

**ASTROBARRY'S 2014:**

**'Is THIS the New Normal?'**

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## INTRODUCTION: 'Is THIS the New Normal?'

The third time's the charm, as the old adage goes.

If that's the case, then this year's annual forecast—my *third* e-book, folks!—ought to be pretty damn *charming*, then.

I can still hardly believe I've pulled off this crazy feat *thrice* in a row now... though, at the same time, it *also* feels like the most natural thing in the world. I think I might be starting to get good at this, if I do say so myself. Hey, look! I'm a writer of book-length works, y'all!

Once again, I insert myself inside the frame of my book's introduction... not only because I'm a lover of first-person confessional narrative (and this *is* my mode of creative self-expression), but in homage to the interdependence between (1) a cogent analysis of any current astrological scene and (2) the experiential testimony of those who are actually *living* it (e.g., me). My personal attitude toward my astrological work is that of a *participatory subject*, exploring the effects of this or that celestial happening alongside the rest of humanity, rather than disingenuously claiming some objective position toward the very goings-on I'm still in the process of experiencing myself, as if my personal mood-and-mindset *don't* impact how I write. I am no expert, just an inquisitive observer who has volunteered to share some thoughts and wager an interpretation here and there. Pass the pretzels, while we're at it.

After years of privately harboring an ambition to write year-ahead-forecast books, I timed my first stab at it to coincide with the first exact peak of this generation's *defining* astro-aspect, the square between Uranus in Aries and Pluto in Capricorn. It also didn't hurt that 2012 was a year which carried a reputation that preceded it: '2012' itself had become a shorthand brand-name to generally describe our collective apocalyptic fears-and-yearnings (two sides of the same coin). What better moment for finally thrusting myself toward one of my largest life-goals? If the world really *was* about to end, I wanted to go out on a *high note*. Turns out, the world's still here, spinning on its axis, as wobbly as ever. And I, meanwhile, scored a goal. I achieved my aim, wrote a book, sold a bunch of copies, and soared into 2012 having earned myself a feeling of tremendous pride. What a win!

But as high on my accomplishment as I felt after putting out the first book, my crash back down to earth during the writing of the *second* book was at least as *painful*. Struggling to pull together *ASTROBARRY'S 2013* at the end of last year, I was in a seriously *dark* place. In the months preceding the self-evident deadline (for a year-ahead book must be available in time to still be *relevant*), I sloppily convinced myself not to worry about structuring a workplan: If I'd pulled this off once, I could do it again. Period. End of story. Then, after having resisted diving into the real day-by-day hard work required to *write an entire friggin' book* for far too long (because, admittedly, my rebellious side must've believed that having already proven myself somehow bought me a sort of impracticable freedom from *any* imposed constraints on my time), I found the end of the year rapidly approaching.

So rapidly, actually, that it became *literally impossible* for me to complete the project, according to my original vision, by a sensible release-date. As it was, I had to spend the final moments of 2012 in total seclusion, slamming my head against walls as I banged fingers across laptop keys, all day every day, while my friends and family and everyone else around me partook of holiday celebrations, just to finish an abbreviated version I'd creatively compromised on... and *still*, I worked into the evening of December 31, 2012, exhausted, distraught, kicking myself about my prior months of poor judgment, disappointed in myself creatively, shamefully self-critical considering I'd just written the last words of another full-length book. At the last minute, I even went so far as to *drop the price* I was charging for the book. *That's* how bad I felt about myself: I didn't think I deserved quite so much for letting everybody down (though, of course, it was really only unforgiving *me* who I'd let down).

It is no exaggeration to say I've spent much of my past year coping with the emotional after-effects of having hit this low... which was not, by the way, the 'low' of enduring a disheartening writing-process with my last book, but of being left in its aftermath to confront the *punishing* standards by which I could possibly walk away from *writing an entire friggin' book* not with any reasonable sense of accomplishment, but feeling like an utter failure. I was obviously still so consumed with bowing down to my endless stream of supposed-tos (which, due to their endlessness, are *never* in fact satisfiable), I couldn't acknowledge what I *had* accomplished—and if I was going to toil *that* fucking hard on something, it had damn well *better* leave me in a happier spot than *this*, or why the hell bother? Grateful to myself for engaging this difficult self-development work throughout '13 (which included lots of therapy), I am learning to release the

unreasonable expectations and embrace my right to do what I want. If I'm not going to feel good about it, I don't *have* to do it.

My process of writing this *third* book has resulted in my attaining a 'happy medium' between the ecstasy of Year One and the agony of Year Two. Once again, I postponed the earnest start of my efforts later into the year than I'd initially hoped to... but not as far as I did last year. As to be expected, the work itself remained challenging and demanded steady perseverance... but once I found my groove, I actually created a daily work schedule, a *realistic* one which held me to task for consistent progress but didn't push me beyond the limits of sanity, and stuck to it. Perhaps out of habit, I still sometimes woke to *another* full day's itinerary of writing assignments and began started falling into the familiar whiny complaints, stuck in this solitary labor-camp of my own creation (when I wanted to be out indulging in holiday 'cheer' and other intoxicating delicacies)... but then I reminded myself I'd already committed to working my ass off until this book was done, and whining-and-complaining adds nothing *productive* to the stew but makes the emotional experience of it that much worse, and, besides, please remember, Barry, you are *living the dream*, so shut the fuck up and live it.

As I draw my *ASTROBARRY'S 2014* work to its close, I'm again pretty exhausted, yet in good spirits. I feel genuinely content with my efforts and their final result, without haughtily believing they've somehow bought me a free-ride in the months ahead. Instead of dreading the commencement of my *next* one, I'm actually *eager* to launch into it, curious to put everything I've learned through trial-and-error into (hopefully) the *cleanest* writing-process yet. Initially emboldened by the Uranus-square-Pluto energy to 'revolutionize' my life by *becoming* the paid author I always wished to be, three years later, I'm now figuring out how to *sustain* that revolutionized life... rather than allow still-unassimilated chunks from my cracking-open to bounce around, astray, where they might prove *treacherous* if left to smash haphazardly against one another. *More* impediments may still have to give way, it turns out, to make even more room for this revolution to finish its whole job.

Synchronistically, 2014 is also our *third straight year* of exact squares between Uranus and Pluto... a fact which relegates our collective experience to more instability, unrest, shocking surprise, turbulent upheaval, and, when it's all said and done, major *transformation*. Total, irreversible, nothing-will-ever-be-the-way-it-was-again *change*. You know, the usual. More of

the same. Merely the *biggest* astrological event of my lifetime so far, that's all. What more is there to report? Haven't you *heard* this before?

Back at the end of '11, ardently anticipating what 2012's first Uranus-Pluto climax might bring, I enthusiastically reflected at length on its archetypal promise, in support of my role as astrological scribe... as well as privately braced for living on the edge of my seat during the few bumpy years ahead, readying myself for the possible need to make lightning-fast split-second decisions (*not* my forte), should sudden circumstantial twists demand them. It all felt so new and exciting. Having voluntarily signed on for self-selected 'bumps' by riskily choosing to write my first book, I was confident about facing this astrology with the correct 'throw my cards up into the air' attitude.

By the time the latter part of 2012 rolled around, however, I realized I'd overlooked the *emotional* components involved in revolutionizing one's life... a realization made thanks, in no small part, to the boom-lowering reality-check provided by Saturn's entry into water-sign Scorpio (in October '12), which not only presses all of us to more deeply delve into whatever unsavory psychological truths we're not adequately dealing with, at the expense of our ability to live in our fullest potency, but slammed into *my* personal birthchart (with its four Aquarius planets and a Mars in Taurus) with particular severity. My darkest moments over the past year-plus have all occurred in direct correlation to Saturn-in-Scorpio's harshest contacts with my natal planets (now, thankfully, *over* for the time being).

It is an admirable thing for anyone to leap into the Uranus-square-Pluto era's radical discontinuities with the rash courage to just *take that crazy life-defining risk*, as one might dive quickly, without thinking, into an ice-cold lake or rip off a band-aid sufficiently fast to limit the acclimating discomfort to just a few fleeting moments. You do it; it's done; you walk away, triumphant; the end. It's entirely *another* level of courage, though, to *simmer* in the discomfort long enough to *feel* the fuller effects of what's changing... not in some glutton-for-punishment exercise in emotional masochism, but to reap the *deeper* psychological wisdom from the experience of transforming one's life (the grief of saying goodbye to the past, the terror-and-triumph of trying something new, the strain from exercising previously underutilized muscles, the scrapes and scratches and passing bouts-of-shame endured while stumbling through those

earliest steps on the path, etc.) that sinks into your body and soul, imprinting a lasting sense-memory *expertise* which cannot be taught, read about, or breezily described.

Water-sign wisdom, we might call it: Hard-earned, indeed, during Saturn's transit through Scorpio (which continues into the final weeks of '14, with a brief reappearance in mid-'15), then disseminated through every crevice of our lives by this past year's grand water trine, formed when Jupiter entered Cancer midway through 2013, and pervaded by the Neptune-in-Pisces consciousness that we comprise a single interconnected life-form, and when one suffers we *all* suffer, and seeking to increase empathic love and decrease callous apathy is a worthier goal than *all others* and, as such, must underscore *everything we do*.

This 'water-sign wisdom' inserted itself more prominently into our shared dialogue in '13, only making our collective call-to-evolve that much more *urgent*. Jupiter, whose exalted arrival in Cancer anchored a heart-opening grand trine, also *clashes* with Uranus (by square) and Pluto (by opposition). Being more closely in touch with our feelings actually *sharpens* the pressure to revolutionize and transform. These heightened emotions emphasize, often to a *painful* point, what's wrong with our plutocratic status-quo attitudes and institutions... while simultaneously activating our *caring* enough so we don't *overcorrect* with reckless reactionary rebellions which only create *more* pain, in a misguided compensatory move to 'right' a wrong with another wrong. When we consider the *emotional integrity* of any revolutionary acts before we take them, we can't help but acknowledge it's even *harder* to simultaneously address *all* these conflicting concerns than it is to make a single spectacular change.

Now, going into a third full year of Uranus-and-Pluto's exact square, I've grown a bit tired of ceaselessly sounding my astrologer's alarm—*evolve, or suffer! evolve, or suffer!*—like a broken record. (Remember records?) I'm running low on synonyms for 'unrest and 'instability', 'revolution' and 'transformation', and struggling to find fresh ways to phrase the same news over and over. In fact, I don't find it a useful expense of effort to yet again compose a more detailed description of what this Uranus-Pluto square 'means'. This information is freely available in many articles on my website and elsewhere, and throughout both my prior year-ahead e-books. I'm trying to conserve my energy, to become more efficient with my work over time. Besides, even without the tiniest speck of astrological awareness, most people instinctively *know* there's a macro-level reorientation taking place. Just mention 'that thing we've all been going through

over the past few years' and then compare it to the mid-1960s and the Great Depression (the last two Uranus-Pluto periods in history); pretty much everyone seems to understand exactly what you're talking about, astrology be damned.

We could make a pretty reasonable case for the fact that 2014 represents a culminating *zenith* to all this Uranus-Pluto hullabaloo... not only because we're into its third year, and not merely as a result of Jupiter-in-Cancer's *inflating* effect making the whole damn thing bigger, though both impacts are undeniably significant. As if to put one last exacerbating layer of icing on this cake, Mars adds an *inciting* spark to this touchy juggling-act, threatening to topple any tenuous ceasefires into sheer madness: Though he usually zooms through a sign in about seven weeks, Mars spends a full *seven-and-a-half months* in Libra (Dec 7 '13-July 25 '14), a place where he's both exceedingly uncomfortable (due to being in his detriment) *and* in direct conflict with Uranus, Pluto, and Jupiter.

The coincidence of our greeting a lengthy visit from Mars to *this* specific sector of the zodiac-wheel, at the same time it'll *also* further provoke a trio of already-clashing outer-planets, is, without a doubt, an astrological message that *shit's getting real*. (But hasn't shit *been real* for a while now?) During at least the *first* half of 2014, we'll hardly be able to make *any* move at all without smacking head-on into one highly volatile powder-keg or some other potentially potent piece of punitive pushback.

Mars in Libra goads us to assert our personal will in a *considered* manner (not Mars's favorite, incidentally), in constant *dialogue* with the larger forces of change... but *because* these 'larger forces' are so fierce and unpredictable, what may start out as 'considered dialogue' can quickly devolve into an all-out *battle* of reactionary responses. Mars first opposes Uranus and squares Pluto in the closing days of '13 (Dec 25-30), with a square to Jupiter early in '14 (Jan 8), setting this *unsettled* tone under which the months that follow will unfold: even *greater* interpersonal unpredictability (Mars/Uranus), even *more profound* psychological repercussions and reverberations (Mars/Pluto), even *more dramatic* emotional reactions (Mars/Jupiter).

As the year opens, it'll feel like we're only *now* first trying to accommodate all these stray examples of 'life-transforming change' into the day-in-day-out fabric of our lived lives—and discovering, with a bit of a *sting*, how many more unanticipated *hitches* must be confronted,



defused, and/or blown through before we're really *living* these transformations. A simultaneous Venus retrograde in Capricorn (Dec 21 '13-Jan 31 '14) helps throw all our relational involvements up for a timely reevaluation: Sharing chemistry, connection, and/or history with somebody may *not* be enough to warrant continuing your earnest investment in them, if the evolution of your broader self-defined life-goals isn't directly *supported* by the relationship. Interpersonal dynamics set into motion at an earlier point, by a *previous* version of you, could unfortunately *freeze* you back in that past... unless, and until, distinct effort is made to *update* the operating system.

Then, when Mars begins *his* retrograde (March 1-May 19), any last 'safety precautions' we'd been relying on to preserve the illusion that *some* things were still solid will unceremoniously disappear, for if there's one astrological phenomenon I find perpetually *resistant* to any firm predictive interpretation, it's a Mars retrograde. If Mars is the driving engine that powers our physical instincts and projects them outward into space, both the impulses he stirs *and* the manner in which he expresses them become erratic and unreliable when he's retrograde. Thought you were headed *one* way? Then, why's your body pulling you this *other* direction? Energies aimed toward *this* will, instead, end up going toward *that*. And the object of one's interest and/or ire, this *too* could change as fast as a match burns down: Flick it away before it singes your finger.

The unreliability of Mars's retrograde combines with the volatility of his outer-planet showdowns in a spectacular peak—during an eclipse period, no less—when he forms a *very tight* grand-cross (due to his second Uranus opposition, Pluto square, and Jupiter square) *exact* within the space of just a few days, April 20 to 25. To be frank, this latter half of April features *the* most extreme destabilizing astrology in recent memory... delivering startling next-chapter developments to any unrest which first came to light as the year began, and/or discharging dramatic breakthroughs which just couldn't be held off a single moment longer. All *this* could take until *after* Mars's third-and-final trip past Uranus and Pluto in mid-to-late June (and maybe one more surprising turn) before we're even able to *start* digesting it.

When Jupiter leaves Cancer and lands in Leo midway through July, followed shortly thereafter by Mars *finally* exiting Libra, the vibe of the year palpably *diminishes* in intensity. Without a doubt, it's the *earlier* half of 2014 that's bumpier, more psychologically demanding, and/or

potentially upsetting. The movement of Jupiter out of a water-sign (Cancer) and into fierier territory (Leo) augurs the parallel shift that'll occur when Saturn leaves Scorpio in the final days of '14... to arrive in fiery Sagittarius, where he'll stay (with the exception of a few months mid-next-year, when he slips back into Scorpio) through the end of 2017. This transition of multiple outer-planets from water to fire, beginning in the second half of this year, suggests our intensified emotional responses will soon give way to a stronger *action-orientation*. Until then, we've got this intensity to muddle through.

So, here we sit with one more report of 'rocky times ahead', the third of three-in-a-row as far as my annual forecasts go. What else is there to say? Should we each just find our own method for *getting used* to this madness? Is THIS the 'new normal'?

Allow me to interject my best answer, from the comprehensive perspective of an entire life-span: Contrary to all indications, this is *not* our forevermore way-of-being. Life won't *always* be this rocky. Shit isn't always this *real*. None of this is *normal*, not by any stretch of our imaginations. While, yes, it is true that many specific circumstances in our individual lives have indeed *changed* ('for better' and 'for worse' are probably premature judgments) and will likely *never* return to how they were before, the *rapid speed* and *jolting totality* with which Change Itself has been stampeding, ravenously and relentlessly, through our lives is an *anomalous* occasion. This astrological storm may still have us caught in the eye of its downpour, but it too *shall* pass... though, anxiously watching and waiting from behind our battened hatches, many of us may fear this torrent's going to *gush on* into eternity. We mustn't forget that, in the greater scheme of things, this period between 2009 and 2017—with its peak intensity lasting from 2012 through 2015—will stand out as an *exception* rather than a new rule.

It's easy to grow world-wearied with these hyped-up rhythms, falling into a resigned expectation that such tumult is a *constant* which must be stoically borne like a purgatory life-sentence, neglecting to consider this moment in time within a broader perspective. After a while, we accept our conditions as a *given* and start treating them like a 'new normal' (much in the way, for instance, residents of a ridiculously expensive city like my beloved San Francisco somehow convince themselves that \$2,500-a-month or more to rent a one-bedroom apartment is *normal*), when they are decidedly *not*. To *thrive* under conditions such as these, we've got to see them for what they are—a passing time-specific opportunity to utilize exceptional instability to our

benefit, to loosen undesired bonds and test far-out alternatives to whatever's not been working—instead of *losing* ourselves, purposeless amidst the mess. This most *acute* phase of a larger transformation *will* indeed pass, like all temporal experiences. And we likewise must *allow* it to pass, *engaging* its acuteness to our fullest capacity, rather than trying to hold it at bay. If instead we live in perpetual fear that it might one day overwhelm us, this unexpressed fear will slowly crystallize into a dull paralyzing depression... which, after too long, just becomes a bad habit. That's no way to live.

In 2014, we're very much actively wading through this soupy mess... and it's still getting messier, with more open-ended questions than firm answers swirling around the collective consciousness. This, therefore, remains a picture-perfect time to cobble together *your* ideal makeshift future (for it'll continue to demand revisions) out of whatever valuable scraps you can get your hands on. There's plenty yet to do, to strip these life-circumstances down to their studs and rebuild from the ground up. I, for one, have now proudly proven I can write book-length works. Yet, I've probably got a few more quaintly hindering familiarities which need *ripping apart* before I'm full-on *living the life* of a book-writer, a guiding priority which *must* come ahead of the others if I'm to really *pull this off*. I'm pretty sure *you* have made at least one major transformational leap or two over these past couple years, too... but have you finished overhauling the *other* parts of your life so you're able to *continue* enjoying the benefits, more fully and integrally? Didn't think so.

So, back on your feet... and *let's do this*. There'll be time for a more substantial rest sometime in the as-yet-undetermined future.

## ARIES

And now, without further ado, *one more* year-ahead forecast for you, Aries, sponsored by the planet Uranus!

Yes, Uranus—the astrological symbol of quick-fire *change*, sudden surprises, unanticipated sharp-left-turns, inescapably shaky ground, and all the rest—remains the number-one influence in the life of Aries throughout 2014.

Uranus is now about halfway into his eight-year visit (2010-2019) to your sign, which means you've *hopefully* gotten fairly accustomed to accommodating his wild-card effect across all areas of your life. If you were born in the earlier part of the season (i.e., if you're a March Aries), you've already welcomed the exact conjunction of Uranus to your Sun, so you *certainly* know what I'm talking about. Those Aries born during the first few days of April will be dealing directly with Uranus *this* year (if the effects haven't already begun), while the later Aries have Uranus's strongest pressure still ahead.

*No* Aries will escape this transit of Uranus through your solar 1st house, a once-in-a-lifetime period when your top priority is to ensure you're *unencumbered enough* to pursue whatever unique path-of-expression you feel is distinctly *yours*. Anything that infringes upon your personal liberty to be who you are—a repressive relationship, a limiting job, an unhappy home, overwhelming family obligations, even your own self-defeating thoughts—is subject to radical disruption, in the Uranian process of *breaking yourself free* of confining situations. If you know something's got to give, it's wise to heed Uranus's timing and bravely take the gutsy steps to extricate yourself. Otherwise, you're merely tempting Uranus to grab the reins and *do it for you*, only without incorporating your free-will agency in co-creating change as *you* most desire.

Uranus *will* shake up your life, regardless of whether you wish him to or not. Under Uranus's influence, the absolute *worst* thing you can do is cling yearningly to the status-quo, praying *against* the larger astro-currents in hopes of sustaining your life-circumstances just as they are. (Fat chance.) Uranian energy proves most upsetting to anyone who resists the natural need for ongoing evolution. His shocking turns often leave such folks feeling like the rug's been pulled out from under them, as if their world is *ending*. That's because their 'world'—as they've known

it for too long now—is coming to an end. Thankfully, another one is eager to be born right on its heels... an *exciting* opening for major reinvention, if only they'll look confidently ahead to the future, instead of merely mourning for a past that's *never* coming back.

On the upside, a Uranus transit is, without a doubt, one of the absolute *best* times in your whole life to *take a radical risk*... to leap into the unknown, spurred by an invigorating impulse to try something markedly different than what you've been doing, if for no other reason than to keep life interesting and engaging (or, in other words, *just because you want to*). In these cases, the unavoidable chaos which comes along with Uranus is something you willingly *choose*: After all, if you attempt something new, you'll have little-to-no fucking clue what you're doing at the onset; you have to *figure it out as you go*. This steep Uranian 'learning-curve' is nothing more than an exercise in *creative innovation*. And you Aries, the courageous warrior-pioneer of the zodiac, are pretty well-equipped for just this sort of creative challenge.

Though Uranus's longer-term presence in Aries obviously implies that not *every* moment over the course of these eight years will be totally chaotic and unpredictable, the movement of Jupiter into your solar 5th in July will *increase* the impact of this Uranus effect... in a potentially *advantageous* fashion, liable to fuel your optimistic ability to truly *enjoy* what life has to offer. During his yearlong transit through your 5th, Jupiter will form three synergistic *trines* to Uranus (the first in late September, with the following two in the earlier half of 2015), an aspect which auspiciously supports any self-expressive action that promises to deliver you more pleasure, pride and/or creative satisfaction. Because the 1st and the 5th are the two houses most directly related to issues of *self*, this Jupiter-Uranus trine is an obvious invitation to daringly put more of your true self *out there* (though, to be fair, it can *also* inspire one to become *excessively self-centered*).

Because the 5th house represents whatever brings us joy, reflects our unique creative preferences and proclivities, and rouses our playful side into action, Jupiter's residence there during the second half of '14 provides a favorable opportunity to draw more uplifting, entertaining and/or artistically fulfilling activities into your leisure-time hours. Though traditionally a 'good luck' planet, Jupiter will *not* make things magically happen, but rather fosters an encouraging climate to *ease* your ability to expand into new territory... though once you *do* take action, Jupiter will happily help it along.

That's why this influence on the latter part of your year provides you the extra motivation to dive further into creative projects, to attempt a new pursuit or art-form, and/or to simply prioritize your own gratification more than you recently have. The 5th is also a house of *love*, the romantic and flirtatious fun-part (i.e., before there are any 'strings'); as such, Jupiter-in-the-5th can *heighten* the prominence of this facet of your personality and, in doing so, attract more of this sort of attention to you. Our relationship to *children* falls into the domain of the 5th, too, suggesting Jupiter's presence there could indicate kids will play an expanded role in your life... whether by introducing new ones (is it that time?) or otherwise increasing their positive influence on you.

But *before* you can skip ahead to this excitement the second half of 2014 promises, you've got to make it through the *first* half, which is considerably *more* astrologically volatile and unsettling. It would be unfair to hail Uranus's liberating potential, as I did earlier, without *also* mentioning how he's somewhat *hindered* in his purest expression by an ongoing square to Pluto, longtime occupant of your 10th. This entire *decade* is indeed colored by the revolutionary potency of this Uranus-Pluto square—and you Aries are caught smack in its crosshairs. So while Uranus-in-your-1st would have you asserting your independent impulses every which way, Pluto-in-your-10th is a thorny reminder that you're *simultaneously* striving to accomplish great feats on the world stage, in your career and/or other public involvements, which can only be achieved with *sustained* effort over time... and behaving *too* impulsively can easily jeopardize your lasting success in this arena.

As a 10th-house actor, Pluto demands you step more fully into the power you've earned for yourself professionally... but not *overstep* its legitimate bounds, only to incur the wrath of those in power *over* you, who won't take too kindly to your brash presumptions. You can taste the clash with Uranus-in-the-1st already: If your career aspirations must be satisfied within a certain structure-of-authority, you obviously *can't* just do whatever you want. You've got to respect proper protocol and the chain of command. If, however, you've reached the point in your ascent where you genuinely *cannot* tolerate these organizational demands—you've outgrown your position, and there's no room left to grow; you've exhausted your patience with inept or undeserving leadership, and are no longer able to 'play nice'; your evident competence threatens a higher-up, causing an unpleasant power-struggle—Pluto wants you out the door, so you can find a more empowering spot (in an actively thriving organization, reporting to an inspiring mentor-boss, and/or setting off on your own thing) that *doesn't* tie your hands. Pluto

might even make your existing situation *worse*, rousing the emotional intensity needed to incite an overthrow.

But freeing yourself from a stifling professional environment will *not* free you from the call to strategically deploy your outward efforts, if you *do* intend to attain a new level of achievement. The repressive structure or the tyrannical boss may be gone, yet the pressure on you to consistently model *responsible leadership* only intensifies. ('Fits and starts', no matter how enthusiastic, just won't cut it.) You have to live up to these higher professional expectations—or else accept that you work better under someone else's guidance. Which is it? What other options *are* there?

As 2014 opens, Venus will be retrograde in your 10th (through the end of January), further emphasizing questions about the *direction* in which your most fortuitous career developments might lie. Though Venus is overall a benefic influence, her retrograde phases are notorious for bringing back old relationships (is there unfinished business to resolve?) and/or showing us peeks of a promising new possibility (is this *really* as great as it seems?), so that we must actively reconsider what we *thought* was most valuable to us. In a 10th-house context, Venus's retrograde may well open your eyes to *alternative* job-prospects or career-trajectories via the arrival of opportunities you hadn't previously taken so seriously... or perhaps revive a former professional connection, leading you to rethink why you ever left a certain situation behind. With Venus retrograde, though, it's important to realize the *eventual* outcome (which only shows itself *after* Venus is direct) may not be quite what you'd imagined when this chance first presented itself. Yet, the whole *process* of reassessing whether you're on the right track professionally (even if you end up reaffirming, yes, your existing position remains your best fit) is what's *really* valuable... and where Venus's beneficence ultimately resides.

