change or altogether bust up, or to suddenly and surprisingly find yourself in a new entanglement—he's merely interested in exposing you to a self-liberating *freshness* in the arena of interpersonal intimacy. You'll have to assess for yourself what sort of Uranus shakeup you're (consciously or not) due for in 2013, based on where you feel *trapped* or *stunted* in partnership or as a solo entity.

In square to Pluto, Uranus-in-the-8th indicates a possibility of *major chaos* whenever your independent destiny is intertwined with someone else's... though, rather than dreading 'chaos' as something to be avoided, it's more productive to embrace it as an inescapable element of creative transformation. In the process of creating a more fulfilling existence for yourself, you must persevere through periods of unmistakable messiness (and we all know *messes* aren't usually adored by Virgos) on your path to a new sense of order. Whether you're bursting your way out of a constrictive bond or leaping headfirst into an all-encompassing togetherness, you must expect some collateral bumps and bruises along the way. Temporary discomfort is just part of the wild ride to profounder self-satisfaction.

Jupiter's arrival to your 11th house in late June (after spending the first half of '13 in your 10th, extending last year's career- and/or public-world-related advantages) promises no shortage of novel social input, widening the scope of networks at your disposal for attracting new friends and allies. Jupiter-in-the-11th is a signifier that good luck and expansive opportunity will come more easily this year when you actively put yourself in group situations, whether through attending more events, joining teams or organizations, or just spending more time with your pals in their preferred venues. Should you encounter a large dose of the Uranus/Pluto chaos I described earlier, Jupiter reminds you to take solace in the support-system of those who can directly relate to what you're going through (group therapy, perhaps?) and/or who are loyal boosters to the end. Stale friendships that fade away are simply making room for new-and-improved friendships.

Once you put yourself more decidedly in the social sphere, however, you *are* charged with taking greater responsibility for the quality of conversation you engage in with these latest acquaintances. Saturn, now in your 3rd house, is urging you to treat your day-to-day interactions with others (whether they're your best friend or a total stranger) more seriously... to say what you actually *mean* rather than spinning bland superficialities, to strive for greater authenticity even when the truth is liable to spur temporarily awkward or uneasy moments. Thanks to disciplinarian Saturn, you can anticipate more severe ramifications when you take a lazy or lackadaisical approach to communicating your reality to others, or if you seek to evade acknowledgment of any pink-elephant-in-the-room issues. On the other hand, your willingness to endure through difficult exchanges will not only help alleviate previously underexplored tensions, but can ultimately yield an actual *meaningful* connection where before there was only perfunctory cordiality.

This Saturn-in-your-3rd challenge neatly brings your forecast full circle: By communicating your authentic desires, you might indeed cause some interpersonal discomfort; yet, it'll help keep you from denying your own needs in relationships great and small, and therefore attract the sort of friends and partners who legitimately like you for *who you are*, not what you can do for them.

Work / Career / Finances

You kick off your year with magnanimous Jupiter still in your career house (the 10th), having first arrived back in June 2012... meaning you should take as much advantage of potential professional opportunities as early in 2013 as possible. Jupiter encourages you to dabble with expanding your position into areas which you may lack experience in, but boast great curiosity about. Reaching beyond safe competency, toward new interests that'll broaden your knowledge, could alter your career trajectory ever after—or merely provide some temporary variety to break up the monotony, affirming the direction you were already headed wasn't merely the result of having no other options. To tap into these positive prospects, though, you mustn't worry about 'not knowing what you're doing'. (Isn't that the whole point?) May and June represent the culmination in this broadening of professional opportunity which began in mid-'12... and places you smack in the middle of multiple developing possibilities. Your success hinges less on official decision-making, and more on just throwing yourself into the mix, to see where the strongest momentum flourishes or where you just seem to *click*.

Your productivity also thrives at the very beginning of the year, when your readiness in January to hit the ground running can directly enlarge the scope of your responsibilities in the months to come. And what's liable to slow you down? Your need to remain in *regular* communication with the other players, even when you're worried their feedback could throw a wrench in the works. Remember: You do *not* work in a vacuum. Once February rolls around, your progress could grind to a temporary halt, due to another person's demands on you. Grant that whole hullabaloo no more than a month's grip over your life—if the drama extends beyond that, you might have to make a sharp break from it. You cannot avoid the lingering tension between (1) devoting so much of yourself to someone else and (2) reserving some or all of that energy for growing your own career.

Your money situation has the potential to be somewhat shaky in 2013, as a side-effect of any Uranus-Pluto revolutions taking place in your interpersonal life. In other words, if you find yourself abruptly separated from a longtime partner (in romance or business) or just-as-suddenly in a joint financial arrangement with someone, you should naturally expect to feel a transitory uncertainty about where exactly you stand moneywise. This instability, though obviously not a desirable longer-term condition, may be an unavoidable interim step in a larger

reorientation. Venus hits your earned-income house (the 2nd) midway through August, making that an excellent time to cash in on any lucrative possibilities. If you must negotiate with another party for a selfishly better deal, aim to do so in the middle of September. Should you find yourself in dire financial straits as the year comes to a close, shift into a tougher 'fight-for-what's-mine' mode, starting in December and continuing into early '14.

Relationships / Romance

As we've already covered at some length, your relation to relationships is a *pivotal* part of your 2013, due to a number of outer planets affecting relevant sectors of your chart. The square between Uranus and Pluto (still the biggest astrological news of the decade) falls across your 8th and 5th houses, forcing you to examine any friction between (1) the specific qualities you desire and enjoy in romantic dealings and (2) whether you're actually *getting* what you want from your intimate involvement(s) or lack thereof. This Uranus-Pluto tension is extremely potent, with the potential to make this a powerfully transformational year, cracking open any lurking complications which might otherwise inhibit you from deeper connection... whether increasing the turmoil in an unfulfilling or otherwise problematic relationship and/or launching you into some new interest that stirs life-altering passions in you. This tension is especially heightened in mid-January, mid-to-late March, and mid-November.

Neptune, meanwhile, remains in your 7th house throughout 2013 (and all the way into 2025)... an influence that can definitely fuel romantic feelings in your important one-on-one relationship(s), but also threatens to show you only the *sanitized* version of the other person rather than a wholly accurate picture of who they are. Neptune's 7th-house presence also offers you a warning against selling out your interests just to support a coupling, particularly if you believe you're helping 'save' someone or hold 'em up. If, however, you are looking at your romantic situation with eyes wide open, Neptune could bring you closer together with a soulmate with whom you can share life like you never have before. In early February, follow any uncanny intuitions telling you to go a certain place at a certain time: This could be your divine courting-call.

February's also the month in which an unhealthily codependent dynamic may finally reach its climax, with dramatic developments continuing into March. This is *the* moment to initiate that

difficult discussion in which you finally confess what you've been too scared to admit until now. If you let this opportunity slip by, you'll only sink further in. Is it really worth denying *your* true feelings just to spare theirs? If you're looking to meet somebody new, be out and about during July. Not only will you be likelier than usual to stand out from the crowd, but Venus will be in your sign, making sure you 'stand out' in a *favorable* way. Should you need support, insist a good pal be your wingman/-woman for the month. If a vague maybe-relationship needs better definition or structure, take the lead on shaping it into what *you* want from mid-October into November.

January

As 2013 opens, you're *really* wanting things to go a certain way with a romantic or leisure-time pursuit... *and* you have a really good chance of *having* it go that way, as long as you make your desires unmistakably apparent. Your powers of persuasion are turned up to full blast in the first half of January, especially if you offer your desired companion a convincingly sane description of just how *pleasurable* their participation is apt to be. This is also marvelous astrology for cruising into the year on a productive high-note, with ample 6th-house support for accomplishing work feats that'll further fuel your continuing rise through the ranks. Don't forget to notify the relevant people about what exactly you're working on—not because you need their approval, but as a common courtesy.

February

Much of your focus will be dominated by *relationship* concerns in February, whether by choice or obligation. Despite the enduring pull of career opportunities, you'll be too sensitive to a certain someone's genuine needs not to respond with ample attention. If this union provides *you* as much support and nourishment as you're providing the other person, this should be a truly meaningful milestone in getting to know and trust each other even better. But please be honest with yourself if you're, yet again, pulling this person out of a hole they dug themselves into. You may need to accept the fact that you cannot rescue anyone else... and might end up getting sucked *deeper* into their drama, threatening your own well-being. Be reasonable about how much you're giving—and what you're getting in return.

March

Whatever interpersonal issues arose last month remain significant into March, as additional details emerge and/or somebody's story (yours or theirs) shifts to reveal a different emotional dimension. These developments are likely to push your feelings more strongly in one direction or another, helping to resolve any internal conflicts about your involvement with this person. As a result, by mid-month, you'll be ready to take some decisive action, which will carry you considerably closer to or further away from them. Even if you're not so sure you're 'ready', the quickly intensifying circumstances are pushing you one way or the other. Don't stall, in fear of the potential chaos your move might create. Change in this arena is *coming*, like it or not.

April

April starts with continuing fallout from March's decision to move forward into an ever-altered reality... which, regardless of the specific outcome, hopefully leaves you feeling like your emotional energies are less conflicted and in better coherent alignment. As the month progresses, the onus rests on *you* to take the higher road rather than stooping to futile back-and-forths which perpetuate an unsettling vibe. At a certain point, if you've already attained your own principled clarity on this matter, you gain nothing from discussing it any further. Of course, someone else may feel differently about whether the conversation is over. You *could* agree to keep the talks going, so they're likelier to feel you actually heard them out. But are you jeopardizing that hard-earned clarity? It's okay to cut out if you're done.

May

By sticking to your ethical guns early in May, you're likely to hit a wave of elevated confidence in your ability to stand up for what's right. You're moving that much closer to having exactly what you want, simply through your willingness to say no to the wrong things (or people).

Remember: Like attracts like. Your career (or some other public-community effort) takes on heightened importance, as your swift responsiveness is needed in a case of dynamically changing circumstances. Don't get attached to one solution or another; there's no time for such stubbornness. Try *whatever* might work, even staying open to possibly switching tactics

midstream. If you are sincerely devoted to what's best for the end result (and unconcerned with whether or not it ended up happening *your way*), you'll walk away smelling like a rose.

June

Go along on the maddeningly circuitous journey through the entire group's different thoughts, without rushing anybody along toward a so-called consensus *you* are pushing onto them. In this instance, you may *or* may not know better... but 'better' (whatever *that* judgment is based upon) doesn't matter nearly as much as finding something that works for *everyone*. Let that relieve you of any self-imposed pressure to control how it goes, so you can actually relax into the *social* component of these collaborative efforts, personally and/or professionally. In the process, you might gain a new understanding of someone you thought you already understood pretty well. Now that you're seeing how their mind works in *this* context, you realize you may have more in common than you knew.

July

Your hands are somewhat tied early in July, as you wait for other people's volleying of various opinions to settle down enough so you can determine your best move. If, after giving everyone ample time to express themselves, you *still* detect a lingering problem in how the situation's playing out, you might need to finally step in with an unpopular reality-check. A conflict might be brewing if certain colleagues or friends take personal issue with your corrective tone; try *not* to give 'em a good reason to think it's 'personal'. With Venus in your sign late in the month, however, you *are* in the more advantageous position. Before you take any knockout punches, then, please look for less destructive ways you can emerge victorious *without* causing any irreversible damage to your community of allies.

August

For the first half of August, you'll be in the sweetest spot simply by saying little and listening a lot. Those all around you will have an uncanny ability to talk themselves into agreeing with you, and you can sit back and do relatively nothing... except, maybe, praise them for their smart outlook. In fact, the more eagerly you try to *explain* your thoughts, the more defensive you're

liable to sound—even if you’re not really ‘defending’ anything. By the month’s second half, you must put your analyst’s cap back on. You’re well-positioned to improve your financial standing, but your shrewdest move might require temporarily swallowing your pride. Make no presumptions about the other party’s expectations. Though you may be fairly well-acquainted with their thinking, you still ought to *explicitly* confirm that you’re all on the same page.

September

You might have to overtly practice *restraint* in your social reactions, in order to avoid needlessly causing yourself interpersonal friction over nothing much. Your restless itch to get back to whatever you were doing—and, therefore, to cut off midsentence whoever’s oh-so-eager to talk to you—is apt to *offend*, and with good reason. On the other hand, if you’re willing to see that this prolonged social contact actually *feeds your soul* (rather than merely inconveniences you), you could play an integral part in someone’s life-changing conversation. In the economic sector, it wouldn’t hurt to phrase your statements of desire in the form of humble suggestions for how to foster a win-win situation. Too self-serving an approach (even if your goal ultimately *is* to serve yourself) will immediately trigger their suspicions.

October

October could be a choice month for revisiting long-unfinished business with a sibling, neighbor or pal... if you can concentrate simply on reopening a dialogue (rather than insisting they apologize or admit they were wrong). Don’t expect to tie up all the loose ends in a single epic session of processing. Instead, let this dynamic grow gradually warmer one step at a time, over a series of modest catch-ups that extends over a period of weeks or months. A take-charge energy injection arrives mid-month, courtesy of Mars, providing you a renewed eagerness to push for a *huge* amount of progress by year’s end. Be conscious of the extra-aggressive edge to your personality this could create: Your forward momentum may be so forceful, you don’t even notice who or what you’re bulldozing over as you zoom ahead. Be on the lookout for unintended collateral damage.

November

Consciously mold November's developments to *your* specifications, as the month's events will be particularly responsive to any acts of assertive desire on your part. It's still critical you leave the other participants feeling as if they've had a hand in how things go, even though you may be (ahem) 'guiding' that hand very closely. Such self-possession, incidentally, is a powerful aphrodisiac: You're likely to attract fawning admiration from folks who are turned on by how capably it appears you've got your shit together. Ride that line between deeper-than-usual chit-chat about their life-challenges and a seductive offer of more direct (ahem) 'assistance'. In the end, casual contact may prove to be not so 'casual'... which just goes to show, you shouldn't prematurely judge a potential for connection.

December

While everyone else is toasting the end of another year, you're spending December already angling for a prime position in 2014—in both your romantic *and* professional zones. Romantically speaking, while there's a lot to enjoy in the here-and-now, it might behoove you to refrain from too many relationship-defining statements. Much could change between now and the end of February. On the job front, you may have an opportunity to snag a raise and/or a promotion as a direct effect of turbulent shifts that occur right as '13 comes to a close. Carefully observe exactly which misunderstandings or interpersonal missteps are behind these developments, to gather useful information that'll help you make the most *relevant* self-promotional pitch in the new year.

LIBRA

You Libras sure haven't had the smoothest go of it in recent years. That doesn't mean the added challenges aren't ultimately proving to be *worth* it, in terms of the tremendous strides you've taken during this time—or, in many cases, the tremendous strides you've essentially been *forced* to take to avoid ending up *flattened* by circumstance. But transformation ain't a breeze, that's for sure... and the Libran transformation continues along this same track into 2013.

Life's remaining topsy-turvy for you, Libra, due to the continuing effect of the square between Uranus and Pluto, *the* number-one big astrological news of the decade... which has already brought much turmoil and unrest as collective structures break down and demand reconfiguring. Libra is one of the zodiac-signs most profoundly impacted by this Uranus-Pluto square (in effect since 2009; at peak intensity from 2012 through 2015), essentially exposing the structures of *your* life to this steep evolutionary pressure. Thanks to these dual outer-planet aspects occurring *simultaneously*—either one of which would pack plenty of heat on its own—you've often felt as if you're getting hit by massive change from multiple directions. (It's because you *have*.)

Before we go any further, I'd like to pause for a moment of backward reflection: After a challenging few years, most Librans are now stronger than you've been in a long while, if ever... and therefore are *totally ready and able* to responsibly deal with whatever Uranus and Pluto still have up their sleeves. Saturn, the planet who whips us into shape by demanding our best, recently spent about three years in your sign, first arriving in October '09 and finally leaving just this past October. During that time, you faced tests to your authenticity and your assertive ability to be direct. To follow the beat of your rightful individuality, you likely had to make decisive choices which might have displeased others, disappointed their expectations and/or shirked convention. If you successfully went forth with such decisions, despite uncomfortable or difficult fallout, you've reached a new peak of *security* in knowing who you are. You met Saturn's demands: You're better able to choose what's *personally* correct over what's more popular or accommodating.

Any Librans now suffering *worse* than you were a couple years ago, sadly, probably *knew* you'd been facing a tough Saturn test... and just weren't willing or able to respond as you should have. What you're experiencing now is simply the consequence of that choice. It's never too late to make a redefining turn in life—though 'un-sticking' yourself from a dissatisfying situation *is* somewhat harder after a Saturn transit has crystallized it into firmer form. The longer you wait, the worse it gets. Therefore, each bump-in-the-road is yet one more invitation to crack this suffering wide open, replacing it, yes, with unsettling *chaos* first... followed thereafter by something radically *new*. Such choices remain yours.

Uranus and Pluto trigger you Librans in two critical zones: the 7th, your house of one-on-one partnerships, and the 4th, the house pertaining to inner emotional self-care and how your family history has shaped it. Both these houses deal with the balance between self-driven impulses and the compromises required to sustain healthy relationships, whether with family members, in romance or marriage, or for *any* collaborative purpose. Stereotypically, Libra is far *less* likely to err on the side of too much impulsive self-centeredness. Instead, you're apt to spend excessive amounts of mental effort considering how someone else (a real or imagined person) *might* react to a certain action. (Hopefully Saturn recently nipped *some* of that in the bud.) The Uranus-Pluto square continues to present you countless opportunities throughout '13 to revolutionize how this balance is struck, with the goal of liberating you from being too 'other-centered'—and maybe helping the other players evolve too, by changing *your* habitual role in the shared drama.

Rabble-rouser Uranus is doing his part to ensure *nothing* in your interpersonal life gets too stale or stymieing, filling your 7th house with exciting but inarguably *volatile* energy. Even in the most advantageous situations, 'business as usual' probably *won't* fairly describe your relationship status in 2013. But what you might lack in stability or sure-footedness, you can more than make up for with positive *risk-taking*. Any out-of-the-ordinary occurrence in a partnership, though it might initially seem unfavorable or shocking, is an invitation to try radical new approaches in how you share responsibility and/or operate with greater mutual independence. Any sudden arrival of a fresh-faced romantic prospect is one more opportunity to experiment with a more fearless-and-forward attitude... instead of, once again, watching and waiting and wondering when *they* are going to make that first move, and how they'll want you to respond.

Uranus-in-the-7th can also be a lightning-rod for a partner's (or any other important individual's) unpredictable behaviors—though, even in such cases, the other person's erratic actions are showing up in *your* life as a call for *you* to alter *your* role in the dynamic. Doesn't it always take two to tango? They may well keep dropping wild-card surprises on you until you're *finally* driven to a sharply different stance. As a 7th-house agent, Uranus *does* sometimes incite breakups, if it proves otherwise impossible to make significant enough adjustments in a coupling to allow both parties ample room as autonomous entities. The worst possible attitude while on Uranus's watch? Trying to 'hold things together' as they've always been. Change is inevitable; do not fear it.

To most bravely confront this interpersonal unsettledness, you must assume *total control* for putting your private emotional satisfaction *first*, no matter the cost to existing relationship commitments... and that's where Pluto's presence in your 4th comes in. Pluto thrusts you into direct confrontation with whatever internal scars and/or inherited complexes may be preventing you from claiming this self-care duty.

When your psyche is jam-packed with a litany of exacting shoulds and shouldn'ts (probably instilled early on by parents, teachers, authority-figures, and/or dominating peers), your emotional core is essentially boxed into a relatively narrow field of acceptable behaviors... leaving you very few options for alleviating the sense of unworthiness. That, of course, inhibits the likelihood you'll be able to meet *any* relationship jolts with self-assertive confidence. Pluto-in-the-4th is a most ideal transit under which to initiate or deepen any psychologically supportive therapies, to help you unpack the leftover residue of limiting familial patterns or traumas, as well as to introduce restorative self-care practices for reclaiming your inner power. You *need* this powerful core of self, as a foundation upon which everything else can be firmly rooted.

Your family relationships, then, remain a ripe arena for personal growth in 2013, with Pluto providing regular status-updates on how completely you've seized the reins of power from an intrusive parent or family-member—or whether you still fall prey to their subtle (or less-than-subtle) manipulations. Pluto-in-the-4th pushes us toward 'death-and-rebirth' transformations in these familial relationships, *anything* that'll flip the dynamic upside-down, empowering you *not* to kowtow to their pressures. This could, of course, leave you dredging up a hunk of unfinished family business... which, incidentally, others may prefer you keep buried, to protect their own

position. Occasionally, Pluto-in-the-4th even forces one to contend with the *mortality* of a family-member, a literal expression of the need to let a prior dependence die in order to become your own parent-figure, even as you grieve the loss. Such reorientations are often initially quite painful, before they metamorphose into something profoundly self-affirming.

Because the 4th also rules your private residential life, Pluto power-struggles could alternatively play out in the domestic sphere during 2013... particularly if your ability to feel comfortable at home is negatively impacted by an unhealthy living arrangement and/or a troublesome housemate. What you *demand* for yourself—or, alternatively, what you discontentedly *settle for*—in your home life makes a commanding statement about what you perceive yourself as *deserving*. You might be surprised how much dissatisfaction in *other* areas of your life rests on your not dealing with *this* one.

The *practical* sectors, such as work and finances, seem to provide your most *basic* formula for results-oriented payoffs in '13... a perfect counterbalance to the perpetually up-in-the-air quality in your interpersonal relationship(s) and your psychological evolution process. Since Saturn moved out of Libra and into your 2nd (the earned-income house) in October '12, you've been in a spot where *carefully* watching every thin dime that comes and goes is *definitely* called for. When Saturn's in your 2nd, nothing about your monetary situation flows easily. Each buck is hard-earned, and a relatively conservative spending plan serves you well. Yet, investing extra diligent effort to secure a steadier economic outlook *now* will create beneficial (and potentially lucrative) consequences for many years ahead.

Providing a fortuitous boost to Saturn's financial efforts, growth-steward Jupiter lands in your career house (the 10th) in late June, inaugurating your most advantageous professional moment in over a decade. During the second half of '13 (and the first half of '14), you'll be well-positioned for ascension into a role of greater authority, wider recognition, and/or exciting new opportunity—though it's fair to point out, under Jupiter's influence, it probably won't descend from the heavens without your actually taking the steps to hook it. Because this potential for amplified career success is based in water-sign placements, you will need to listen to your *intuition* (no matter if it 'makes no sense') about how best to proceed, rather than trying to reason through each planned-out step. You'll simply *know* where to head for the most

promising breaks... but, lacking a clear explanation why, will you be courageous enough to still head there anyway?

Work / Career / Finances

Jupiter brings his good-luck-charm self to your 10th house midway through 2013, kicking off your best year in quite a while for stretching into uncharted professional territory. To be genuinely successful in your career, however, you must *feel*—on a palpable gut-level of *emotional* truth—that what you're doing actually provides some gesture of *care* to the world. Otherwise, each attempt to climb further up the ladder (for ego flattery? for social prestige?) will be met with an increasing sense of meaninglessness. 'Care', of course, comes in many forms: supporting co-workers, furthering a vision you believe in, directly helping improve the lives of others, doing something that really *matters*. Should you experience a job constriction or loss under Jupiter's watch, please have faith this, too, is a 'lucky' occurrence... a clearing-away that's making room for you to grow into a more emotionally fulfilling career spot, one that better fits the ever-evolving you.

June, July and August are your hottest months for expanding your reach into a new job, a better position, and/or a higher public-profile. Be forewarned, though: At every step in the process, you're liable to bump up against that pesky internal voice trying to convince you *not* to leave your safety zone and/or an unruly individual who desperately wants the attention to stay on *them* at any cost. Neither type of potential obstacle is anything you can't handle, if you keep fighting your personal revolution. Due to a Mercury retrograde during this time (late June to mid July), you mustn't judge the success of any initial efforts too hastily. The story could change along the way, then change again, and again. Don't underestimate the impact of just diving into the work you'd like to be doing, rather than waiting for someone else's permission. You have a nearly boundless capacity for taking on additional duties, which definitely gets put to the test in February. Because of Neptune's long-term residence in your 6th, make sure you have reasonable expectations of what one human can possibly do in a given day—or you'll end up working yourself into a bodily crash.

Saturn-in-your-2nd keeps your financial situation tight, though not necessarily bleak. 2013 provides you an excellent chance to grab a more competent grip on your money, once and for

all, if you are willing to make the difficult decisions required to hold yourself to a budget. Let go of any excessive psychological charge you're holding in relation to money issues, and you'll find *relief* in newly-simplified and relatively straightforward practices. In late April and early May, you might need to reject the possibility of more deeply involving yourself with someone else (a family member?) financially. Though it could *seem* like a quick solution to a problem, you mustn't gloss over all the strings that'll be attached. By September, you should receive a clear sign that affirms your attentive accountability is paying off... or glaringly reveals where you've fallen short. Spend October and November revisiting the financial plan, fixing what hasn't been working and recommitting to what has.

Relationships / Romance

At least when Uranus is in your 7th house, as he is throughout 2013, relationship life is rarely *boring*... though the 'excitement' that comes along with it isn't always the *fun* kind. Whether you're trying to renegotiate a markedly different arrangement, get yourself abruptly into or out of a romantic pairing, or deal with a rebellious or inconsistent partner, you will be under constant pressure to ensure you're feeling stimulated, alive and free in any interpersonal involvement... or else to assert *any* radical move necessary to remedy the situation, whatever the outcome. Any simmering conflicts in an existing relationship, or unconsummated sexual tensions with a promising prospect, will likely come to a head by late March and into April, when a conjunction of personal planets in your 7th converges with Uranus. If ever there were a perfect moment to defiantly announce what *you* want—and to demand that you get it, if you're going to bother sticking around at all—this, dear Libra, is *it*.

If you're single and looking, you should prepare yourself to take full advantage of this late-March/early-April window by staying actively in the social mix from the very start of the year. Throughout January and February, your house of flirtatious play and early love (the 5th) will be getting plenty of action, indicating you'll have a heightened ability to attract admirers—if, that is, you're out doing something you find *fun*. It's your natural expression of glee which will turn their heads, more so than any contrived attempt to play to them. You'll boost your romantic luck-of-the-draw by tapping into the trines from Jupiter-in-your-9th: Put yourself in social situations *beyond* your immediate neighborhood, in settings outside your usual stomping-grounds, where

you're likelier to meet people of a different social-sphere, culture, or belief-system who have something *new* to show you. What better way to break recurring relationship patterns?

Should you suddenly find yourself newly in a relationship and/or getting more deeply involved in '13, Saturn warns you *not* to sacrifice your own interests... especially if sharing money and/or other resources is part of the deal. It'll be way too easy for you to adopt a carefree 'what's mine is yours' approach, which might be generous but doesn't do proper justice to the pressing challenge of steadying your own *independent* financial footing. Don't complicate things with additional variables, even under seemingly promising circumstances. Be prepared to say no to such an offer in late April. When Venus hits your sign midway through August, you'll welcome a few weeks of looking your best and exuding an extra bit of charm. Mid-September is your opportunity to initiate an important conversation you've been putting off; you will have an added knack for sweet-talking your way into the result you're hoping for. In December, your feistier side will come out, meaning you'll be less willing to play second-fiddle—and readier than ever to stir the pot, however you decide it needs stirring. And whatever's stirred up at *that* point, just so you know, will probably *remain* stirring into 2014.

January

Begin your year with a few special moments of emotionally-grounding quiet time at home... even if you have to emphatically inform others to respect your wishes. Consider it an undemocratic seizing of power over your own inner state. Should this bring you into domestic conflict with housemates or family-members, you're likely to triumph—as long as you keep returning the conversation to a positive declaration of your needs, instead of a critical implication of their misdeeds. When you're *not* sprawled on the sofa, your January also promises plenty of chances to have a good time *on your terms*. Don't waste 'em all on shallow partying: Use your leisure time to connect with dynamic, worldly individuals... folks who'll engage you in stimulating conversation, leaving you to thoughtfully ponder your place in the world.

February

Though you may enter February quite excited about a developing possibility for the future, urgent duties force your attention back to the less-dazzling here-and-now. Don't try swimming

against this current; you'll tire yourself out in the process. Accept this deluge of additional demands without complaint, knowing this, like everything, shall pass. Once you roll up your sleeves and get into it, you'll actually find it easy to lose yourself (and your worries) in the sheer *doing*. Plus, if you honorably step up to these responsibilities, you'll walk away with a strengthened sense of confident self-worth. Please be careful to balance productivity with respect for your physical limits, though: Under this astrology, your body may be extra-sensitive to exhaustion or other people's sniffles and sneezes. Take good care.

March

Early in March, you'll still be wrapping up the work that nearly overwhelmed you last month... a process which might include having to revisit a few items that had been left unclear or unresolved. No need to indulge the mistaken belief that somebody 'should've known better'. (Obviously, no one did.) Midway through the month, a lineup of planets in your relationship house (the 7th) suggests a burst of fiery activity—whether through a reinjection of dynamic interest in an existing coupling, a flaring-up of interpersonal tensions, or a hot new character in the picture. Uranus is involved, so expect the unexpected. Or, instead of waiting for it to hit you, proactively choose to deploy this energy for your own relational breaking-free... and *be* the one who behaves in an unexpected way.

April

Once the sparks that were ignited late last month start to cool down a couple weeks into April, you'll have to balance your interest in what *someone else* is up to with what's ultimately best for *you*... and there's a strong likelihood these are in some degree of conflict. As much as you'd like to be a fair-minded partner in this situation, you're under practical pressures to concentrate on your *own* bottom-line above all else. Bravely face this challenge to be more unashamedly self-supportive, especially in money matters. Just because you're trying to stabilize your own financial boat, that doesn't make you an egotistical miser. This sort of thinking is merely one more shred of inherited garbage you should feel free to *kick to the curb*.

May

Wait, wasn't there something you'd been so legitimately excited about earlier this year? Though day-to-day life may have kept you busy over the past few months, May brings a perspective-adjusting reminder of *what else* you'd been hoping to get into beyond *this shit right here*. If travel, schooling, or some other new adventure is on your horizon, this is a good moment to take at least one significant step in that direction. In order to do so, however, you might need to consult with someone who also has a say in the matter—or who at least *thinks* they should have a say. What stirs *your* enthusiasms may seem to *them* like a threat to their primacy in your life. If you're being asked to choose between your commitment to someone else and what'll nourish your continuing soul-development, that's a flashing neon warning-sign about the relationship.

June

Your professional (and/or public-world) life picks up in June, as you receive encouraging signs that your efforts have been noticed and appreciated. Trust the feedback that colleagues or higher-ups are giving you, rather than indulging any unreliable internal voices telling you, for instance, you're a fraud who's got them all fooled. (What utter crap *that* is.) At this moment of awesome career potential, you cannot afford to be such a formidable worst-enemy to yourself. If you spot an opportunity you'd like to snag, offer yourself up with a thoughtful pitch on how you might relieve someone else's sense of burden. Highlight the *caring* qualities you bring to your work. Lots of good eye contact will convey your sincerity. Then, be patient: This conversation is liable to stretch on into next month.

July

Career action continues into July, when you're faced with a lucky break that requires you to take assertive charge or it'll pass you by. This would be the perfect time to call on any interpersonal contacts or friends-with-connections who could speak up on your behalf. Working *with* the social currents—as opposed to sharply distinguishing yourself, in a potentially alienating move—is your smartest strategy. That's why you must purposely rely on your trusted allies as an incredibly important resource right now. The positioning you maneuver yourself into this month may well impact your professional development for a *long time* to come. By the very tail-

end of July, you'll be in *dire* need of pulling off some magical disappearing act. Just be sure your duties are adequately covered, to avoid any guilt encroaching upon your invisibility.

August

By this point, it wouldn't surprise me if you feel you're being yanked in every direction... with no clear idea of *which* yank is most deserving of your attention. August may be full of discombobulating pressures from career, relationship, family, and/or your own emotional churning, but at least your ruling queen Venus will arrive midway through the month to kiss away the roughest edges. Maybe you won't feel as tense or torn if you recognize it is literally *impossible* to 'manage' it all. Do the best you can, but refuse to let whatever slips between the cracks cause your smile to fade. Thanks to Venus, this is actually a quite *favorable* time for you—if you can hold everyone else's stressful attitudes at bay. By month's end, in fact, it'll behoove you to avoid saying much at all, lest you accidentally invite their drama in.

September

This month, your relative financial success (both immediate *and* longer-term) is uncommonly dependent on your willingness to *insist* on getting what you deserve. Though the firmness with which you'll need to negotiate could cause an uncomfortable moment or two, you're holding the winning communicative cards to see this through to the end *and* preserve interpersonal goodwill all the while. Based on how confidently you emerge from this circumstance, there's a chance you'll attract the envy or aggravation of a teammate who (falsely?) believes your gain is their loss. You owe no one an apology for taking advantage of an opportunity. Chalk it up as one more lesson about not trying to compensate for somebody else's personality glitches.

October

Contrary to what you might have been taught, it's *not* impolite to flatly accept praise or proudly talk up your strengths and talents. In fact, early in October, your standing may hinge on how candidly you can claim credit for something you know you do well. As the month progresses, you'll have a break in the seriousness, affording you a wonderful chance to catch up on your pals' latest updates. If you're looking for some fresh interpersonal input, tag along to your

friend-of-a-friend's party or event. On the functional front, you may find you've got less initiative or juice to keep up the same frantic pace of recent months. If that's the case, don't push yourself too hard to stay on track: It could have the *reverse* effect, spurring you to ditch out on every single last item. Instead, just readjust your daily expectations to a temporarily slower vibe.