Perhaps the most *troublesome* feature of your 2014 will be Mars's *very lengthy* stay in your one-on-one relationship house (the 7th), which began back in December '13 and continues into late July—a rather unusual occurrence considering Mars usually moves through a sign in about seven weeks, instead of this marathon *seven-and-a-half months*. This visit is so drawn out due to Mars going retrograde during a chunk of this time (March 1-May 19), which only *further* vexes an already-unhappy Mars (ill-at-ease in Libra, a sign of his *detriment*) with irregular spurts of interpersonal assertiveness and/or aggression. Bluntly put, Mars-in-the-7th often brings

*relational conflict*: We want one thing from the pairing, and the other person wants something else. Do we full-on *fight* until it goes our way? Do we attempt to manipulatively sweet-talk the other person so they come to believe *they* want it our way, too? Or do we merely grumble and grump, irritated as hell this *isn't* going our way, and lash out over every last little annoyance? All are likely scenarios.

Mars doesn't *have* to bring conflict, of course, but alternatively could motivate you to more assuredly reach for what'll better satisfy your relationship needs. If you *aren't* coupled off and wish to be, Mars-in-the-7th can imbue you with the initiative and moxie to actually go out and grab what you want. Still, there's no denying Mars's likely *contentious* effect on your interpersonal life... especially in light of the fact that, throughout his prolonged 7th-house stay, Mars will spar (by challenging aspect) with Uranus and Pluto (as well as, at times, Jupiter). As such, both the Uranian impulse to audaciously declare your uncompromising independence *and* the Plutonian drive to come into your power on the world stage will *directly* impact, in a rough and rivalrous fashion, how well (or, should I say, *not* well) you get along with others. Add in the *retrograde* factor, and you might find yourself waging one battle one day, then suddenly waging the *opposite* one the next... allies and adversaries shifting from one category to the next, and back again, over the course of these first months of the year. Consider these interpersonal struggles the flipside offshoot to all the focus on *self* that permeates your astro-forecast: One apparently comes along with the other in 2014.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

With Venus retrograde in your 10th right out of the gate, your 2014 starts off with the perspective-altering appearance of a bright career opportunity somewhat *different* than what you've recently been involved with (e.g., a shift in responsibilities, a return to former glory, a detour from the existing path)... begging you to pause and reexamine what you really hope to reap from your work over the longer term. This dovetails with Pluto's continuing impact on your 10th, which raises the bar on the level of managerial engagement expected of you, if you intend to continue progressing in this field. January's your month for staying open to *all* options, assessing each according to whether it affords you an unconstrained shot at greater self-empowerment into the future. Watch out for competitive or unfriendly colleagues who might provoke you into losing your cool, in a split second dashing your chance to cinch a coveted



spot. If career success is your priority, you'll have to control your temper and deal *diplomatically* (though not necessarily weakly) with difficult characters... an approach worth applying again in April, when your rebellious streak is at a high. Aim to resolve January's questions about which direction to head by late February or early March, aware that this step *could* require cutting ties with a key contact and/or making peace with a former foe.

Financial issues are liable to prove more complicated than you might like, thanks to ongoing strain throughout the year from Saturn-in-your-8th (where he's been since October 2012), which may be holding your economic destiny inextricably tied to other people or entities and, thus, out of your full control. When in the 8th house, Saturn often brings home to roost any unpaid debts, taxes, and/or other extenuating financial circumstances born out of prior entanglements or short-sighted decisions. Likewise, he strongly discourages any hastily-entered-into partnerships that might impact your wallet, threatening severer consequences for not properly vetting such deals or protecting your own interests. On the other hand, purposeful and well-thought-out collaborations (with *very clear* boundaries and conditions, please) can prove quite long-lasting under Saturn's watch. Bear all this mind during your most financially favorable period: Talk money during the second half of April and into early May, with the expectation that any lucrative results won't manifest until June. Please prevent your rash side from imprudently agreeing to unreasonable terms, just to nab the quick cash.

Later in August and all through September, you'll be at your most plainly *productive*, with a calmer ability to concentrate on all the important practical details—if, and only if, you don't fall prey to wishful thinking or an unrealistic work-plan. Likewise in August, if you've gotten yourself too deep into a situation binding your fate to someone else's, the shit is likely to hit the fan. However, if such involvements are instead likely to yield you *profitable* returns, you should receive a reassuring indication of that toward the end of October or beginning of November. November's also a critical month for stepping up the plate, asserting your authority, and/or battling any stubborn obstacles standing in your path to greater eminence. If any power struggles have been brewing on the professional front, they're likely to come to a head at this time. December ends an especially dynamic career year with Venus back in your 10th... reaping you the fruits of *exactly* what you've sown, and providing one more big chance to speak your truth (strategically, of course) from center-stage.

## Relationships / Romance

Your 2014 relationship outlook is *not*, by any stretch of the imagination, a simple or smooth-sailing affair—not with the persistent trouble-making presence of Mars in your house of one-on-one partnership (the 7th) for the *entire* first half of the year, including *two-and-half-months* retrograde. As I already mentioned, Mars-in-the-7th heightens your potential for interpersonal friction, a result of your willful attempts to get more of your relationship desires met *clashing* with how the other player(s) wants it to go. This is not an altogether ‘bad’ situation, insofar as Mars’s collisions with Uranus, Pluto, and Jupiter suggest any relational bumps are integrally linked with the transitional turbulences you’re also experiencing in *other* areas of your life. Why *wouldn’t* there be a significant degree of interpersonal unrest, if you’re simultaneously dealing with professional pressures (Pluto in the 10th), the prospect of a residential move and/or renewed engagement with your family-of-origin (Jupiter in the 4th), *and* a raw burst of defiant independence (Uranus in the 1st)? As *any* of these life-zones greet change, you’ll need to do a *lot* of negotiation (and renegotiation) with anybody who shares your life, to ensure the dynamics between you can sufficiently evolve along with these changes.

Mars-in-the-7th first rumbles with these outer planets during the last week of ’13 and the first week of ’14, setting a potentially disagreeable or full-on combative tone which could likely continue, on and off, for months. You’ll be challenged to keep your cool, especially when you feel the other person should just *respect* where you’re coming from, *without* having to confer about every little issue. But that’s *not* how relationships work. To be fair, you need to put in the effort to consider *their* side, too. Draw on the less-biased feedback of thoughtful friends as this discord shakes out into February; without the same emotional charge, their perspectives could clarify something you’ve thus been unable to see. Likewise, you single folks should talk out your shifting relational preferences with your wisest pals, who can help kindly point out your blind-spots (and maybe even suggest a better match based on your *current* life-circumstances). Once Mars goes retrograde early in March, all bets are off: What you *thought* you were at odds about might suddenly come second to a *different* contentious issue. Attentions may abruptly shift; patience could start running shorter or longer.

This relational clusterfuck of cross-purposes climaxes in April, during Mars’s second outer-planet rumble and a pair of eclipses. Decisive *game-changing* action is likely; let’s just hope it’s

what you *really* want, not something you'll later come to regret. Mars returns to direct motion midway through May, right when Venus (in your sign all month, to beef up your powers-of-attraction) enters the Uranus-Pluto fray: This puts *you* in the 'winning' position in any standoff, as Venus displays obvious evidence you have *other* romantic options than just *this* exasperating one. Still, *impulsivity* remains your biggest danger. Blinded by this passing boost, you could walk away from a meaningful partnership, only to find its 'replacement' is merely a fleeting fancy. Mars's final 7th-house drama moves through in June, for one more critical round of interpersonal back-and-forths. By the time Jupiter enters your 5th midway through July, you'll be *way* ready for some less complicated *pleasures*... however that plays out. Though there's *lots* of alluring potential for passionate canoodling with some hot number during August, you'll please be mindful about how *deeply* to get involved (thanks again, Saturn-in-the-8th), especially if there's unfinished business from your *last* situation. October's your most balanced month relationship-wise, with Venus bringing much-needed lightness to your 7th. If you *are* involved in a more serious way, you'll have a good sense of where it's going—*and* what the lasting problems might be—by the end of November.

## **January**

Questions about your evolving role on the professional (or public-community) stage dominate January, as a retrograde Venus-in-your-10th reveals your most promising opportunities may *not* lie where you once *thought* they did. Or maybe they still do. It's worth reassessing where your established ambitions are leading you, even if you reaffirm you're on the right track. Regardless of which direction you go, you must continue taking your role as a leader seriously, curtailing any gratuitous rebellious streaks *and* rising above petty disputes with certain bothersome characters (who might bait you with their calm-voiced passive-aggression). Keep your game face on during work hours; pander to your agitated emotions only once you're home. Later in the month, rely on trusted allies to help you pitch your ideas.

## **February**

Throughout February, you're expected to maintain a fair and even tone to all your dealings, so as not to give the doubters a chance to call you out for indulging an irrational viewpoint based on subjective feelings. The onus definitely rests on *you* to refrain from throwing snarky personal

shots into the conversation, lest you create drama that needlessly distracts from the issue-at-hand. Your rising reputation out in the world depends on knowing just where to *stop short*, when it comes to sensitive topics and troublemaker types. To cover your ass, run any potentially charged communications past your smartest teammates first (provided they *aren't* directly involved in this matter), to double-check your phrasings are clean of any unconscious digs. If they think something feels 'off', don't argue the point: Alter your wording, just to be safe.

## **March**

You may well spend the first half of March tying up any loose-ends hanging over from last month. If you've kept a equitable attitude this whole time, you probably need to do little more than amiably *repeat* what you've already said. (If you *haven't*, please try your best to recapture a cooler head—*then* say it again.) Leave plenty of room for you and/or the other players to *shift* your feelings toward, rather than holding anyone to something they felt earlier. Sometimes, you just need time to let everything settle into place. Stay socially connected throughout the month, particularly with friends who more fully see 'the big picture'; their outside perspectives will support you in *not* fixating on a single limiting narrative. But by the tail end of March, you'll probably be so tired of *talking*, you can give yourself permission to zip your lips... and quietly focus on imaginative daydreams.

## **April**

Your itch for *freedom! independence! excitement!* is flaring on all cylinders as the month opens, tempting you to cross an authority-figure and/or tarnish something you've worked hard for, just so you can say or do whatever the hell you want. Isn't there another way to scratch that itch *without* causing any real damage? Don't underestimate the power of a certain someone to *get under your skin*: April's astrology is strongly influenced by retrograde Mars-in-your-7th, a constant interpersonal irritant keeping your fuse pretty short. In fact, this edgy relational vibe will probably impact *everything else* going on. *Before* you pop off on someone, please make sure your temper's being directed to the *right* place and/or person. Financial (or otherwise practical) concerns arise at month's end, hopefully inspiring you to think twice about any hasty actions which would impact your bottom-line.

## May

Thanks to Venus's month-long visit to your sign, you're brandishing an irresistible hotness throughout May... and it only gets *hotter* whenever you dare to do things that *set you apart* from the crowd. While there's *still* lasting friction in your relationship house (the 7th), you're more distinctly in an *advantageous* position now. Rather than grinding that same old axe, though, you *could* use this energy to initiate a *new* relationship or get to know an acquaintance a bit better. Don't tie yourself to any particular outcome from these explorations; it's more about *checking out your options* than getting into another sticky situation. Early in May, conversations about money or other important business should be handled shrewdly, with good self-protective boundaries. If you can't seem to get what you want, don't push the point. This isn't the right time for reckless demands.

## June

You'll make greater headway with money issues earlier in the month, as long as you continue nurturing their progress with slow-and-steady responsibility. You might be put on the spot to agree to *giving more*, in order to *get* more of what you want. Please take the time to understand what you'd be committing to *before* signing on. Mid-June brings another rattling round of developments to your stormy relationship life... but *this* final pass of Mars-in-the-7th through the Uranus-Pluto eye will likely deliver the *culminating* punch. You now have all the information you need to take decisive action. If things haven't yet evolved to your liking, they probably won't. The last weeks of June are best spent in dynamic social circulation, with you and your pals filling each other in on the latest happenings. Telling your story, over and over again to different people, helps you make clearer sense of it.

## July

Throughout July, you're likely to periodically crave a nourishing recharge of solitary peace-and-quiet. Hopefully, you can fight off the pressures to stay outwardly active (from others or your own needlessly guilty conscience) when you'd rather stay home. Remember: You aren't required to offer a detailed explanation of why you feel this way. There probably *isn't* a reason, other than, 'Because *that's* how I feel.' That's *also* how to explain why, on a *different* day, you

might be feel super-social... particularly earlier in July, your ideal chance to smooth over a pal's ruffled feathers (due to your friction with a mutual friend, perhaps?). Strive to ease this pal's mind *without* backpedaling if you don't really mean it. A late-in-the-month surge of enthusiasm hints at *more fun* in August.

## **August**

August may be your most playful and pleasurable month all year, thanks to a cluster of 5th-house planets. But don't push the envelope so far that you create cumbersome complications you hadn't counted on. For example, watch out for 'innocent' jokes that end up offending someone by 'hitting too close to home'. Similarly, while enticing romantic prospects are *obviously* available to you, you should be upfront about whether you're looking for a relationship—or merely a sizzling hookup. Otherwise, 'just going for it' when you two have conflicting intentions is a recipe for hurt feelings... which *could* lead to spiteful acts of revenge, if you messed with the wrong person. When work demands ratchet up in the month's latter half, you might have to arm-wrestle yourself into disciplined submission, or your flighty side will wastefully whittle the hours away.

## **September**

September's an excellent month to whistle while you work, as you find easier satisfaction from productively pushing through piles of to-dos. Part of the job entails getting key allies on board with the latest advances. Thankfully, you're wielding very *convincing* words... but most especially when your communications explain how your way will improve *their* life (rather than describing it from the me-first angle). This is your leadership challenge: How should you present an idea if you want to get people genuinely *excited* about it? You'll *definitely* benefit from honing this skill. Even with obvious reasons to focus on the day-to-day work, you'll find it increasingly hard to stay consistently on task as September progresses: Your inner fire's been sparked by the promise of an inspiring adventure in your not-so-distant-future. But it's not time *yet*.

## October

Interpersonal relationships again take center-stage in October, an eclipse-jolting month liable to awaken sudden and/or surprising feelings in you ... *maybe* even inspiring a dramatic decision to do something decidedly *different*. This time, though, it's benefic Venus in your 7th, increasing the likelihood of a more blissful and harmonious union and/or reconnection. How to know if a new or rekindled coupling is right for you (at least right now)? Your dream-match will have a lot of knowledge or experience in areas you're hungry to learn more about, and/or comes from a background you find intriguing. Of course *they* have to be just as fascinated by what *you* know, too, if mutual interest is to be sustained. Why invest all that energy unless you two can teach each other things for a long time to come?

## November

With multiple conjunctions to Saturn-in-your-8th, November is a test of how *conscientiously* you can contend with intensifying circumstances and/or psychologically complex realities. Your cleanest approach will neither (1) insincerely whitewash or altogether avoid what's *really* going on, nor (2) worsen a touchy situation by offering painful observations which can't be taken back. Interpersonally, this requires being unapologetically *honest* about how much you're willing (or *not* willing) to give, but doing so with grace. (*Any* relationship, no matter how 'casual', obliges you to treat the other person's feelings responsibly.) Such honesty can significantly *deepen* your connection, with lasting positive consequences. Professionally, this is a powerful month to step up and assert your authority, provided it's legitimately *yours* to assert. Too uppity an attitude on your part *will* lead to a humbling smackdown from a higher-up not so keen on your upstart antics.

## December

Your final month of '14 kicks off on a high, as a rise in creative vision fills you with anticipatory enthusiasm for all that now seems possible. The excitement is so strong early in December, you may hardly be able to stop yourself from diving into the unknown. Should you hold back? That depends on whether you're *really* ready to make the most of this wild shot. You might get *better* results by slowing down enough to take care of a few important preparations. From mid-

month, you've got a wonderful chance to carve out your career mark, as interested eyes watch your every move. Be aware your longer-term professional reputation is being shaped by the impression you're *now* creating. Someone in your circle could be hunting for a quarrel, based on some lingering grudge you might not even know about. If the tension comes to a head, please fight fair: No one else will side with you, if you're being unnecessarily patronizing or mean.



## TAURUS

One-on-one relationships remain your biggest hot-button issue again in 2014, Taurus, as you tread through one more full year of taskmaster Saturn poking through your 7th.

This shouldn't be *new* astro-news to you, seeing as Saturn's been pushing you to be as intentional, forthright, and sincere as possible in all your closest interpersonal dealings since he first hit your relationship house back in October 2012. There's no doubt this *isn't* the easiest position from which to meet Saturn's challenges: You're under continual pressure to invest *extra* conscientious effort into your relational behaviors, which often requires *stretching past* your comfort zone... in order to unflinchingly confront the awkward truths and/or complexities underscoring what's *really* going on between you and any significant other(s).

Are you genuinely *content* in your current relationship status (whether single, coupled off, or in some other arrangement)? Is there an intense, complicating issue lurking in the shadows... one which you *know* you've got to face, but aren't exactly *excited* about facing? Have you been earnestly attending to your interpersonal *work*? Or have you shoved your head in the sand, wishing against all odds that this inconvenient dilemma or nagging dissatisfaction might miraculously vanish on its own? (Fat chance.)

Transiting Saturn points us to where our most urgent *work* awaits at any given time. And when he's in the 7th, we must *work* at our relationships. Yes, relationships *do* require work, despite any hyperromantic notions that, once we find somebody we click with, everything between us ought to flow ultra-smoothly forevermore. However, because you Taureans are renowned for favoring simplicity, consistency, and routine, you may sometimes struggle with (or even *resent*) the fact that being in a successful relationship often demands you *upset* your expectations and patterns... because, of course, the *other person* (whoever they may be) will have *their own* psychological drives, shifting feelings, desires, complaints, and all the rest.

That's why relationships are such a valuable asset: They act as a mirror, allowing us to see ourselves in a clearer light, revealing our blind-spots, challenging our self-defining narratives, and hopefully providing us a chance to deepen into fuller self-knowledge. All the while, we get to share this experience with someone else, building intimacy as we go. But when we resign

ourselves to a less-than-fulfilling position in a relationship, settling for circumstances which don't fit and/or selling out our truest yearnings, or decide *not to bother at all* ('why rock the boat?'), we miss out on this essential element of life. We may be 'safe' from the complications other people bring with them, sure—and we lose a vital opportunity to learn, to evolve, and to *love* through difference.

2014 is a critical year in your interpersonal development, Taurus, insofar as Saturn will wrap up his trip through your 7th (briefly returning from June to September '15), *crystallizing* whatever's your current behavioral stance toward relationships. That's right: Saturn leaves an *enduring* impact when he moves through a house, bestowing the logical consequences, both good *and* bad, of the efforts (or lack thereof) we've put forth in that zone-of-life. Put in the hard work to strengthen a cherished relationship *now*, and it'll likely be solid for *some time* to come. Fearlessly examine whatever issues have held you back from attaining relational satisfaction, and you'll make *lasting* progress upon which you can build a more satisfying future. Address your problems with courage and determination, and you'll see results. But allow them to fester, and they'll only *worsen*. If you're with the *wrong* person and/or *unhappy* with your current relationship status, *do something about it* this year.

Your ruler Venus's retrograde as 2014 starts (Dec 21 '13-Jan 31 '14) is another astro-indicator you may be due for interpersonal *reconsiderations*, particularly when assessing how cleanly your relationships are aligned with your bigger-picture beliefs and/or what's most *truly meaningful* to you. This retrograde falls in your 9th house, where you step back from familiar day-to-day concerns and reflect on higher values: What matters most to me? What actions and attitudes qualify as 'right' and 'wrong' according to my ethics? Retrograde Venus-in-your-9th presents you an opportunity to look at these questions from an alternative angle... whether due to witnessing *another* side to your partner's moral fiber, encountering an old flame or glittering new prospect who approaches life in a very different way, and/or meditating on your ultimate relational goals from a more distinctly *philosophic* angle. The purpose of such questionings? To affirm your associations *are* leading you somewhere you'll be proud to be—and to expose any *chasms* between who you're involved with and what you truly value, so you can make the necessary adjustments.

Scrutinizing—maybe even deconstructing, then reconstructing—your judgments continues to be a larger-and-deeper undertaking, with Pluto *also* occupying your 9th house on a far longer-term basis (2008-2024). Pluto's presence in your 9th forces you to confront the *shadow-side* of your guiding beliefs... to excavate what's *beneath* any tidy maxims or overly-black-and-white determinations, investigating their actual source (strict parents? pedantic teachers? a fundamentalist religious background?) to reach the originating root of *why* you believe what you do. For instance, what you might inaccurately attribute to 'common sense' informing your values could likely have a knotty *psychological* element at its core, begging for further unraveling. Doing so can, admittedly, be *painful*, if it spurs a philosophic crisis and/or calls for some soul-searching. But what better thing to devotedly search for than a neglected aspect of your *soul*?

There's a 'faraway' quality to 9th-house symbolism that fits well with this notion of soul-searching. Often, we must leave our immediate surroundings and set off on some journey to unfamiliar surroundings, in order to gain enough perspectival contrast so we can see ourselves in a new light. As such, the 9th rules our relationship to foreign travel, higher education, and any other non-native ideologies or ways-of-knowing... all of which support us in incorporating outside experiences into our consciousness, continually broadening the concepts we use to define 'a meaningful life' and distilling them to their essence. As Pluto remains entrenched in your 9th, take note of any powerfully passionate urges to set off toward a certain travel, educational, or philosophic destination, even if the urge doesn't 'fit' with your existing meaning-system. By heeding that call, you just might transform your whole approach to understanding your life-purpose.

To be clear, Pluto-in-the-9th doesn't automatically suggest there's any *error* in your thinking... though the only way to be certain, let's be honest, is to thoroughly pick apart its tenets. While you are free to follow whatever golden rules you wish, the danger in not properly vetting such rules is that they just may *prevent* you from growing, from getting the absolute *most* out of your limited time as a living breathing human—all because of an under-examined *prohibition* against certain types of experience, and/or inherited *shame* about your desire for some way-out-there adventure.

Pluto's ongoing clash with Uranus-in-your-12th further activates this spiritual reorientation, by perpetuating a heightened likelihood of dimension-warping *surprises*, as if a mischievously nurturing God (or Sentient Universe) is always about ready to play a trick or two on you, just to ensure you don't get too smugly secure in your dogma. The Uranus-Pluto square (the radically disruptive aspect which has cast our entire *decade* with its tone of revolutionary unrest) hits your solar chart across the two houses which deal with our connection to 'what's greater than us': The 9th is where we articulate our stated beliefs about it, but the 12th is where we actually *experience* it in all its irrational, otherworldly, magical and dumbfounding *mystery*. These houses sit in a tense angle to one another because it's *impossible* to consciously contain the unruly-and-bendable whole of Existence within *any* single understanding, try though we might.

Rabble-rousing Uranus thus seeks to provoke Pluto's tyrannical 9th-house claims of Knowledge-with-a-capital-'K' by unexpectedly tossing you 12th-house *shocks*, which arise seemingly from thin air and/or largely out of your control... helping fuel your esoteric curiosities, inspire cosmic awe, and humble any overconfident consciousness-reaches. Working *with* Uranus-in-the-12th depends upon your willingness to acknowledge *other* modes of 'knowing' that may totally betray your sense of earthly logic: psychic hunches, synchronistic happenings, vivid dream-messages, meditative emergences, sudden split-second epiphanies. What might transpire if you were to actually *follow* such feelings, to take actions you cannot justify with any reasonable explanation (though, inside, you just 'know' they're right)? Chances are, you'd end up somewhere you otherwise wouldn't have allowed yourself to venture. That's how magic happens—and how its unfolding forces us to reexamine how we *thought* everything works.

However, any planet moving through the 12th defies our firmest grasp, and hosting Uranus's erratic energy there could cause strange twists-of-fate you're essentially powerless to do much about, other than to seek their 'higher' meaning and/or rest on your faith. Another party's actions or some other 'act of God' may significantly alter a circumstance in *your* life, leaving you little choice but to accept it and adapt accordingly. By Uranus's logic, you're likelier to avoid such a fate if you've proactively engaged with actualizing this energy; it needs to be expressed one way or another, either *with* your willing participation or wholly of its own renegade makings.

These Uranus-Pluto dynamics will be *exacerbated* through the first half of '14, due to an extended visit from Mars to your 6th house—which includes a 2½-month retrograde period—

lasting into late July. For a planet that usually grooves through a house in about seven weeks, Mars's *seven-and-a-half months* in your 6th (beginning in early December '13) insist you pour constant practical attention toward your day-to-day mundane duties, work-related tasks and other chores, as well as your physical-health habits (such as diet, exercise and sleep). Expect disruptions to your usual routines and/or small irritating problems to persist, causing unforeseen (and probably *undesired*) diversions of your productive energy toward these items. Because Mars both opposes Uranus *and* squares Pluto, it's likely your need to divert your functional efforts is interrelated to your shifting sense of purpose and/or any out-of-your-control surprises, forcing you to respond on an everyday basis through what you spend your work-time actually *doing*. On the other hand, concentrating on the 'doing'—and all the small adjustments and readjustments you must make—can both provide a *simplifying* presence to otherwise wild circumstances *and* help you sort out your theoretical principles based on what tangibly *works*.

Jupiter's arrival to your 4th in mid-July ushers in a yearlong phase (stretching into August '15) during which you can cultivate a renewed *inner optimism* by investing more conscious attention to your private home life. Because the 4th rules both our domestic existence *and* the manner in which we take nourishing care of our own tender insides, you'll experience a direct positive correlation between (1) any efforts to make your residence more personally comfortable and self-nurturing and (2) a fuller sense of emotional replenishment arising from your at-home relaxation... creating a warmer foundation for yourself, from which advantageous benefits will ripple outward into everything else. As the 4th also symbolizes our relationships with parents (and/or other close family-members), Jupiter's presence suggests you work towards a new level of peaceful understanding between you—or at least greater resolution inside *your* heart—with regards to any looming issues or rough-spots. Focus more on what *you* will gain through forgiveness, instead of worrying that anyone's being 'let off the hook' for past bad-behavior.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

With Mars spending the first *seven* months of 2014 in your solar 6th, you can expect *lots* of work to get done this year... though it might end up being *different* work than you'd intended to concentrate on, with a few irksome detours and/or methodological above-faces courtesy of Mars's retrograde (March 1-May 19). Thankfully, you'll possess plenty of initiative and steam to invest in this dynamically changing work regimen. The main threat to your productive success

could be your own frustrations and resentments, especially if you feel you're constantly having to *react* to unanticipated developments or disturbances you're incapable of controlling. After all, your action-agent (i.e., Mars-in-the-6th) will be hit multiple times by ruffling aspects from Uranus, Pluto, and Jupiter, making it *hard* to stay focused in any single direction... even though continuing to strive for such focus, day in and day out, is probably your most sanity-supporting approach. This is *not* the moment to worry about the longer-range outlook; take each new twist as it comes.

The first round of Mars-in-the-6th's rattling kerfuffle is already in effect as the year opens, kicking January off with an unstable on-the-job feel that'll require you to rethink what you're doing from the top-down mission-statement view. Encouraging conversations with the other power-players get underway later in the month... but due to Mercury retrograding back into your 10th in February, you should plan on these talks taking longer than expected (the story of your work year!) and not yielding an agreeable resolution until at least March, once Venus's arrival to the 10th sweetens the scene. Because of Saturn's stubborn presence in your relationship house (7th), all 10th-house career-related advances hinge upon your ability to diligently negotiate with a certain key partner or colleague—and this may prove tougher than it sounds, particularly if you must deal with a complicated issue that simply *can't* be adequately addressed in one or two meetings.