November

November's a month for hunkering down in self-preservation mode... not because there's necessarily anything 'bad' to protect yourself from, but simply as a careful move to conserve your emotional energy. Another plus to laying low: You're likely to *save money* by staying home more often. Of course, there remains that recurring 'surprise!' factor which a certain someone always seems to drop on you right when you're about to steal a moment for yourself. You know you don't *have* to answer their calls or texts, right? And if you do 'snub' them, could their reaction be any worse than all these constant interruptions? At least the dynamic would *change*—somehow or another—instead of continuing to just quietly annoy the living hell out of you.

December

Your energetic mojo should return within the first week or two of December, enabling you to climb back in the driver's seat and redirect the vehicle where *you* most want it to go. This is your best month all year to proactively exercise your will... even *with* the knowledge that it could lead you into a standoff with those who'd prefer you to stay sweet and passively deferent. Dare to be 'difficult', though it might end up putting you front-and-center in the holiday drama. You wouldn't *need* to be so 'difficult', after all, if certain other people weren't so damn accustomed to having everything go *their way*. Meanwhile, watch that your slippery lips not inadvertently spill the beans about someone else's private business. If a conversation turns toward a topic you hold secret details about, divert it elsewhere as quickly as possible to reduce the risks.

SCORPIO

'Why does my life always seem so damn *complicated*?'

Your 2013 asks you to consider *this*, Scorpio: Your life ends up drenched in complicating circumstances because *you* invite them in. Or more precisely for many Scorpios, you actually go out *looking* for them... not because you're some insane glutton for punishment (though some of you may be), but as part of your unceasing desire to swim in the fullest and deepest emotional experiences we humans get to have. 'Casual' and 'superficial' are, therefore, foreign concepts to the Scorpio soul. Why bother if you're not going to go *all the way* with something?

This is how you live your most *passionate* existence: Follow the compelling feelings, and you'll be carried somewhere invigoratingly rich. But such a passionate approach to life also necessarily leads to periodic crash-and-burns. This is the unavoidable result of pouring so *much* of yourself into a romance, friendship, job, or living situation that, once you hit against its far limit of satisfying potential, you've got to navigate through a *shitload* of disruption and difficulty to get yourself back out.

Now, with firm-handed teacher Saturn in your sign throughout 2013, Scorpio, you've hit the critical juncture at which you must accept unflinching *responsibility* for your role in creating such complications in your life. How much passionate engagement is *enough* to nourish your soul... but not *so much* that you clumsily fall into intense self-devouring circumstances which pose a destructive threat to all the other parts of your life?

When Saturn travels through your sun-sign (approximately 2½ years out of every thirty), it's a call to become your best self. There's greater pressure to do the 'right' thing—and harsher consequences when you don't. The more consciousness and effort you invest in the choices you make during Saturn's transit through Scorpio (which lasts through mid-2015), the more positively you'll define your character according to what genuinely reflects *you*. Excesses or inaccuracies you feed at this time, meanwhile, will cause you a more *lasting* negative impact.

It is one thing to remain mindfully aware of what stirs desire, envy, sadness, anger and/or bliss in you... but entirely *another* to always act directly upon whatever emotion is stirred, regardless

of the potential outcome. After all, an immediate impulse could well collide with *other* goals or intentions you hold which require a certain amount of discipline or perseverance. If you blindly follow *every* feeling you have, you spend all your time in *reactive* mode, dealing with one unanticipated emotional repercussion after the next. And this, of course, is *exactly* what happens in the life of an undisciplined Scorpio.

I am certainly not suggesting you should learn to suppress your emotional truth, as if such a thing were even possible. In fact, for those rare Scorpions who have in fact *tried* to do so (and now live in fear of admitting what they secretly know to be true), Saturn insists you *cut the crap* in '13. Denying your true feelings, just to preserve a hollow status-quo at the expense of *real* contentment, only fuels the distinct undercurrent of resentment or hostility emanating from you. (If you think nobody notices, think again.) Bravely deal with what you've been sweeping under the rug, however, and Saturn will reward your work with the life-changing relief that accompanies *self-acceptance*.

For the vast majority of you, who likely err on the side of granting your emotional urges too much unrestrained authority over your life, Saturn encourages you to foster *moderation*. That could entail (re-)establishing which tangible goals or lifelong ambitions are your most important priorities—and then committing to *not* spending your energies on *any* activities or affairs which impede upon those priorities. It might mean analytically qualifying your romantic involvements (beyond 'the chemistry's there' or 'it *feels* so right') *before* allowing yourself to fall deeply into it, to the detriment of friendships or family bonds. Or perhaps Saturn's merely a *warning* to proceed slowly and gradually, with probing questions or seductive come-ons or big promises, until you've adequately tested how stable the ground upon which they rest actually *is*.

In 2013, Saturn wants you to acknowledge your passions, to glean the useful knowledge contained therein... but to refrain from allowing them to run rampant through your life, threatening to trample you into a pancake. Frankly, whenever Saturn visits one's sign, it's typically *not* the easiest or most upbeat time—and usually carries with it some variant on the theme of *self-restraint*. Yet, it *also* often corresponds with a newfound sense of *maturity*, spurred by making *correct* choices for who you desire to be. If ever you're caught between immediate self-gratification and longer-term self-respect, do yourself the great service of putting your future satisfaction *first*.

For the first half of '13, Jupiter's continuing residence in your 8th house keeps it even easier than usual for you to slide into intimate entanglements with others... which makes heeding Saturn's warnings against hasty emotional intensifications even more pressing. Whether you're too quickly upping the stakes in a romantic relationship, getting into financial bed with friends or business associates, or otherwise deepening an interdependence with someone, be careful *not* to whitewash over the significant differences between you. Are you constructing a story believable enough to justify *whatever* you've gotten into, but conveniently leaving out details which might illumine the problems lurking underneath? Beware of too tidy a tale; pay serious attention if friends or loved ones point out inconsistencies or missing bits of data.

Jupiter's arrival to your 9th house in late June inaugurates a year of looking beyond the day-to-day, encouraging you to ponder *what other* possible experiences out in the world might interest you but which you've yet to investigate. When Jupiter's in your 9th, it's an excellent time to consider going back to school, traveling to faraway places, or expanding your horizons through explorations of new philosophies or spiritual traditions. This is also your call to reflect back on any life-situations you've wandered into, by chance rather than choice: Is this participation providing *a sense of meaning*? Will you be *proud* of it later? Or are you just wasting your time? The positive relationship between Jupiter and Saturn during the second half of '13 creates an excellent climate for setting any course-correction resolutions, should you realize you aren't making the most of your potential. If you feel there's more out there for you, here's your ideal moment to *seriously* start looking for it.

Though Saturn's presence in Scorpio dominates your year's astro-influences, the collective revolution being stirred by the Uranus-Pluto square (through 2015 and beyond) continues to keep *everybody's* footing somewhat unsteady. For you Scorpions, Uranus in your 6th signals an ongoing need for shakeups and nonconformities in how you're managing your everyday responsibilities, to ensure your routines are not so dull and repetitive that they actually cause an unhealthy buildup of frustrated, unreleased energy. Meanwhile, Pluto in your 3rd is your persistent reminder that each and every social encounter—whether with your closest allies or a complete stranger—holds tremendous potential to influence all parties involved, either providing meaningful support and camaraderie *or* hitting 'em where it hurts.

According to Uranus-in-the-6th, to foster your optimal productivity, you presently require a large amount of *freedom* to organize exactly when and how you're going to tackle your obligatory duties and job. Not everybody functions best according to the same approach or schedule. Some of us are morning people; others prefer to work late into the night. Some need to multi-task to ward off boredom; others demand total focus on one item at a time. During 2013, you should carve out as much *independence* and *autonomy* as possible in your handling of work projects, household chores, and/or other mundane necessities: As long as it gets done well, you ought to be able to do it *your way*. You'll accomplish *so much more* if you have the freedom to methodologically innovate.

If instead your hands are tied by overly strict processes or outdated inefficiencies, you may be headed toward some sort of meltdown. You shouldn't have to fight *against* your natural rhythms, just to abide by someone else's arbitrary expectations. In fact, your bodily wellness could be at stake. Uranus-in-the-6th sometimes calls for a radical change in habits, either in response to a sudden turn in one's health or in order to break an unhealthy pattern before it causes such a turn. Any odd physical symptoms or ill feelings are your clue to make such a change... and *pronto*.

There's a definite connection between (1) how freely you're able to arrange your productive hours to best suit your unique beat and (2) whether your everyday exchanges are unintentionally infused with an undertone of *resentment*. Pluto in your 3rd doesn't really allow you to strip your true emotions out of your communications. If you're feeling effective and self-empowered, the more powerfully inspiring your words will naturally ring to whomever you're speaking with. On the other hand, any sense that you're trapped or stuck or beholden to another person's strict guidelines could easily lead to an impatient, dismissive or outright rude attitude—an unfortunate projection of your day-to-day discontentment onto innocent recipients.

This is Pluto's ongoing impact on your 3rd house: an uncontrollable leaking of your psychological state into even the most casual interactions. Like it or not, your words carry a potency throughout '13 that *will* affect those you interact with—one way or another. (You can't really get away with 'neutral' these days.) So what'll it be, *encouraging* or *hurtful*? Even asking this question should again remind you of Saturn's lesson to *take full responsibility* for yourself... and, therefore, for your inescapable impact on others' moods, too.

Work / Career / Finances

As I mentioned earlier, a key influence on your work life remains Uranus's persistent presence in your 6th ... a *liberating* pressure on any routines that leave you feeling as if your hands are tied and/or your physical energies aren't being put to good use. Under Uranus's emancipatory watch, you're in an ideal spot for breaking off on your own, whether as a free-agent or a more decidedly self-managed worker. If you sense you'd be more effective by shifting your work-hours or responsibilities to a better fit for your unique manner of productivity, consider proposing such a shift to the powers-that-be: 'Give me a chance to show you improved results by letting me do it *my way*.' Experiment with different plans-of-attack, knowing that some might prove inefficient or end up creating even *more* of a mess. Still, trial-and-error is far preferable to the same old damn thing. At the end of the day, it's your work that'll speak for itself. Who the hell cares *how* it gets done?

Mid-March through mid-April is a period during which you'll enjoy increased horsepower, making this your best time for motoring through tremendous amounts of sheer toil. In fact, if you *aren't* using this phase to accomplish something, you're liable to feel anxious or edgy. That's your body telling you to *get crackin'*. (It might also be a hint to get back into a more arduous exercise routine, to burn off the work stress.) Beware, however, of getting so wrapped up in what you're doing that you cannot contain your snide expressions of annoyance whenever anybody dares to interrupt you. It really doesn't support your process to self-righteously act as if what *you're* working on is any more important than others' need to communicate with you. Take the extra time required to stay in close contact with your teammates.

Your professional efforts will be spotlighted in July, when many eyes will be on you—whether or not you want to be watched. The expectation that'll you make a warm-and-fuzzy public show could feel like a burden, but please make no mistake: 'Playing the game' is just as *crucial* a part of your official duties as more tangible tasks. Plan any major pitches, presentations or powwows for the middle of August, when you'll definitely have the power-players' attentions. Be sure to include plenty of light-hearted remarks among the important business, so nobody thinks you're serious to a detrimental extreme. If you're interested in more responsibility, make your move during the second half of September. As far as money is concerned, you'll probably have

to spend much of '13 *proving* your worth. Let your desire be known right at the tail-end of the year; then, allow it to dangle out there, without expecting final results until 2014.

Relationships / Romance

Your romantic idealism is at something of a *high* throughout 2013, thanks to Neptune's ongoing influence over your 5th, the house where we fall in love with whoever most suits our unique-self's particular proclivities. Neptune-in-the-5th tends to show us only the *best* side of any prospective sweetie, so as not to spoil the bliss of those early moments with any less-than-flattering view of their fuller reality. Especially during the first half of the year, while Jupiter's still in your 8th, you'll have no shortage of love-connection possibilities—though that doesn't mean they'll all be reasonable *relationship* matches. Remember Saturn's big lesson, as he moves through your sign: Emotional chemistry isn't *all* that matters. Ongoing compatibility requires integrating passion with *pragmatic* concerns, so a freefall into love doesn't end up slamming you to the ground.

February brings out your googly-eyed amorousness in a big way, inspiring all those tingly love-at-first-sight moments that you live for. If you're hot on the trail of a new romance, please be out and about during this time, eagerly engaging in whatever activity will spontaneously put a natural grin on your face. Should you click with a certain somebody, however, it behooves you *not* to instantly believe you've got it all figured out. It takes time to get to know one another... and thanks to a Mercury retrograde in your love house (the 5th), you may be translating the situation through a filter of wishful thinking. Certain extenuating details may not become clear until late March. Until then, feel free to have a good time, but don't start picking out china patterns yet.

Build and/or strengthen relationships in April and May, when you'll be in an excellent position to discuss how to actually make a partnership *work* on the real-world, day-to-day level. July raises pivotal questions about whether you and your love are on the same page with regards to ethics or philosophic beliefs. Sharing similar values sure makes it easier to establish a lasting bond... but if you differ on a key ideal, it's better to find it out now, so you can determine whether it's a deal-breaker. Pay attention to who your sweetie keeps social company with; it'll say *a lot* about what energies they're inviting into their life. Be conscious of not doing too much of the

talking—and thus not enough listening—throughout October and November. Otherwise, you might miss a meaningful message a special someone is trying to deliver.

January

Be on top of your social game as 2013 opens. Your presence at informal get-togethers—and in the casual conversations that occur there—will make a *huge* impact during the first half of the month. Pals and peers are counting on you to ‘tell it like it is’ in a way no one else has the *chutzpah* to do...but no lapsing into personal attacks, please. It *is* possible to be uncompromisingly truthful *and* pleasantly palatable at the same time. In private settings, you may face a passing irritability, which it’ll be too easy to turn against unsuspecting family-members or other intimates. Even if they’ve legitimately done something to piss you off, your reactive feelings are obviously about *more* than just this single situation. Rather than let yourself run wild with suspicion or vengefulness, think more deeply about *what else* these feelings remind you of: This agitation has roots further back in your history.

February

Your mood lightens rather quickly upon February’s arrival, with a month-long parade of planets through your solar 5th bringing the merrier times. Your romantic side becomes overstimulated, so that it’s hard to see beyond ‘what feels right’: not really a problem for making the most of a moment, but potentially misleading if you’re basing future plans on it. Your head will be strongly influenced by *wishful thinking*, perhaps more than you realize. Can you proceed simultaneously with passion *and* caution? If not, you might end up *further into* an involvement—and way more quickly—than anyone could’ve anticipated. Press for potentially awkward conversations which will structure the arrangement, even though they threaten to spoil the bliss. You need the reality-check. This is also an ideal month for creative types seeking further inspiration to pursue their vision.

March

You’re still riding the high of last month’s poetic glamour into the first half of March, though certain illusions you may have been operating under are likelier to clear up mid-month, once

Mercury ends his retrograde. Yet, even if what's ultimately revealed proves to burst a certain romantic bubble, you won't have much time to mope or moon. Spur-of-the-moment pressures to act decisively with work projects, personal chores, and/or your physical-health regimen increasingly absorb your energy as the month progresses. You're totally ready to push yourself, though, and should expect to *relish* the fast advances you're able to make. Instinct carries you further than excessive planning or strategizing can... though it's likely, in the process, a certain someone's feathers will become ruffled by your not having thoroughly consulted with them first. This doesn't change the fact that just *diving in* still serves *you* best.

April

Keep your momentum up, as April continues to demand much on-the-spot productivity from you. If you don't stay in perpetual motion (and/or get plenty of exercise), you're just asking for that pent-up energy to eventually explode in unhealthy ways. The second half of the month could slow you down, as unavoidable interpersonal issues—perhaps something you've neglected to deal with for a while now—require your nearly undivided attention. Don't blow your lid because you feel like you don't have time for this; you *cannot* put it off any longer. If you want this person to stay in your life, the two of you may have to break a mutual bad-habit or two. And in order to do *that*, you might need to briefly revisit the past and finally confront a hurt (yours or theirs) previously swept under the rug.

May

There's no 'returning to normal' in your relationship life, now that this can-of-worms has been opened... and that's very *productive*. Your conversations are taking on a whole different tone: Either you're finally getting *real* about an unfulfilling dynamic you've both let slide, or you're just getting *nastier* with each other. If it's the latter, please don't assume these mean words are showing up out of the blue; there's some painful truth in them. Is *this* the 'writing on the wall'? Start thinking about how you might need to disentangle yourself. If it's the former, however, you have an excellent chance of fruitfully talking this out. But that must mean *everything's* on the table, including details *you* might find irrelevant but which *they* desperately need to discuss. Be open to the negotiations wandering this way and that before resolution can be reached.

June

Though June arrives with lots of loose threads still dangling, you should plan on tying up many of them by month's end—or at least having a clear idea of how that's likeliest to happen.

Simplifying your life is one rallying cry that'll light a clear path. To do this most effectively, aim your gut-level intuition toward whichever few concerns are *really* important to you... and, despite the emotional pull of certain fantasies (like 'love conquers all' or 'follow your heart, and nothing else matters'), any involvements that *don't* directly support these guiding principles should face the axe. Perhaps you aren't quite sure *why* to bother? Because you only have a limited amount of energy to burn, and sometimes must make tough judgments about *where* to spend it. Needless to say, not all participants in the 'loose threads' drama may *want* them tied up... including, in some ways, *you*.

July

Brush yourself off, and fix your gaze out on the horizon... *away* from whatever preoccupations hung over your last two months. July promises increased recognition on the career and/or public front, courtesy of Venus's transit through your 10th. Graciously accept this esteem you've earned, without letting it impact your continued willingness to dirty your hands with the actual work. Resting on your laurels *will* backfire. Later in the month, you could face a moral battle to uphold what *you* think is right, in light of certain offhand remarks (yours or someone else's) that ignore the bigger picture. You'll emerge triumphant as long as you hold a pinpoint focus on what *really* matters, instead of becoming distracted by others' shady insinuations or rushing beyond this critical issue just to 'get it all done already'. Lean on your most ethically astute friends during this time.

August

The growing appeal of some bigger, brighter future opportunity is likely to magnify your aggravation with the same familiar here-and-now hassles. Is this your *true* calling beckoning, or just a convenient escape from the day-to-day irritations? Too early to tell... which is why you shouldn't hastily hook into a 'screw you, I'm outta here!' mindset. What you say in cockier moments *will* go on your permanent record. As the end of August approaches, you might start

to wonder where all the goodies you've earned have disappeared to. Don't panic: You're likely to see clearer positive results from your efforts by mid-September. The highly subjective lens you're currently gazing through doesn't provide nearly as much reliable data as your rational colleagues' trusted feedback. Should they offer constructive criticism, accept it humbly.

September

September's chock-full of creative frictions, which could yield you quite a significant personal advantage—if you choose your battles wisely and refuse to overreact in tense moments. Your biggest asset? The strength of character necessary for you to stand in the hottest part of the kitchen, rather than dashing away or pointing fingers of blame, until the pot stops boiling over. True leaders hang around when the shit hits the fan. And your most potentially disastrous liability? An overactive imagination telling you exaggerated tales about others' slip-ups or sins. Even if these tales *were* completely true (and, frankly, I doubt they are), fixating on what's beyond your control will just *heighten* the undercurrents of stress for everyone involved. Don't just bring up *whatever* crosses your mind; only raise a topic if it'll productively propel you toward a concrete goal.

October

Be hyper-responsible with your words—and the tone in which you utter them—throughout October. Mercury spends all month in your sign (including a retrograde that begins on the 21st), which puts *your* mouth in the center of the action... and, dare you speak before you think, of the *controversy*. How important is it, then, to voice your dissent with the group *now*? Though this timing may be unavoidable, you'll still want to be careful not to accuse anyone of an infraction you're *also* guilty of committing. (Blind hypocrisy won't exactly support your case.) You'll communicate more responsibly if you concentrate on what *you're* up to, instead of nosing into others' business. This could be a financially lucrative month, if you independently pour your resources into an innovation that'll boost efficiency. Don't *demand* attention for it, though; the improved results will speak for themselves.

November

November is a pivotal month for Scorpios, with lots of planetary hullabaloo in your sign. Once again, much will ride on how forthrightly you express what's true for you... even (or especially?) in contexts where it might seem pointless to bother. It's better you let everyone *know* who they're dealing with, rather than putting forth phony pleasantries you may have to undo later. That doesn't, however, grant you free rein to be an asshole. Saying a determined 'no' to allegiances that no longer fit (or maybe never did?) sets a powerful intent which helps you attract what you authentically vibe with. You may *still* find yourself clarifying misunderstandings and/or fixing mistakes from last month. If so, consider this correction process an earnest example of putting in your due diligence. Making doubly sure you're accurately perceived is effort worth investing.

December

Beyond the first week, December carries a strange limbo-like quality to it... though that doesn't imply there's *nothing* going on. On the contrary: The second half of the month is *especially* ripe with culminating developments in the lives of those around you, which naturally bring collateral side-effects into your life. Yet, there's no driving call-to-action on your end; you're more a spectator or supporting character than someone with much capacity to significantly alter the flow of events. Take it all in, but refrain from hatching response plans. (Your best moments to respond don't come until early '14.) Continue showing up as usual, interacting with the central players as if you aren't freaked out by what's happening. They're counting on you to behave with some semblance of normalcy. If you suddenly disappear or act all weird, their alarm bells will go off.

SAGITTARIUS

The formula for Sagittarian satisfaction in 2013 *sounds* basic enough: Cheerfully appreciate where you are right now, while putting in concerted effort to scrimp, save and plan for a financially fit future... and work, with extra diligence, to leave the past *confidently in the past*. Your actual following-through on such a formula, of course, will be easier said than done.

Thankfully, a key element to your astrological forecast is rabble-rousing Uranus's ongoing occupancy of your 5th house, the place where all our pleasure and playfulness and childlike glee is born. Because of this Uranus influence, you're being called to take the kind of *crazy risks* that'll snap you out of the pervasive seriousness now infecting so many people's everyday existences... and that'll *immediately* expose you to those *lighter* qualities intrinsic to a life led, at least in part, with the conscious purpose of *enjoying* it. If we aren't enjoying ourselves here in these earthly bodies, with all the goofy wonders and gorgeous beauty surrounding us everywhere we go, *what's the fucking point?* You down?

Think, for a moment, like a child. Children (if they've been allowed a 'normal' childhood) aren't burdened by worrisome concerns about 'doing the right thing' in the eyes of society. They aren't afraid of looking silly when they romp and revel in make-believe worlds, inventing skits and songs and imaginary characters, coloring outside the lines in bold bright tones. It's only when *other people* criticize their creations, scold them or command them to 'stop being so silly' that kids even realize they're doing anything 'wrong'... which, of course, they *aren't*.

We could all use more of that innocent, non-judgmental, un-self-conscious sort of *fun* in our lives, right? One big job of yours throughout '13 is to actively *cultivate* such expressively uninhibited amusement—first and foremost for your *own* personal pleasure, but also as an offering to those struggling to connect with life's brighter side. When you inspire others to let loose and get a few kicks, they'll so strongly appreciate you... and thus be that much more strongly drawn to your company, as friends or possibly *more*.

Examples of how you might cultivate new avenues for enjoying life? It all begins with a radical willingness to *try* whatever activities pique your curiosity or seem like they might be interesting. What have you got to lose? Studio art, dance or music classes, writing groups, book clubs, a

local-networkers' cocktail party or speed-dating event, fitness boot-camps, flower-arranging seminars, cooking workshops, outdoorsy adventures, yoga retreats, membership in the garden society... need I go on? Indulge whatever fancy strikes you; you're under no obligation to *commit*, after all.

Those of you who are parents should simultaneously apply this advice to your kids' extracurricular participations as well, encouraging them to explore the different possibilities out there for them... even if their interests are rather unconventional or outside-the-box. Uranus-in-the-5th can be a signal to expect declarations of independence and/or individuality from your children. The safer you make it for them to assert their uniqueness, the less tempting it'll be for them to aim their 'rebellions' at *you*... and the likelier that you'll get to *share* the experience with 'em, benefiting you all.

The only potential *catch* to your ability to freely heed this call, Sagittarius, comes from your continuing need to nurture *financial responsibility* as a guiding value. This is Pluto's long-term 2nd-house challenge to you: Can you corral your spontaneous spirit enough to appropriately *plan*, so you have enough money to spend on what's most important to you? Because most Sagittarians are not materialistic by nature, it's quite easy for you to underplay the value of material security... and to satisfactorily survive by the seat of your pants, making do with whatever you've got in your pocket that day. Though that approach isn't necessarily a problem, it *can* inhibit your capacity to create a longer-term stability built upon deliberate priorities (rather than, say, merely riding the day-to-day ups and downs of financial circumstance).

The Uranus/Pluto conflict between (1) taking fanciful risks in order to follow your bliss and (2) assuming increasingly responsible care for your longer-term financial outlook is, obviously, quite *apparent*. How can you sufficiently cater to your kookiest creative and/or pleasure-seeking cravings *and*, at the same time, watch every dollar closely? Believe it or not, this balancing act *is* totally possible... and it's your assignment, as part of your personal revolution, to figure out how it's done.

You'll have to stop looking at money as a 'necessary evil'... and instead begin seeing it as a neutral symbol of assigned value, which we save and then spend in order to express our personal preferences and proclivities. That way, you can more fully appreciate where your

resources are going, as well as enjoy a corresponding confidence boost from having *earned* something you find personally valuable. You may also need to get innovative about how to have a good time on a fixed budget, a rich creative challenge in its own right. To prevent feelings of self-deprivation, choose a sizable and especially meaningful pleasure you can work toward over time, regularly squirreling away a dollar or two for this future perk. Having an unapologetically self-satisfying delight on the fiscal calendar gives you something to excitedly anticipate.

Beyond mere monetary concerns, the 2nd house is, above all else, about our sense of *self-worth*. We must first *believe* in our abilities to use whatever's at our disposal to provide for our own basic needs—*before* we can expect anybody else to fairly compensate us for these abilities. Pluto's ongoing stirrings in your 2nd are meant to transform such beliefs you hold about yourself... to force you to confront any doubts that inhibit your self-sufficiency, and to ultimately *reinforce* your practical sustenance-and-survival instincts.

Perhaps unbeknownst to you, you're still burning off scraps of doubt and/or other fragments of worry or grief... leftovers from difficulties, dramas or depressive periods now firmly in the past. With Saturn having made it to the final house of your solar chart (the 12th), beginning in October 2012 and lasting into 2015, you've reached the astrologically appropriate moment for redefining your psychic boundaries—for consciously drawing the necessary dividing-lines between your current lived circumstances and any energetic residue from outdated versions of who you are—to support your fittest mental and emotional health. It's as if you must remind yourself to *stop reliving the pain*, through regretfully replaying what's happened and/or anxiously anticipating another round, so you can be more present with your actual experience of how things are now *different*. Such spiritual presence is your only exit from this prison of your making.

Saturn's transit through the murky-and-mystical 12th house directs us to diligently work on our subtlest relationship: that with the entire universe and All-of-Existence. It's the sort of work that nobody else necessarily knows whether or not we're doing. Saturn-in-the-12th usually requires some degree of purposeful *retreat* from rational earthly concerns... a regular carving-out of enough meditative alone-time so you can strengthen your awareness of the great mysteries, vaster than we can ever comprehensively understand, which unite our common consciousness.

With Saturn in your 12th, you may also undergo periodic intervals of melancholy or exhaustion, with no clear causal connection to events presently occurring. Consider these passing moods as ‘integrative recurrences’, flashbacks of emotions you’re in the process of moving through, toward acceptance and resolution. Be duly self-compassionate at these tender points. You’re only *now*, at last, putting this all to bed. As such, there’s a certain *limbo* quality that often accompanies Saturn’s travels through the 12th, like you must finish out the terms of some long-ago-established soul-contract (or what not) before you can legitimately make a fresh start once Saturn arrives in your sign in ‘15.

Your saving grace through all this, thanks to Jupiter’s movement through your 7th house (since June 2012) and then your 8th (starting in late June of this year), has been the welcome benefic presence of *other people*. When Jupiter’s in your 7th, it’s easier than usual to form, maintain and develop supportive one-on-one relationships... though sometimes the ‘growing pains’ of our own personal evolution will actually *eject* us from confining partnerships that no longer suit us. Whatever the specific direction your current relationship status is heading, Jupiter’s touch almost always creates change that, when we look back in perfect hindsight vision, we come to see as *the best thing that could’ve happened*.

Without a doubt, the single investment likeliest to pay off with the biggest dividends in 2013 is *interpersonal companionship*. Your choice to actively engage in deeper and more detailed dialogues with individuals you value—and who you’d like to become even closer with—will provide immediate rewards. This rich relational opportunity applies across all contexts of your life: romantically, professionally, in friendship, and among family members.

By the second half of the year, once Jupiter’s arrived in your 8th, you’re invited to be courageous about sharing more, going further, and/or trying out more explicitly collaborative methods. It’s the very fact that you *won’t* agree on everything—and, therefore, have to painstakingly negotiate about important details—which makes the whole exercise so full of untapped evolutionary potential. Though you can gain quite a bit from uniting economic forces (by moving in together or forming a joint business venture), the onus remains on you to be particularly responsible with establishing clear expectations and working with budgets and agreements, so you’re protecting your own interests.

Work / Career / Finances

After having fought to make a fair amount of professional progress during much of '12, your 2013 will be best spent acclimating to any such advances... as well as establishing consistent patterns that take these altered circumstances into account. As I've already mentioned at length, *economic stability* is of prime concern with Pluto in your 2nd. Overall, it may be more personally beneficial to adopt a *measured* approach to chasing your highest ambitions, rather than taking impractical money gambles because you're in a hurry to leapfrog into a better position. Take a realistic snapshot of the financial landscape early in January, setting concrete objectives for where you want to be by year's end. Then, use this as your roadmap throughout 2013, so you're continually managing your day-to-day finances in line with your stated intentions. Reassess in mid-November, another excellent moment for economic strategizing. If you've kept up with your goals, please accept the success of this truly outstanding accomplishment.

Cut yourself some slack if your efforts feel somewhat sluggish or ineffective in February, due to an inward wave of emotion. You'll joyfully regain your enthusiasm by the second half of March; dive back in right where you left off. April and May are powerhouse months, when it comes to clearing through the piles of supposedly less important tasks that built up while your work attentions were elsewhere. Try not to think about the total sum of all you've got to do; endlessly cataloguing everything that's hanging over you will *not* help you stay motivated. Instead, concentrate on working to your fullest capacity each day, pushing yourself just hard enough that you feel *stretched*, but not strained. Your biggest potential obstacle? A self-fueled hopelessness, stirred by an internal voice trying to convince you not to bother because 'none of this matters anyway'. Stop that destructive messaging in its tracks. This is *not* the time to indulge existential angst by questioning everything. Just put one foot in front of the other, one day after the next.

Beware of overextending yourself financially in June and July, when you might be moved to generously help someone out or involve yourself in a collaborative project with a partner or colleague. Your foremost responsibility remains to your *own* solid footing—any other exposure *must* abide by the rules you've already set out for yourself. From August into September, you have a platform from which to delineate your most industrious ideas for a freshening-up of your

organization's public face. Be open to discussing the various questions your teammates are sure to have, rather than reacting as if these are criticisms. Perfect agreement is both a fantastical impossibility *and* a recipe for blandness in the final product. From mid-October onward, feel free to play up your full slate of achievements for the year. Assuming you've demonstrated an earnest reliability, you may at last receive your due. If you believe your work is falling on deaf ears, however, you might need to speak up more loudly and forcefully. The financial value of your efforts is up for review, starting right at year's-end... but extending, unresolved, into the early months of '14.

Relationships / Romance

Positive relationship involvements are strongly favored throughout 2013, a year in which good-luck Jupiter moves through two houses of interpersonal connection (the 7th and 8th). Whether you are happily partnered off or have your eye on somebody, there's really no reason to hold yourself back from seeing *what else* may be possible between you. Even if you freak 'em out by going too far too fast, it's all good: Any potential 'losses' should be thought of merely as clearing away the wrong people. Later, you'll look back and be *glad* it happened this way. If you've had ongoing trouble in love, this is the time to shake up your ideas about who your best sort of match is. You might be prematurely ruling out a promising prospect, over some relatively petty judgment. There's really no harm in taking a wild departure and experimenting with possibilities you previously haven't considered. You won't know until you try.

Up your odds of a love connection by keeping a pretty hyper-active social calendar in January and early February, when a more diverse and engaging cast of characters is out and about. If you discover a lively dynamic with someone you're shootin' the shit with at a party or bar, take the leap of asking 'em out. If nothing else, you'll likely make a new friend. Later in March and into April, shamelessly flaunt your wild side. Heads *will* turn, if you give 'em something to turn and look at. 'Playing it safe', meanwhile, is a strategy that'll bore the very adventure-seekers who'd best suit you. This is your most promising time all year for attracting a hot and steamy tête-à-tête... but whether it's meant to endure beyond the initial sparks remains to be seen.

May and June put more lasting relationship considerations in the forefront, as you have an excellent chance to compare notes with a special someone about what each of you is looking

for. You've got a special knack for telling 'em exactly what they want to hear... though that's very likely to give 'em the wrong idea about you, which will only create later disappointment. Instead, start this phase off on the right foot with the blunt truth; it's an easier place from which to negotiate compromises. You're carrying an extra dose of saucy charm in October. Who knows *what* you'll be able to convince a potential love-interest to do? December's a good time for you to clarify your position in a maybe-relationship, if you feel the other person's probably misunderstood your intentions.