April's the month when shit is likeliest to hit the fan, based again on circumstances largely out of your hands. Yet it *is* within your power to keep the day-to-day boat afloat... and, as the last part of April bleeds into May and June, you may actually *strengthen* your sense of self-reliance by competently and consistently staying the course every day. While these developments continue to unfold (seeing as Mars won't clear the hot-zone until late in June), you'll also have an opening to begin whatever deeds or discussions could directly lead to an income-boost. That's one advantage to all this madness: It's a good chance to show off your talents, making a clear case for your deserving *more*. Don't expect to see concrete results until July. If you're a real-estate-oriented person, August is an *excellent* month for lucrative deals, thanks to Venus and Jupiter conjoining in your 4th. September and October are a good time to reengage whatever logistical issues you had to 'quick-fix' earlier in the year; with less urgency and no fires to put out this time around, you might find a much better solution now. December presents your best shot at garnering yourself more noteworthy public attention... though please remain aware that *your* Moment-to-Shine could likely upset an envious boss or competitor.

## Relationships / Romance

If you've gotten *this far* into your forecast, you probably already figured it out: When it comes to your relationships in 2014, *nothing* should be treated casually. But just because you're facing Saturn-in-the-7th's stricter pressure to be unwaveringly conscientious, forthright, and honest about what you *really* want out of a coupling, that doesn't mean your romantic outlook is *unfavorable*. You single Taureans and/or those who are 'maybe-kind-of-sorta-dating' can save yourself the squandered energy—and actually *increase* your chances of finding a suitable match, if not right away then at some later point—by *sharpening* your focus, weeding out those who simply *aren't* 'relationship material' (at least for *you*). And those who are happily partnered off may find you're *more strongly committed than ever*, as a result of your realistic attitude and your willingness to invest the effort. There's no denying, however, that if you've been bearing less-than-ideal relational circumstances and/or refusing to face the music with regards to a lurking problem, Saturn is now forcing you to confront the painful truth. Please don't fight against Saturn's sobering reality-check: If you don't deal with the glaring issue *now*, you're setting yourself up for worsening discontent in the years to come.

In the first quarter of the year, you could face periodic conflicts between (1) what your career requires and (2) the expectations your main-squeeze or possible-partner may have of you. Chances are, you'll want—or perhaps even *need*—to deal with the pressing work-related concerns and, as a result, sometimes see the relationship's demands merely as an inconvenient hassle. Think through this response thoroughly, especially if you truly *value* the relationship, before behaving in a dismissive fashion that *could* come back to bite you. Or maybe it's the other person who doesn't comprehend or respect the value of your professional aspirations... and *this* is the sign that you're on two very different pages? In the height of April's chaos, you might be surprised to connect more intimately with an acquaintance or teammate who's in the same boat you are; what better foundation for a new partnership than *shared experience*? While you ought to feel reinvigorated and a bit more 'on your game' during May and June, you can't get around the fact that You-Know-Who is cramping your style or infringing on your me-time. Proper balance is key. July's a good month to strike up conversation with a stranger or casual pal you'd like to get to know better; a flowing rapport should be easy to establish and maintain.

At the tail-end of July, hot-blooded Mars lands in your 7th, an influence that emboldens you to more assertively grab for who you desire and/or what you want from them... but just as often incites interpersonal aggression or conflict, should you find the other person's intentions are at odds with yours. This Mars-in-the-7th relational edge continues into August, when your heightened emotions could lead to an intensifying battle-of-wills. If you're going to fight, please fight *fair*; otherwise, Saturn's liable to slap you with irreversibly unpleasant fallout. To diffuse this potential, you may simply need more time to yourself to decompress. With Venus sprucing up your 5th house, September is an auspicious time to be out and about having fun, boosting your chance of attracting someone who enjoys the same pleasurable pursuits you do. Perhaps you two can 'pursue pleasure' together? Late-October-into-November could be your smoothest relationship period all year... though 'smooth' is a relative term, thanks to Saturn. As a result, by the time December rolls around, you'll have just seen the very *best* parts of your current relationship situation thriving—and, therefore, can most *clearly* evaluate where you are.

## **January**

Is the ethical 'high-road' you've recently been treading the *only* principled path? With your ruler Venus retrograde in the 9th all month, you're in a prime spot to mull over *alternative* viewpoints and perspectives which, though they may be something of a *stretch* from your ingrained beliefs, are just as honorable—and might actually grant you *more space* to integrate the unforeseen twists without anyone (you or someone else) having to be 'wrong'. This reevaluation could require you to actively *adapt* your understanding of what 'higher purpose' drives your work in the world. But if you *resist* this pressure to adapt, you might hold up your whole evolutionary process. During the second half of January, you'll hold both a masterful vision for how to advance your professional efforts *and* the steam to actualize it. The challenging part will be taking the time to win over key partners or colleagues, while still respecting their potentially hard-to-hear feedback.

## **February**

Career-related conversations begun last month continue into February, as Mercury retrogrades back into your 10th. You'll make more progress by sticking close to whichever logistical approach yields the best practical results, rather than letting the talks devolve into a battle-of-



wills. There's simply *no way forward* without factoring in what this other critical player thinks, even if you don't like it—unless you're prepared to sacrifice the relationship due to a clash of values. As the month goes on, you'll increasingly enjoy some relief from the constant work concerns by immersing yourself in your circle of friends and/or community of like-minded individuals, a social environment in which you can check your ego at the door and dissolve into a blissfully loving *togetherness*. Don't be shy about asking for their opinions about anything which weighs heavy on your heart.

### **March**

Your physical energies are likely to be diverted somewhere *other* than you'd intended to spend them, with regards to job duties and/or bodily-health concerns, thanks to Mars turning retrograde in your 6th right as March begins. Go wherever the flow carries you; otherwise, you'll just be *peev*ed the whole time you're trying to get 'back on track'. It's actually a pretty favorable month for you career-wise, as long as you allow the wild-card factor(s) to influence your everyday handling of responsibilities... and, at the same time, *refuse* to let any ongoing challenges in a certain relationship rain on your parade. Within the social safe-space created by your trusted pals, allow yourself to be unashamedly vulnerable. Actively sharing your conflicted feelings about that one interpersonal situation can help you build intimacy in others.

### **April**

Not only is April an especially tempestuous time for everyone, but you're liable to feel peculiarly ineffective at *doing* much to stop the rapid-fire cascade of developments and reactions. The strong 12th-house influence during the first part of your month suggests you should *accept* this passing lack of control, largely letting the volatile events unfold as they will. What you *can* control: continuing to make any essential adjustments in your day-to-day habits and routines, to sustain your productivity and well-being in response to continually changing circumstances. Later in the month, you'll reclaim fuller agency in steering the direction of events still to unfold. Based on what's already happened, your first order of business will likely involve the launch of some distinct *fresh start*. Apply everything you've recently learned about interpersonal integrity to *do this differently*, rather than replicating old belief-patterns.

## May

Your May is all about taking the necessary initiative to re-stabilize the boat as best you can, even while knowing it hasn't completely stopped rocking yet. If certain primary relationships are looking like they *will* stand the test of time, invest *more* in them by purposefully *including* those folks in every step of your renewal process. It's also an opportune month for focusing on your financial outlook, attacking any problems (such as not having enough money) on *multiple* fronts, rather than putting all your eggs in one basket. Don't fixate on whether you're visibly receiving the good results you feel are due to you; they might not materialize for another month or two. Be aware these well-meaning moves to attend to your own interests could unintentionally trample on the toes of a peer or teammate. If they call you out on it, please take in their criticism: They're seeing something you are not.

## June

With Venus in your sign much of the month, June may *finally* deliver some tangible rewards you've strived hard to attain since '14 began. Be sure to share the bounty with whoever's been by your side through thick and thin; your success will be all the sweeter. One last grapple between Mars-in-your-6th and the Uranus-Pluto square means you're *still* caught up in assimilating unexpected turns and/or powerful shifts-in-thinking into your methods of managing the mundane business-at-hand... particularly if a new stream of potential income requires you to make room in your schedule for its development. If anything, this period's hopefully shown you can be more *flexible* with your habits than Taurus stereotypes would suggest. Though it's been undeniably disruptive, this constant variability in day-to-day demands has kept you from staying stuck in your ways.

## July

By mid-July, your everyday operations ought to start running like a well-oiled machine once again... and along with that should come a refreshed sense of *confidence* in your abilities. What better way to celebrate than to fill your spare time with a lot of easygoing, lightweight social fluff? For perhaps the first time all year, things *don't* have to be so damn serious. Please remember that, should a pal's offhand remark trigger a sensitive response to some issue you

feel strongly about. You *could* confront them on the errors in their thinking, and maybe help them expand their mindset—or maybe just embroil *yourself* deeper into an unpleasant exchange. Is it a battle worth fighting? Or would you be happier to just excuse yourself from the scene, and contentedly enjoy a bit more quiet time at home? In the months ahead, that ‘quiet time at home’ choice will become increasingly appealing... and just as soul-nourishing.

## **August**

Pouring lots of happy vibes into your domestic life—which, in turn, will help you feel more nurtured and nestled on the private emotional level—is an *ideal* focus for your August. This is also a good time to reconnect with your family, *if* such reconnections will warm your heart... or to step in and *do for yourself* what you wish they could do for you. The presence of Mars in your relationship house (the 7th) bespeaks of a heightened potential for *interpersonal conflict*, due to one and/or the other of you asserting your desires more strongly. Alternatively, this Mars-in-the-7th could embolden you to become more *direct* in your pursuit of a new romantic prospect, based on your *specific* personal predilections (rather than just settling for whoever comes your way). Whatever the case, the interpersonal actions you take *this* month are likely to have *lasting* effects (good or bad), thanks to Saturn’s unrelenting watch.

## **September**

The more exacting you are in articulating to yourself what genuinely brings you *pleasure*, the likelier you are to actually *attract* those pleasurable activities (and admirers!) throughout September. This is one instance in which holding firm to your cherished beliefs will *serve* you, as opposed to holding you back: Life’s too short to fill your leisure moments with people and experiences that don’t feel personally meaningful to you. Both professionally *and* in your leisure time, use your most gracious (and crafty) communication skills to explain *exactly* how you want things to happen... in a way which helps convince the other party that’s how *they* wanted it to go, too. Mid-month, when Mars moves into your 8th, relationships that have been going well will *beam* with deepening intimacy... while any unhealthy interpersonal dynamics are likely to *intensify* to more upsetting proportions.

## **October**

October may prove gratifyingly *productive* on the practical level, as long as you're patient with the need to *continue* engaging discussions about how to get the work done... even when it feels like you're forced to repeat yourself and/or readdress topics that were already resolved but are now suddenly *unresolved* again. Be brave and forthright in emotionally charged situations where you fear that 'going all the way into it' might cause irreversible consequences: You'll never feel true relief until you actually *go there*. Those 'consequences' you fear, though potentially painful in the short-term, could ultimately *open your heart* wider than ever. (Trying to push the reality away, meanwhile, just perpetuates a dull distress.) At month's end, your interpersonal life should benefit from the favorable influence of the Sun and Venus in your 7th. With their trines to Neptune, those who are single-and-looking should put yourself out amongst the people as much as possible; the divine hand of fate may well steer a passionate prospect from across the crowded room straight towards you.

## **November**

November's the perfect month to reach for a more settled level of mutual understanding with your other half and/or some other main character, no matter if the connection is vitally thriving or heading to its natural conclusion. Whether you're trying to tie up loose ends or consciously set a new precedent for how you relate, this interpersonal work is both intense *and* worth the effort. The likeliest hitch? If you're hell-bent on proving a point or claiming moral superiority, you might end up pummeling them into submission with your fierce, artful argument—but though you may 'win' the debate, you could simultaneously *lose* a certain level of connectedness. This potential begs the question: Is it more important to stand staunchly behind your belief in what's 'right', at the risk of imperiling a relationship? Or is the relationship valuable enough to provoke a rethinking of your stated principles? The answer's up to you.

## **December**

Heading into the year's end, you're wielding a strong capacity to *lead the charge* in professional and/or public-world contexts. Should you bump up against resistance from the existing powers-

that-be, your best approach is to demonstrate how you're advocating for what'll benefit the widest group of folks (while, in the process, exposing the self-interest of your opposing party). Even *with* all the interpersonal challenges you've faced in '14, a potentially promising opportunity to get further 'in bed' with someone—financially, sexually, and/or emotionally—is seriously worth considering. Yes, it invites more complications. But is 'complicated' necessarily *bad*, if it ends up changing your life in impossible-to-imagine but rather *remarkable* ways? It behooves you to be *insistent* about the non-negotiability of certain terms (especially around any issues of integrity), if you want this thing to work out well. Stay tuned: It's way too early to tell where it's going.

## GEMINI

Maybe there's more than a smidgeon of truth to the stereotype that you Geminis are hyperactive, short-attention-span dabblers who'll do just about *anything* to keep from being bored. But to make the most of 2014's astrology, you'll have to *up-end* this stereotype and reinforce your ability to *stay the course* by dutifully meeting your day-to-day responsibilities.

In case you see this as some dreary jail-sentence or a pointless exercise in staying busy, let's be clear: You will reap *tangible rewards* from putting in this consistent daily effort... and *especially so* if you're working to support a higher professional or public calling, through some role where you're putting yourself in service to an ideal or purpose greater than mere ego-gratification. The harder and steadier you toil, the greater these rewards.

Throughout 2014, Saturn continues the journey through your solar 6th, the house of your everyday habits and mundane duties, which he first kicked off in October 2012. Saturn's presence in the 6th serves as a constant reminder to remain productive on a *regular* basis, both as a means for practically managing whatever work-related tasks and household chores demand this dependable attention *and* by following a solid routine which fosters good physical health. Too often, we invest these unglamorous 6th-house matters with a distorted sense of dread, as if life would be so wonderful if only we could spend every waking moment lounging about or cavorting with our friends. However, this is just a mind-trip we lay on ourselves... and a pretty misguided one at that. Constructive, purposeful activity on a daily basis keeps us feeling competent and vital, in addition to helping our bodies stay functionally fit. Sloth and its evil-stepsister procrastination, meanwhile, are merely a recipe for ill health, physically *and* mentally. We're rarely happy when unproductive for too long a stretch of time.

For the high-strung, attention-deficit-prone Gemini, of course, too ordered or repetitive a daily regimen can feel nearly *excruciating* with its lack of novel stimulus... even though you can't deny, on the other hand, there are certain results which you'll be simply *unable* to achieve without putting in steadfast labor over a *sustained* period of time. A healthy body, for instance, is never the product of just a few good ideas and an earnest intention. One must practice health-nurturing habits—such as eating a nutritious diet, sleeping a sufficient amount, and exercising regularly—on an *ongoing* basis, in order to reap the bodily benefits. If well-meaning-

but-half-assed attempts at living healthfully are interspersed with less-conscious moments of excessive indulgence or lazy avoidance, these back-and-forth maneuvers will simply *cancel each other out*. Worse, if you altogether ignore your body's needs, you might get away with it in your younger years, but the neglect *will* catch up to you eventually. The limits of physicality *must* be respected.

During the year ahead, while Saturn's still in your 6th, the choice to establish and/or improve upon your physical-health regime will carry *lasting* results. Breaking old habits and/or setting new ones under Saturn's eye may require extra diligence, but it also lays a firm foundation that'll support you for years to come. Yet, the cumulative effects of poor lifestyle choices are *also* likely to hit a critical tipping-point when Saturn (known, after all, as 'the lord of Karma') moves through your 6th. Health challenges that arise in '14 are the logical cumulative outgrowth of such poor choices and/or a major warning-sign that *something* in your everyday routine badly needs to change.

Neptune remains atop your chart through all of 2014, in the 10th house, which represents your career (and/or other outside-world) accomplishments and aspirations, the reputation you earn for yourself in the process, and the structure of authority-figures to contend with and/or institutional hoops to jump through during your rise to the top. Neptune (a slow-mover in your 10th through 2024) straddles an irresolvable line between (1) serving as an agent of 'divine inspiration', gently nudging you toward a 'calling' may make no rational sense but nonetheless 'just feels right', and (2) confusing or deluding you, by obscuring reality beneath a cloudy mist of wishful thinking or excessive idealism. Neptune's long-term influence over your career may leave you perpetually wondering where exactly you're headed, pulling you onto strange side-alley detours, flashing you unintended or seemingly random developments which, in their mystical unfolding, *close* certain doors while *opening* others.

Though Neptune's vibe can be discouraging or anxiety-provoking (particularly for those who want a clear-and-detailed map of their longer-term career outlook), there's also a *freedom* that comes from accepting the *impossibility* of understanding just *how* your present muddlings-and-meanderings will eventually add up to an inspired future... one which your conscious ego *never* could've devised on its own. Not unlike the way a devoted pilgrim sets off on a spiritual journey, never sure ahead of time when next to turn right or left but nonetheless proceeding steadily on

*faith*, you're kept necessarily short-sighted by Neptune, who won't allow you to see more than one or two steps beyond your current spot. Apply this understanding to your professional/public-world role: Follow the signs as they reveal themselves, going forth by *feel*.

Neptune-in-the-10th also provides bonus points (in the form of unforeseen delights and magic opportunities) to those Geminis willing to sacrifice your immediate security to offer the world that unique contribution only *you* can give—as compassionate helper, in service to a cause, in support of an artistic or spiritual ideal—because you just *know* that's what you're supposed to do. (*Not* to the point of martyrdom, *not* by selling out your own interests, and *not* to serve an unworthy aim or insatiable tyrant.) If you sincerely devote yourself to helping the universe in your own special way, the universe will help *you*, too.

If used responsibly, Saturn-in-the-6th will function as a safeguard against the more self-denying or self-deluding expressions of Neptune-in-the-10th, helping you stay grounded amidst this misty bigger-picture confusion: Though you may not be able to perceive the direction you're headed, you'll ensure you're not headed anywhere *too* off-track or dangerous by concentrating earnestly on day-to-day health and productivity. Factor in the additional placement of good-guy Jupiter in your 2nd (the house of 'money I earn from my own efforts') and his trine to Saturn during the first half of '14, and your financial standing will also likely welcome a fortunate boost... in *direct* proportion, naturally, to how *hard* you commit yourself to working.

Jupiter glides out of your 2nd house and into your 3rd midway through July, a shift which promises to *dramatically increase* the volume of social engagements, exchanges, and communications vying for your time and attention. Doesn't this sound like something *tailor-made* for a Gemini? Jupiter's yearlong visit to your 3rd house (lasting into August '15) is your astrological encouragement to invest even more energy into the casual contacts and connections which circumstantially transpire on any given day: Under this transit, you're likelier to enjoy unexpected gains by going the extra mile socially, sharing more of yourself with acquaintances, neighbors, even total strangers. You never *can* tell in advance where a single act of conversational generosity might lead, can you? The 3rd house also symbolizes any relationships with siblings or cousins, so directing more attention towards *those* relations could similarly bring greater fulfillment or advantage than at other times. Jupiter can lend a much-appreciated helping-hand here, easing your ability to potentially mend any broken family ties.



For those of you who are writers or have some other special interest in verbal communication, Jupiter-in-the-3rd provides a benefic boon to your capacity for freely and fearlessly articulating yourself. This is your year to go *further* with your words!

We don't always focus on Jupiter's *less favorable* possibilities; though usually considered the good-luck planet, he does sometimes cause problems related to excess. In light of the fact that 3rd-house themes are already pretty easily expressed by a typical Gemini, it's fair to warn you against indulging an *excessive* preoccupation with socializing due to Jupiter's presence. Specifically, Jupiter-in-the-3rd can lead to too much chit-chatting or gossiping, an exaggerated interest in fairly insignificant bits of information, and/or the overvaluing of relationships with folks you barely know or have little in common with—all distractions which could too easily siphon your attentions *away* from those pressing 6th-house matters Saturn firmly insists you handle responsibly, under threat of consequence. Consider yourself warned.

On the other hand, Jupiter's presence in your 3rd later in 2014 plays rather *well* with shit-stirring Uranus, who continues his lengthy travels (2010-2019) through your 11th, another house related to social relationships. Uranus's erratic-though-liberating energy has already been shaking up your 11th house for a while, pushing you to break free of associations with friend-groups, teams, organizations or communities who inhibit your ability to be your own weirdo self... or, if not to 'break free', then at least to behave in as unapologetically unexpected or unorthodox a manner as you wish, letting any cards fall where they will. Uranus-in-the-11th also incites social *risk-taking*, inviting fresh or novel energy into your wider matrix of connections. Daring to attend events or venues outside your usual sphere, to join group activities where you're liable to meet a new batch of prospective pals, and/or to explore different collectives of like-minded individuals will keep your 11th-house Uranus very happy. The trine formed between Jupiter and Uranus (first exact in late September and continuing into mid-'15) only *increases* your chance of clicking with a wider variety of friends-to-be, whenever you deliberately put yourself out into the mix.

With Uranus still in a tense ongoing square with stubborn-threat Pluto-in-the-8th, though, your capacity to breezily leap into expansive social risks could feel infringed upon by the continuing shadow of some *heavier* circumstance—a financial encumbrance? an intricate and/or troublesome interpersonal entanglement? a full-on confrontation with unresolved hurt, a life-

and-death matter, and/or the darker side of human nature?—which may often weigh on you, sometimes taking a toll on your overall outlook. More likely than not, this situation is an effect of events which *already happened*, and cannot be immediately ‘fixed’. This is an important naïveté-shattering lesson that’s deepened your psychological grasp of life. Early in 2014, Venus’s unusually lengthy transit through your 8th (which involves a retrograde from late Dec ‘13 through the end of January) can help you *finally* gain a clearer perspective on *how* this whole mess has changed you for the better... including your appreciation for how certain relationships have positively *intensified* from your contending with this heavier shit, and/or a stronger awareness of your need for better boundaries in situations where you have something to lose.

Mars’s uncommonly long 7½-month visit (Dec 7 ‘13-Jul 25 ‘14) to your 5th, the house that shows where we find pleasure and creative fulfillment, will likely play out as something of a *game*: With multiple leisure-time pursuits and/or romantic possibilities simultaneously yanking at your chain, you could find you’re caught in *indecision*, without a clear case for favoring one over another. While your mind goes crazy trying to juggle the options, your body’s liable to just instinctively *pull you* toward the thing *it* most wants.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

You’ve already heard quite a bit about your career zone since, without a doubt, it’s of *primary* importance throughout 2014. With outer planets occupying all three relevant houses—Jupiter in the 2nd (money), Saturn in the 6th (day-to-day work), and Neptune in the 10th (career)—you’re definitely getting *lots* of astrological encouragement to concentrate on imbuing your everyday efforts with a sense of higher purpose, and deservedly *bumping up* your income level along the way. Because Jupiter leaves your 2nd in mid-July, the first half of your year provides a more favorable climate for laying an economic *foundation* upon which future gains can be banked... though it behooves you to hold off on *actual* financial negotiations until the second half of July, or at least not expect to see the cold hard cash until then. Of course your earnings are always a *direct* factor of your sense of self-worth: You must legitimately *believe* you possess personal resources, qualities, and traits of *great value* to those who would pay you accordingly, if you want the extra bucks to match. This confidence in your practical value is an excellent muscle to build while Jupiter’s still in your 2nd.

As the year opens, you'll want to make sure any intense interpersonal involvements or repeat encounters with some thorn-in-your-side from your past don't sidetrack you from sustaining good work patterns. If anything, focusing on your day-to-day work will help keep you *grounded* during this potential mindfuck moment. Early in February, you might *think* you're ready to make the big announcement or have a long-anticipated conversation with an important contact, but think again. Consider initiating an introductory preview, but hold off on diving into the meatier core until the second half of March. Meanwhile, during that interim period (i.e., late February into early March), certain bigger-picture circumstances will rearrange themselves—with little-to-no active prompting on *your* part, but with the possibility of *significantly* altering the terms of your position. As long as you keep reliably showing up and observing the changing circumstances closely, you'll be in the right place at the right time to volunteer yourself for a promising opening. With Venus moving through your solar 10th through much of April, this is your chance to acclimate yourself to more attention and greater respect in your professional community. Don't let the unruly behavior of a colleague who's *also* a potential saboteur (jealous much?) throw you off your game.

Your financial outlook looks *excellent* in the second half of July and into early August, making this your best time all year to finally *cash in* on any income-boosts you've been striving to create through the first part of '14. August can also prove a high-output work month, thanks to Mars in your 6th... but *only* if you're able to successfully fight off the urge to turn every five-minute catch-up into a time-squandering two-hour-long gab fest. Talk is pretty cheap compared to actually *making shit happen*. Don't lose your patience if process-related questions you *nearly* resolved by late September must be revisited throughout October. (Thanks again, Mercury retrograde.) In the act of going back over your work, you could discover a couple places where small tweaks will end up leaving you feeling far more creatively satisfied by the final result. As late October bleeds into November, you'll get a very clear sense of how both your consistent efforts *and* your willingness to revise your methods midstream have created a 'well-oiled machine' out of your work practices. By the latter part of November, you should be ready to turn your on-the-job experiences into an 'official' manual for *how to get the job done right*.

## Relationships / Romance

As far as romantic happenings are concerned, the first half of your '14 should keep you on your toes, thanks in large part to back-to-back retrograde action from first Venus and then Mars. Venus retrogrades across your 8th throughout January, bringing back unfinished business from a prior or current entanglement for one more chance to *finally* wrap it up. Even if part of you might prefer to wish away this reoccurring encounter with the continuing consequences of an enmeshment entered into some time ago, you ought to take this opportunity to formalize an updated version of the agreement—even if it requires signing away a last-remnant asset, establishing stricter boundaries, and/or owning responsibility in some fuller way. Whatever helps you better accept the reality of this situation, with a strategic eye toward more effectively protecting your interests in similar future dealings, is worth your extra attention into February. Venus's friction with Mars-in-the-5th may well tempt you to *skip out* on this demanding interpersonal business, in favor of monkeying around with an ostensibly casual dalliance that *doesn't* seem to demand nearly as full-on an engagement. Or are you wishfully ignoring the hints that it's *not* so casual after all?)

That puckish 5th-house Mars keeps stirring up romantic mischief after his retrograde begins in early March, potentially *surprising* you with an attraction—or, quite likely, *more than one*—which may make little rational sense but nonetheless compels you toward it. Can you make heads or tails of *which* scenario to actively pursue, especially when each prospective love-match accentuates a particular side of your personality? Forget about weighing pro-and-con lists: By such comparisons, your options are essentially *equivalent*, only different. All you can do is follow your instincts and see what develops next. During the course of an exceptionally hyperactive April, you're apt to find out more about what you really *like*—and, as a result, whose company you prefer—when you must choose between friend-groups and/or social engagements. If you're trying to gain a fuller impression of a certain someone, take careful note of who they keep company with: How you feel about *their* friends could be the decisive factor that tips the scales toward 'yay' or 'nay'. Also, pay attention to the way they react to dilemmas without an obvious or easy answer. Though this sample 'dilemma' may have nothing to do with you, their response to it will tell you *a lot* about how they'd handle future interpersonal bumps.