January

Before you've even finished cleaning up the holiday messes, you should already fix your eye soundly on your bank statement. Start your year off with as clear a financial plan as possible, including a commitment to saving up over the months ahead for something *really important* to you. Be frank about monetary constraints with folks who could potentially help increase your income; showing confidence in your readiness to take care of the situation will impress them. Mix and mingle your different social circles, inviting the various parts of your life to more freely interpenetrate. If you're coupled off, invest a bit more energy in getting to know your partner's pals better. If you're single, don't be shy about asking to be fixed up on a date with a friend's friend. Good connections often yield more good connections.

February

Family concerns or other private matters may pull you away from that certain someone you've enjoyed hanging out with. You might have to temporarily sacrifice something you *want* to do, in order to fulfill this emotional duty: Though this isn't exactly your idea of a good time, you'll be disappointed in yourself if you don't come through. If you try to 'do it all', you'll end up feeling energetically frazzled. Because your sensitivities will be heightened, you should consciously cherish the comforts of home—and tolerate *nothing* that infringes upon your longing to *just chill out*. You're already giving enough emotional energy to meaningful people or situations that badly need it. Desperate or slightly-crazy behavior from a housemate is a draining distraction you cannot afford to indulge. Be deeply compassionate, yet properly boundaried.

March

As March opens, you might struggle to shake off the psychic aftereffects of whatever personal issues absorbed much of your attention in February. It doesn't mean you're hard-hearted if you allow yourself to move on, without endlessly replaying what's already happened. Harboring grief or worry on someone else's behalf doesn't actually do them any good. Midway through the month, you'll be plenty eager to blow off some steam—and the planets will powerfully favor a lot of raucous play. Enjoy it in stride; you deserve this kind of sunny celebratory break from the cloudy emotional climate. Be somewhat careful not to *overdo*, especially if it'll negatively impact your economic standing. Should you encounter an attractive romantic possibility, don't think twice about what to do: Quickly take the leap, *before* you have a chance to talk yourself out of it.

April

The rip-roarin' fun—and its magnified potential for romantic action—extends into early April, making it hard to rein in your brash-and-sassy side. Don't forget to properly account for *context* and *setting* before blurting out your trademark smart-ass comments. What you proudly think of as an irreverent sense of humor could strike the wrong person as unbearable egotism. (Different strokes for different folks.) Day-to-day work demands pick up later in the month, but you're perfectly positioned to meet them all... as long as you successfully fight off those irrational voices in your head trying to fill you with groundless dread. If panicky feelings arise, you might be picking up tense vibes from the air around you. Your best defense? Keep on working. Staying productive is healthier than surrendering to mood.

May

Solid, decisive progress on important assignments early in May can go *a long way* in fostering increased self-assuredness. Leverage this sense of accomplishment as a shining glory, reinforcing your belief you're capable of producing great results (and earning lots more money, too). Remember: You never would've gotten to this point without persistence and task-repetition, and nurturing those traits continues to serve you well. Relationship opportunities take on more focus as the month moves on, and as you feel freer to spend your time with those you most care about. Late May is an ideal moment for sharing your thoughts with a special

someone; they're likelier to receive it with an open heart. Another lovely gesture? Let *them* make the plans for your romantic evening or weekend outing... while *you* savor the surprise.

June

June's developments make it unmistakably obvious that you've become far more emotionally immersed in a certain relationship or joint-venture than you'd been before. What you previously treated with a 'take it or leave it' lightness is now quite *meaningful*... and not as easily set aside. Such realizations could initially be hard to swallow, even if you're happy about how it's evolving. You have to adjust your mindset to a more *interdependent* view, taking responsibility for how strongly your actions impact the other party. Don't be so shocked, therefore, if you notice a surge of mischievousness well up in you. It's just your self-protective instincts kicking in, trying to reclaim clear individualism. Look for ways to honorably ask for enough personal space—*without* needlessly stepping on anyone's toes and, in the process, making a self-centered ass of yourself.

July

Beat back those urges to bust out or dash away, especially since you *know* you ought to hang doggedly in there, even through uncomfortable times. Avoidance might temporarily feel good (in a naughty kind of way), but it doesn't get you anywhere. Besides, what's *really* triggering you to run are complicated feelings *inside* you... which will follow you around until you *voluntarily* let them out. Believe it or not, exposing yourself more fully will actually *reduce* your anxiety (after the first few awkward moments, that is) rather than worsen it. Alongside the strain of pushing yourself beyond old limits, you'll *also* experience the simultaneous thrill of deeper interpersonal engagement with whomever you're sharing the journey with. This is how we get to know each other—and ourselves—better.

August

Start the month by dreaming big about *what else is out there* for you, but leave out the self-critical worries about how you'd ever make it really happen. Every big adventure begins with first just *opening yourself up* to totally foreign possibilities. Later on in the month, allow your

friends or colleagues to carry you smoothly along on the strength of *their* ideas and efforts, giving you a chance to relax a bit. Of course, that'll *also* mean holding back your impulse to set yourself apart from the group, with one unruly acting-out or another. Toward the tail end of August, be incredibly choosy with the words you use in your professional communications. Less is *definitely* more. Don't let a bad mood distract you from delivering 'just the facts'; you can save the *opinions* for another time.

September

This is a powerful month for *finally* releasing that residual chunk of unresolved grief, guilt or regret... and putting this piece of your past to bed, once and for all. Your brightest future depends on your willingness to look in the mirror and *accept everything as it is*. Consider this personally meaningful processing work as a private agreement between you and the universe. No one else needs to know about it, though they'll probably detect your new undercurrent of *relief*. Socially, you'll make things a lot easier on yourself by *not* calling others out on their less-than-sincere niceties or non-committal flip-flops. You don't *always* have to be the uncensored truth-teller, do you? Okay, maybe you *do*. Just try not to gratuitously embarrass anybody: Image is so important to some, they might retaliate quite nastily in order to save face.

October

Begin October with a self-affirming pledge to stubbornly focus on the positives, day in and day out. Though recurring doubt is a totally human condition, it's within your power to neutralize its effects by repeating mantras that put everything into optimistic perspective. By the second week, Venus lands in your sign, immediately improving your quality of contact with the outside world. Praise this joyous turn-of-events with jubilant outings and giggly evenings on the town. Flirt up a storm, and charm the pants off people—*literally*, if the situation calls for it. On the career front, the latter half of the month offers you an opportunity to grab the lead on a potentially profitable project... and to garner a new level of respect from the highers-up. Who knew you could be so adept at coordinating all those little details?

November

Keep up the professional momentum in November, when there are *tangible* benefits (such as more money and/or an expanded position) from holding the practicalities together. Your current success is a factor of being able to separate your personal desire from what's right for the organization's bottom-line. The most profound changes in your life, however, are happening behind the scenes... subtly reinforcing your awareness of the unseen Divine Logic that's led you here. Whether or not you consider yourself 'spiritual', you're at a point where the eerie ripples of interconnectedness are more obvious than ever. Sharing your still-forming perspective on such higher matters will help clarify who's on your wavelength—and who's just not interested in looking at life through such a lens. Give thanks for the gifts of circumstance.

December

Your creative mind is firing on all cylinders this month—and should, therefore, be given *full freedom* to shoot the shit without censorship or restraint. Those who want to shut you up or interrupt your free-flow with showy challenges ought to be avoided at all costs. Do your part to rescue friends from overly polite or staid conditions. Introduce a 'game-play' aspect to your socializing, to help prevent anyone from taking themselves too seriously... and to inject a healthy competitive edge into the scene. Your year comes to a close in a similar vein to how it started: with watchful care paid to your economic situation, and a firm intent to responsibly improve it. Knowing that the first several weeks of 2014 promise surprising options for a financial revamp, prepare yourself to take full advantage of the shifting ground.

CAPRICORN

It's never *easy* being a Capricorn, no matter *what* year it is... not because there's anything inherently disadvantageous about your sign, but because *you* often make things harder on yourself than they need be. Why would you do *that*? Because Capricorns *thrive*—as well as *suffer*—at the mercy of your own high expectations.

You Capricorns demand a *lot* from yourself (and from others, as well), which actually works out pretty *well* in certain contexts. Your zodiac tribe produces a lot of high achievers, astute managers, responsible citizens, and generally honorable individuals who are conscientious about respectful etiquette. The qualities required to succeed in such areas often boil down to an innate Capricorn striving to be your best self. With enough pragmatic forethought and dogged resoluteness, you imagine, you're capable of almost *any* great feat—a belief which *can* instill a tremendous confidence, but is *also* an incredibly tall order to hold yourself to.

The suffering (as I'm sure you know from personal experience) is an unfortunate psychological consequence of upholding such consistently high standards, arising whenever the inevitable clash occurs between (1) what you believe you're capable of and (2) the never-quite-ideal reality of how things *actually* play out. When you Capricorns accomplish *less* than you planned, fall short of a desired goal or honor, accidentally disappoint or offend someone, or behave in *any* way that isn't your most impressive, you risk becoming a victim of your own self-flagellation.

Sometimes, in fact, the very pressure to live up to that high bar you've set is so *intense*—and you're so afraid of letting yourself down, and the beating you'll give yourself if that *does* happen—it paralyzes you in your tracks. At your worst, Capricorns become frozen in action, out of a hesitance to proceed until you've resolved all possible variables and prepared for the worst-case scenarios... which of course is an *impossible* exercise, since life is full of twists and turns that *cannot* be anticipated, *even* by the shrewdest Capricorn.

Astrologically speaking, your number-one duty for 2013 is continuing the earnest struggle to *get out of your own way*... to grant yourself enough emotional leeway so you feel freer to gamble with new ways of being, knowing you can only learn and grow if you're willing to sputter and fall in the process. Throughout the year, we all remain on high-alert for continuing collective

instability, due to the revolutionary generation-impacting square between Uranus and Pluto. Because Pluto sits prominently in Capricorn (and for *many* years still to come), you hold a *critical* role in helping lead us through our myriad 'revolutions'.

The uncharted nature of these confronting times does not permit anyone the luxury of much advance planning. Untested modifications must be attempted on courageous *faith* rather than any proven track record. For your very survival, then, you cannot afford to indulge harsh perfectionism or the stunted pace-of-motion it can create. One way or another, you must *appease* the unforgiving standard-bearer inside you.

With Pluto in your sign during 2013, you'll find yourself in close-up encounters with whatever terror, fury, envy, competitiveness, and/or grief you've unconsciously associated with possible loss of your apparent *control*. Be clear, though: It is *not* that you lack the agency to appreciably guide, to some degree, the direction of your current fate. Yet, life is even *more* of a wild-card at this moment in history, and therefore more room must be created to *make it up as you go along...* and more compassion must be shown (to yourself and to others) when someone stumbles, goofs, or needs to ask for help. The challenge here is clearly a *psychological* one: Can you be kinder-and-gentler with yourself while *still* reaching for your highest potential? Can you use positive reinforcement (rather than punitive self-criticism) to bolster your self-esteem? Can you develop more personal *contentment* with your obvious masteries, instead of living in fear of another shoe dropping sometime in the future (as if you should've *seen* this coming)?

Your internal Capricorn critic has likely been taking digs at you as long as you can remember, since its roots come from your childhood days... and its voice probably closely resembles that of a parent or authority-figure, someone whose own high expectations and/or very particular codes-of-conduct were instilled in you at a young age. Is that voice legitimately *you*? Or did you merely *inherit* it? More importantly, does it deserve to hold such reign over your emotional well-being?

Operating in indivisible dialogue with Pluto throughout 2013, Uranus in your 4th pushes you toward whatever radical separation from your upbringing—and/or from the undue influence of strict parent-figures—is required for claiming total independent care of your inner landscape. This is one area where you *can* grab fuller control: *You* get to decide which internal voices to

encourage or to silence, which self-care practices to partake in and which self-sabotaging habits to quit, to support a more *tender* and *peaceful* relationship to your actual life-circumstances. *You* get to rewrite the rules. *You* get to decide the appropriate boundaries with your family. You can even physically *move away*, if that's what is necessary to carve out an emotionally freeing space for yourself.

This ongoing Uranus-Pluto dynamic can spur you to productively overthrow any inner tyrant who's incessantly telling you how you *should* or *shouldn't* behave... and to more consciously take pride in, and solace from, your many talents and achievements. But if you're not properly introspective enough to be aware that these shoulds and shouldn'ts are coming from *you*, it could also cause you to outwardly rebel against others whose authority or intensity unconsciously threaten you. In either case, you'd be wise to expect *some* expression of this power struggle in '13.

If you're feeling increasingly confident and contented, you'll be giving off a more marked vibe of *self-empowerment*—and, as a result, could easily trigger others' projections of their own insecurities *onto* you, leading them to interpret your self-possessed attitude as arrogant or judgmental. Practice great compassion in such situations; if you respond combatively, you'll play right into their unfavorable perceptions of you. Wield your growing power responsibly, with dignity to all parties.

If instead you're feeling trapped by seemingly restrictive circumstances (likely a factor of your own overly rigid outlook), you may find easy targets for your frustration in undeserving bosses, soulless bureaucracies, or enviable success-stories. Trust me: They aren't your *real* problem, but mere symptoms of your dissatisfaction. Beware of obsessing over such conflicts, when you should probably invest that energy in proactively finding a self-determined alternative to this 'trap'. You might need to try out a few possibilities—and make a few mistakes—in the process. That's just how it goes.

Saturn's yearlong occupation of your 11th house suggests you may face such power-dynamic tests in your relationships with friend-groups, teams or organizations you're part of, and/or the community-at-large. When Saturn moves through your 11th, you must take a cold hard look at your wider social allegiances and affiliations... and affirm whether you are aligned with the

appropriate individuals. As you come further into your own, some existing friendships or social ties may be unable to evolve along with you. Certain supposed allies might take issue with the ways you're changing (because you're adapting in a direction they lack support for or interest in? because it makes their own disgruntled inertia that much more glaringly apparent?), and you're now forced to limit their presence in your life. Or certain of *their* behaviors you used to tolerate are just no longer tolerable, and you must remove yourself so as not to implicitly endorse what they're doing. In the worst instances, you may even end up feeling *betrayed* by folks you thought 'had your back', but who now prove themselves untrustworthy. This is an apt time to pull back your social investments, if they aren't going to worthy recipients.

On the other hand, with Saturn in the 11th, it's just as important to *reinforce* your bonds with those who genuinely are *your people*. No person is an island, not even you Capricorns—though, with your hermit-like tendencies, you may sometimes forget that. If you indulge too much solitariness and/or anti-social behavior while Saturn's in your 11th, you risk *crystallizing* this sense of alienation from others, leaving a persistent bitterness about being 'all by yourself'... when, in fact, it's a hell of your own making. If you have solid friends or fulfilling organizational associations, consciously devote *more* of your energy to these connections. Explicitly express how much you value them. If you're lacking such a social network, *push* yourself out into the world. Volunteer your time for a cause or purpose you feel strongly about. Sign up for a workshop or attend meetings in an area of interest. Go more than once. You never know who you're going to meet.

Staying socially active will expose you to the serendipitous interpersonal possibilities that are *exceptionally* promising now, especially once good-king Jupiter moves into your relationship house (the 7th) in late June. This is wonderful astrological news, as it opens you up to previously unexplored potential in your ability to establish new partnerships, improve existing ones, and generally grow in your manner of interrelating. In fact, enjoying the company of others and/or embracing a more intentionally collaborative approach—not just in romance, but across all zones—is your best chance for happy release from any sense of solitary burden, which is otherwise likely to build up due to the major transformational pressures you're under. You must simply be willing to *share* your experiences.

Work / Career / Finances

2013's most pressing questions about your work life fall under the larger Uranus/Pluto umbrella: Does your current position bear the potential to continue challenging you, so you may stretch into a fuller authority and/or develop greater confidence in your skills? Or do you feel trapped by its built-in restraints? You're at such a powerful point in your personal evolution, you'll become increasingly irritated and resentful if you must persist in an essentially dead-end professional role. You can't 'put on a happy face' in quite the same way as before. Expect any career-related soul-squeezes to intensify in mid-March, late July, and late December, crisis-points during which your assertive energy will be harder to diplomatically contain. You'll need to carve out enough autonomy so you can productively manage your piece of the business... or else air your grievances, one way or another, in an attempt to address this 'hands-tied' feeling.

In terms of sheer horsepower, you've got more juice to work with in the first half of '13, while Jupiter is still revving up your 6th house. If given a choice between tackling a major project early in the year and waiting until later, do not hesitate to dive in as early in January as you can. No matter how astutely you estimate the amount of time it'll take, you should count on hitting unforeseen snags—especially in February and into early March, when your focus could get clouded by circumstances that aren't specifically *yours* to manage but which nonetheless diminish your efficiency. You'll likely be back up to full-steam by late March or early April. In the meantime, don't guilt-trip the other players involved in this 'distraction'. Plus, you'll get some much-appreciated catch-up time in May and June, when your superhero surges of initiative might even surprise *you* with their abundant yield.

Financially speaking, your most profitable moments also arrive earlier in the year. By February, you'll already have a fairly clear glimpse at your economic outlook for the remainder of '13 (provided, that is, you don't make any game-changing maneuvers). Don't count on awesome salary-hikes or massive windfalls showing up out of the blue, unless you've already been given a hint of their impending arrival. Considering the general instability in the air, though, you might want a few bucks in reserve... in case, for instance, you hit the end of your rope and must quit your job on the spot. If you're planning to stick around for a while, let your accomplishments garner notice in October and November. Once December rolls around, go in for the kill and state your desires. Results might not show up until February or March '14.

Relationships / Romance

You're fortunate enough to welcome lucky-charm Jupiter to your 7th house midway through 2013, establishing this as one of your most promising relationship years in quite some time. Jupiter's benefic 7th-house influence will not shove a perfect romantic match in your face, however... not unless *you* actively take steps to place yourself in situations where you might actually meet the type of individual you're looking for. With Jupiter's help, though, the process of making a good connection is definitely significantly eased. If you're single and eager for a date, please don't squander this astrologically favorable opportunity: Attend networking events, try online dating, ask friends to fix you up, and stay exceedingly open to new possibilities you might've previously pooh-poohed. Even you coupled-off Capricorns can benefit from Jupiter's visit. This is an ideal moment to take one big step into expanded *togetherness*. If this stepping-it-up move appears to backfire, don't fret. Take it as a *positive* sign you've outgrown this pairing... and there's a *better* one for you right around the corner.

Though you may turn a few heads early in January, your mind might be too preoccupied with the new year's practical business to afford you much energy for pursuing it further. You'll be in a better spot to actually *appreciate* the flirtatious vibes in the later part of April, when you're in more of a partying type of mood. There's a strong potential for you to hook up with someone whose attentions you're thoroughly relishing... if you don't get *blocked* by an insecure friend who's jealous you're having more fun than they are. If there's a genuine connection, don't let go of it just because of peer pressure. You might need to take their number and get back in touch in early May. (Plus, now you've got a big friendship issue to address, too.)

June is an obvious turning-point, with Jupiter's arrival only adding to a concentration of 7th-house activity that continues into July. There will be no more perfect moment to face any interpersonal fears head-on... to be boldly willing to risk rejection or 'looking stupid', in order to go out into the world wearing your heart on your sleeve. Listen to your instincts—and tune out your so-called 'rational' self-doubts—when it comes to identifying mutual attractions. Then, once you're in conversation with a possible match, be unapologetically vulnerable (rather than trying to 'play it cool'). You just might find you're already changing your status to 'in a relationship' by August or September, when things get more serious more quickly than you'd

expected. (This is one positive side-effect of *not* 'playing it cool'.) You'll enjoy another extra-attractive aura boost during the first half of November.

January

Your 2013 blasts off on a high note, with an uncommonly large amount of attention aimed squarely in your direction. Don't think for a minute that you can tiptoe through the first week of January without notice. Every seemingly casual or insignificant remark you make is liable to stir much more of a reaction than you'd expect—mostly on the *positive* side, thanks to Venus, but perhaps with a case or two of somebody taking odd offense. This is just one more reminder of your current capacity to trigger others' insecurities, no matter your intentions. Because your powers of attraction are operating full-tilt, this is a prime month for asserting your financial desires to those who profit from your masterful ways. At the same time you're jockeying for a bigger slice, put in a few extra hours of dutiful work. Whether or not anybody's watching (though they probably *are*), it's a signal to the universe that you're willing to *earn* your increase.

February

Coming off a (hopefully) confident and productive January, you might need to let your commitments slide a bit in February, when the disorienting undertow of others' neediness pulls you a bit off-course. In your heart of hearts, you know it would be callous and uncaring to block their access to you... though you're tensely watching hours of your precious time slip out of your hands. Surrender to the situation at hand, and stop fussing about dropped balls or delayed progress. Your energy is not being wasted: You're investing it in people who really matter to you, and the return on such investments is *excellent*. Please be understanding if they aren't willing or able to follow the sound advice you've offered. In fact, it might be better to just *listen*. Everybody deals with stuff their own way, due to their own strange psychology.

March

If someone else's unfinished emotional business bleeds into March without you seeing signs of a breakthrough, you're likely to lose your cool unless you get a bit of distance from it. You don't want to add upset by snapping at a loved one who's repeating the same fruitless wonderings.

Be wise enough to know the limits to your patience. A forceful independent streak strikes you mid-month, provoking you to extricate yourself from all but the most meaningful social engagements. Wouldn't you rather be at home, creating experiences or environments for your own selfish pleasure? Other people's involvements only complicate your head, and you could use a few moments of simplifying seclusion. Should a family member or housemate butt in and spoil your badly-needed self-focus, you just might explode: Consider *this* the straw that broke the camel's back.

April

Domestic urges continue into the first part of April, when you may *finally* fix something about your home-life that's been bugging you for a while. This last piece of the puzzle may require a few days of fierce laser-focused effort, but after it's done, you'll be able to breathe a huge sigh of relief. Later in the month, the welcome promise of lighter and livelier entertainment options is potentially threatened by the unwelcome presence of a dubious character. Do you make a big stink about it, or politely play along? That depends on whether your issues with the person-in-question are a matter of subjective taste—or whether you suspect them of genuinely lacking integrity. If the latter's the case, you might need to invite the disagreeable into the open, rather than implicitly endorsing someone else's bad behavior, in support of your own ethical candor. After all, we *are* judged by the company we keep.

May

As May opens, you're so friggin' desperate to blow off steam, nothing—and *nobody*—is liable to get in the way. One surefire method for making sure you get the exact sort of fun you're looking for? Take the lead, make all the plans, hand-pick the guest-list wisely: There's really no better use for your control-freak tendencies. The happier you are, the happier everyone else will be. As the month proceeds, your day-to-day schedule grows increasingly jam-packed with a million-and-one practical items begging for your immediate attention. Thankfully, you seem to get a pleasant *rush* from staying in constantly busy motion. Woe is the pal, alas, who tries to interrupt you midstream with a fairly trivial concern (which they, of course, think is *really important*). You might run 'em right over, and not even notice... or care.

June

The precious value of interpersonal connection becomes impossible to ignore in June, as you feel your care for a certain special someone increasing in prominence. If you've stumbled to find the right words to express what's in your heart, you've got a better shot of conveying the sentiments now. Put down the pre-written script: As soon as you start the conversation, it'll flow more easily than you'd thought. And if you say too much? No worries, if what you said was indeed the truth. Give 'em a bit of time to adjust to the information. A few bumpy interactions needn't be interpreted as a sign of trouble. There are lots of conflicting life-factors to factor in at the moment. Just don't expect smooth sailing overnight. This is a pretty massive reorientation we're talking about.

July

Nobody said the compromises required for inviting more emotional intimacy into your everyday existence would be *easy*. Though the long-term advantages far outweigh the immediate frustrations, that still doesn't lessen the amount of psychological effort currently demanded of you: You *will* need to relax your rather strict protocols, in order to grant another individual their free license. Do not 'spare their feelings' by withholding key details about what you're up to or making presumptuous decisions on their supposed behalf. This is a misguided expression of care, even with the best of intentions. When in doubt about how to proceed, step back from the charged situation... and think about your possibilities from the less-personal perspective of *ethical appropriateness*. What's the *right* thing to do?

August

If August's negotiations get too heated, you'd be wise to seek the outside input of a friend who isn't afraid to give you the unfiltered truth (even if it's 'brutal'). Think about the situation in the context of your whole life's narrative unfolding, rather than hastily reacting to an unconsidered view of things. Your professional achievements take center-stage in the second half of the month, as favorable impressions pour in from important figures. Will you accept the praise, or push it away with an excessive show of modesty? Refusing to gracefully receive someone's compliment will unfortunately read as a rebelliously juvenile act—and could needlessly insult the

giver. There's nothing wrong with admitting their opinions *do* matter to you. In fact, pretending otherwise is a dangerous game... with highly unpredictable results.

September

September's events go *far* in elucidating who your real friends or allies are—and/or who's proven themselves to be untrustworthy or out of sync with your values. There really *is* no going back, if you've lost your faith in someone. But those who *have* clearly demonstrated support and allegiance to you deserve an explicit show of appreciation. Double-down on the loyalty you invest in these true-blue peeps... especially if a certain (jealous?) someone tries to create a wedge in these friendships, in a move to monopolize more of your time or attention. Red flag! You don't want to gamble lifelong alliances on a recent romance that may or may not last. Mid-month, bite back your unfiltered first-responses, when a career- or community-related incident calls for calm diplomacy. You can bitch and whine about it later, once the microphone's off and the audience has gone home.

October

Allow your position to be shaped by your teammates' zealously well-thought-out opinions. If they've got *that* pressing a stake in the matter, they probably know more about the ins and outs than you do. This is not your best time to stand in stubborn contrast to the party-line: You *will* have to answer for any dissent later on, if circumstances ultimately reveal you were blind to a critical aspect. Avoid that 'oops!' moment by relying on colleagues' experiences. If you can't take 'em at their word, why involve yourself so closely with them? Later in October, a question of *principles* gives you an ideal opportunity to model your evolving leadership style. Hear all parties out, then dole out your own fact-based account of what you just heard. Following a structured method, without any personal favoritism, will ensure justice is served.

November

November brings a reassuring culmination of all your '13 efforts... even while it's *also* likely you could feel simultaneously *burdened* by the success you've created and/or the attention you're receiving. Maybe you hadn't thought through the *emotional* side-effects of your continued

striving? Take note of any renegade urges to ditch out and relocate to a far-off town for a fresh new start. Though you probably aren't going to act on such urges (and with good reason), they hold valuable data about where in your life you need *something to give*. While delegating to others could help release some pressure, that's easier said than done for a Capricorn. To push through your resistance, think about it differently: This is an opportunity to mentor someone who'll be grateful for a chance to develop *their* skills.

December

Surrender the immediate need to make logical sense of the strange goings-on that impact you during December, when it'll almost seem like the universe is playing a series of good-hearted jokes on you. It's one of those 'careful what you wish for' moments: Bombarded by so many superficially favorable twists-of-fate, you can't help but reconsider your measures for personal satisfaction. This mindfuck continues into the new year, so, for now, simply try to absorb as many details as possible. The dots *will* eventually connect. On the career front, make one last big show of commanding capability to cap off 2013—they'll still be talking about it weeks afterward. Even still, you'll be quietly wondering what it would be like to walk away while you're so visibly on top.

AQUARIUS

2013 is your time to honestly and soberly examine the high-points—and not-so-high-points—of what you've accomplished out in the world.

Can't you see the signs? They're there, Aquarius, if only you dare to look. You might spy shining examples of your successes... or less-than-lovely symptoms of not quite having 'made it'. No matter the case, you must accept your fair share of responsibility for this current worldly standing. You *need* to face this accurate assessment if you hope to make the most of your position going forward—or to make the appropriate course-correction(s), if necessary.

Throughout '13, Saturn is firmly perched in your solar 10th house, where his job is to provide you an unadorned warts-and-all view of your present level of *outer achievement*. For many people, the 10th-house is a statement on *career* status... though for those not on a career path, it relates to any public contributions you invest yourself in. The 10th house also represents the *reputation* you earn under the hot lights of the world-stage, a direct result of efforts put in over long periods of time... and whether you walk around with your head held high, proud of having accomplished something.

Saturn's visit to your 10th (which began last October and continues into 2015) rarely carries a happy-go-lucky vibe, particularly in relation to your professional and/or public life. Saturn tests your seriousness in such ventures: If you want it badly enough, you'll really have to *prove* it. You have to work extra-hard, with an extra-intent focus on your goals, persistently striving to do your best. But Saturn is no villain; he's actually pretty fair-minded. If you *do* attain greater recognition, a new peak in authority or status, or some other reward, it'll be because you genuinely *earned* it... and it's yours to keep. Under Saturn-in-the-10th, nothing comes easily—and *nothing* is a fluke.

During 2013, then, you Aquarians could likely face a ratcheting-up of *pressure* to maintain or expand upon what you've built in your career and/or community. You might find you have *a lot more work to do* before you're able to feel as if you've truly achieved a satisfying degree of success. If you've already been fairly successful, you may encounter uncomfortable 'growing pains' that force you to revise your management approach, in order to make room for continuing

professional evolution. Even if you're relatively content in this zone of life, you should probably check in with yourself about whether you've become a bit complacent in, or somewhat less gratified by, your position.

For some Aquarians, Saturn-in-the-10th will bring your badly-needed confrontation with reality. If you've hit a block in your career, please treat this realization with earnest inquiry. Have you come to an 'end of the line'? After years of enthusiasm or fulfillment on a certain path, you might find it no longer serves you—and must begin the difficult process of shifting toward something else. This is *not* a failure... just your reminder that *nothing lasts forever*. Have you been 'barking up the wrong tree'? We don't always choose occupations well-aligned with our natural skills and talents. You may not be suited for what you believe you want to do. If you've repeatedly been met with rejection or dead-ends, it's probably time to swallow your pride and shift to a more appropriate path.

The 10th house also holds a connection to the family we come from... specifically how we internalize the duty to 'make a name' for ourselves in the world, out of respect for (or reaction to) the authority-figure(s). Psychologically, many personal self-empowerment struggles point back to our unresolved responses to the childhood messages we received from parents (or teachers). If you're now confronting blocks to your career growth, part of your personal work must involve a closer analysis of these parental relationships: How much of your ambition is legitimately *yours*, and how much is inherited? Are you fearful of making a change because you might disappoint someone (an actual parent or the internalized version in your head)? You may need to draw firmer boundaries between (1) the parent-pleasing (or parent-rebelling-against) 'you' of childhood and (2) the adult one who designates his/her own road to success.

Even successful Aquarians should examine how your relationship to success is rooted in family dynamics. If you aren't giving yourself proper credit for all you've achieved, it's probably because you come from a 'nothing's ever good enough' background of demanding parents with high expectations. Without sufficiently separating from that history, you'll replicate a habit of disappointing *yourself*—no matter *what* you do. Claiming your own authority may also require you to delegate tasks to others and/or seek outside counsel, freeing you up to focus on what *you* do best.

Lest you mistakenly assume 2013 is solely about Saturn's challenges, Jupiter's presence in your 5th during the first half of the year keeps you *wide open* to plenty of fun, too. In fact, Jupiter's transit through your house of pleasure, play, and creative self-expression offers a seemingly never-ending array of leisure pursuits and party-invites earlier in '13 ... so much so that you'll need to make sure not to overextend yourself, with potential negative consequences for your ability to meet your responsibilities. Beware of your inner devil, who may spin tempting tales about the virtues of blowing off obligations to chase a good time.

Jupiter-in-the-5th also increases the joy you'll experience in quality moments with your children... or with any artistic or self-expressive endeavor you might think of as 'your baby'. However, the tough demands of career surely pose a conflict as far as your availability is concerned. This tension might prove unbearable enough to provoke a sacrifice of professional ambition, on behalf of your preferred involvement as a parent, artist, or lover-of-life. Similarly, Jupiter-in-the-5th eases one's receptivity to romance, though such love-matches may have to compete for your limited time. Can you juggle it all? Depends on whether they accept you as you are right now... and are *supportive* of your evolving place in the world, not *threatened* by it.

When Jupiter enters your 6th house in late June, you'll welcome a noticeable increase in the physical initiative and enthusiasm you bring to your day-to-day work. The middle of 2013 is an especially prime opportunity for diving into whatever large projects or methodological overhauls will boost both your professional standing *and* your wallet. This is one of those rare moments when the results you'll witness will be *directly proportional* to the amount of sweat-equity you've put in. Beyond the boon to your productivity, you're also likelier than usual to actually *relish* this intensified workload—if you're working toward something you find emotionally gratifying in a *personally* significant way. Chances are high that you're not motivated solely by financial gain, so this elusive 'personal meaning' element to what you're doing is *that much more important* to address. According to Neptune-in-your-2nd's strange logic, you'll actually do far *better* financially if you feel your work is helping improve the lives of others. On the flip side, you might subconsciously sabotage your own economic security if you believe it's built upon soullessness.

2013's sense of heightened responsibility *could* take a toll on your physical well-being, if your strenuous work schedule becomes an excuse to get sloppy with your health habits. Jupiter's influence holds the potential to greatly improve your attention to physical self-care—or to hasten

any downward slide already in motion. It's on *you* to decide which way it'll go. The second half of '13 is ideal for trying out new eating plans or fitness activities, to ward off burnout and give your body some fresh input. If you ignore your body's desires for a balanced diet, regular exercise, and decent amounts of sleep, you'll more easily suffer symptoms of unwellness... not only physically, but also *psychically*.