This up-in-the-air quality caused by your being caught between multiple romantic alternatives or relational paths should start giving way to clearer calls-to-action once Mars goes direct later in May. By the second half of June, a series of developments which exemplifies how you and your maybe-sweetie approach the wider community with markedly distinct worldviews will probably illuminate whether or not you're a workable pairing. It's on you to discern between healthy differences and unresolvable deal-breakers. This is an excellent moment for changing your mind, either to remove the emergency brake and pick up speed or to make your called-for exit: With Venus on your side until mid-July, your sparkle will be that much sparklier as a result of speaking up for what best suits you. From the middle of September and into October, established relationships could hit a rough patch, due to one or the other of you losing patience with how long it's taking a certain transition to occur. Expect a lot 'I want what I want when I want it' energy to flow back and forth. But *who's* being 'the problem'? Hard to say. Relationship dynamics ought to smooth out by the later part of November, once Venus hits your 7th. If you're single and looking to mingle, early December is an ideal time to attend every possible social function and/or to ask pals to fix you up. Advance warning: Saturn hits your relationship house in the very last days of '14. In 2015 and beyond, relationship issues become much more *serious*.

## **January**

Though it may be a new year, you enter 2014 with your hands full of *old* business you thought you'd already put to bed. But this bullshit hasn't reappeared by accident: Certain details of an agreement or arrangement were only half-resolved, and this may be your golden chance to redo these terms so you're left in a better spot. Don't be put off by the fact that it'll take *real* work (especially on the psychological level) to hold out for your own interests in spite of strong pressure from the other party. Remember: Your confidence has grown since the last round of negotiations. As January progresses, you'll gain a bit of constructive *distance* from the interpersonal issues, orienting your mind more toward what's fair and right (rather than merely what'll win you the goods and/or screw the other person over). Thinking *this* way will leave you less hung up on whether So-and-So still likes you. (Who the hell *cares*?)

## **February**

Don't rush into any big professional moves or other public announcements early in February, as Mercury retrogrades out of your 10th and back into a square with Saturn. Have you missed a few key logistics necessary for success? An overreaching excitement about 'where it's all going' won't save you from these nuts-and-bolts concerns. Going back to the drawing-board *now* will root out potential problems which would otherwise become *way* messier later. Plus, you have an opportunity to reassert a few personal preferences (which you'd almost given up on) into the process, leaving you with a greater sense of ownership and pride. In the final days of the month, the spotlight calls you to its bright beams. You needn't have your every last step planned out, as long as you're genuinely intent on serving the greater good. Being 'of service' in this capacity *also* serves your own financial bottom-line.

## **March**

Logistical snags from last month ought to be resolved by the middle of March, though you needn't wait until then to continue putting yourself—and your ambitions—out on the public stage. It's one of the moments when hard work will *definitely* pay off, while slacking on the everyday grind will sharply limit your ability to garner deserved attention. If you lose motivation, remind yourself of the *principles* which underscore your efforts, so as not to lose sight of your overarching purpose. Late March is an excellent time to talk money with those who might give you more; be sure to show them how much you care about the whole enterprise. A retrograde Mars in your 5th threatens to play games with you, flashing simultaneous glimpses of multiple leisure-time prospects and/or romantic possibilities. Which do you want *more*? Or do you want them equally as much, but for *different* reasons? Weighing pros and cons isn't likely to immediately clarify the situation.

## **April**

Though a bumpy month for everybody, April promises *you* a touch of divinely-ordained good fortune in your career (and/o/r other public-world) zone... but *only* when you are willing to speak up for your deservedness, even if your self-lauding creates something of a rift with those who aren't accustomed to such brash stands on your part. Don't fall prey to anyone's attempts at

guilt-tripping (which, of course, will say more about *their* discontent than anything you've supposedly done wrong). This potential antagonism aimed (unfairly or not) toward you can actually *help* you refine your desires, since you've got to *really* want this certain symbol-of-personal-success if you're willing to gamble your habitual instinct to keep your comrades happy. Spontaneous first-person statements of opinion and/or preference, though they could hit the unsuspecting as initially jarring, will clarify who genuinely supports you—and who *doesn't*.

## **May**

In early May, you may experience a stubborn urge to escape from responsibility... especially if you're still stinging from encounters with someone's surprisingly unfriendly reaction to your advances. Please don't take out your hurt emotions on your job performance. Ditch out on a few social participations, perhaps, but still keep up the productive daily grind. As the month progresses, you should feel your mojo thankfully returning. Though your impulses might drive you to try smoothing over any friends' or colleagues' ruffled feathers, don't do so at the expense of your own aspirations. For every supposed supporter who throws you shade for wanting to do your own thing, there's at least one new ally who's totally pumped up by your contagious spunk. Let your social networks evolve to meet the changing you, instead of clutching to outdated connections.

## **June**

Taking ample time away from the demands of the outside world during June will support you in psychically re-grounding yourself. After a few months of appraising your different options (all of which have *some* degree of appeal), your best method for deciding on one over another requires *quieting your mind...* and simply *feeling into it*. There's no shame in changing your mind and/or amending something you already told a certain someone (particularly with Mercury retrograding back into your sign mid-month). It's better to be honest than to maintain an insincere appearance of consistency. By the final week of June, Venus hits your sign, easing your knack for charmingly enchanting all those who encounter you. With Mercury still retrograde, you might consider craftily reopening unfinished conversations about job and/or money—but allowing them to dangle, unhurried and pressure-free, into July.

## July

The first couple weeks of July look to be your best period all year for going after *exactly what you want*, both in professional/financial contexts *and* on the romantic front. In fact, your whole first-half of '14 (with all its yes/no/maybe-so vacillations of desire) seems to have led up to this pivotal grab-it moment: You *needed* to let circumstances play out as they did, in order to gather the experiential knowledge required to answer certain unresolved questions. Now you've got all the requisite info; it won't get any clearer than *this*. Later in the month, as you start receiving confirmation that your work-related efforts are paying off, you can once again expect your own rise to trigger pushback from those who want *their* piece of your growing success. The more things change, the more starkly we're reminded where we came from.

## August

The urge to spend *lots* more time socializing, circulating, and shooting-the-shit grows to unusually *massive* (even by Gemini standards) proportions throughout August, promising you no shortage of gab-sessions to savor (and gossipy news to take in and pass on). Yet, in a potentially irksome irony, the importance of investing *extra* elbow-grease into your day-to-day work demands *also* increases. And thanks to Mars-in-your-6th, you've got the physical energy to really make this month count. Guess the best way to finesse this tension to your advantage requires you treat *both* these competing concerns with ample diligence. You *need* to do this work... but you *also* need to quench your overeager interpersonal interests just as badly. Do *both*, and do 'em *well*.

## September

Downshift your energies after a busy August, and consciously tend to the rooting pleasures of your comforting home-life. What? It's not *comforting*? This is the right time to make whatever minor adjustments will turn your residence into less of a dumping-ground and more of a sanctuary. Once you're at home more often, you might even stumble upon undiscovered emotional responses to events from earlier in the year which you haven't yet paid attention to. Go on, let 'em flow. Midway through September, once Mars arrives in your relationship house (the 7th), you could experience a few bumps-in-the-road in a key partnership. Are they *really*



acting that crazy? Or are you just feeling impatient (and maybe hunting for a bit of trouble)? Whatever the case, expect differing opinions between you. No need to pick a fight, though—unless you *want* to?

## **October**

Good times—whether of the whimsical, artistic, and/or flirtatious variety—are due to fill your October, provided you don't let any strange (and unfounded) sense of obligation or paranoia dog you. Even if a persistent headache of a situation *still* hangs over, that's no reason to call off the party or fall prey to dark thoughts. If anything, refusing to let *anything* stop you from enjoying yourself is a healthy life-affirming practice (since there'll always be *something* not quite ideal to deal with). It's an especially gainful month for meeting new friends—or *more-than*-friends—by daring to attend events or venues outside your usual norm. Be assertive in introducing yourself, maybe even posing provocative questions or propositions to get things rolling fast. If you're not their cup-o'-tea, so be it. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

## **November**

Use the first half of November to gleefully reorganize your everyday routine, better prioritizing the items that are most important (including your diet-and-exercise regimen) and streamlining processes which still contain outdated or inefficient steps. Yes, I said 'gleefully': You will actually *relish* this work (as long as you don't mind-trip yourself into dreading it). The beneficial results will endure for a while to come. Apply this same transforming logic to any serious psychological or interrelational obstacles which could likely arise during November. Don't be afraid to shove your hands deep into the guts of the matter. If you want to *really* deal with this mess, with once-and-for-all decisiveness, you have to be willing to *stay with it*—possibly to the point of major discomfort. Victory goes to the persevering party with the long-range vision who refuses to quit when the going gets tough.

## **December**

Great interpersonal strides can be made in December, when you wield the ability to address fairly complicated issues with a refreshing directness. As the month goes on, you'll inch closer

to a crowning agreement on whatever situation has simmered without resolution for far too long. Though *some* concession on your part may be necessary, you will see it's likely to your advantage to give in on this one issue, to get some peace and distance from the whole damn predicament. Unsure about *how much* to give in? Discuss with friends who have no personal stake in the matter. Even as you're (hopefully) in the midst of putting this old business to rest, you'll already be starting to excitedly manifest a vision for your next great adventure. There's no better motivation than something to get excited about.

## CANCER

I began last year's annual forecast by declaring 2013 would be 'a *huge* year for Cancers'. Did it live up to the hype? I gather so.

If somehow your answer is 'no' (and you aren't merely downplaying all that's happened, perhaps because you're still in its midst and haven't yet had a moment to *process* what's gone down), please don't get *too* comfortable with presuming you've missed the action: Much of this same astrological energy which underscored your last forecast *continues* into 2014, particularly during the first half of the year. Therefore, the 'hugeness' is not yet over. And whatever *hasn't* yet risen to the surface or visibly manifested, after having lingered or loomed in half-emergence through the latter end of '13, still may come to light. The planetary gods are not yet done fixing *you*, Cancer, square-on in the center of their bull's-eye.

The larger astrological backdrop to this whole 'world gone wild' vibe still centers around the generation-defining square between Uranus and Pluto, an unstable-and-unsettling though powerfully revolutionary energy which colors this entire decade... and which, due to both planets' zodiac-sign placements, impact *you* (as well as the remaining cardinal signs Aries, Libra, and Capricorn) more urgently than it does many others.

Quick reminders: Rabble-rousing liberator Uranus is in your solar 10th, stirring up sudden changes and other unanticipated twists-and-turns in your career (and/or outer-world involvements) zone... hopefully inspiring you to take self-chosen risks which free you from confining circumstances and/or bring you closer to your unique individualized purpose. Agent-of-psychological-transformation Pluto is in your solar 7th, forcing you into closer confrontation with any unintegrated drives or shadowy power-struggles in your closest one-on-one relationship(s), revealing the fuller reality of what you want and/or how you behave when paired off (romantically, professionally, in deep friendship, etc.) with another person. Both the 7th and the 10th are exceedingly important houses, and this ongoing Uranus-Pluto square ensures neither your relationship nor your career sectors could be legitimately described as 'uneventful'.

To be fair, Uranus and Pluto are slow-moving planets; thus, their influence over these houses they're transiting play out over a longer-term basis. Uranus first entered your 10th back in 2010

and won't leave for good until 2019, while Pluto's been in your 7th since 2008 and remains there into 2024. As such, the exact time-frame during which their powerful energies stir a personal revolution in *your* life could vary (based on where in the month of Cancer *your* birthday resides).

However, once gas-giant Jupiter moved into your sign last June—and, shortly thereafter, into an activating T-square with Uranus and Pluto—these revolutionary dynamics, which had *already* been fairly pronounced, were magnified even *further*. After all, Jupiter's main archetypal function is to *make things bigger*. Therefore, when he joins up with an existing aspect, the whole thing often inflates to exaggerated proportions. Jupiter entering the Uranus-Pluto fray in the middle of '13, then, brought this potent evolutionary pressure to new heights for *all of us...* but, most acutely for you Cancerians, Jupiter's host tribe. Jupiter stays in Cancer through mid-July of *this* year, forming two more Uranus squares and Pluto oppositions during the first half of '14. And this life-changing chapter of your story continues.

Even against the backdrop of these precarious times, hosting benefic Jupiter in one's home-sign (which happens for one year out of every twelve) is usually a much-desired and rather excellent astrological event... and even more so in Cancer, the sign of his exaltation, where Jupiter is especially happy. When Jupiter's in your sign, you're gifted with the capacity to see *beyond* previous limits. Where before you might've felt yourself to be stuck and/or unable to muster the optimism necessary for imagining creative solutions, Jupiter's presence assists you in expanding your vision into previously uncharted territory—a reminder that this world is really big, with *a lot* more opportunities out there for each of us than we often pause to contemplate.

Because Jupiter's still on your side, Cancer, the first half of 2014 is a remarkable period for stretching yourself toward new ideas and experiences, even if you have very little prior knowledge of what you'd be getting yourself into. Jupiter wants to open your eyes and broaden your perspective, teaching you about outlooks and sectors-of-life you haven't yet been exposed to. When you try something new under Jupiter's influence, it's as if a benevolent guardian is looking out for you, encouraging you to explore more of what life has to offer. It would be a shame to let this influence pass without using it to your advantage. You've got to *take your own initiative* with this, though: Jupiter won't actually *cause* awesome things to happen, but merely creates an advantageous setting in which *you* can make these awesome things happen more

easily. If you do nothing, Jupiter may keep you *too* lazily content to just stay where we are... and, if you're not careful, inspire you to gain *weight* rather than knowledge and experience.

With Jupiter remaining in this dynamic tension with both Pluto-in-your-7th and Uranus-in-your-10th during this period, the growth-fostering 'stretches' you take are likely to either (1) involve some uncomfortable relationship excavations or restructurings and/or a provocative career-related gamble or (2) unleash subsequent repercussions in relationships and/or career, in natural response to *your* choosing to do things differently. For now, both these areas are inextricably bound up with your enhanced potential to manifest positive change; as such, you can't expect to shift *one* major building-block and *not* have the others shift around, too.

As if all this isn't *enough* to generate quite a bit of dynamic movement during '14's first half, a couple of inner-planet retrogrades—first Venus, and then Mars—contribute *further* astro-mischief to this scene. Again, due to both retrogrades occurring in cardinal signs, these events will hit you Cancers more prominently than they do many others. Because a retrograde entails the apparent backward motion of a planet, causing it to retrace steps on the zodiac-wheel which it's already recently visited, this pair of back-to-back retrogrades carries a palpable theme of *revisiting* decisions already made and/or actions previously taken... with the intent either to *reconfirm* their suitability or to forge any course-corrections necessary for more consciously aligning this ill-fitting element with the rest of your life-choices.

Venus retrogrades have a general reputation for bringing back unfinished relationship business (with a current companion or an ex) and/or delivering us fresh head-turning relational prospects (which, as often as not, prove to be fleeting phantoms), in order to promote a process of *reconsidering* our relationship preferences and behaviors. Since this *particular* retrograde of Venus (Dec 21 '13 through Jan 31 '14) falls smack dab *in* your one-on-one relationship house, Cancer, the likelihood of welcoming such perspective-scrambling developments in your interpersonal dealings is even *higher*.

Any new romances which manifest during this period are meant to be enjoyed for the alternative view on what's possible that they help provide you... but you mustn't get too attached to the need for them to *endure*. The reappearance of an old lover *could* be your long-awaited 'second chance'—or merely an enlightening update on how far you've come since *that* past dalliance.

And if you're presently coupled off, seriously entertaining questions about what you might be *sacrificing* to maintain this involvement, as well as what you're *gaining* in return, can prove fruitful; even if you end up concluding you're *exactly* where you want to be, it's better to do so from a fully-considered consciousness.

Meanwhile, the Mars retrograde which follows (Mar 1-May 19) threatens to activate quite a measure of discontentment and/or restlessness. A *different* instinctive slant on what actions you must take to nourish your internal well-being could inspire a zealous battle for *emotional self-determination*. Due to his retrograde, Mars will actually spend 7½ months (from Dec '13 into the tail-end of July) in your solar 4th, the house that represents both your inner emotional landscape and the domestic environment you create for yourself as a safe-space sanctuary. As a sign who's always already pretty sensitive and moody, you Cancers are liable to experience even sharper emotional variability and/or perturbation with all those months of Mars-in-your-4th. But these stirred-up feelings aren't *arbitrary* in nature: They're pointing you toward certain adjustments you might make in *how you treat yourself*, in order to carve out more breathing room for taking care of your emotional needs. Pay close attention to whatever specific irritating factors leave you feeling boxed in, infringed upon, and/or without ample personal space. How might these irritants be constructively addressed, as a conscious act of self-nurturance?

Mars's protracted 4th-house visit *also* crashes three times into the Jupiter-Uranus-Pluto complex I've already described—the most intense occurrence being in April, at the peak of Mars's retrograde—reiterating this pattern of each aspect of your life being seemingly interconnected with *everything else*, a recurring theme which pervades the first half of '14. Any internal emotional friction (Mars) could actually generate the sufficient enterprising energy necessary for *getting out of your own damn way*... fighting the self-doubt that blocks you from taking courageous chances out in the world (Uranus) and/or overthrowing any disempowering relationship-behavior inclinations (Pluto), all in service to whatever self-growth ventures get you most excited about your future (Jupiter).

Because the 4th house deals with *where you live*, this extra attention from Mars may well provoke *unrest* on the home-front. Possible ongoing conflict with a housemate, for instance, could prompt you to assert your needs more aggressively (as opposed to just going along with whatever makes *them* happy), causing waves in the dynamics at home which may or may not

be resolvable. If changes in how your domestic environment is jointly managed are not successfully carried out, one or the other of you should probably look for an alternative arrangement. A residential move might also become essential in order to follow a promising professional opportunity or to regain your ground interpersonally. Should such a move occur while Mars is still retrograde, it's likely the place you first land *won't* be the place you stay; for the time being, the act of un-sticking *yourself* is more important than sticking it out anywhere in particular.

There's also a strong 4th-house connection to *where you come from*, both in terms of your geographic hometown locale and your relationship to your family-of-origin (especially your parents or parent-figures). Thus, Mars's prolonged presence in your 4th can point to problems with your family, who, quite naturally, may be a primary source-cause of whichever emotional messages have kept you caught in fear or self-criticality. Declaring your independence from unsupportive family-members (whether through a literal separation or merely a conscious psychological disidentification) might prove to be a necessary step in your continuing evolution. Another Mars-in-the-4th possibility: A parent or close family-member could endure some troubling event or development which requires you to invest more attention their direction. Such scenarios might also call for a geographic relocation, so you can be nearer to the person-in-need *or* get farther away from the detrimental influence.

The second half of your year ought to be *considerably* less full-on, once these two retrogrades have completely cleared their shadows. With Jupiter leaving your sign and heading into your 2nd house, the remainder of '14 is best spent by dedicating yourself to practical—and especially *economic*—concerns, to create a more stable and lasting foundation upon which your newly-evolved self can rest.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

Like I've already mentioned, as long as that instigator-of-instability Uranus is *still* in your solar 10th (which continues into 2019), your career remains all-shook-up in a less predictable segment of its overall trajectory. This need not be considered a *bad* state, however... especially if you intentionally utilize this volatility as a springboard for self-directed leaps into the unknown,

releasing yourself from restrictive professional roles which don't do your talents justice, and/or taking any once-in-a-lifetime chances to totally revamp your career. Uranus-in-your-10th wants you to grab the reins and create a position that best suits your distinctive interests and abilities—and it's *impossible* to create something new without a fair amount of collateral *chaos*. Trying to keep everything exactly as it's always been (as if you might hold this obvious current of disruptive energy at bay), on the other hand, is merely an invitation for Uranus to shake things up *for* you, tossing you a shocking surprise or two. Please channel some of this Uranian pressure into a wild departure of *your* choosing, then, rather than waiting for it to explode all on its own.

April is by far your most active month for such wild professional developments, though these erratic energies will also extend beyond your job, into *other* life-sectors as well. Though Mars will still be retrograde at the time (often considered not the most ideal influence under which to take decisive action), fast-changing circumstances are likely to frame a window of opportunity which you'd be wise to take advantage of... even knowing your initial steps will land precariously, on unreliable ground, and probably require some additional cleanup later, once *everything* isn't still up-in-the-air all at once. Ready yourself for this turbulence during the months preceding, when you have a good shot at readdressing any existing entanglements which leave you indebted to another person or entity, in a way which infringes upon how freely you can jump into new financial involvements. It's worth sucking up your pride, if it'll lead to a more neatly boundaried and practically workable repayment plan. Aim for a fair deal by March.

Mid-year, your economic potential will shift for the *better*, once lucky-charm Jupiter hits your solar 2nd (the house of money earned from your own efforts) halfway through July. When Jupiter's in your 2nd house (where he stays until August '15), your ability to reel in a larger pile of cash is jubilantly augmented with much-appreciated planetary assistance—as long as you can stand in your fullness, confident enough in your *deserving* the increase you desire that you can *unashamedly* ask for it. August is an excellent time for such finance-related conversations, with the caveat that you focus on your empirical *merits* instead of flashily 'faking it 'til you make it'. If you feel you must embellish your qualifications, you're needlessly overreaching. Once Jupiter moves into a synergistic trine with Uranus-in-your-10th by the second half of September, your pocketbook stands to gain in direct response to how self-assuredly you offer on-the-spot innovations that demonstrate your creative problem-solving skills. Invest your most tirelessly earnest day-to-day efforts from mid-September through the end of October, when your sheer



sweat-equity can move mountains and manifest miracles. By late November and into December, you'll reap more positive results from these efforts by discovering you take a newfound *pleasure* in your everyday work.

### **Relationships / Romance**

Involving yourself in romantic relationships, no matter whether it's a new love-match or an existing coupling, is *not* an activity to be taken lightly or casually during 2014. For one, Pluto's ongoing residence in your house of one-on-one relationships (the 7th) pushes you to be unflinchingly *real* about the underlying power dynamics in any important interpersonal dealings—even if it requires inconvenient admissions, heavy conversations, and/or further psychological excavation. If you don't deal head-on with trying to better understand the deeper fears and desires which drive your relational behaviors, you'll continue feeding patterns that leave you unconsciously submissive to your need-to-be-needed. Plus, Saturn is spending one more full year in your 5th, forcing you to be more self-expressly *opinionated* and *discriminating* about what specifically gets *your* juices flowing. With Saturn in your 5th, it's that much harder to enjoy modest amounts of pleasure from frolicking with folks who simply 'aren't right'. Just going along for the ride (because you don't want to make a big deal or hurt anyone's feelings?) is liable to bring less-pleasant consequences. You must be willing to say 'no' as many times as it takes, if you want to feel really *sure* once your unmistakable 'yes' arrives.

2014 opens with Venus retrograde in your 7th, a scenario likely to unleash a few rascally shenanigans in your relationship life. Throughout January, there's a heightened possibility of reconnecting with a romantic blast-from-the-past, hooking up with someone who's *not* your usual type, and/or encountering a different side to a partner you thought you knew pretty well. Please don't assume everything is as it first appears. Stay present in the process of exploring such alternatives, without getting too attached to particular outcomes. Think of this as a self-educating exercise in properly vetting how well a given individual fits into the life you're building for yourself (or *doesn't*, as the case may be) *before* you invite them too far in. When complicating details emerge in February, head right into the eye of the storm rather than dodging the difficult issue. You cannot afford to pretend everything's easy-breezy when it's not. Talking your way through the uncomfortable truth will either help you two get *way* more

intimately acquainted or expose an extenuating circumstance that's ultimately a likely deal-breaker. Better to know *now* than to find out later, when you've got *a lot more* to lose.

Wacky events in April could leave some collateral relationship fallout in their wake: This needn't spell disaster, but *does* create an opening for you to revolutionize the rules by which you're playing this love game. Should you find you're actively working out this snag into May, please stick up for your desired resolution with a firm line-in-the-sand. You've got more leverage to negotiate with than you probably realize, and it's worth holding out—even if this partnership crumbles—over caving in. From mid-July and into August, you'll be touched by Venus's attraction-enhancing glow, making it far easier to entice and enchant those who've captured your interest. Certain admirers *could* take it a bit far, if they find you so irresistible that they come on way too strong. You might not be so innocent yourself, though, if you're getting turned on by their 'bad-boy/girl' approach and, as a result, giving off subtle encouragement. Still, you mustn't sacrifice what's practically (and financially) appropriate for you, just to chase a taboo flirtation. Late October and early November should bring a fair share of provocative good-times, ideal for being out on the prowl. Keep an eye out for mysterious foreigners, spiritually-minded deep-thinkers, or anyone who could teach you a thing or two. Important questions about whether relationship and life-purpose are in alignment once again surface in December. The right answer will emerge from quietly reflecting back on your year... and seeing what has, and *hasn't*, changed.

## **January**

Interpersonal dynamics are wildly up-in-the-air throughout January, thanks in no small part to a retrograde Venus-in-the-7th and other planets wrangling with each other. The inordinate kid-gloves care with which you've handled your relationship with a certain someone(s), just to keep *them* happy, may be start to consume too much of the energy *you* need in order to advance your own evolution during this auspicious time. (For example, is your dedication to *them* preventing you from taking a radical career or community-role risk?) This is your moment to rewrite the rules—and address any disconnect between a key coupling and your longer-term lifestyle goals. Be courageous and firm in discussing these uncomfortable relational realities, but don't let your old resentments from prior instances of not having spoken up for yourself bleed into this situation. Your intense emotions are about *more* than just this.

## **February**

Don't presumptuously rush to tidy conclusions too early in February, before the psychologically charged material that got kicked up last month has had its chance to be fully processed. Despite your sincere desire to 'rise above it all', you can't move forward in full *authenticity* (which, of course, ought to be your goal) without at least one more serious admission or disclosure. Though it might hurt your sensitive heart to present difficult feedback to someone you care (or cared) for greatly, the other choice is to betray your own truth... and instead perpetuate a pattern that regrettably inhibits your freest expression. Being your best self doesn't mean catering to others' willful ignorance. Late in the month, you'll experience the thrill of strengthening your self-respect as a result of 'doing the right thing'—if, that is, you actually *do* it. Beware, meanwhile, of playing to the moral loopholes.

## **March**

As you continue adding all the numbers together, you'll start to see much more clearly how your fuller emotional history—beyond merely what's happening right now—has informed your attitude toward all this recent interpersonal drama. Without excusing any other party's wrongdoings, you must *also* accept responsibility for your own past people-pleasing behaviors: This tendency stemmed from *somewhere*, whether as a response to the dynamics in your family growing up or to a long-ago relationship that left quite an impact. Revisiting your unsettled feelings from *that* formative experience will help you get current... and begin to unburden yourself from any unresolved bitterness which might otherwise constrain your sense of self-possession. Though these resurrected feelings are liable to bring a few extra-moody days, keep an optimistic eye peeled toward what could happen *after* this unburdening.