A consistent routine is your single best antidote to the periodic creeping-in of irrational mistrust, worry, or worst-case-scenario thinking throughout 2013, an unfortunate side-effect of Pluto's longtime residence in your 12th. Whenever you refuse to heed the steadying structure of good habits, you will actually *fuel* your tendencies toward anxiety or paranoia... even as you falsely assume you're just giving yourself a break. Escapist fantasies about 'doing nothing' don't take into account the negative consequences of inertia to your mental health. Please don't underestimate the power of *getting into your body* to defend against the problems caused by getting too deeply in your own head. There's a profound parallel between (1) your willingness to fight the daily battle against self-doubt through repetitions of healthful behavior and (2) the strengthening of your resolve to do *whatever it takes* to triumph in your greater pursuit of life-goals. A fitter body helps ward off an unfit attitude.

Uranus, who provides a foil to Pluto's self-promoting anxieties by square from your 3rd house, reminds you: You're likelier to break free from stubbornly pessimistic moods by actively seeking out the widest variety of opportunities to *talk about your situation*. No matter *what* specifically is going on with you, exposing yourself to others' alternative ideas or interpretations is a far healthier way to process it than quietly simmering and stewing. Thanks to Uranus-in-your-3rd house, your single best method for busting through stalemates is inviting any and every random individual to contribute feedback on whatever topic's been weighing heavy on your mind. You don't have to blindly accept anything you're told; just *listen*. To take fullest advantage of the free-flying conversational insight, you'll have to leave your know-it-all-isms at the door—and be open to admitting when you're under-informed. You never know *who* might unexpectedly offer a breakthrough remark that totally changes your stubborn thinking on the matter. Curiosity, in this context, is your best friend.

Work / Career / Finances

As I'm sure you gathered from your overall forecast, 2013 puts your career and work-life in the spotlight above most other concerns, thanks to Saturn's occupation of your 10th house throughout the year. If you sincerely care about reaching the pinnacle of what you're capable of, this is a year during which you *cannot* afford to take your eyes off the goalposts. This could be difficult during April and early May, when a sharp urge for some private peace-and-quiet arises and/or a sudden family situation calls you, pulling your attentions away from the professional zone. Because it'll be nearly impossible for you to actually steal a significant break, you will instead be left to pull off an incredible juggling act. The more aggravated you permit yourself to get, the worse you'll make it on yourself. Stoically shoulder the split-focus burden.

June marks a palpable turning-point in your work, as you welcome a prominent boost in productive energy to help you get a whole bunch done—perhaps even including a satisfying revision of your principal methods, helping you attack that task-list with far greater efficiency. This boost continues into July, when you have a promising chance to sort out any up-in-the-air dynamics with clients, business partners, and/or financial institutions to your economic advantage. Despite the big-picture importance of everything you're working on, it might help to tackle each piece as it comes, day by day; too much time spent contemplating the sheer vastness of it all could cause you pointless panic. By August, you'll probably need to talk through some of these major issues with someone who's *not* directly involved. Otherwise, you may end up putting in more effort than is required, mindlessly following patterns that no longer fit your evolving circumstances.

Money is a slippery commodity throughout '13, due to Neptune's hyper-idealistic influence over your 2nd house of material resources. February's a time to be particularly conscious of *not* getting yourself into a sticky spot due to excessive generosity or blind faith. If your ongoing actions authentically warrant an increase in income, discuss the possibility of a raise in the second half of September—though, be forewarned, the dollar-amount may be less than you want and/or it may come with additional responsibility. October and November are good months for opening critical discussions about financial next-steps or making important announcements about your intentions. Please allow these talks to unfold over several weeks rather than rushing to a resolution, and be sure not to fudge the truth, not even slightly.

December arrives just in time, allowing you to quietly digest all that's happened... and all that's still coming in '14.

Relationships / Romance

When it comes to love, you'll still be under Jupiter's benefic guidance during the first half of 2013. This is *not* the time to stay stuck in your predictable ways, pursuing only that certain type of love-interest you've been dating since the beginning of time. Try out all different sorts of maybe-matches, perhaps even at the same time (as long as you're not betraying any commitments), for a potential dating bonanza that'll give you plenty of entertaining stories to tell your friends, if not something much more significant. If you're partnered off, this is an invitation to rediscover elements of each other's personalities that you've forgotten about... and to rekindle those honeymoonish sparks. You've got too much *other* serious business going on to allow your love-life to become just one more exhausting example of duties to meet. If your current coupling lacks in the basic *fun* department, you could pretty easily find an alternative that *doesn't*.

You'll be emitting irresistible Venus vibes throughout February, an ideal time to garner notice from those who might've previously looked right past you. But are you selling yourself out in certain ways, just to woo someone you must *play to* in order to impress? This cat-and-mouse game could leave you feeling somewhat insecure or lost, if you don't keep a level head about it. Enjoy the attention, but practice *discrimination* in who you invite all the way into your life. May brings another romantic high-point, a moment in which a lot of daring playfulness on your part is liable to attract those who click with *your* odd ways. If you meet someone now, please spend ample time in determining whether they click with the *other* parts of your personality before coupling off. Not only should you two have *lots* of discussion about all areas of life, but also invite your friends to get to know 'em... and to offer honest commentary on what they perceive.

Deeper relationship concerns come into play later in '13, once a certain light-heartedness gives way to a starker need for balancing work with leisure. The busier your schedule becomes, the surer you'll need to be that anyone you're partnered with is worth the tug on your attentions. Any such tensions will likely come to a head in August, when your other half successfully serves as a sounding-board for your personal worries... or refuses to take a backseat role to your

ambitions. There's a very fine distinction between (1) productively protecting your own needs in a relationship and (2) selfishly insisting everything happen *your* way. If you've veered too far toward the latter, expect to be confronted about it by September. Whether this leads to a breakup or merely a rebalancing of power, you'll need to spend October and November working through the logistical details—and working *past* any wistful wishings that this should somehow be 'simpler' when it just *isn't*.

January

You enter 2013 with a *bang*, courtesy of Mars's every-two-years injection of physical initiative and drive. Dive right into your New Year's resolutions, starting projects and pursuing goals that express your distinctive creative twist. Throughout the month, you'll be rarin' to assert your personal touch over everything you come in contact with. Just make sure not to step on the toes of any authority figures or VIPs whose sign-off is required. Nothing will thwart your enthusiasm faster than overreaching with ambitions you haven't yet legitimately earned... then being knocked back into your proper place. If you sense a threat to your progress before it's even manifested, you might benefit from active behind-the-scenes strategizing. Or maybe you're just needlessly fueling the panic? Ease your mind by talking it out with pals who don't hold the same charged stake.

February

Much of February is spent with benefic Venus shining her favorable glow upon you, making you that much more attractive to potential friends, lovers and business associates. Be sure to place yourself where you can take fullest advantage of this flattering attention... and please don't be shy about chatting up whoever's glancing your way. Money issues are also on the forefront, though you may struggle to grasp the firmest understanding of exactly where you stand. You'll put yourself in the best spot by aligning with what's beneficial for *everyone* (rather than focusing on selfish concerns that come at others' expense). Don't allow your idealistic side to make foolish investments based on what you *wish* to be true: A great idea and the best of intentions are *not* enough to ensure profitability. Cash could slip too quickly through your fingers, if you don't pay attention.

March

You've still got to keep on top of your expenses, as economic disorientation continues into the beginning of March. If you're on shaky ground, this may be your sign to look more closely at your present career path: An ability to bring in enough to cover your bills (or even more?) is just as important as creative satisfaction. Is a pay raise possible? Will you earn more if you work more? Reflect on your options. A wave of social hyperactivity sweeps over you later in the month, when you barely have a moment to breathe between lunch dates, email chains, gossip sessions, and networking opportunities. It's all quite engaging and entertaining... so what's the lurking sensation that *something's not quite right*? Maybe you're not accustomed to such constant demands on your time—or maybe you'll have to turn down a couple invites, due to a hard-to-pin-down need for more privacy.

April

After a fairly busy first-half of the month, you'll be *more* than ready for a soul-soothing retreat at home later in April. But your ability to relish the quiet could be infringed upon by incessant bids on your time from professional colleagues or community members. As much as you'd love to draw the curtains and shut off your electronic devices, you're too aware of the longer-lasting ramifications of limiting your availability at this critical stage. There's just no getting around the responsibilities. Therefore, please make your precious few solitary moments count: The domestic sphere is *not* a zone for compromising your core self-nurture needs. If you aren't able to periodically escape the glare of the public, you might lose your cool at the *least* opportune instant—and it'll be *your* fault for not having properly cared for yourself.

May

How are leftover demons from your past causing you problems in the present? Engaging in silent reflection during the start of May helps you gain more profound perspective. It's your job to simplify this issue you've been unnecessarily complicating: Your family may have taught you to think about it a certain way, but you don't have to perpetuate that ancestral burden. By mid-month, you should be back in high spirits and eager to catch up on your partying. Express your gratitude for the good stuff of life. Share your generosity with folks who make you smile.

Reclaim childlike giddiness, your perfect antidote to so many serious considerations this year. Expand your social circle by making play-dates with people you've always meant to spend more time with but rarely get to see. For creative types seeking inspiration, look no further than whatever immediate silliness will spur a case of the giggles.

June

The more fun you're guiltlessly participating in, the readier you'll feel to actually dive back into a busier day-to-day work schedule. Mars-in-your-5th stirs your most impish desires throughout June, making it easier than usual to go out and grab whatever (or *whoever*) you want. Please balance the debauchorous merrymaking with an equally fervent dedication to dutifully serving your professional and economic interests. A confluence of astro-factors now provides an excellent backdrop for achieving great stabilizing strides—if you don't listen to your inner rascal, who could easily mislead you into believing you'd prefer to slack off. Resist such fantasies; truthfully, you'll end up much *happier* if you use your prime hours for ultra-productive purposes. The same thinking goes for your diet-and-exercise regimen. Your mood will stay upbeat if you take good care of your body's needs... but without trying to be perfect, lest you tempt that rascal into full-scale rebellion.

July

What would *otherwise* qualify as a warm flow of pleasantness in your interpersonal life is sadly a bit inhibited due to the continuing demands of all you must manage. Don't worsen the situation by fruitlessly indulging frustrations with items that require revising or redoing. In professional relationships, rely on Venus to sweeten your requests for assistance: If you delegate the right tasks to the right people, everyone wins: They'll get a leg-up, and you'll save yourself a few much-needed hours. In personal relationships, be specific in explaining why you must be sparing with your attentions: Any worldly accomplishments you attain will ultimately make you a more confident partner, but not without a temporary compromise first. Reasonable boundaries with your time, in work *and* play, are essential. Anyone who resists accepting that reality poses an ongoing challenge to your developing success.

August

Early in August, practice patient communication in key relationships. Demonstrating you actually hear and understand what they're telling you will buy you huge amounts of personal favor. Hurrying them along because you have 'more important things to do', however, creates a lasting *decrease* in intimacy. Later in the month, try to clarify the unclear or under-examined details in any agreement where there's a lot at stake. If you avoid such necessary (though uncomfortable) negotiations, you may find yourself in a bad spot... especially if money's involved. Though you're still caught in a lot of day-to-day responsibility, don't forget the overriding *meaning* behind these efforts. Getting outside the narrow 'tunnel vision' perspective—and looking ahead to your next chapter, no matter how far off it may seem—can reenergize you. And if you conclude your hard work is devoid of meaning? That's something to address sooner rather than later.

September

Your fair-minded diplomacy skills (minus the self-righteousness) are in great demand this month, right as you're reaching that new level of recognition you've been striving for all year. Don't gamble your reputation on petty squabbles, snide remarks, or personal insults. But neither should you lapse into people-pleasing, since your candid honesty is fundamental to your success. You'll soar through speaking controversial truths in a palatable tone, showing you're both unafraid to challenge conventional thinking *and* willing to stick around to witness others' erratic reactions. When you prove your toughness of character, it'll be hard for anyone (even those who may have a personal axe to grind) to deny your deservedness. You needn't have all the answers, just the firm backbone to hold space for the conversation.

October

You're still expected to model a consistently equitable attitude, though the seemingly never-ending fits and starts you must navigate are starting to grate on your nerves. Everything you say should be considered 'on the record'. Don't play too distinctly to particular individuals, since you can't predict whether their roles may later be recast. Instead, play to a hypothetical jury of impartial peers who are judging your overall reasonableness. Midway through October, you can

recruit new allies to your team and/or rest more trustingly on existing teammates to participate alongside you, instead of bearing the full brunt. Your openness to seeing yourself as a humble part of something much larger will help alleviate the anxiety of too much self-imposed self-importance. Feeling overwhelmed? Freely confess the truth to those who could actually help.

November

A crowning glory? An especially stubborn roadblock? Whichever it is, this is your profound statement on how effective your efforts have been. If you're dissatisfied with what you're seeing now, you'll need to seriously consider a major course-correction or a significant ramping-up of self-discipline. Positive results, meanwhile, are a true testament to your hard work and sincere intentions; accept credit where it's due. Even in the best cases, you'll still faintly suspect that certain personal rewards still remain one more big curve *beyond* here. Your ability to keep optimistically pushing ahead will rest on your faith in the universal law of Cause-and-Effect: You must continue serving the Cause, with belief that the Effect you desire will eventually manifest. Until then, broker any agreements based on what you *already* have... not on future earnings.

December

As a challenging but constructive year draws to a close, you'll be eager for a *detox* from all the extraneous worries which have accumulated in your energy-field. Be tolerant with yourself at low moments: Though there may be no obvious *reason* for the mood-dip, you're probably experiencing psychic exhaustion. Squeeze in the holiday revelry early in the month. By the tail-end of December, you may only have a few drops of social juice left... and, because of that, you'll be likelier than usual to pounce on anyone who utters an offensive remark, rather than let their casual ignorance slide. Privately, should your emotions veer toward dread, you must actively fight against a cynical outlook—even if that means putting some future reward on the calendar for mid-2014, so you have something to actively get excited about.

PISCES

Gazing into your 2013, you Pisceans find yourselves in a poignant place... one in which the distinction between (1) presumed confusion and (2) total clarity is fuzzier than ever, as if that description could possibly make any sense. Even 'sense' itself is peculiarly vulnerable to different interpretations.

On some level, you might feel *even more confused than ever* about exactly where you're headed in '13. This confusion (which, for most Pisces, is already a fairly familiar experience) is the sort that could leave you unsure about the logical order of successive steps, the eventual outcome of your efforts, and/or the precise reason *why* you're headed where you are (at least in any easily articulable form). And yes, that *does* leave a lot of questions up in the air.

However, this version doesn't address the fact that, on *another* level, you actually possess a *very strong guiding feeling* about the general direction which is right for you. In fact, this feeling is pretty palpably unambiguous... and yes, *clear*. It's just that your access to this clarity depends upon your ability to both trust your intuitive feelings *and* faithfully act on them.

By its very nature, intuitive knowledge makes no logical sense...though that doesn't make it any less true or worthy of honoring. By now, you Pisces have hopefully come to accept this as quite relevant to your condition: What you've previously labeled as 'confusion' in yourself may merely be a *different way of knowing*. You might not *need* the tangible specifics, as long as you're aligned to the proper intentional pathway. Though you may still struggle to lucidly explain your thinking (especially to analytic types), that doesn't mean you don't *know* what you're doing.

These ideas warrant continuing consideration throughout '13, mainly because (1) your intuition will be markedly amped up, granting you far sharper emotional clarity in many areas, even as you might simultaneously feel more 'confused' (which is really a cover for nervousness) about what you know you ought to do, *and* (2) everybody else will *also* be more susceptible to this watery influence clouding *their* usual rationale, making you, Pisces, our best model for how to respond to intuitive knowledge.

Since your modern ruler Neptune entered your sign early last year (where he'll stay through 2025), there's been a subtle collective shift toward greater emotional sensitivity, heartfelt compassion, and appreciation of our indivisible unity as life-force beings. In other words, the rest of the world is starting to behave more like Pisces. For the individuals of your sign, this has created an even more acute awareness of *suffering* (yours and other people's)... as well as a clearer calling to do what's in your power to *alleviate* suffering wherever you can, directly improving the emotional quality of lives (yours and other people's) and, in the process, making the world a better place, one soul at a time. If ever there were a moment in which to nurture and promote your trademark idealism—to distinctly acknowledge, through actions and life-choices, the fundamental need to prioritize *universal love* over all other concerns—it's *now*.

Back here in the mundane world, however, having Neptune in your sign also has its drawbacks. Your amplified awareness of others' hurt and pain, and of that deep well of sadness and fear underlying all of humanity, can lead to periods of near-unshakable melancholy. Again, this isn't an altogether unfamiliar experience for Pisces, though now it's liable to intensify. Please remember: Dips in mood, like everything in the universe, are temporary. Don't allow yourself to become habituated to a downbeat vibe, or you'll unnecessarily prolong it. Your best medicine for overcoming the melancholy? Any act, great or small, that brings a smile to someone else's face... which then will bring a smile to *yours*, too.