## **April**

Fast-moving developments on the professional front during April demand split-second declarations of desire. Without ample time to think things through, you've got to operate by *instinct*. If you're hesitant to so baldly assert your will toward achieving your outside-world aims (why? out of fear you'll seem too grabby?), you'll again have to look *inward* for the source of your reluctance. If you can't shake the odd stubborn sense that you're somehow *stuck*, this

might well be the perfect time to consider a move. Perhaps there's something about where you live that's holding you back. As the month draws to close, rely on loyal friends or peers to help you regain more solid footing. Even as you confront demons that are profoundly *personal*, you must remember you are not alone. Don't isolate.

## **May**

With Venus in your career house (the solar 10th) all through May, this is your best month all year for taking an audacious leap based on what really excites you. It's true you might lack some of the knowledge or experience this new role might require. But should that prevent you from at least *trying*? We can't grow unless we're willing to stretch into uncharted territory... and to make a few goofs or stumbles along the way. On the social front, you could hit a bump when certain friends' attitudes or behaviors threaten to reflect poorly on you if you quietly go along with the crowd. Though you'd probably prefer to avoid the awkward confrontation, your other choice is to allow yourself to be misrepresented by association. In the aftermath of any icky social exchanges, you might want to steal a few days of private retreat to regather yourself, away from any mutual pals pressuring you to 'let it slide' when you don't feel like it.

## **June**

Any friction within your social circle which might've been sparked last month should be satisfyingly smoothed over in the first half of June... though hopefully without you having to sell yourself out. By the second half of the month, however, you may need a real *break* from all the noise. Take June's last couple weeks exceptionally slowly, making no ambitious plans and attempting no critical breakthroughs. Rather than work out what's on your mind through too much conversation with chums (as it's likelier than usual you'll give them the *wrong* idea about how you're feeling), consider journaling your thoughts so you can reflect back on them later and observe them evolving over time. Meanwhile, Mars's last throes of 4th-house provocation could *finally* bring the conclusive development in whatever emotional process has consumed your '14 thus far.

## July

July develops into an increasingly 'take-charge' month for you, promising multiple opportunities for you to show up with greater *self-determination* than ever, as you build upon the expanded self-image Jupiter's helped you foster since arriving in your sign a year ago. Don't expect to make such noticeable changes in your demeanor and *not* face some degree of pushback, though—especially from certain individuals who've grown too selfishly comfortable with how you *used* to be. It won't be until later in July before you start receiving any positive signs that *affirm* the value of being so straightforward with what you want. But once the reassuring evidence begins pouring in, you're liable to feel like you're on top the world. By month-end, your mood will have decidedly lifted... and you'll be *way* ready to get down and boogie!

## August

August's vibe is palpably different than what you've felt in '14 so far, particularly now that Mars is *out* of your ultra-sensitive 4th after many long months... and jubilantly positioned in your 5th, a house of pleasure and play. This is definitely a cause for celebration: So, rather than waiting for an invite, you might as well *throw* the party yourself. That way, you can control the guest list and choose an atmosphere you like best. The outlook also suggests you'll be riding high on a confidence-boost, which would make this an ideal time to jockey for more money. Don't allow yourself to become so emboldened, alas, that you come to *expect* whatever you ask for. Once any actual negotiations begin, you'll want to proceed one small step at a time. Too brash or informal a tone, and your personality will overshadow your deservedness—and *not* in a good way.

## September

Despite the swell of pleasurable social opportunities in September, you may find you wish to share very few intimate details about yourself while making the rounds. It's perfectly fine to rely more on your soothing presence than any specific conversational content. Be spare and diplomatic with your words, and perhaps no one will even notice what you're *not* saying. Oddly, your quiet composure could draw an intrigued fancier whose more into your 'energy' than anything else. Midway through the month, it pays to throw yourself more fiercely into your work

and/or your health-and-fitness regimen. Instead of projecting ahead into fantasies about what *might* be different in the future, stick close to the here-and-now. You can't get all the way *there* unless you take lots of smaller steps on a day-in, day-out basis.

## **October**

Work continues to be favored throughout the month, when the more effort you invest in your everyday duties and tasks, the likelier you'll nab an unexpected gain in income and/or esteem. During much of the earlier part of October, you might *also* find you're craving more quiet-at-home time... not only because you *still* may not feel like saying much to anybody, but also as a self-nurturing means of keeping your momentum going on the job. Work hard, relax harder. In the closing weeks, you'll be ready to emerge from relative hiding and return to a busier schedule of fun extracurricular activities. It's a good thing, too: You're brandishing a mysterious charisma that's likely to turn the head of at least one suitor who's totally *not* your usual type. You can't help but get under each other's skin, though neither of you may understand quite *why*.

## **November**

Though romantic prospects remain bright as November begins, please don't just settle for whatever pickings drift your way. With a strong Saturn influence affecting your 5th, think of this as a *test* of how well you can identify your preferences. The joy of being loved by someone else does not, in itself, make for a successful relationship. You have to feel that special *je ne sais quoi* about them, too. Plus, their life-goals must mesh well enough with your own, or else you'll be too tempted to set your ambitions aside on behalf of supporting *theirs*. Don't be afraid of engaging with these issues: Mars-in-your-7th *wants* you to be assertive, probing, and maybe a little tough. It's definitely worth *fighting* for the relationship that's best for you. Later in November, you're due to hit a nice happy stride with whatever tangible results you've been toiling to produce. You might even (gasp!) *look forward* to the work.

## **December**

December should hopefully yield an even sleeker workflow, now that you've gotten the hang of what you're doing and found little ways to improve your methods. Feel free to explicitly call

attention to these efficiency-enhancing improvements, so those who also benefit from your efforts are aware of how *smartly* you've learned to work. If you want a different and/or bigger piece of the pie, channel this concrete success into a straightforward request for more. Right as the year's winding down, burgeoning relationship possibilities (whether a brand-new pairing or the intensification of an existing one) captivate your interest. Might *this* be the one that's *different*, at last disrupting those unhealthy old patterns? If you want the answer to be 'yes', you must be willing to engage whatever issues feel most dangerous or scary, knowing full well it *could* bring the whole thing tumbling down. Willfully *avoiding* such issues now, however, will only make their eventual emergence (and, oh yes, they *will* eventually emerge) that much more calamitous. Take the gamble; the potential payoffs are *huge*.

## LEO

If all goes well, Leo, 2014 will be a year in which things begin to take a dramatic turn for the *better...*

... inviting you to embrace that 'new-beginning' feeling as you emerge from this prior period, with its loads of internal reflection, active processing through old emotional burdens, and continued stabilization of your day-to-day earthly routine. After all *that*, haven't you earned yourself a palpable *brightening-up?!?*

Jupiter, the most auspicious of planetary influences, arrives to your sign in the middle of July, ushering in a year-long *renewal* of optimism and excitement (which lasts into August '15) that reminds you how *many* different possibilities for life-affirming involvements you truly have to choose from. Jupiter only spends one year out of every twelve in a zodiac sign: The last transit of Jupiter through *your* sign occurred in 2002-2003... and once he leaves in mid-'15, he won't be back in Leo until 2026! That's why you'll *really* want to take advantage of this blessed astrological climate while you can.

Because of Jupiter's reputation as the 'good-luck' planet, we astro-watchers will sometimes pile a whole heap of unreasonable expectations upon his shoulders, as if his mere presence in one's sign alone will magically deliver riches and fame and true love and all the friends and fun one could ever hope for. Sorry to say, that's not quite how Jupiter works: Jupiter is less likely to make amazing things materialize out of thin air (although it *has* been known to happen), but rather creates a highly fortuitous *setting* in which you can more easily manifest what you want, provided you invest a modest amount of efforts. Though Jupiter will definitely help you along, it's still on *you* to start the ball rolling... to take the initiative, to follow all the necessary steps and keep the momentum alive, in order to give Jupiter a chance to add his guidance and support to your purposeful actions.

For even further motivation, once Jupiter's in Leo during the second half of the year, he'll also move into a harmonious *trine* to liberating-rebel Uranus, who's been in your solar 9th since 2010 and remains there into 2019. As a longer-term 9th-house agent of shakeups, Uranus's role is to rouse your enthusiasms for some out-of-the-box topic of interest, area of study, travel



destination, and/or way of understanding the world... with the promise of opening your eyes to alternative viewpoints or lifestyles, teaching you something new, and/or reengaging, from an expanded perspective, those big questions about what *really* matters to you most.

Though you've already been under this Uranus-in-the-9th for a few years and will *continue* to be for a while, this flowing aspect from Jupiter-in-your-1st—which is first exact in late September, with two more exact hits in March and June '15—frames *this* as questionably the *best* phase, within this larger transit, for taking bold venturesome action. To use this advantage to its fullest, your primary aim(s) should simply focus around trying something different or mind-expanding, to quench your worldly curiosities and, ultimately, to instill a greater sense of *meaning* into your life. If you've been chewing on the possibility of returning to school, zipping off on a faraway adventure, or diving deeper into some stimulating system-of-knowledge, this may finally be your time to actually start *doing* it, Leo.

It's fair to mention that developments which are furthered thanks to so-called 'benefic' Jupiter's guiding influence don't always *appear*, at first glance, to be very 'lucky'. Sometimes, Jupiter will bring us *losses*, as part of the larger process of opening our eyes to *how much more* is possible. In these cases, Jupiter is merely expanding upon what *hasn't been working*, emphasizing our awareness of any innate *limitations* in a given situation which may be greatly *hindering* our evolutionary potential. Once we notice we've outgrown this no-longer-suitable circumstance, we therefore must let it go in order to get *up-to-date* with our new-and-improved self. Please bear this in mind, Leo, should your year include any such parting-of-ways: Even though goodbyes can be painful as they are happening, the losses we experience under Jupiter's benevolent watch are typically those we look back upon with a certain degree of *gratitude*... ultimately respecting them as fortunate *turning-points*, opening doorways we otherwise would never have been able to enter.

This willingness to let go of whatever *doesn't serve* the present-day version of you, so you are freer to move forward with involvements that *do* align with who you've become, is an extension of the work you've already been charged with since Saturn entered your solar 4th house in late 2012. Chalk up that heavier emotional vibe you've been lugging around with you to Saturn-in-your-4th, a pressure to more seriously consider your private *self-nurturing* efforts as equally as important a responsibility as any outside-world activity. The 4th house represents how we take

care of ourselves on the emotional level, the domestic experience we create for ourselves in our place of residence (which, if we're meeting our 4th-house duty, should feel like a restorative *sanctuary*), and our relationship to our family-of-origin, insofar as our primary nurturing parent-figures modeled for us (to a more or less successful extent) how to show ourselves that type of essential care. Saturn's assignment as he remains in your 4th throughout '14, then, involves paying continual attention to your own inner well-being—and, whenever necessary, asserting healthy boundaries that will better protect you from people, environments, and attitudes which leave you feeling unworthy or unloved.

The 4th is not an especially pleasant place for Saturn to occupy (though I suppose we could argue that *nowhere* really is?), in case you hadn't noticed over this past year-plus. The 'heaviness' I mentioned earlier is often related to *confronting*, with greater consciousness, the ways you've been habitually putting yourself down and/or chipping away at your sense of emotional safety over these many years... typically involving your internal voice perpetuating patterns set into motion long ago, by parents or teachers or peers who (for their own likely-unconscious reasons) fed you unsupportive messages about your capabilities. Yet, there's really no way to *improve upon* how you've been treating yourself, with added sensitivity and gentle self-regard, without first *feeling* the disappointment and hurt that's come along with *not* receiving such treatment earlier. A certain *grieving* for your lost innocence—as one might experience on behalf of a child robbed of the 'carefree childhood' that underscores a healthy belief in one's self—can be an inextricable part of the process.

But those sobering Saturn-in-the-4th feelings *also* hopefully provoke a drive to *fix* whatever's impeded you from proper emotional self-nurturance. This could lead you, for example, to change the ground-rules by which you interact with family-members... embracing your adult authority to decide how you'd like to be treated (rather than unwittingly continuing to act out the 'child' role in a familiar family drama), and refusing to permit anyone else's manipulative or undermining sentiments to taint your inner core. The same premise applies in your current living situation, where Saturn expects you to actively *advocate* for whatever you need to feel comfortable, nourished, and emotionally secure. Whether it's a simple matter of investing more money and effort into your home, or if you've got to go toe-to-toe with a disagreeable housemate, and even if you must relocate (to another dwelling or a whole new town) in order to create a 'safe space' domestic climate for yourself, Saturn really wants you to address this actual work *this year*.

Of course, more often than not, we have *become* our own worst version of the unsupportive figures from our past, having internalized their critical feedback and incorrectly accepted it as our own: Saturn-in-the-4th asks you to *dissect* these negative messages, to *identify* their initiating source and then *reject* ownership of them, and to *replace* them with self-empowering affirmations that leave you feeling cared for and valued. You must *become* your own parent-figure, *improving* upon the model you inherited, if need be.

There's a direct connection, then, between (1) how thoroughly you handle your Saturn-in-the-4th demands, rooting out those detrimental imprints on your psyche and purposefully prioritizing restorative self-nurture, and (2) how freed up you feel to make the very most of Jupiter's fortuitous impact once he hits your sign. The more of this emotional prep work you can carry out during the *first* half of 2014, Leo, the better... especially while Jupiter will still be in your solar 12th, hidden from view and yet to manifest any tangible good-fortune, though rousing the vague sense that, yes, *something* exciting *is* indeed headed down your pipeline imminently.

This first half of the year is, without a doubt, more chaotic and uncertain (*for all of us*, not just you Leos) than the second... largely due to back-to-back *retrogrades*, of first Venus and then Mars, which *also* re-accentuate the themes being sparked by Uranus-and-Pluto's ongoing square. Knowing that Jupiter's brightening your outlook later on in '14, however, you'll hopefully be able to muster the forward-thinking assurance to forestall overly panicky reactions to any destabilizing developments which occur in the earlier months.

Venus will already be retrograde in your solar 6th when 2014 opens, and remains so through the end of January, bringing further emphasis to that same house where Pluto is presently spending *many* years (2008-2024) imposing a fairly comprehensive transformation on your everyday routines. Because the 6th describes our relationship to our day-to-day work regimen, the mundane chores and on-the-job tasks we're charged with fulfilling, as well as the habits we keep in tending to our bodily well-being, Pluto's extended residence there pushes you to *seriously examine* whether your practical methods are yielding you sufficient productivity and physical health... and to slowly-but-deeply make whatever changes are required to *strengthen* your health and/or *refine* your work practices.

Pluto always carries a *psychological* quality to its pressures, suggesting you may need to further unpack any unreasonable aversions you might be harboring toward the idea of sticking with a regular results-producing, health-promoting schedule. Any troubling circumstances which arise, disrupting either your health or your work rhythms, serve as an entry-point for more *deeply* scrutinizing which of your cumulative lifestyle behaviors contributed to this outcome... and for summoning a renewed dedication to rebuilding your routine, on a day-to-day basis, so as to prevent such troubles from recurring. Venus's retrograde (Dec 21 '13-Jan 31 '13) presents an ideal interval for reflecting on which elements of your routine are truly supportive of your overall goals—and which are merely bad habits that siphon energy *away* from you. To foster improvements, consider changing up your work-shift, your list of primary duties, your handling of household chores, your sleep patterns, your diet, and/or your fitness program.

There *is* a brewing tension between your seriously heeding these 6th-house concerns, day in and day out (per Pluto's insistence), and your burgeoning desire for some exciting new opportunity which will widen your life-scope *way beyond* this dull monotony of *even-more-of-the-same* (courtesy of Jupiter and Uranus). It's a tricky proposition to balance consistency against adventure, or mundane responsibility against life-affirming meaning. Yet, that's what you're charged with, Leo. The tension hits a critical peak during Mars's retrograde (March 1-May 19), and especially in April, as your tolerance for indulging the endless niceties seemingly expected of you from the usual cast of characters starts wearing *real* thin. The familiar small-talk, the pointless time-wasting, the apathetic attitude with which certain folks dicker away their days: Your discontent with *all that* may be reaching its final straw, not only moving you to express your impatience with them (even if it burns a bridge?) but helping to inspire greater yearning for whatever life-expanding leap might deliver you from this mind-numbing familiarity.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

On the work front, 2014 asks you to be less intently focused on the overall identity-defining trajectory of your capital-'C' Career... and to instead concentrate on diligently cultivating a more empowered sense of authority and accomplishment on the *day-to-day* level. As I've already mentioned, Pluto's long-term occupation of your 6th places an everyday onus on you to toil both effectively *and* in a sustainable manner. If it doesn't seem to matter *how hard* you work—because additional effort won't increase your payoff or impact your end-results, your labor-

methods are outdated or inefficient, and/or what's expected of you is beyond your physical capabilities—then adjustments are definitely in order, preferably *before* you run yourself ragged. January's Venus retrograde provides you the perfect chance to identify any such adjustments that need to be made, aiming for their implementation to take place as soon as early March.

As far as bigger-picture questions about where your career is headed are concerned, that growth-fueling Jupiter-Uranus influence you're under from mid-'14 into mid-'15 suggests you leave room for an unanticipated departure onto a *different* path... as a result of your pursuing a still-budding interest in something more meaningful. That *doesn't*, however, grant you free license to get careless with preserving everything you've already worked to achieve on your existing path, due to this increasingly restless itch for more *immediate* stimulation. This itch is at its worst in March and April, when your ability to unassumingly get your work done is exacerbated by constant interruptions and/or the annoying need to consult with other players at every turn. During this time, it's to your advantage to *cautiously consider* any seemingly miraculous offers from well-meaning collaborators to take certain burdens off your hands: What must you *give up*, in order to agree to accepting their assistance? Don't make any naïve assumptions about the other party's understanding based on how *you* might handle such an arrangement. If you sign off on their offer, be sure you know *exactly* what sort of entanglement these 'strings' are binding you to.

Your professional activities will be most conspicuously spotlighted from late April through June, when your house of public-achievements (the 10th) welcomes lots of planetary action. Be on your best behavior throughout May, preventing any negative self-talk from leaking into your 'official' communications; the positive rewards from this careful attitude should stream in during June. From the middle of August into September, you have a heightened potential for elevating your financial standing... but don't count on any magic solutions to rescue you from economic woes. This is simply a case where working a little harder or longer, watching your expenses a little more closely, and/or asking for modest increases based directly on cold hard evidence will take you that much further. Be very suspicious, on the other hand, of lucrative opportunities that sound too good to be true. November and December are your most energetic work months, enabling you to carry out *a lot more* than your average capacity usually permits. Will you use this added steam to jump-start a new job? to wrap up loose ends so you can soon move onward? to keep your momentum going strong? That all depends on where your passions are pointing you.

## Relationships / Romance

In both new *and* existing relationships, the ongoing effect of Neptune-in-your-8th throughout 2014 holds the promise of uniting your life with someone else's to *such* an intimate closeness, it's as if you're operating as a single entity... which can provide an amazingly blissful interpersonal experience, if you two genuinely *do* fit together so beautifully, but might *also* prove dangerous if it leads you to ignore certain inconvenient realities so as not to spoil the 'perfect' fantasy. As an 8th-house influence, Neptune can serve as an agent of divine love, enabling you to magically bridge differences between you and a partner, helping you to powerfully support one another in each fulfilling your purpose—or Neptune can *delude* you into wishfully *ignoring* critical differences (which might otherwise doom the relationship?), instead leading you to downplay parts of yourself and/or agree to things you probably shouldn't, in an effort to do *whatever it takes* to preserve the union.

True intimacy, it's important to remember, isn't based on *looking past* difference, but rather *learning together* how to constructively *integrate* it into how you relate to each other. This is hard, though rewarding, psychological work. So, if you're deeply involved with someone and you two *never* seem to be at odds, you might ask yourself what hot-button issue(s) you're *not* addressing in order to maintain this superficial 'bliss'. (*That's* probably what'll come back to bite you in the ass later.) You'll have *lots* of chances for fruitful relationship talk toward the beginning of the year, when it behooves you to raise important topics as early as January... and then to leave the conversation open well into March, with plenty of space for either or both of you to change your minds and/or express an array of valid opinions which might vary based on mood. Allowing these inconsistencies and complexities to surface (instead of rushing toward a tidy but premature resolution) will help you get to know each other better, and hopefully ward off the Neptune-heightened potential to see things as you wish them to be (rather than as they actually *are*). Provided you use these first months of '14 for purposeful interpersonal communication, March and April look to be a *superb* moment for enjoying the companionship of a special someone.

From late July and throughout August, you'll be exuding an extra dose of attractive charm, which makes this an ideal time to put yourself out there with more gusto, if you're hoping to score a new honey. (One caveat: Due to ongoing buzzkill activity from Saturn, it's likely you'll

have to arm-wrestle a groundless insecurity into submission, in order to remind yourself you really *are* that fantastic.) Even if you're *not* looking for love, you *still* might discover an admirer's showing you some feel-good attention... which then begs the question of why you'd *ever* settle for anything less than feeling this good. Such questions could emerge again in the second half of September and into October, when you're so ready to have some fun, you can barely tolerate anything (or *anyone*) standing in the way of your raucous merriment. With the fortuitous duo of Jupiter and Uranus playing first off Mars in early October, and then off Venus in late November and early December, your willingness to unapologetically pursue your own wacky agenda of activities that entertain, educate, and/or inspire you will only *further* fuel your outward appeal—because who *isn't* appealing when they're absorbed in what they enjoy?—and increase your chances of finding a partner-in-crime.

## **January**

January's tailor-made for reexamining how smoothly the different components of your daily routine are currently functioning: Do you work *efficiently*, or do you needlessly squander your energy? Are your duties well-suited to your talents? Are you working a schedule that meshes with your natural rhythms? And how well do your bodily-care habits (i.e., diet, exercise, sleep) support your enduring effectiveness? The sudden emergence of a work-related snafu or health concern could help you identify an ongoing problem that needs addressing, while the unexpected appearance of an encouraging *alternative* to 'how you've always done things' points the way to previously underexplored methods. Later in the month, you'll have a favorable interpersonal opportunity to clearly communicate your thoughts or express your concerns—in a manner the other person is very likely to understand *and* respond well to. But don't mistakenly assume this is the final word on the matter. This discussion is *not* over.

## **February**

Use February to make any essential adjustments to your work-and-health regimen, based on what you learned from January's reconsiderations. Aim to happily settle into an improved day-to-day flow by month's end. (And don't forget to give yourself mad props for obeying what your body's telling you.) Important relationship conversations continue, but you mustn't hastily judge their progress, just because it *seems* like you moved a step *back* after hitting a sensitive zone.

This discussion is *still* not over... and, in the short-term, it's probably more important to reestablish a mutually comfortable dynamic before probing any further into that bumpy spot. Even if bumps persist throughout the month, try your best to appreciate this is an essential part of the process toward gaining greater knowledge of each other. Keep up this interpersonal work, and great things will lie ahead.

### **March**

Venus spends most of March in your one-on-one relationship house (the 7th), which is *wonderful* news as far as advancing any ongoing conversations to an agreeable conclusion... but which *could* work against your standing firm on certain self-protective concerns, due to the obvious appeal of simply making peace. Be wary of meddling siblings or pals who try to convince you you're making too big a deal out of this; it's for *you* to decide what is or isn't important to you. (In fact, their trivializing of your concerns could well create a lingering problem in *that* relationship.) You probably shouldn't let up on advocating for this important issue until you *feel* the other person truly *gets* where you're coming from. The right-sounding words aren't enough if they ring hollow. However, once you *do* feel they genuinely understand, you may *finally* be done with all the damn talking, at least for *this* round.

### **April**

Your patience is liable to run thin during a precarious April, when nearly *everybody* is behaving madly. As eager as you might be to get a key initiative moving in a direction that affords much potential for growth, certain other players' reluctance to proceed without *lots more* hemming and hawing could drive you crazy... to the point where you hastily excuse yourself from any further heal-dragging exchanges and simply set off on your own. That's not necessarily a bad idea, as long as you're not forever sabotaging a stable situation you've worked hard to create, or counting on an unrealistic scenario to magically deliver you. (For example, if someone volunteers to bail you out or fund your great escape-plan idea, don't just jump on their bandwagon. You *will* be expected to sign away some degree of future freedom as part of the deal.) Late in the month, you'll want to play it by the book in all professional contexts, as important eyes will be watching how coolly and confidently you present yourself in public.



## **May**

Early in May, you might need to plaster on a brave professional face, so as not to jeopardize your standing during a momentary swell of internal doubt. If put on the spot to offer personal feedback when you're not feeling up to it, just stick close to the general (and thus *uncontroversial*) consensus opinion. As the month progresses, you can duck the spotlight by keeping a busy social schedule and nonchalantly losing yourself in the crowd. Should a conflict break out between two pals in your circle, there's no reason to take one side or the other and needlessly insinuate yourself into the drama; be neutrally *non-committal* in how you speak about it. When Venus tangles with the Uranus-Pluto square from your 9th mid-month, you could welcome a very happy surprise... in the form of an out-of-the-blue love connection with someone *way* different than your usual type, representing a whole new avenue of invigorating possibilities just barely beginning to open up.

## **June**

With queen Venus atop your solar chart in the 10th through most of the month, June is your best time all year for attracting favorable notice to your professional achievements. Please, therefore, squelch any self-defeating thoughts before they infect the manner in which you're presenting yourself. Let your work speak for itself, without feeling you need to go overboard in 'selling' its merits. Any lingering friction within your friend-group or other social scenes will likely come to a head this month. Feel free to make a decisive break with anyone who's disappointed you, if you believe it's necessary for defending your principles. On the other hand, it's *also* okay to just downgrade these alliances quietly—keeping them politely around as casual acquaintances, but not expecting much from them—and spare everyone the big hullabaloo.

## **July**

July's that wonderful month during which good king Jupiter arrives in your sign, bestowing upon you an auspicious yearlong window of opportunity that supports you in daring to grow beyond your prior limits. This major energetic shift doesn't happen until mid-month, however, so spend the *first* half of your July cruising gently along, with no pressure to make any significant moves. Do little and say even less, allowing those around you to act out however they will... while

silently taking stock of the effects their actions are having on your still-dynamically-changing social scene. As before, your shrewdest strategy is to publicly straddle the line (even if you've privately chosen to support one person over the other). Do your best to let this situation shake out without interfering: no need to dirty your hands when it's easy enough to come out smelling like a rose.

## **August**

August serves as a critical juncture in your larger battle against the internal demons that seek to subvert your self-assuredness. Even as a lineup of planets in your sign pumps up your visibility with ultra-inviting allure, you must contend with Mars-in-your-4th whipping up a wave of emotional discontent based on subjective worries. Are you courageous enough to defy the doubting voices in your head and cast those demons (along with any familial or domestic-sphere influences that feed off your self-doubt) out for good? If so, you'll happily welcome a lot of positive affirmation... maybe even some flattering attention from someone impressed by the newly-hard-earned *depth* they sense in you. At the tail-end of the month, draw upon your newfound confidence by introducing the topic of *money* with those who hold the power to raise your income.

## **September**

Your financial outlook is looking good during September, when some careful calculations about how much your day-to-day work is really *worth* can provide the hard data that'll make your case for a bump-up. Part of 'playing the game', of course, involves couching your self-interest in gracious language that purposefully feeds the listener what they want to hear. (For now, reserve your straightforward bluntness for friends and lovers—*not* professional associates.) If you snag a profitable outcome, please be sure you're not implicitly agreeing to something on *your* end you'll later come to regret. You'll pick up a *funky-fresh* attitude midway through the month, when you're *more* than ready to *get down*. As long as you don't mix business with pleasure, you're on track to be the life of the party... and, as a happy effect, to enjoy your choice of eligible hotties.

## **October**

Much of October is packed with pleasurable social activity... and relatively *few* urgent responsibilities requiring immediate attention. Concentrate on catching up with old pals, deepening your connection with acquaintances you've always liked, and getting to know a few new characters in your wider network. You never can tell who might later prove to be an instrumental figure. Treat everybody kindly, under the presumption you *will* see them again—and try not to share gossipy info you wouldn't say straight to the subject-in-question's face. Your brash willingness to introduce yourself to individuals who *intrigue* you (due to where they come from, what they've experienced, and/or how much they know about an engaging topic) is very likely to *pay off* in a surprising way. Late in the month, as the astrological tides turn, you'll start to more noticeably crave the comforts of home.

## **November**

November is your best time all year for putting your nose to the grindstone and plowing through a *huge* amount of work. This applies not just on the job, but also to personal chores that have been waiting on the proverbial to-do list for too long. It's an *especially* ideal month for tackling home-improvement projects and/or kick-starting a 'get healthy' initiative. After being quite socially busy in prior weeks, you can definitely benefit from some private peace-and-quiet during the earlier part of November. But as the month progresses, you'll hardly be able to resist the call to get your butt back out into circulation. If you're on the prowl, skip the cheesy pick-up lines and the awkward small-talk. Simply by giving off a good-time vibe, your non-verbal language will draw interested parties right to you. Then, once the conversation gets going, you'll be discussing *real* stuff pretty darn quick.

## **December**

As 2014 draws to a close, you may well be riding on a high, thanks to the past couple months' sudden and exciting developments. Pause for a brief moment (*if* you can calm down long enough) to reflect upon how much has changed over the year... especially your vision for what your future looks like. If you've already got your heart set on a certain big adventure for '15, use your December to responsibly tie up loose ends and put your important business in order.

(Don't be so shocked if your anticipation of 'what's next' actually motivates you to work *harder*—and happier.) With Mars poking around in your relationship house (the 7th), you might hit a rough patch with somebody who's *not* on board with your latest 'wild and crazy idea'. Your best bet for getting through to them? Take a *philosophic* tone, detailing your quest for greater meaning. Or you could just *let* 'em stay pissed off. It's *your* life, after all.

## VIRGO

As the number-crunching data-analyst of the zodiac, you Virgos are unrivalled in your capacity to arrive at logical conclusions based on your keen consideration of the facts at hand. Put you in a carefully controlled laboratory environment, and you'll tinker and toil and test out your methods until you attain the precise results you're seeking (if, that is, your trademark perfectionism hasn't set you up for disappointment as you cling to unrealistic expectations). Produce a plan, try it out, observe the effects, refine the plan, try again, repeat until you're content with what you get: What could be more straightforward than *that*?

The *problem* with such a Virgoan approach, of course, is the unruly role *other people* play in impacting on how any given situation turns out. After all, life is *not* a 'carefully controlled laboratory environment', is it? Human beings behave in all sorts of wacky ways, driven by their subjective feelings and past psychological patterning—and no amount of rational analysis on *your* part will make their emotional motives any easier to understand. The only surefire means to gaining greater understanding of this interpersonal 'information' is patient, observant *participation* in relationships, both great and small.

Other people's impacts on your life cannot, and must not, be ignored. And your 2014, Virgo, seems to demand you invest *a lot* of conscious attention to the interpersonal considerations in nearly every zone of activity.

Neptune and his boundary-dissolving fog are still towards the *beginning* of a super-extended visit to your one-on-one relationship house (the 7th), where Neptune will stay for *more than a decade* more, inspiring you to lower your guard and be more sympathetically receptive in how you behave with the special individual(s) in your life. As an agent of divine calling, Neptune-in-the-7th holds the power to deliver an important new partnership and/or to heighten a connection with someone you already know... a development which may make little logical sense to you, but which nonetheless shows up in a rather serendipitous fashion and, simply put, 'just *feels* right'. The message Neptune's carrying for you: Your best-laid plans, artful though they may be, must not be allowed to block you from full engagement in meaningful interpersonal unions. By Neptune-in-the-7th's logic, compassionate partnership will bring you closer to God (or your version of the Something-Greater) than anything else.

Watery Neptune can be an uncomfortable influence for pragmatic Virgos to handle, as it asks you to move *beyond* your need to check the facts—and instead to go forth on *faith*. Evaluating a potential relationship (romantic, professional, friendship, etc.) according to a detailed checklist of ‘do’s and ‘don’t’s totally misses the point. Can you look *past* the identifying specifics, in order to connect with another person’s soul-level ‘higher-self’ (or whatever you want to call it)? Interacting with others from this ‘higher’ perspective can lead you down paths you otherwise would *never* have followed, motivating you to considerately serve *their* particular preferences and proclivities... and inviting you to share heart-opening experiences that’ll help soften your sometimes-excessively-cerebral attitude towards life. If all goes well, the other person gladly returns this favor, putting *their* self-serving desires aside to show *you* greater consideration and care than perhaps you’ve ever received. Ideal bliss, right?

Neptune can also be quite *overly idealistic*... and the ‘bliss’ he brings is *sometimes* predicated on wishful thinking and/or an excessive amount of self-sacrifice. The flip-side of ‘looking past’ certain details about a person? Willing disregard of the warning-signs. Such self-shielding ignorance is typically coupled with the potentially dangerous belief that offering someone *even more* love and support will necessarily help them rise to be their best self. Though things *can* productively work out that way (in cases where the support is mutual and coupled with concrete self-development efforts), more often than not, the ‘helping’ partner gives and gives to the point of martyrdom... while the ‘helpee’ keeps taking and taking from them, continuing to indulge whatever red-flag behaviors caused them to ‘need help’ in the first place. Not a very healthy dynamic, to be sure—and one to be avoided at all costs.

The trick with all things Neptune, of course, is we can never reliably discern whether he’s calling us to our highest divine purpose... or merely deluding us into believing what we *want* to believe. This is the unavoidable pitfall of ‘going forth on faith’, with pressing relevance for you, Virgo, in all interpersonal contexts. One constructive technique for warding off any potential self-delusion in relationships: Engaging in copious amounts of continuing discussion about *anything* and *everything* you have questions or concerns about—including (and *especially*) those issues which threaten to make one or the other of you somewhat *uncomfortable*.

Saturn’s occupation of your 3rd house (where he’s been since late ‘12) is a persistent reminder that much of your most urgent personal-work centers around the need to participate in

potentially drawn-out and/or psychologically demanding conversations... even in moments when you'd rather cut the exchange short and/or avoid addressing sensitive issues. Saturn is testing your fortitude in this regard, asking you to *talk through* whatever interpersonal dynamics might otherwise get swept under the rug, to prevent incorrect presumptions (on your end or someone else's) from creating social distance based on false projections. This need to up your conversational game applies not only in established relationships, but also with folks you may not know well or at all: It's better to explicitly *call out* the unspoken, though it may cause a few awkward moments, then to pretend everything's cool and mutually understood when it's not.

Please keep Saturn happy by investing added effort into your social interactions throughout 2014. Not only will you foster greater confidence in your ability to discuss matters of emotional import (and to withstand the passing social discomfort that often accompanies it), but you'll earn a more solid standing with those friends and acquaintances who'll respect your willingness to clear the air by addressing the pink elephant in the room. Due to the 3rd-house influence, such investments could bring *extra-special* benefits in your relationships with siblings, cousins, and/or neighbors, especially if there's some unresolved shit between you that needs unpacking. Even if it doesn't go *exactly* as you hope, at least you'll come away with a clearer perspective on the situation.

If you *don't* do your social due-diligence, you're likely to find an increasing *superficiality* permeating your exchanges and/or a growing lack of interest from others. If you (consciously or not) exude an impatient or intolerant vibe, as if to insinuate you find all this so-called 'chattering on' to be a waste of your precious time, you should probably expect to be *cut out* of the social circuit to a certain degree. Who wants to be made to feel like an irrelevant, inconvenient, or expendable nag? Even the most seemingly *casual* exchange could be deeply significant, if it begins a rapport with someone who just *might* prove important later.

Jupiter's presence in your 11th house only *reiterates* the advantages of regular social interactivity through the first half of your year (until he moves into your 12th midway through July). Since the middle of '13, Jupiter-in-the-11th has presented you fortuitous openings and opportunities via your wider community of friends, colleagues, teammates, or fellow believers-in-the-cause... but only if you've actually *placed* yourself out there amidst the crowd. As long as you keep mainly to yourself, nothing bad is doomed to occur; yet, those potential lucky-chances

which would *only* cross your radar through networking, group participations, or other collaborative efforts will surely be *squandered*. (You can't come up with *everything* on your own, no matter how clever you are.) Jupiter makes these first months of '14 an especially worthwhile time for trying out group activities, joining forces with like-minded individuals, volunteering for an organization, and/or, most importantly, taking risks to explore potential new avenues of friendship. A bit of conscious, proactive attention to your social positioning will go a *long way*.

This collective-minded Jupiter-in-the-11th *does*, however, pose a threat to power-monger Pluto, currently lurking in your solar 5th... and desperately wanting you to become more passionate and unapologetically vocal about whatever distinctive qualities and quirks set you *apart* from the crowd. Continuing what was started last year, Jupiter and Pluto oppose each other for the third (and final) time in April, framing this tension between the promising possibilities which come from 'playing well with the group' (Jupiter) and the drive to assert *your* individuating mark on whatever you're participating in, whether or not it works for anyone else (Pluto). There's no easy resolution for this tension; *both* priorities are important.

The more you feel as if your voice is being drowned out by the chorus, the likelier that Pluto-in-the-5th will compel you to *demand* certain items be handled *your way*. Why? Because, you might argue, you *know* better. Your way just *makes sense*. In reality, though, this is more a question of *personal preference* than of your being objectively right... not that 'preference' is any less important a reason to hold firm. Pluto's long-term 5th-house function is to push you into pursuing your desired predilections and pleasures for no other purpose than *that's what you want*. This applies not only to which opinions you decide to express, but also how you choose to spend your leisure-time hours—and *who* you enjoy spending them *with*.

Right at the new year, a Venus retrograde in your 5th (which begins late in December '13 and extends through the end of January) further emphasizes this theme of revisiting who and what you most find affection for, possibly bringing back old loves and/or flashing you flirtatious new prospects, leaving you to weigh one type of desire against another. Rather than trying to make some sort of (ahem) 'objective' sense of the matter, it's wiser to reflect on the type of life you most want (*simply because it's what you want!*)... and then assess the rightfulness of this-or-that relationship or fun-time activity based on this preference. Time to stop defaulting to ultra-



rationality, especially if it comes at the expense of joy—and to acknowledge there *needn't* be clear logic behind a desire.

Wild-card Uranus's ongoing occupation of your 8th (already a few years in and stretching into 2019) invites you to take a chancy leap or two—either dramatically *into* or just-as-dramatically *out of* some pretty deep interpersonal involvement—based on an instinctual urge to shake up your psychological relationship to 'mine vs. ours' questions. You might abruptly decide to get 'further into bed' with someone (as lover or business partner, housemate or confidante), knowing full well you're gambling your unfettered independence to combine forces in this deliciously complicated and/or passionately stimulating union. Or perhaps you'll wake up one morning totally *fed up* with being entangled in an energy-sucking drama fest... and, despite the precious emotional history you've invested there, choose to suddenly walk out. Scenarios of *either* extreme will require some *messy relational reconfigurations*, of course. So *why* mess things up, you ask? Because going for more of *what you want* is worth every bit of the mess.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

In the mundane zone of your work life, the first half of your 2014 is dominated by an unusually lengthy transit of Mars through your solar 2nd (Dec 7 '13-Jul 25 '14), the house associated with money earned from your own efforts. Mars's visit will be extra-long due to a 2½-month retrograde (March 1-May 19), during which his standard get-up-and-go proves somewhat *less reliable* than it typically is. Under a Mars retrograde, we often find ourselves *sidetracked* from the item or endeavor we had intended to invest our initiative into, thanks to an entirely *other* concern which demands we focus our energies *there* instead. Likewise, on the physical level, our productive rhythms may either sputter or surge, yet are unlikely to function quite as one would expect and/or prefer.

With all this occurring in your 2nd, you'll probably find financial issues to be somewhat unstable and/or frustrating during those earlier months of '14... perhaps because of an unplanned expense or a need to repeatedly shuffle resources from one spot to another. The 2nd isn't exclusively about money, but deals more broadly with our sense of *self-worth*; we must understand what about ourselves is most *valuable* if we hope to earn material security from it. Mars's protracted 2nd-house stay, then, also suggests you could discover your greatest assets

or attributes may be something *other* than what you'd thought they were—but only if you're open to re-visioning your spreadsheet of personal strengths and weaknesses, so it's more up-to-date and appealing to those who write the paychecks. As soon as the year opens, your economic standing may already feel shakier than is comfortable, though not necessarily as a result of anything you have much control over. In fact, you're likely to spend much of January and February thinking and rethinking (thanks, Mercury retrograde in your 6th) how to shift your day-to-day work patterns in response to these changing circumstances. It may take into March before you start feeling like you've restored a nice workflow... and then, bam! Mars goes retrograde, and the ground shifts *again*.

April proves to be an *especially* volatile month: Every independent move you *attempt* to make is somehow met with others' unruly reactions and hasty whims, leaving you largely powerless to do much other than try to hold your own. May brings a pivotal turning point, as you're able to finally start drumming up more attention for your *own* career aspirations—particularly if you rise to the spontaneous challenge of meeting others' unruliness with just as swift and self-determined a response. Late June and early July usher in a culmination to 2014's work-related twists and turns, setting you up to *at last* receive some public recognition for your versatility and flexibility (thanks, Venus in your 10th). Who knew you were so quick on your toes? *Remind everyone*, should a surprising offer arise at this time; this *isn't* the moment for a show of self-effacing modesty. Your whole career scene calms down quite a bit in the second half of the year. Money concerns from earlier in '14 ought to show signs of relief and positivity in October. December is probably your best month all year for simply plowing through lots of good honest hard work.

### **Relationships / Romance**

As I already told you, Virgo, your 2014 puts a *strong* focus on relationships in general, thanks to the fact that outer planets are occupying *all* the social houses in your solar chart. Your first-and-foremost reminder: Other people (and their variable motives) *cannot* be pinned down or predictably planned for. If you're too set on controlling how the events of your day-to-day existence transpire, you're liable to experience this fact as a troublesome *inconvenience*... though that won't rescue you from *still* having to take others' opinions and emotional inclinations into account, nearly any which way you turn. Yet, with a more open attitude, you'll hopefully see

your quality-of-life will be *much enhanced* by happily allowing your attention to become hijacked by a special someone's far-different (i.e., more imaginative? idealistic? whimsical? relaxed?) perspective on the world. Neptune really *wants* you to willingly lower your guard, so you may enjoy such enhancements—but only so long as you don't throw yourself overboard, and get sacrificially sucked into the undertow of someone else's maelstrom. Be compassionate and understanding, but *never* martyr yourself trying to save someone from themselves.

With Venus retrograde in your love-and-romance house (the solar 5th) as the year opens, you're likely to find yourself caught between what—or who—you've long *told* yourself you wanted and a surprising alternative. Is this hot new (or renewed) prospect *really* as good as it seems, or merely a mirage? The entire process of questioning what—or who—you most truly desire will be a very fruitful exercise, whether you decide to reinvest in an existing coupling with refreshed interest *or* to move on to something better aligned with your other lifestyle-goals. Though Venus returns to direct motion by the end of January, you remain under the spell of hyper-romantic astrology well into April, indicating a lot of close, intimate *togetherness*. Perhaps you'll be swept away by the thrilling bliss of your brand-new honey or enjoy a second honeymoon with your longtime love? Those who are single and looking should *definitely* take advantage of the auspiciously amorous astro-opportunities aimed at you throughout the first third of '14. Supportive trines from both Saturn-in-your-3rd *and* Jupiter-in-your-11th point to promising meetings and match-ups whenever you participate in group activities or go out with friends, mixing and mingling in the social scene. Let your pals play the wingman/-woman role, or invite them to fix you up with *their* pals. Push yourself to deepen the conversational tone by exposing more detailed personal information, as an offering to those you seek to bond with. Sure, it could be awkward at first. But if you scare someone away by being too real, it's only saving you from falling for the wrong person.

By the second half of August, expect to be thoroughly immersed in whatever *you're* actively working on... so much so, in fact, that you could easily neglect to pay your special someone as much as attention as they're craving. You may be challenged *not* to react to their beckoning as an irritant, even if you genuinely care for them. But if you don't explicitly ask for the space you need and likewise give them a clear idea of when they *can* plan to see you, you're being unfair. September amps up your attractiveness quotient, making it almost *too* effortless to win over whoever you wish to impress. Be aware, though, you might not be privy to their *full* impression of you, and/or they may be concealing parts of themselves from you in order to impress you.

October's best romantic prospects could be lurking closer than you think. Don't overlook the folks right in front of your face: All it may take is one provocative conversation to move an acquaintanceship into uncharted intensity. As 2014 draws to a close, you'll again be in a position to *assert* what you want rather than merely respond to others' come-ons. Hopefully, after a year full of relational lessons, you will be *much* clearer on what legitimately counts as a *damn good time*.

## **January**

Tensions between what you dearly *want* to do (and/or *who* you want to *be with*) and what you feel you're 'supposed to do' must be sorted through during January. Unmistakable opportunities for you to have *more* of a good time than you've typically allowed yourself are ripe for the picking—if you're willing to rethink the strict confines of what you consider *practical*. Trying to talk yourself into or out of a particular desire, by pondering what theoretical 'other people' would do in your shoes, just creates a lot of extra mental noise. Shamelessly accept the freedom to choose what'll bring *you* the most joy, and forget about how anyone else might judge your decision. If you start experiencing guilt about goofing off too much, just counterbalance the fun with a little bit of extra work... especially if it'll bring in a little bit of extra cash.

## **February**

You have a much-recommended (maybe even badly-needed) chance to rethink your work processes this month, with Mercury retrograding back into your 6th. The good news: You'll find a direct link between the effort you put into eliminating inefficiencies and the increased confidence you'll feel in your mastery. The less-ideal part: You'll have to run your revisions by any impacted peers, which could involve a series of potentially lengthy and inconvenient conversations before everyone's completely on board. (This is just as integral a piece of work, by the way.) Later in February, you may end up putting your own needs aside, in order to be wholly present and devoted to your partner or another important figure. If they'd do the same thing for you, it's totally worth the sacrifice. But if it's always all about *them*, you might want to rethink your willingness to give and give and give.

## **March**

Presuming you weathered February's work reconfigurations like a champ, you should expect to relish a smoother flow, as well as obviously improved results. Are you (gasp) actually *enjoying* this job more noticeably? Leave it to your crotchety co-workers and their whispered complaints to threaten this pleasant atmosphere. Respond patiently, with clarifying facts, but don't absorb their pessimism. Mars retrograde in your 2nd hints at the need to revisit your financial plan: If money is unexpectedly needed elsewhere, you might have to shuffle around some other expenses. It could take a few months to get back on track, but that's just how life goes; please don't get *too* upset about it. In the relationship zone, be careful not to let your words veer too off-course from your true emotions just because you're being unduly influenced by the *other person's* feelings and/or are afraid to hurt them. Wishing you felt a certain way won't make it so.

## **April**

April's ultra-dynamic chain of events might make it hard for you to stay focused on your own interests... especially due to the potential of a 'surprise' being sprung on you, which could fundamentally alter your relative level of freedom within an important arrangement. Doing what directly profits *you* may require a more distinct separation from the other players and their concerns. Pep-talk yourself through the chaos with regular reminders about the bigger-picture purpose that underscores why you bother. By the end of the month, you should feel recommitted to your overarching mission—and, as a result, less perturbed by others' disruptive actings-out. With Venus in your 7th through most of the month, it's an excellent moment to express your appreciation to those who matter most. And if you've been scoping a certain someone, this is your time to make that move. Be aware there's probably *a lot more* going on with this person than meets the eye.

## **May**

Early in May, be on guard against naysaying friends who casually shit all over whatever idea's currently got you all jazzed up. Are they just being jealous and critical? Or do they have an actual point worth considering? Even if they're onto something, it's not a big enough deal to let your excitement wither. Erratic relational energies carried over from last month offer you a shot

to reassert your agency in the dealings. Taking that one split-second, self-serving risk will likely leave you in a much better spot than if you dragged your heels out of supposed fairness. In career matters, your words will attract a wider set of interested listeners—including at least one who *could* give you a leg-up, if they like what they hear. Please take advantage of this attentive audience, presenting them just enough fascinating information to leave them hungry for more. But try not to pander too flagrantly; it'll just water down your message and reveal a lack of self-assurance.

## **June**

Your financial picture, whether in good shape or less so, *finally* starts to get a lot clearer as June progresses. One more round of minor adjustments ought to put those not-knowing worries from prior months confidently behind you. If you can steal a perspective-shifting escape from your day-to-day existence—a faraway trip! a retreat! immersion in a thought-provoking pursuit!—earlier in the month, you'll return with a refreshed attitude and everything in better perspective. (Don't be surprised, though, if you must deal with an annoying interruption mid-escape that requires you to call or email someone back.) The latter half of the month will likely involve follow-ups, fine-tunes, and fixes on the career front, as you readdress topics and tasks you *thought* you'd already handled. Take this as a hidden opportunity to reestablish your competence by fostering a friendly rapport with key figures.

## **July**

Expect few moments of solitude through most of July, as everything you do seems to involve a whole crew of collaborators, supporters, and/or friends to lend a hand. At times, you could get fed up with all the group-mindset thinking... and feel a compulsive urge to tell everyone exactly how *you* believe it all should go down, proudly demonstrating your exceptional judgment. *Fight that urge*, please. It behooves you to play nicely along, even if the collective process drags on at a tedious pace. If you are indeed correct about the best approach, you'll have a better chance to share your expertise later. For now, just dutifully assume your position on the team. Mid-month brings an excellent professional opening for you to build upon your last couple months' successes. It's easier to ask for more money or a higher spot if you're feeling confident about your capabilities.

## **August**

As August begins, you could feel a bit resentful because certain folks (or, for that matter, the world at large) seem to be expecting *a lot* of attention from you... at a time when you'd much prefer to just lose yourself in your own world of private pursuits and *not* have to talk so much. Still, your continuing social participation is demanded, even if you aren't in the mood. Why make it worse by anxiously dreading it, when you could end up pleasantly surprised? Further into the month, you should start to get your groove back, finding yourself better able to express what you mean and to adeptly respond to any on-the-spot developments. This rush of savvy self-assuredness could, however, leave you strangely unaware of how a close friend or main squeeze is receiving your take on these matters—and how their very *different* perspective would poke holes in your supposedly well-thought-out case, if only you understood their thinking.

## **September**

Aura-fluffing Venus spends most of September in your sign, putting your impeccable polish on more prominent display (and help you enchant the pants right off those who *like* what they see). Use this glorious occasion to encourage your playmate(s) to blow off steam *your* way, taking the lead on organizing those fun-time activities *you* most enjoy. Make no assumptions about a flirtatious admirer's intentions; if you have questions, ask 'em outright. In any discussions about money, don't let your pride get the best of you: Diplomatically 'playing the game' is a wiser strategy than making flagrant demands. As the month proceeds, a growing dissatisfaction on the home-front calls for you to take some unambiguously decisive action to remove the problem... unless you get yourself caught up in 'feeling bad' for the other person (but at your *own* expense?).

## **October**

Negotiations (whether internal or interpersonal) about your practical standing, particularly related to financial concerns, dominate a large part of the month. Though the ground beneath your feet may feel alarmingly unstable, all this dynamic motion *also* affords you an excellent shot at radically shifting old money-management patterns that have caused you needless headaches in the past. This could deliver those long-awaited fruits from the protracted efforts

you took earlier in the year. Consider spending any extra energy or cash on improving your domestic experience. By the end of October, you may find yourself more excited about willingly rejoining the social scene than you have in months. Presuming you've at last reaped *some* concrete symbol that your work is paying off, you now have *every* right to digress or dilly-dally instead of rushing back to business.

## **November**

Ensuring your desires are *very clearly known* is your best strategy for an especially gratifying (and maybe even titillating) November... though longtime companions who have grown to count on your self-restraint could be blindsided by this more brazen behavior. In long-term relationships, it's *healthy* to keep everybody on their toes, rather than sliding into robotic repetitions. Reach out to friends for frank heart-to-hearts about the provocative changes in your attitude, so you can receive both supportive eggings-on and insightful outside feedback. The final weeks in November provide an excellent opportunity to reconnect with family-members who you've previously needed to keep at arm's-length. This time, consider just letting them pull their same old annoying tricks—without falling prey to the same old aggravation. If you can look at them as plain old people (not the mythic figures you've made them into), you'll probably just feel *sympathy* for their obvious discontent.

## **December**

Rather than a lazy expanse of holiday time-off, your December looks more like a 'work hard, play hard' sort of deal. Mars moves relatively unperturbed through your 6th, delivering an injection of task-mastering punch you won't want to waste. If you feel up to it, you might even volunteer to help orchestrate the logistics for any seasonal festivities, since you'll have the added pep to handle it commendably. (Plus, if you're the one doing the heavy lifting, you're entitled to kick the meddlers out of the kitchen.) You've got plenty of astro-action in the pleasure-zone, too, indicating you'll have no trouble collecting on the extra revelry you've earned from such diligent work. In fact, your partyin' vibe will make everyone else want what *you're* having. Lure 'em to the dance floor, and boogie on!



## LIBRA

Why mince words? Your 2014 will be *anything* but boring... *especially* the first half of your year, with energizer-bunny Mars (who usually moves through a sign in about seven weeks) igniting your sign, Libra, for a rare *seven-and-a-half-month* visit.

This, in itself, should be noteworthy enough news. But this extended visit from Mars is only *part* of a bigger story: During his lengthy stay in Libra, Mars will *also* form hard aspects to Uranus, Pluto, and Jupiter, all of which happen to be situated in particularly pivotal zones of your solar chart (the 7th, the 4th, and the 10th, respectively), signifying potential turbulence in your interpersonal relationships, your familial and/or domestic foundation, *and* your outer-world career life. Every which way you turn, it seems, *something's* begging for attention or action.

So, let's please forget about any 'peace' for the time being, and instead sign on for a '14 of earnestly *re-creating* yourself. Once the dust settles, you'll be glad you proactively clutched the reins this year... unapologetically *yanking* and *pulling* them, resolutely, down whatever course *you* most desire to travel.