A main purpose for Neptune's heightening your sensitivities is, in fact, to make it increasingly *unbearable* to persist with life-circumstances that compel you to *separate* your functional day-to-day existence from the psychic reality of what's *really* going on. Modern life expects us *not* to too deeply ponder the invisible consequences of our social constructs, according to which certain advantages we enjoy are built upon the exploitation and hardship of others. Neptune in Pisces dissolves that separation... hopefully to inspire us to do our part in *re-creating* our life-circumstances, with greater benevolence and tenderness, so one's gain needn't come at anyone else's loss.

Under Neptune's influence in '13, you could consider leaving a job, a relationship, or a community that feels as if it's sucking your soul dry. Perhaps you'll seek employment and/or volunteer your time in a field or with an organization that more cleanly supports your beliefs... or maybe you'll relocate somewhere you feel you better belong. The creatives among you (who

often receive divine inspiration from Neptune) might act to more fully manifest their beautifying vision. The entrepreneurial types might begin building their heart-centered independent business, as an encouraging alternative to the heartless corporate machine. Your time is *now*, Pisces. Do not let those who deny the negative psychic impact of their methods continue to dominate society.

Firm-authority-figure Saturn actually *assists* Neptune all year, by supportive trine from your 9th house, insisting you provide *philosophic structure* to your idealistic advances. When Saturn's in your 9th, you're asked to ponder the big questions of guiding purpose... and to coherently *articulate* the personal belief-system undergirding why you're doing what you do. Investing in this 9th-house work helps to ensure you'll be able to look back on your life and feel like it was intentionally *meaningful*, rather than a series of random episodes that merely 'happened' to you.

As I said earlier, however, Neptune sometimes makes it *harder* to articulate the reasons behind an intuitive feeling... which partly explains why Saturn-in-your-9th is pushing you toward this work. You may currently lack a consistent framework for understanding how to further your ideals, and could benefit from additional schooling or structured intellectual exploration. Challenges from other people in your life, whether they're friends who just don't 'get' your shift in focus or outright ideological adversaries, ought to be *welcomed* rather than run away from. Such debates will help you better formulate your thinking. Don't dismiss their doubting questions or opposing arguments; there are kernels of useful wisdom within. If your vision cannot stand up to a confronting conversation, it hasn't been toughened-up enough to survive real-world implementation. That's Saturn's job.

Think of Saturn-in-the-9th, ultimately, as a test of your integrity. Are you being fair-minded across the board, or are you picking and choosing when to apply your beliefs (and when to indulge a lapse or loophole)? You must determine if your 'helping' nature is actually *helping*... or merely enabling others to continue with their dysfunction, while *you* sacrifice yourself in a futile attempt to save them by giving and giving and giving? This is the obvious pitfall of the Pisces psyche: wanting so badly to be of service, but choosing unappreciative or fruitless cases and, thus, sabotaging yourself in the process. To ward off this tendency, practice this Saturn-in-the-9th exercise: If a jury of like-minded peers, with your best interests at heart, was issuing judgment on your situation, what would they tell you?

The good news: When Jupiter moves into your 5th house mid-year, he'll form a grand water trine with Saturn and Neptune, inviting the greater bliss that comes with feeling like you're more freely expressing the *real* you. This happy Jupiter promises you a fuller sense of creative fulfillment and pleasure, whenever you can follow Neptune's intuitive callings and submit to Saturn's ethical standards. The 5th house represents what you do to have a good time, and Jupiter's arrival serves as an encouragement to up your participations in whatever activities or leisure-time pursuits *you* most enjoy (and not just what someone else wants to do). The 5th also symbolizes your relationship with children (yours and any others), hinting at the extra advantages you'll derive from crouching down to their level and playing alongside the kiddies. Plus, as a parent (or elder influence in a child's life), you're liable to have a more strongly positive effect on their development—and get greater self-contentment as a result—if you feel you're proudly living the values that most matter to you. In addition, Jupiter-in-the-5th can be a boon for *attracting more love* into your life... as a direct result of your *doing what you love*. There's nothing more appealing than someone who's occupying him-/herself in a manner singularly their own.

The bumpy Uranus-Pluto square continues to unsteady us all in 2013, forcing everyone to revolutionize in their own ways, in order to thrive through the turmoil. For you, Pisces, the Pluto strain on your 11th house is potentially the more upsetting: Your wider social loyalties are uncomfortably shifting, leaving you less able to blend into crowds or excuse others' toxic behaviors. As you drift closer into alignment with your guiding beliefs, you may witness the uglier shadow-side of friends or colleagues threatened by how *your* stand reflects on *them*. You might have to walk away from certain group affiliations because they no longer accurately represent you or your interests. On the other hand, Pluto may inspire you to *intensify* your commitment to a particular peer-group or community-involvement. Nothing will help you stick to your ideals better than the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. You might even find yourself ascending to a leadership role because, well, it's *meant* for you.

Meanwhile, the main message of Uranus's travels through your 2nd house is pretty straightforward: Expect ongoing instability and/or unpredictability in your financial life. This isn't an altogether bad situation, of course, since *booms* are just as likely as *busts*. You can't, however, count on any month's income-and-expenses to be identical to any other's. You'll have to try to build these ever-shifting economics into your game-plan.

Work / Career / Finances

Questions about your career in 2013 are highly dependent upon whether you feel—not think, but *feel*—you're on a path that's compassionately adding value to the world, or merely contributing to its heartlessness problem. If you're coming up short in the 'meaning' department, you're likely to experience an uptick in the discontentment or outright misery this work situation breeds in you... which should be understood as a conspicuous clue that a major adjustment is called for. Of course, due to circumstantial constraints, you may not be practically able to make the big change in '13. Hell, you might not even know *what* that 'big change' ought to be. Put in conscious effort to flesh out these ideas, maybe make plans for furthering your education or departing on a vision-seeking journey for inspiration. Just make sure you've begun to actively address any career mismatch before Saturn hits your 10th house in 2015.

Though you'll have a pronounced burst of initiative during February and into early March, you might have difficulty sitting still long enough to tangibly accomplish much. Take note of *where* your attention keeps drifting off to: This will offer you insight into what you'd rather be doing. Might you start molding that insight into a new professional role? Your busiest work months will be July, August, and September, when a lineup of personal planets transits through your solar 6th. Be kind with yourself, therefore, if you struggle to find much productive focus during the first half of the year. Once those busy months roll around, you should be able to make up for lost time—if your enthusiasms aren't stunted by constantly considering what else you *could* be working on. Even if you're anticipating a future change, please remain in the here-and-now. You must stay on task, in order to first support your present needs, the foundation upon which your brighter future will rest.

Money remains a perpetual uncertainty throughout the year, whether because you've dared to step off a cliff or due to an uncontrollable side-effect of these erratic times. But as I said, Uranus-in-your-2nd doesn't just bring *unpleasant* surprises; he may just as quickly deliver an unexpected windfall. To tap into the positives this wild-child can provide, you might have to act in a mad instant to claim a lucrative award. Your most dynamic (or is that manic?) financial period is from mid-March into early April. Should you score some bonus bucks, treat them as a rare commodity: You might not strike gold *twice* in a year. Your professional efforts appear most visibly favorable in October, when Venus shines her happy light into your 10th. This is the

moment to put your wares on display, if you're hoping for greater recognition or a bigger opportunity. If you're trying to spread the word or get your opinion on record, speak out in December.

Relationships / Romance

In 2013, your relationship commitments should play second-fiddle to aligning with your highest integrity... at least if you're adhering to the work-plan Saturn has outlined for you. You must figure out *your* life's-purpose (at least for the next chunk of time) independent of the persuasive effect other people might have over you. If an interpersonal involvement actually *supports* you in moving closer to fulfilling that purpose, this relationship is obviously a *healthy* influence. However, it's a *giant* warning-sign if you feel caught in an irresolvable conflict between the two... or if your partner's *asking* you to choose *them* over something that'll add more meaning to your daily existence. All of your best relational potential in '13 comes through promoting *unity* throughout all the areas of your life. If your interpersonal patterns pull you *away* from the other important things, you've got a problem.

On the other hand, the arrival of benefic Jupiter to your 5th is an awesome sign of your ability to draw new romantic prospects and/or to inject a refreshing dose of pleasure into an existing relationship. Rather than having to dip and swerve to accommodate somebody else's desires (or what you *imagine* them to be), you'll get better results by simply entertaining yourself in the most natural way, in settings where you're comfortable, with friends who bring out your goofy side. That way, you will attract individuals who like you for you. This magnetic quality will be strongest in June and July—though, to be fair, you're just as likely to elicit jealous scorn from the so-called 'competition' as lots of complimentary attention from ardent suitors. Don't fuel the negativity; if you do, they'll have succeeded in hijacking the focus.

Whether you've just met someone or have been together awhile, your connectedness in any one-on-one partnership will be nicely nurtured by the planets from later July into the first half of August. This would be an excellent time for a romantic getaway, or to change your official status from 'dating' to 'in a relationship'. From the middle of August onward, the stakes seem to quickly intensify... which can further fuel the passion and/or start to bring any underlying complications to the surface. Possible issues might include negotiating your contrasting

viewpoints on money or sex, or confronting challenges with integrating into each other's social scenes (because a friend doesn't approve?). If there's shit to deal with, it's likely to hit the fan by mid-October or early November. By the end of December, the transformational catharsis should have occurred, enabling you to trust each other that much more deeply—or else the problem will have gotten really fucking bad.

January

You're likely to enter 2013 under pressure to pick sides, as it becomes increasingly impossible for you to stay neutral without consequences to your social standing. This could actually prove a rather *beneficial* turn of events for you, helping to solidify your alliances with those who rightfully share your values. In fact, if you try to altogether avoid expressing an opinion, you may well end up lumped in the same category as folks you *don't* want representing you. Because you have no choice but to participate in certain group activities, you should probably be very choosy with the rest of your time—or risk becoming overwhelmed by other people's stuff, and then strangely emotionally reactive. If you don't *have* to be somewhere, take it as a sign to cherish some rejuvenating alone-time.

February

February's a monumental month in Pisces world, with loads of astro-activity in your sign to pump up your energy levels. But of course we're talking about *Piscean* 'energy levels' getting pumped, which also means a major increase in your intuitive sensitivities... leading you, hopefully, to move more markedly in a particular direction because you just *know* it's what you're supposed to do. 'Acting on faith' is strongly favored, as long as you feel the efforts you invest will legitimately help spread compassion, healing and/or beauty. Thank you for modeling a heart-centered approach to life for the rest of us. Now, if only it wasn't so damned hard to *communicate* this worldview to others, so we might better understand where you're coming from. It's worth giving it a good try—and remaining willing to *keep on trying*, even if it takes a few more attempts.

March

You'll still be riding the high from last month's hustle as March begins. Ongoing conversations continue to reveal new bits of insight, presenting you multiple angles from which to view the events. You bear a responsibility to deliberately choose whichever perspective holds the cleanest ethics for *everyone* involved... even if it isn't the one which most pleases your nervous ego (who may be afraid of losing a convenient 'out'). When principle wins out, positive after-effects will have a knack for finding their way to you. Mid-month, you'll need to pretty quickly take a major step toward demonstrating the seriousness of your intentions: The old adage 'putting your money where your mouth is' might demand a rather *literal* interpretation. This is your moment to dive into the nuts-and-bolts of making your vision tangibly *real*.

April

During the first half of April, you ought to keep a close eye on your finances... not only because expenses could otherwise get out of hand, but also so you don't miss out on a potentially lucrative shot to increase your earnings. Your possible gain is totally dependent on whether you speak up loudly and directly for your own interests, *as soon as* an opportunity presents itself. If you successfully snag it, don't be surprised if a colleague starts acting huffy; envy is never pretty. Later in the month, as you're casually socializing with pals more often, you'll need to be careful not to let supposedly 'innocent' gossip lead you down the path of shit-talking. Allowing questionable remarks to slide (even if you're not the one uttering them) could leave you feeling like you betrayed your own integrity. Don't let yourself get talked into anything.

May

Early in the month, your busier social schedule helps you get clarity on which friends you'd like to spend even more time with—and who might not be such a good fit. Welcome this shakeup. It's okay if certain fair-weather acquaintances decide they don't like you anymore, or you them. This just means you'll have more of yourself to give to those who genuinely adore you. As May progresses, you're increasingly happy to just stay home, which could involve either inviting people over to revel in your hosting skills *or* drawing the curtains and disappearing for a spell.

How might you *improve* the quality of your domestic life? Enthusiastically throw yourself into a project solely intended to make the place you live cozier for *you*.

June

June promises to bring a lot more *fun*, which should be seen as a reassuring sign of things-to-come over the months ahead. How, then, to take fullest advantage of it? Definitely *not* by going along with the crowd... not if you want to truly relish your leisure moments in the manner *you* most prefer. Set any self-conscious shyness aside, and please throw yourself jubilantly into whatever playful or creative activity sounds like your idea of a good time. Let any judges judge; that is *their* problem. You, meanwhile, are likelier to attract new friends and/or prospective love-matches by merrily not giving a fuck what other people think. In other news, any simmering friction with housemates or family-members could finally come to a climax. Don't discount their viewpoint without thoroughly listening and looking for a compromise, but don't totally cave in because you somehow think it's 'easier'. (It's not.)

July

Piggybacking on last month's opening-up of pleasurable possibilities, July presents you a chance to further explore what you've been enjoying. Your decision to get more fully involved isn't merely a frivolous diversion, but a powerful statement about what you *value*: When you prioritize your own unique expression of warmth and good-cheer, you're endorsing its importance as a guiding life-philosophy. But don't get *too* lost in philosophizing (or is it daydreaming?), or you'll miss out on a helpful chance to leap forward on a work project. Late in the month, Venus's arrival in your relationship house (the 7th) eases your ability to connect with others, always a beneficial influence... though please be aware that certain fawning admirers might not see you as clearly as you see them.

August

Pull your head out of the clouds in the first part of August, when you're being asked to think *practically* (and, yes, maybe even *economically*) rather than fully giving into your idealistic tendencies. Streamline your ideas, so your mind is organized and ready to produce real-world

results between now and mid-October. The ongoing *deepening* process in a romantic or professional pairing could hit a snag later in the month, when your interests suddenly diverge and/or a third party's strong opinions threaten to create weirdness between you. But aren't such uncomfortable confrontations with each other's differences the very essence of 'deepening'? Save significant discussions until the tail-end of August, when planetary-messenger Mercury is on your side. Once again, don't adopt the 'easy' avoidance strategy.

September

In September, good things come to Pisceans who are actually willing to *stall* the progress, in order to stand up for what's right. Yes, you may indeed be opening a can of complicating worms by raising your concerns. But isn't it better to face the complications *now*, rather than proceeding as if they don't exist (when you know they *do*) and letting them fester until it's *really* a big problem? You'll gain a more sympathetic ear from potential foes by admitting you don't have the perfect solution, merely a patient commitment to participate in this difficult problem-solving conversation until a fix is found. Still, a tense exchange of words is a strong possibility. Keep it respectful. No need for you to get personal, even if the other party doesn't abide by the same etiquette.

October

Whatever it takes, strive for fair-minded *consistency* in whatever sentiments you put out there during October. If you try to play it one way in one context, then switch the rules in a different setting, the discrepancy *will* come back to bite you. Plus, it'll be far simpler for *you* to manage, if you apply a single standard across the board. Careerwise, you'll be seen in a flattering light throughout October, which you can work to your advantage if salary's up for review. If you can't secure a raise right away, ask for a clear idea of better timing and/or practical advice on next steps for continuing your growth. Later in the month, prepare for a heightened likelihood of interpersonal conflict... possibly arising because the other person doesn't like being *corrected* by you? Oh, well. Facts are facts.

November

November is an excellent month for big-picture reflections upon what kind of life you want to live... and, as a result, what kind of people you need to surround yourself with to support you in making that happen. If there's a group or organization of like-minded individuals that you haven't yet examined, please consider getting yourself involved. You won't believe how effectively recruiting the appropriate allies will assist you in rising to the occasion. Likewise, it wouldn't hurt to give the questionable folks in your life as clear a description of your non-negotiables as possible, so they know exactly how to be a cooperative influence for you. That way, if they don't live up to your expectations, it won't be due to a lack of sufficient information.

December

December could prove tricky to navigate, especially if you get caught in an unpleasant back-and-forth about who rightfully deserves ownership over a contested resource or honor. There may be no obviously correct answer, which means you'll have to come to some mutually acceptable resolution—or else deal with ongoing turmoil. If you decide to just give away the upper hand, do so only if you can quietly commit to *never* ending up in this type of situation again. In public or professional settings, be sure not to say too much too soon: You might be unaware that a certain important figure would prefer the latest news to stay low-profile for now. Your role among friend-groups or communities continues to evolve, in ways ultimately favorable but immediately anxiety-provoking. Don't worry too much, as it's still shaking out into the first months of '14.