Mars and Libra are an odd planet/sign pairing, according to astrology's traditional rulership schema. Mars is at his best when he's ardently poking and prodding... grabbing what he wants, then galloping onward... direct, decisive, always ready to take charge at a moment's notice. Libra, meanwhile, is ruled by Venus, who operates quite *differently*. Libran children of Venus, as you well know, typically attract what they want *to* them... using subtle (though no less strong) powers of persuasion and people-pleasing to smoothly sculpt a situation to their advantage... indirect, considerate, and compromising (at least on the surface), always ready to *receive* the benefits of their shrewd diplomatic efforts. That's why Mars in Libra is often caught between self-interest and concession, aggression and passivity. He doesn't quite know how to full-on *fight* for what he wants, without sacrificing his grace and likability.

To make the very most of your 2014, then, you Libras must get temporarily comfortable with wielding Mars's straightforward and more noticeably assertive energy. Mars (who'll be in your sign through the second half of July) will increase your physical initiative, your willful presence, your bluster—and here's a critical piece to understand—*whether you want it to or not*. You

cannot inconspicuously cruise by on nonchalance and charm, cushioning your self-interest behind a glossy pleasantness. In any given situation, your desires *will* protrude into the scene. Folks will *know* your particular stake in the matter, and some may not *like* it (especially if they're more accustomed to you always graciously giving in). This is just how it's goes.

Therefore, you might as well *stand behind* your desires (since you *won't* be pulling the wool over anybody's eyes) and plainly *push* for whatever outcome best serves *you*... even knowing your stepped-up scrappiness could rile some tempers or kick up a fuss. Mars *wants* you fired up like this. Resist this call to stronger self-assertion, however, and Mars will merely inflame your anger and resentment: You'll become *acutely* aware of what you're *not* getting and/or *who's* winning at your expense, rousing your competitive side and, ultimately, *still* upping your potential for interpersonal friction (because, let's be honest, you won't be very good at hiding your *discontent* either). If you're dealing with a heightened risk of conflict *regardless* of what you do, then why *wouldn't* you just be as bold and shameless about pursuing *your* agenda as possible? By astrology's clock, the time sure seems right for it.

Mars (who first landed in Libra early in December '13) will have already made his first of three Uranus oppositions and Pluto squares shortly before 2014 begins, ushering the new year in on a bumpy note that *persists* over the months ahead. An opposition between Mars and Uranus is one of the most explosive astro-transits there is: a head-to-head confrontation pitting the self-assertive go-getter (Mars) against the rabble-rousing rebel (Uranus), quickly turning any battle-of-wills into an unpredictable shitshow. This potential for head-on conflict is only *aggravated* in your case, Libra, by Mars projecting outward from your home-sign and Uranus stirring his unstable surprises from your 7th (the one-on-one relationship house). Suffice it to say, with this uncharacteristically martian edge driving your relational attitudes, any interpersonal clashes you participate in could get pretty *major* pretty quickly... and, if one of you flat-out *loses control*, it may well alter the dynamic between you forevermore.

Wild-card Uranus is no newbie to your 7th, first arriving back in 2010 (and staying into 2019), so you've probably grown somewhat *accustomed* to instability and unpredictability in your relationship life over recent years. Uranus-in-the-7th often plays out through our involvement with erratic, unreliable *partners* whose inconsistent actions keep us on our toes... whether blessing us with unexpected experiences and excitements or (less positively) leaving us on

constantly unsteady relational ground, never knowing quite where we stand. You Librans in particular have a rather sly ability to pin such volatility on the *other person*, all while maintaining a cool-and-collected demeanor that only further accentuates *their* craziness—though, with Uranus ruffling *your* 7th house (not necessarily *theirs*), any unbearably erratic behavior on their part should be seen as the fomenting provocation you *need*, in order to inspire *you* to liberate yourself from such destabilizing interpersonal involvements.

Now that you're the Mars-bearer, however, you won't be able to claim your innocence so convincingly: Unlike similar brouhahas in the past, *this time* you are unarguably an active participant, if not the primary instigator. Fight unapologetically for your relational satisfaction; anything less is a *waste* of this astrological shakeup.

At the same time, Pluto is squaring both Mars and Uranus from your 4th house, indicating that the *roots* of any reluctance to assert your interpersonal desires run *deep* in your emotional core... likely stemming from the parental (and/or other familial) dynamics you grew up with, which are now ripe for excavation and healing. Another slow long-term transit (2008-2024), Pluto's occupation of your 4th dredges up unintegrated psychological residue from your childhood, revealing the ways in which you re-create your originating family-drama as an adult... constantly reliving burdens and guilt-trips and manipulative must-dos laid on you (consciously or not) during your upbringing, at the expense of your own right to emotional self-determination. You may replay these dynamics in your domestic life (also symbolized by the 4th house), letting yourself be bullied into submission by controlling housemates and/or settling for a less-than-nurturing living situation. Or maybe you just carry out the bullying *yourself*, stoically enduring that tough inner-critic who, in the quiet hours during which you *should* be emotionally refreshing yourself, just never seems to let up about all you could've done *better*. Where's the restfulness in *that*?

As an transformational agent, Pluto-in-the-4th will *intensify* any internal discontent—and especially that which is triggered by familial contact (whether with the actual living-and-breathing folks you came from *or* the equally-if-not-more-threatening versions of them who lurk inside you) and/or problems on the domestic front—to that intolerable point from which you're *forced* to do something about it (or suffer harsher and harsher feelings). You then must disentangle the knots of fear, rage, and/or hurt sufficiently so you can identify the *fallible human being* behind

this 'menacing tyrant' you perceive... and, from *that* level of consciousness, it's a lot easier to overthrow the 'tyrant' inside and claim total control over your emotional well-being. With assertive Mars now pressing against Pluto from the self-defining 1st house, your willingness to submit to *any* disempowering or manipulative undercurrents has run its course. You *must* declare emotional autonomy, or else your self-care capabilities will continue to wither and die. You are the only one in charge of knowing what you need to feel emotionally secure; *vanquish any interlopers*.

2014 *does* offer positive promise in this arena as a result of Venus's retrograde through your 4th, which starts at the tail-end of '13 and continues through the end of January. Because Venus retrogrades support us in readdressing unfinished relationship business and reassessing what's ultimately most *valuable* to us, receiving such an event in your 4th house can help you positively repair whatever power-dynamics with family-members and/or housemates *aren't* working for you. This could be as simple as you catching a glance at *another* side to their behavior, helping you open your heart to *their* hurt wide enough to reestablish a caring line-of-communication, and/or coming to peace in a long-standing disagreement which was never properly dealt with. Of course, it could work the *other* way, too, exposing once and for all why you *can't* productively include their influence so prominently in your intimate life, inspiring you to set a new better-boundaried precedent in how you relate. You might even go so far as to consider a residential move, to get away from a particular person or a geographic locale with too many painful memories... or simply to create a more pleasant and nurturing home for yourself, an important priority too long ignored. (Beware of making the full-on move right away, though: Under a Venus retrograde, we don't always properly appraise the actual worth of something, discovering only *after* Venus is direct that we paid too much and/or don't like it as much as we thought. Explore options in January, but don't act until late February onward.)

And speaking of retrogrades, Mars kicks off *his* at the very beginning of March, spending two-and-a-half months in apparent backward motion (*through your sign!*) before turning direct against midway through May. Mars retrograde carries a *renegade* quality that's hard to reliably describe. Its expressions vary widely, but one common thread is that our instinctive drives and/or physical energies *flip* to an alternate rhythm. While we might've *thought* we'd be investing our efforts toward a certain goal or activity, once Mars goes retrograde, we find ourselves compelled (by urge, circumstance, and/or bodily necessity) to divert them *elsewhere*. The initiative to exercise, for instance, gets hijacked by urgent work concerns. Or a home-

improvement project stalls because of a sudden obsession with playing tennis. Sluggishness becomes hyperactivity and/or vice versa... perhaps while strange jittery spasms course through your nervous system, and/or sleep or meal-time patterns are disturbed. As the host-sign of Mars retrograde, you will experience the *sharpest* of these effects. Not only will you find yourself extra-charged-up during this whole transit of Mars through Libra, you'll be *differently* extra-charged-up—somehow and/or another—for this big retrograde chunk of it.

The peak of Mars's retrograde weirdness definitely comes in April, when it again clashes with Uranus and Pluto (as well as Jupiter-in-your-10th), during an eclipse period no less... creating a sensational opening for dramatic life-changes, which, if you've been paying attention, you know *you* ought to be initiating (rather than just responding to). An impulsive change-of-heart in a relationship, a professional role, and/or a living situation could obviously spark chaos—but, just as dynamically, you might find you're more *excited* about the future than you have been in *years*, if ever. One last round of this high-stakes drama moves through in June, as a now-direct Mars makes his final passes past this dynamic duo. Only *after* Mars leaves your sign late in July can you *at last* start assimilating yourself into the markedly remade circumstances of your new life.

The latter part of your 2014 is far less *intensely* active, though not necessarily any steadier. You, however, will be *off* the hot-seat. As Jupiter heads in for his yearlong stay in your 11th starting mid-July, he moves into a fortuitous trine with Uranus-in-your-7th, enhancing the likelihood you'll welcome positive interpersonal evolution as a result of widening your social circle, investing more of yourself in group activities or community projects, and/or spending larger amounts of time with friends. Looks like your best approach to revitalizing yourself, after such a wild first-half-of-the-year, will be lit by the sparks of *fresh social influences*.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

Not surprisingly, it's the *first* half of your 2014 that holds the most favorable career outlook... mainly because growth-magnet Jupiter finishes out his yearlong trip (begun last June) through your 10th, the house of professional (and/or public-world) achievements and the esteem we gain for ourselves through such efforts. Until he leaves your 10th in mid-July, Jupiter will act as a supportive tail-wind, aiding you to more easily *further* whatever career aspirations you invest

any energy into. And with energy-booster Mars revving up your sign that whole time, you certainly shouldn't lack the initiative to take advantage of this benefic support. Neptune's ongoing influence in your 6th, another work-related house, helps you faithfully devote your day-to-day attentions to all the tasks and projects which cumulatively represent the tangible fruits of your labor... though, to be fair, Neptune-in-the-6th can *sometimes* cloud your practical grasp on the work-at-hand, inspiring you to toil *beyond* reasonable limits to utter exhaustion or burnout and/or blinding you to certain functional realities with an overly *idealistic* view of what's possible. Your 6th house is most strongly activated from late February through the end of April, making this your most *productive* period—as long as you work *smart*, and *not* to excess.

Alas, during this same timeframe, Jupiter-in-your-10th actually *clashes* with Mars, Uranus, and Pluto, essentially tying up all your positive professional potential in an interconnected snarl with the *other* dynamically-shifting areas of your life. Everything I already wrote about more directly asserting your will (Mars-in-your-1st), actively disrupting dissatisfying interpersonal dynamics (Uranus-in-your-7th), and overthrowing internal tyranny in order to claim emotional autonomy (Pluto-in-your-4th) has its relevant part to play in determining the trajectory of your career in '14. In other words, diligently doing your *personal* work will have an immediately favorable effect on your capacity to ascend to greater professional heights... while *avoiding* this work and, instead, unconsciously acting out the rebellious, reactionary and/or outright *aggressive* tendencies these astrological forces will rouse, is your surest recipe for squandering an opportunity (if not causing *lasting* damage to your career). These interpenetrating aspects will be in effect from the very opening of the year, with a spectacular climax in the middle of April: That's when an 'anything-can-happen' vibe may bring a shocking twist (good and/or bad), possibly involving an out-of-the-blue relationship start or end and/or a geographic relocation, as the *result* of a career decision or simply *impacting* it.

In light of all these unknowns, you ought to keep a fairly tight handle on your personal finances throughout 2014... a message strongly emphasized by one more full-year's residence of Saturn in your 2nd, the house of material self-sufficiency. Despite your likelihood of making at least one major life-change this year, Saturn doesn't want you to take foolhardy risks with your money along the way. Being fiscally responsible during this bumpy period is not only practically wise, but it supports you in building stronger confidence in your own capacity to independently keep your own boat afloat, no matter what. Your fiscal responsibility is put to the test in those first few months of the year, when the urge to do whatever the hell you want, whatever the cost,

simply *must* be reined in. Likewise, in May and June, lucrative-sounding offers to join financial forces with another party must be *very carefully* examined—and must include *very clear* self-serving protections—before anything's agreed to. Your professional profile is highest during July and into August, which can definitely be used to your economic advantage if you take action. If you're financially *careless* at that time, the ramifications will be *severe* for the remainder of the year... but if you're *shrewd*, you'll be in an excellent spot moneywise by November.

### **Relationships / Romance**

I've already described at great length the volatile energies impacting your romantic life throughout 2014, thanks to Uranus's perpetually precarious placement in your 7th... not to mention Mars-in-your-1st adding fuel to the wild fieriness in the earlier half of the year. Bluntly put, there is *no* stability to be found here. But 'unstable' needn't mean *disastrous*, particularly if you utilize Mars's take-charge posture to adopt a more *active* role in going out and actually *pursuing* the type of person and/or relationship-structure that best suits *your* fancy, in the process disturbing any old patterns of passivity or capitulation. That sort of 'instability' could be *just* the breakthrough you've been excitedly wishing for! That said, the ongoing astro-drama between Mars, Uranus, and Pluto should also serve as a *warning* against taking any rash, unkind, and/or hyperemotional steps that, in the heat of a hasty moment, could irreparably harm your connection with someone. You've got to strike that happy balance between assertion and aggression in all your interpersonal dealings. Be especially on-guard if you've been quietly fuming about a significant other's past misdeeds: Under this Mars-dominated sky, you're liable to angrily *overcompensate* for your previous silence.

As early as January, you may have your eye fixed on an appealing romantic prospect and/or your heart set on spicing up an existing pairing by (re)introducing certain pleasurable activities... but the erratic vibe in the air could result in a few false starts or flubbed come-ons. Don't lose your cool; just get back on that horse and try again. While February's retrograde of Mercury through your house of fun-and-flirtation (the 5th) promises second- and third-chances to re-present your offer, you're likeliest to receive a gratifying answer in March, once Venus has also reached your 5th and Mars's switch to retrograde motion modifies your seduction methods. Your most turbulent and/or abrupt romantic developments will go down starting in April and

continuing into June: With everything so up-in-the-air, it's best to play it one day at a time, trying to stay as unattached to longer-term outcomes as possible while still enjoying the upsides of this wacky ride. Midway through May, when Venus conjoins Uranus-in-your-7th, you may find yourself suddenly immersed in a new relationship or bidding a just-as-sudden farewell to an old one. Whichever way it's going, be careful not to get too deep into the complicated parts too quickly—and end up losing your self-secured sense of grounding.

Once Jupiter arrives in your 11th in mid-July, it inaugurates a distinctly looser-and-freer second half of '14 on the romantic front. Thanks to a steady stream of synergistic fire trines to Uranus-in-your-7th from planets in the two houses associated with friends, acquaintances, neighbors, siblings, cousins, teammates, comrades, and community-members (i.e., the 3rd and the 11th), you're under an *ideal* astrological influence for meeting new people and/or getting positive relationship support through utilizing your social networks. August is the perfect month to accept any and every social invitation, to show up at interest-groups or organizational meetings which pique your interest... and maybe even to ask a friend to play matchmaker. You're giving off that extra *something* through much of October, courtesy of Venus fluffing up your sign; don't hesitate to make the first move. Be daring in December, when your willingness to strike up a conversation with someone who catches your interest and/or advance a casual connection to the next level could pay off big. Your most alluring approach? Showing off that you *really* know how to *have fun*.

## **January**

Mars will have already been in your sign for a month (with *seven* more to go!) when January begins, kicking your year off on a decidedly *rebellious* note. You've likely reached the end of your rope in any dynamics with manipulative family-members and/or controlling housemates which have long left you feeling powerless to assert what *you* need for your emotional well-being. Venus's retrograde in your 4th throughout the month suggests you have a good shot to fruitfully *flip* these dynamics, whether by redrawing boundaries and/or considering other living arrangements which would grant you greater self-determination at home. Don't let your irked attitude bleed into your professional and/or public life, though, needlessly attracting negative attention to yourself. Later in the month, you may feel emboldened to confess your desires to



an enticing romantic prospect. Just put out tentative feelers, instead of an all-out come-on: This story's still unfolding.

## **February**

Conversations about what—and/or *who*—you really want should remain exploratory and open-ended during February, with Mercury retrograde most of the month. Thanks to Mars, your approach is unusually *strong* (whether you intend it to be or not), so you may need to try playing it a bit *cooler* if you don't wish to rub anybody wrong. Like a craftsman wielding an unfamiliar tool, you're still striving to find the right balance between conveying secure self-confidence and coming off too smug or self-satisfied. A little harmless trial-and-error will help you get more comfortable with your spikier vibe, as long as you don't take any constructive feedback as an attack on your character. Toward the tail-end of February, you may discover your day-to-day work is naturally drifting in a different direction, pointing you to the area where there's the greatest potential for growth. Are you noticing the signs?

## **March**

With Mars turning *retrograde* in your sign as soon as March opens, you're in for a fairly *erratic* two-and-a-half months ahead, as you find your sudden urges and impulses pulling you here, there, and pretty much everywhere *except* where you'd planned to invest them. You could curse these unintended detours 'til you're blue in the face, keeping yourself on the constant verge of blowing your top—or you can wisely lay your plans aside and go where the energy carries you. Your intuitive hunches get the job done better than too-reasonable (and thus limiting) logic in work-related contexts. On the romantic and/or leisure-time fronts, meanwhile, you're in a much better spot to attract your desired target than you were earlier... perhaps because you now have *less* deliberate a strategy, allowing the developments to happily sneak up on you.

## **April**

April may well end up as one for the record-books, with a major configuration of turbulent astro-aspects converging... and *you* at the center of this action, courtesy of Mars-retrograde-in-your-

1st. You'll experience few moments as ideal as *this* to totally disrupt the status-quo in *any* interpersonal circumstance where you've held your tongue or played nice for too damn long. Corresponding changes could impact your longer-term career path, your domestic life, your family relationships, and/or your romantic status: Pretty much *anything* is fair game for a switch-up. Your instinctive drives will tell you far more about what you *truly* crave than calmly weighing pros and cons possibly could. Through this tumult, your saving grace is devotion to your day-in, day-out work duties and health habits.

## **May**

As Mars first slows down and then flips back to direct motion, you'll still be working through whatever head-spinning commotion got *real* crazy last month. With Venus conjoining Uranus in your 7th, your most favorable forward-facing approach will be to *embrace change* within your primary relationship life... whether that involves leaping into an exciting new coupling with someone who's in sync with your *future* and/or walking away from a stale status-quo situation that's stuck in the *past*. Despite the rapid speed at which such interpersonal developments are likely to occur, please don't neglect to reserve a certain degree of independence for yourself—*especially* on the financial and/or practical level. (Overly hasty enmeshments breed bigger messes later.) Though you could be eager to create a stimulating vision for what's ahead for you, you mustn't let the anticipation distract you from your here-and-now responsibilities.

## **June**

June is perhaps your best month for attaining a clean resolution to any lingering discord involved with the structuring of a fair deal and/or the dispensation of shared resources. You've got one more self-benefitting card up your sleeve, ready to be played at just the right time, which *should* demonstrate your deservedness beyond the shadow of their doubts... as long as *you* genuinely believe you're worth it, too. Think of *this* round as your chance to prove just how much *pluck* you've developed over these past many months. But even if you're *thrilled* about how these negotiations have gone down, please hold back on public declarations of victory. Before you spill the beans, you probably ought to think twice about the most upstanding manner of sharing this news, so it doesn't seem like you're gloating.

## **July**

You'll help maximize your outward success early in July by purposely seeking out thoughtfully *neutral* parties with whom you can calmly discuss the *other* side of whatever principle is presently driving your ambitions. It's better to have your blind-spots pointed out in this safer context *before* you're on the public stage (where an antagonistic mischief-maker could put you on the spot). As the month progresses, you're under excellent 10th-house transits, which invite you to *enhance* your professional reputation by modeling a sincere commitment to simply *doing the necessary work*... free from the ego-gratifying power-trips that have soured certain colleagues in your eyes. Strive to embody the leadership-by-example approach, rather than handing down orders as if by royal decree. You only *further* empower yourself through the confident act of empowering *others*.

## **August**

Throughout August, if given the choice between doing something alone or joining forces with friends or teammates, please pick the togetherness option. Loads of benevolent 11th-house astrology suggest you'll be happily courting serendipity—including putting yourself in the lucky path of new pals or even your next special someone—every time you accept party invitations, attend group meetings or community events, and/or hang out with your peeps somewhere out in the world. One caveat: Don't downplay your level of accomplishment or drive, in a misguided attempt to blend into the crowd rather than stand out on your own merits. Making yourself *smaller* will set a poor precedent in burgeoning relationships with folks just getting to know you. Late in the month, don't push yourself to continue working so hard, if your instincts are telling you to take a breather. You are not a robot, but a spiritual being with certain subtle psychic needs that don't always make rational sense.

## **September**

September's a month in which you can put your Libran charms to good use, using your shrewdly smooth conversational skills to steer all your exchanges *away* from any topic that causes you stress. Your heart-and-soul may wish to steal some behind-the-scenes peace and quiet, while your face-to-face participation at certain obligatory social occasions might *still* be

required. That's why it behooves you to slap on an outer layer of pleasant agreeability and make small-talk like a champ... all while your fuller self gets happily lost in daydream imaginings. Any time the discussion veers too close to intimate probes into *your* life, pose some provocative question to the other person that they can't help but have *plenty* to say about. Take care not to down one too many cocktails during such hangouts, alas: Once your tongue is loose, you'll jeopardize your ability to keep the interaction light and easy.

## **October**

You're giving off an even *more* irresistibly charismatic glow in October, when your blessed ruler Venus returns to your sign, gracing you with a talent for enchanting nearly *anyone* you set your sights on. One constructive way to use this gift: Play peacemaker with any pals, neighbors, siblings, and/or cousins who need to be gently but forthrightly called out on their bullshit. Socially and/or romantically speaking, this influence *definitely* ups your chances for turning a superficial encounter or casual chat into something more significant and/or longer-lasting. You'll be able to push the conversation further into meaningful territory or even suggest a second meeting without it seeming like you're coming on too strong. The connection will only develop faster and farther when you outwardly acknowledge and discuss the pursuits and/or people you share in common.

## **November**

November's astrology demands you examine your financial outlook from an exceedingly close-up view (instead of conveniently ignoring certain sobering facts and/or falling prey to wishful law-of-attraction thinking). Contrary to what the specter of fear might have you believe, seeking out such a reality-check is *the* most profitable move you can make. If you're due for an income hike, please don't let your concern for what *anyone else* is earning dissuade you from pursuing a raise for yourself; you aren't helping the team by undervaluing your own economic worth. A Mars-Pluto conjunction in your 4th indicates an intensification of any family-related power struggles, domestic strife, and/or internal discontent. In this case, it makes sense to actually *engage* the battle rather than backing down. In the meantime, keeping up a bustling social schedule remains the best vehicle to your luckiest opportunities.

## December

The fortuitous promise afforded by your staying extra-busy *socially* continues into December... and, thanks to Mars hitting your solar 5th, you're very much in the *driver's seat* when it comes to picking and choosing *who* to cavort and carouse with. As a result, please don't hesitate to strike up conversation with strangers you find appealing or to take the initiative in asking someone out. Under this breezy astrology, you have very little to lose—and *much* to potentially gain. When planning a date, aim for goofy playful activities, instead of too staid or well-behaved a setting. Later in the month, you'll crave the pleasures of home over the noisy ruckus of public venues. Perhaps this is an ideal occasion to host your favorite people at your place, so you get all the benefits of companionship plus *still* retain control over the environment. To feed the social serendipity, invite your friends to bring *their* pals along, too. What's not to love about meeting new people without having to leave the comfort of your own home?

## SCORPIO

'Who the hell *am* I?'

Your lifelong task of answering and re-answering that core question has taken on an intensified emphasis over the past year or so.... or haven't you *noticed*, Scorpio?

Where previously you might've craftily slipped yourself through certain identity-cracks, avoiding the judgment-call on whether a particular engagement or behavior accurately reflects you, you *now* can't seem to get away with such a non-committal attitude. This *isn't* your period of easily grooving along with the flow of whatever's dealt to you—not without first seriously assessing if it will *help* you forefront more of The Authentic YOU you want the world to see, or if it just *hinders* you in that process. There are *consequences* to these choices, some fairly long-lasting in fact. And for the record: Slithering out of officially 'choosing' still qualifies as *making a choice*, just a very passive one.

Saturn's been on your back since October 2012, when he first entered your sign... and since then, you Scorpios have been actively involved (like it or not) in refining how you present yourself, so that what *we* see is as up-to-date and genuine as possible. One circumstance after another has pushed you into reevaluating your old response-habits, to determine whether attitudes which served you at earlier moments (of survival, inexperience, youthful folly, etc.) might *now* be holding you back. Whenever an activity, encounter, or relationship reveals itself to be an awkward or inappropriate fit, you've more acutely *felt* its disharmoniousness rubbing roughly against you. As a result, this awareness has required you to say 'no' with increasing frequency... to limit your being identified with, and/or entangled in, experiences that muddle your most mature decision-making. Greater self-authenticity *is* a pretty damn good reason to say 'no' more often. Yet, such purposeful discrimination *does* demand you carry out more diligent *forethought* than your strong emotional impulses typically defer to.

As this maturation process continues through 2014, you've hopefully grown better accustomed to living with Saturn as an ongoing *constructive* influence on your self-definition... and have started to greet this necessary filtering and paring-down with a healthy degree of *relief*, as you bid farewell to attachments which symbolize a former version of yourself. Though letting go of

things which no longer serve you is often difficult, along with it comes the proud feeling of *not* trying to be somebody you aren't. On the practical level, this means you Scorpios remain under constant pressure to weigh any given moment's emotional desire—for intimate connection or interpersonal affirmation; for intrigue, drama or vengeance; for a showdown victory at all costs—against whatever precious longer-term payoff may require some emotional *restraint* on your end.

The trickiest part? Your very Scorpio nature is to *act on your emotions*. This is the approach that ensures you get the most 'bang-for-your-buck' out of life, drawing you into only those situations which actually *stir a passion*. Saturn's pressure, then, mustn't be mistakenly seen as a call to strip away all emotional drive, in favor of flat practical-minded calculation. (In fact, for those few of you who *do* rely too heavily on pragmatics over passion, Saturn in Scorpio is actually asking you to more consciously *listen* to your emotional wisdom. The rare Scorpios who live by rationality alone *always* wonder what they're missing.) Saturn calls for adopting the measured 'middle road': listening closely to what your feelings tell you, then fairly considering them *alongside* your bigger-picture goals and ambitions, neither repressing your immediate desires nor permitting them to ride roughshod over everything else.

You'll be receiving no shortage of non-rational emotional insight during 2014... especially during the first half of the year, while Jupiter still remains along with Neptune in water signs. The blend of Jupiter-in-your-9th and Neptune-in-your-5th can be quite inspiring and energizing, opening up an extra-wide view on all that this enormous world promises, particularly in terms of faraway travel and/or education opportunities, as well as through increasingly thoughtful modes of addressing life's big questions. Expect your idealism to run high, as you consider how best to *embody* the guiding values you feel are most important, through your creative acts helping to literally *birth* this better world into being. Ask yourself about productively utilizing this water-sign energy: How might I *further* my investment in pursuing what's 'right' in the world, thus treating my role as agent of transformation-and-healing *seriously*, and bring forth *more beauty and pleasure* in that manner only *I* am capable of expressing?

All this water *does* increase your temptation to follow *whatever feels good* (or at least stimulating in some way), even when it threatens to drown you in psychological waves and whirligigs, drenching every last drop of your focus. 'Idealism' in *this* context—believing, for

instance, 'love is all that matters' or 'think positive and everything will work out'—can end up sinking your ship rather than carrying you safely to the shores of some shangri-la. Blindly chasing the fleeting bliss, hoping against all hope you can hold onto it if only you devote *even more of yourself*, going 'all in' on a wild idea or volatile affair, willfully ignoring loved-ones' reasonable counsel: These can be warning-signs of an addiction to *romantic thinking*. If any involvement takes up *so much* psychic energy that you can barely attend to anything else, that's the sort of passionate excess Saturn seeks to rein in.

In addition to this water-sign emphasis, the first half of your 2014 also features a much-lengthier-than-usual transit of Mars through your solar 12th—a situation that, to be frank, will very likely *encroach* upon your ability to keep a productive momentum confidently moving forward. As the traditional ruling-planet of Scorpio, Mars plays a key role in arousing the initiative necessary for actively asserting your will toward a desired purpose. However, when a planet travels through the 12th house, it essentially *disappears* from our clearest view, slipping behind a mystical curtain of fog, and becomes somewhat *inefficient* at handling worldly concerns... though it *does* beg for some *otherworldly* (or overtly spiritual) task to attend to. Where Mars typically moves through a house in roughly seven weeks, he'll be in your 12th for *seven-and-a-half months* (beginning in December '13), including more than two months *retrograde* (from March 1 through May 19). During that time, your engines will be firing at a different rhythm: less reliable, not quite as competently get-up-and-go, but with ample *metaphysical* energy.

Practically speaking, this Mars-in-your-12th could thwart your best efforts to attain much discernible progress earlier in '14... subtly siphoning energy *away* from where you'd intended to direct it, illogically nudging you to invest it *elsewhere*. Because the 12th house represents the end of cycles, your ruler Mars's prolonged presence there signifies you Scorpios may be spending the first chunk of your year *clearing out* psychic remnants from your past: killing off old demons; putting the echoes of unresolved grief or hurt to bed; saying goodbye to people, experiences, and/or internal scripts that only replicate obsolete dynamics; stripping down your foundation so what you build upon it *next* will have that much fresher a start. Patiently grant yourself ample space to do this; it really is the *perfect* time.



As part of this process, you can expect to temporarily *relive* some of these resurrected feelings of anger, sorrow, or hurt. Please be wise enough to recognize them for what they are—emotional scraps from yesterday’s business—rather than mistaking them as symptoms of something *currently* amiss. Let them come and go, rise and fall, accordingly. This is *spiritual housecleaning* work, and quite necessary for keeping a ‘tidy home’ psychically. If you *resist* this process, don’t be surprised to find these reemerging feelings building up to a point of great spiritual discomfort... and to then find yourself seeking to *escape* them, through potentially self-destructive ‘quick-fixes’ like excessive alcohol/drug use or overeating, and having to deal with them *pop out* in nightmares or anxiety attacks.

Mars-in-your-12th could leave you feeling peculiarly *out of control* during the whole first half of 2014, forcing you to stand by while others’ actions threaten to significantly *rearrange* your life-circumstances without leaving you much room to *do anything* about it. Hold tight until Mars leaves your 12th in late July, rather than making things harder on yourself, whipping up further friction through frustrated fight-backs. This relative—and, most importantly, *fleeting*—sense of powerlessness is a Saturn-driven test of your reactivity: When others’ behaviors trigger you, are you able to wisely contain your emotional fallout to *only* that which is actually *constructive* toward your desired aims... and, at the same time, *limit* the extent of your response so as not to create any *more drama*?

The tensest part of Mars’s seven-plus months in your solar 12th will occur in April when, at the height of his retrograde (and in the midst of two eclipses), Mars directly *clashes* in a grand-cross with Jupiter, Uranus, and Pluto... forcing you to balance an acceptance of your relative powerlessness in *certain* capacities against the need to take innovative practical steps in areas (mainly, your day-to-day work and health habits) where you *can* productively impact the outcome. Expect the tone of your interactions to carry an unsettling intensity. You’ll be trying your damndest both to hold intact an idealistic vision for the future *and* to evolve your daily routines so they support the actions necessary for manifesting this vision... all while finding yourself stuck in *a whole lot more conversation* than you’d probably prefer (beating around the bush? everything and the fucking kitchen-sink?!?), threatening to drive you mad.

This intense and drawn-out mode of social interaction—discussions dragging on forever, modest exchanges taking on strangely significant import, deeper dynamics playing out over little

shit—is an integral part of your 2014, thanks to Pluto’s continuing presence in your solar 3rd. Your participation, therefore, is *not* optional. You mustn’t see yourself as ‘above’ this casual shit-shooting, especially if these pals or peers are integrally involved in social-networks with any relevance to your goals. Cutting talks prematurely short, or attempting to avoid them altogether, will only make life *harder* for you. Venus’s long transit through your 3rd (from November ‘13 into March ‘14), which includes a six-week retrograde (Dec 21 ‘13-Jan 31 ‘14), encourages you to more wisely *value* this social ‘dance’ as a vehicle for strengthening your alliances more powerfully than ‘superficial’ appearances may betray.

Your year’s vibe shifts dramatically in the second half of July, when Mars enters your sign and abruptly *restores* your competent ability to get things rolling onward once again. This is your moment to *finally* make up for all that lost time. Coming off such a long expanse of stalled progress and self-restraint, you’ll be more than ready to move with shrewdness, speed, and self-determination well into mid-September. Also in July, lucky-ducky Jupiter lands in your 10th, the house of professional (and/or public-zone) achievement, for a yearlong visit that’s quite *auspicious* for opening up new avenues of possibility in what you do out there in the world. If you’ve been playing it safe or ‘just getting by’ in a somewhat self-limiting career role, Jupiter-in-the-10th is a celestial invitation to *broaden your horizons* and move beyond those limits. Any growth-fostering chances you take in this outside-world arena will be *powerfully* helped along by Jupiter’s benevolent hand, especially later in September and into October.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

Jupiter’s arrival to your 10th house in the middle of July brings super-exciting news on the professional front. This is perhaps *the* best career-related transit one can experience, inaugurating your most growth-oriented year in the public-world zone in more than a decade. When Jupiter hits your 10th (where he stays through August ‘15), you find yourself in an astro-climate that supports you in pushing your outward aspirations into uncharted territory, providing a synergistic boost to any actions you take to expand your role and/or foster new experiences. In many cases, we welcome extraordinary opportunities for more responsibility or a better job when Jupiter’s in the 10th. In other cases, we might actually *lose* a position or have a door *close* in our face—but with Jupiter watching over, even *these* situations usually prove in hindsight to be wonderful developments, opening up a roomier perspective on *what else you*

*could do* that might ultimately lead to greater satisfaction. One caveat: Jupiter won't drop his trademark good-luck square in your lap, but merely creates a favorable environment in which your efforts are magically helped along. It's on *you* to make the most of this lucky chance.

In advance of Jupiter's 10th-house landing, however, you may find your career progress appears to *stall* during 2014's first-half. Chalk it up to Mars's 12th-house limbo, with patient understanding that this down-time affords you the capacity to psychically *prepare* for a blessedly bustling second-half of the year. Your energies will simply drift elsewhere in these earlier months, even with your sincerest intent to stay on task. In fact, you may be at your professional best only when last-minute changes, sudden surprises, and/or items that need urgent attention *force* you back to your workstation, especially in the first days of the year, and again in mid-April (when your quickened mind is better spent on inventive last-minute solutions than short-tempered overreactions). Thank these jolts, then, for returning you to the earthly plane. Otherwise, you might be too content to continue loitering off in La-La Land... at the expense of dutiful consistency. By mid-May, you'll probably have grown somewhat accustomed to these erratic work-related fits-and-starts—and could even enjoy an unforeseen boon in productivity from a split-second innovation.

Throughout August and September, you'll be *on fire* careerwise, more than ready to volunteer yourself and your ideas whenever the situation demands a fresh outlook and/or someone to take charge. You'll put your best foot forward by demonstratively exposing a *generous willingness* to accept additional responsibility, rather than self-protectively jockeying for 'official' position. A happy trine between Jupiter and Uranus (in effect into mid-'15) encourages you to just jump in and take the initiative for enacting daring workflow changes, allowing your enthusiasm for trying new methods and maneuvers to speak for itself. Be warned that you could overreach with your efforts, resting too much on your own shoulders and/or forgetting to respect the authority of those who oversee you. Coming on the heels of such a low-impact first-half of '14, your reenergizing zeal *might* just get the best of you, if you're not careful. October's your best moment to assert your desire for more money, following such a powerhouse couple months. Expect to see the tangible results sometime from mid-November into early December.

## Relationships / Romance

Since early 2012, hopeless-romantic Neptune has settled in for a long-term residence (through 2024-25) in your solar 5th, the house of love... an influence which makes it *even easier than usual* for you Scorpios to lose yourself in the transcendental beauty of 'being in love with love'. Neptune-in-your-5th serves as a perpetual source of romantic inspiration, lowering any self-protective ego-boundary which might otherwise hold you back from openly sharing your heart with others—and, as a result, invites you to revel in the pleasurable affirmation with which others greet your open-heartedness. Thanks to Neptune, you can spot the lovable qualities in almost anyone, forgiving them their trespasses, seeing beyond their blemishes to the perfect soul within. Though this is a lovely influence, it can also tempt you to *overlook* potential red-flag reasons why a certain someone wouldn't be a very *functional* mate for you. After all, genuinely loving someone (a 5th-house matter in astrology) doesn't necessarily mean you ought to form a lasting relationship with them (which is 7th-house business). This wishful hyper-romanticism builds through the earlier months of 2014, to a high-point in April when Venus conjoins Neptune. Go ahead and love big, but please don't sign away your life on beautiful feelings alone.

As 2014 opens, relationship-maven Venus will have been retrograde for a couple weeks already, meaning that January could well be consumed with unfinished relationship business, which may not feel resolved until early March. Venus retrogrades are notorious for bringing exes back into the picture and/or flashing us a glimpse of a new romantic prospect which *may* end up proving to be a mere phantom. As this event falls in your solar 3rd, it might point to you meeting or reconnecting with a neighbor, a friend of a sibling, or an acquaintance with whom you share many social connections. *Maybe* you never saw each other in quite *that* way before... and suddenly *now* something's different? These threads of social commonality could accelerate your coming-together—or, on the other hand, pose conflicts-of-interest or other weird complicating overlaps. Rather than avoiding these potential problem-areas, Venus (alongside Pluto in your 3rd) goads you to *talk out* these complications with a realistic attitude, honestly evaluating whether your lifestyles are sufficiently in sync with each other to support a workable partnership. If you truly care for one another, you might need to release each other back into the dating world so you may each find a more suitable companion. (Would it blow your mind if one of you actually *fixed up* the other with *somebody else*?)

May and June could be bumpy months relationship-wise, as you find yourself caught between enjoying what *seems* like an easy-and-comfortable togetherness and what you *know* you must do for yourself, if you are treating Saturn's 1st-house authenticity challenge seriously. Being as 'real' as you possibly can *might* entail setting an boundary that's tough to hold, and not just because the other person wants more of your time: You won't get to your other important priorities if you stay too cozily coupled in your bubble all day. But as long as you prioritize both your independence *and* your desire for closeness, you might find it quite soul-nourishing to lead these 'multiple lives'. Throughout August and into September, you could struggle to steal enough intimate moments due to a suddenly jam-packed slate of activities. You're likely to come off somewhat *self-centered* to those who feel squeezed into the small cracks in your schedule, but there's not much you can do about it. Late September and early October welcome Venus to your sign, amplifying your attractiveness quotient so that fawning admirers show up left and right. Beware of leading on anyone you're not interested in, just because the attention feeds your ego. You might want to reserve some of this seductive charm for professional contexts, if there isn't any particular honey you've got your eye on.

## **January**

Your year opens on a frazzled note, with more up-in-the-air questions than nailed-down answers. For the moment, the most solid thing to hold onto is your overarching *vision* for the future. How you're going to get there, on the other hand, is liable to remain unclear for quite a while longer. Internalize that knowledge, so you can hopefully cultivate enough patience to ward off the instinct to take action prematurely. Otherwise, your antsy desire to 'keep things moving' could spur you to stir up a sticky situation, creating headaches you wouldn't have to suffer if you'd just held tight. Your best approach? Stay in regular contact with a wide cast of casual pals, kooky neighbors, and other supposedly 'secondary' characters. Revisiting conversations you thought you'd already finished will likely yield a new angle, giving you a helpful glimpse into at least your *first* next-step.

## **February**

Much of February will be best spent getting *clearer* on an emotionally loaded issue (perhaps related to a family member or someone on the home-front), after the possibility that a 'false-

start' expression of your feelings early in the month leaves you realizing *how much more* you've still got to think through. Reserving yourself *plenty* of solitary retreat time will help you fit the pieces together better than excessively discussing the details with people who, try as they might, just don't *get* it. Allow this new level of self-awareness to settle into your being slowly, rather than worrying about immediately orchestrating a follow-up move. Though you may now be arriving at some wise conclusions, you won't be ready to decisively *enact* them in the outside world for another few months. By month's end, you should be eager to get yourself back out there... for no greater reason than a much-needed reinjection of *fun*.

### **March**

The good news about March is the influx of pleasurable potentials it brings you, heightening your chance of attracting folks who admire your upbeat perspective on what's *really* important in life. With your idealism operating on high, you'll delight at the opportunity to openly share your dreams with other 'hopeless romantics'. But beware of hatching longer-term plans based on blissful chemistry. Just because it feels really good to connect with someone, that's not enough evidence on which to bank a major life-change... especially when Mars retrograde in your 12th doesn't currently favor *any* dramatic forward motion. Stay right where you are, all the while enjoying these precious moments as they arrive, without clinging to expectations of more. Do you *like* who you've been hanging with? Instead of making a big fuss about going out on fancy dates, try keeping the action a bit closer to home. Quiet nights behind closed doors will foster a more comfortable vibe for getting to know each other better.

### **April**

April's unexpected events may demand speedy reactions, but don't let your trigger-happy finger discharge any shots if you aren't totally sure where you've aimed that deadly weapon. This is one of those times when an exaggerated fear response can lead you to carelessly overcompensate, creating far greater day-to-day chaos than the initial triggering scenario would've suggested, had you not permitted panic to get the best of you. Even if you stay calm, you should *still* expect sudden left-turns on the work front, leaving you wishing you could hide your head in the sand. (Of course you *can't*: The situation would only get *messier* in your absence.) A Venus-Neptune conjunction in your romance zone heightens the possibility of

attracting someone you'll feel you've known forever. Unspoken understandings are no substitute for matter-of-fact conversations, however. Talk out the details, rather than assuming anything.

## **May**

Important relationships are put to the test earlier in May, when you must face up to your inability to ignore an inconvenient 'pink elephant' in the room. While it's likely to disrupt the easy flow between you (at least temporarily), this complicating issue *cannot* be swept under the rug if you want to be your most authentic self with this other person. (And if you *don't*, that's its own problem.) Lovey-dovey feelings, no matter how real or strong, should not be reason enough to enter into arrangements where you're liable to lose something valuable if the coupling goes south. Keep your idealism in check, especially when it inspires you to stay quiet about lingering concerns. Mid-month, you're due for another fresh start in how you manage your workdays. Scrambling up your routine, to better suit your unique physical rhythms, will bring surprisingly fast positive results—unless you forget to properly notify those who are impacted by your changes.

## **June**

June brings a culmination in whatever hard-to-shake circumstances have hindered your straight-ahead progress since the year began. Beware of any supposed resolutions you reach during the first couple weeks of the month. As part of the process of thoroughly readying yourself to *finally* leap dramatically forward, you might need to revisit that sensitive topic you thought you'd already worked out with a certain someone. Don't hesitate to reopen the can-of-worms, if only to ensure you didn't omit a key detail from your prior discussion. Because things have changed since the last time this issue came up, you should expect a slightly (or not-so-slightly) *different* understanding to emerge. As odd as it sounds, inviting these disparate loose-ends to conspicuously dangle in your face (instead of pretending everything fits together neatly) will actually help you get *real* about what's most important. Your time to *act* on your knowledge is now approaching.

## **July**

With both (1) Saturn returning to direct motion in your sign *and* (2) Mars leaving your solar 12th after seven long months of strange limbo-like suspension, you're at last arriving to a spot where you can actually *make things happen*. By the last couple weeks of July, you can start visibly *acting* upon the plans you've been quietly developing for so long now. In the lead-up to that decisive turning-point, it's crucial you continually check in with yourself on the driving principles behind what you're about to do. If you forget *why* all this inertia-busting is so important to you, it'll be too easy to cave under the pressures other people will lay on you once they start asking a lot of questions or challenging your thought-process. Courageously face these peer reviews. If you can stand strong in your vision without buckling, you'll demonstrate you possess the grit to shepherd this exciting advance into tangible being.

## **August**

August is a firecracker month for Scorpios, as you finally get to release all your pent-up energy in any and every direction. Career opportunities (and/or other public-world possibilities) are now particularly promising... though I caution you against irritating your bosses or important clients with too much untamed bombast. Your wholehearted dedication to pursuing your goals and aspirations, out in the spotlight where everyone can see, *will* earn you added esteem (and perhaps even increased responsibility) as soon as mid-month. Don't be shy about hailing your accomplishments. There's nothing wrong with being outwardly proud of your work, but please keep it 'about the work'. Later in the month, you'll benefit from soliciting objective feedback from teammates or trusted comrades. Be thorough in asking specific follow-up questions, rather than uncritically accepting their initial observations just because they're pals.

## **September**

Demonstrating you can work well in collaboration with the whole group is a key factor in your still-developing professional ascent. Much of September's progress will hinge on whether you are willing to let certain colleagues do what they do best, instead of trying to hog control of the situation. Gauge your relative success by how solidly you can shore up your alliances through



regular peer-to-peer (rather than top-down) communication. At the same time, please uphold appropriate workplace boundaries. Blurring those lines in the name of friendship, no matter how genuine the mutual goodwill, could get you into hot water when your interests start to diverge. As far as important news is concerned, delegate its dispersal to somebody else or postpone the official announcement until November.

## **October**

Many of October's earlier happenings will seem peculiarly out of your control, as if you are largely being guided by fate's invisible hands. To counteract any crazy-making side effects, try your best to maintain sure-footedness with your practical day-to-day business. Even while the dust hasn't yet settled in the aftermath of others' unexpected game-changing moves, you remain under the influence of *excellent* work-related astrology. You can make notable strides in your income-earning potential by identifying jobs which aren't currently being handled well and self-confidently stepping up to manage them. For the moment, let the work speak for itself; asking outright for a raise is better left until later. The tail end of October will reveal exciting glimpses of whatever goodies may be headed your way. Plus, a palpable increase in the head-turning charm you're giving off will help you close the month with admiring eyes pointed your way.

## **November**

Throughout November, you'll be working with some pretty impressive *people-skills*, which will enable you to steer your interactions toward whatever end-goal you have in mind. This may be your critical opportunity to squeeze a final answer out of someone who's been straddling the fence, getting them to admit their true feelings and/or convincing them to support your endeavor. Your best tool for persuasion? Genuinely gushing about the tremendous potential for success that's just starting to show itself. Your excitement will get *them* excited right along with you. However, be cautious not to overstep your bounds. You mustn't promise anything you don't have the authority to follow through on. Nor should you probe *so far* into someone else's psyche (even perhaps unbeknownst to them) that you find yourself contending with more of their underlying personality bugs than you wanted. 'Pulling the strings' has its entangling drawbacks, too.

## December

It's time to update your self-perceptions, to give yourself due credit for all the personal challenges you've triumphantly met over these past couple years. As Saturn finally heads out of your sign, this is an ideal moment to reflect on how you've matured, and to celebrate these achievements by proudly and openly sharing the lessons. Build upon your strengthened self-worth in the first half of the month, by asking for the increase in wages and/or position you obviously deserve. Even in your off-time leisure hours, you'll find yourself giving advice to pals based on your recent experiences. Relationships with family members, alas, may show signs of strain if they're still treating you like the old model instead of this new-and-improved version. Don't expect to totally transform their view of you in a single conversation; it'll take time. But it's *your* job to resist your habitual reactions when they trigger you in those familiar ways. *Responding* differently is how you'll demonstrate that you *are* different.

## SAGITTARIUS

For you, Sagittarius, 2014 is a year of purposeful *slate-clearing*... in preparation for putting forth the *best* version of yourself possible in 2015 and beyond, once the god-of-high-expectations Saturn firmly plants himself in your sign.

Before we explore this in greater depth, let me clarify: Though at first 'slate-clearing' may not sound like the most spectacular or upbeat theme with which to identify an entire year, its ultimate purpose is for you to create enough room in your life for those activities and experiences that *are* most truly exciting to you... hopefully helping you *disencumber* yourself from lingering fear or emotion, no-longer-appropriate involvements or allegiances, and/or any self-defining stories about *who you used to be* (or maybe never were?) which are now merely outdated hindrances to your ongoing evolution.

A Sagittarian who's being your 'best self' is *not*, after all, a hindered, hopeless, or energetically heavy soul. One of the greatest blessings of Sagittarius, in fact, is your seemingly endless capacity for *optimism*... driven by a refusal to settle for the boring or blah, or to ever believe that 'this is all there is', because you know there's *always* something else to see, somewhere new to go, and someone else to meet. Perpetually learning, and never stuck: *That's* a Sagittarian vision for a 'best self' to hold on to throughout 2014, an encouraging intention to underscore whatever self-purifying measures might be called for.

Saturn spends his last full year in your solar 12th, before arriving in Sagittarius during the final days of 2014. (For the record, Saturn *will* slip back into your 12th from mid-June to mid-September '15.) As such, 2014 is an optimal chance to put your past firmly *behind* you... to draw a dividing line that consciously separates you from any negative influences on your psychic well-being which don't legitimately *belong* to the current you. It's so much easier to go toward what *you* want to become, once you've eliminated whatever psychic detritus has clouded your consciousness with crap that's *not actually yours*.

When taskmaster Saturn's moving through your 12th (as he's been doing since October '12), your most pressing work is to strengthen and refine your direct-line relationship with the Universe, the Divine, the Great Unknowable, or whatever your personal concept of that vast

mystical everythingness which unites us all. Facing Saturn-in-the-12th's challenges, therefore, is a responsibility you must meet *away* from the mundane earthly action, *behind the scenes* in some degree of retreat from the outside world, where it's just you and the Universe. And unlike other Saturn challenges, nobody else will be able to spy the evidence of whether or not you're meeting this responsibility. The onus is solely on *you* to strengthen your connection to those otherworldly forces with which you co-create your destiny, in order for you to better *flow* with these currents... instead of unconsciously resisting them, due to the enduring imprints of unsupportive messages you received, unsettling events you experienced, and/or unresolved traumas you suffered. This Saturn-in-the-12th work helps you get *present* with yourself.

There's often a distinctly *spiritual* quality to descriptions of the 12th house, and Saturn's presence there serves as a call to consciously cultivate this facet of your being. You need not subscribe to any particular belief-system, in order to draw nourishment from humbly reflecting on the wonderful mysteries of existence. *Meditation* is one example of a regular spiritual practice which can help ground you in greater awareness of your interconnectedness with everything, as well as support you in discerning between the loud ego-mind (which constantly nags with self-criticism and judgment) and the subtler higher-mind (which seeks to guide you toward recognition of your innate perfection).

In its 'psychic housecleaning' process, Saturn-in-your-12th can also revive familiar feelings of grief, anger, sadness, or hurt which *aren't* necessarily directly tied to *current* life-circumstances, but are merely stray remnants from old emotional incidents you haven't yet fully dealt with. We too often rush through the actual *feeling* stage of painful incidents, believing we cannot *survive* the pain if we allow ourselves to intimately experience it... only to *later* discover those unprocessed feelings *stay with us*, cropping up as unconscious fear or irrational lashings-out, until we *do* welcome their full expression. With this in mind, be patient with yourself should waves of moodiness or melancholy wash over you for no immediately obvious reason. Give the emotional waves a chance to rise and fall, to come and go, granting yourself the healing downtime. Fostering such patience is generally good form, since your eagerness to 'get to *real* work already' will often feel stymied by this limbo-like transit of Saturn through your 12th.

Meanwhile, with Pluto still on his long-term trip through your 2nd house, this slate-clearing year also serves as a potent point in the continuing transformation of your relationship to *material*

*security*, and your capacity to successfully manage your own financial needs. Over these many years of Pluto-in-your-2nd (2008-2024), you're engaged in a slow-and-deep reorientation in how you view money: Rather than playing so loose and free with economic issues (perhaps because you've valued *experience* over *accumulation* and, as a result, unfairly judged the steadfast striving for additional wealth as a tedious and meaningless activity?), you're hopefully coming to embrace financial responsibility as a *vehicle* which can, over time, afford you the ability to participate more freely in those activities you *do* find meaningful.

As 2014 begins, benefic Venus will be in your 2nd alongside Pluto, where she remains through the first week of March... a lengthier-than-usual stay which also includes a *retrograde* period (Dec 21 '13-Jan 31 '14), putting *even more emphasis* on your financial sector. A Venus retrograde in your house of earned-income indicates a need to *revisit* the methods with which you are defining 'worth' and managing your assets, especially if you've been needlessly wasting money on expenses that aren't important enough to justify the costs and/or squandering possible opportunities to earn more because you're not sufficiently honoring (and expressly *marketing*) your talents.

While Venus retrogrades can deliver seemingly awesome twists-of-fate which carry a mirage-like quality—and *then* sometimes later reveal a reality that's *not quite* what it first appeared—their main aim is to have us *reconsider* what we find most value in and/or affection for. As such, the first couple months of '14 are an excellent moment for tweaking your longer-term financial strategies, adjusting budgets, investigating new revenue-streams, and, perhaps most importantly, checking in with yourself about *how* you really want to spend your money. Returning back to the idea of *this* year as preparation for your 'best self' acts of *next* year and beyond, then, this is an ideal chance to protect and/or pad your pocketbook... so you'll have ample resources to fund whatever badly-yearned-for course-correction or adventurous leap-forward best represents the authentic you.

At the same time, the other benefic Jupiter spends the first half of the year in your 8th (after first landing there in late June '13), another house associated with finances. In this case, however, the 8th house symbolizes the *merging* of our resources with someone else's... and thus rules debts, inheritances, and any economic collaboration which offers the involved parties' joint (though not always *equal*) access to a shared pot of goods. Jupiter's influence here promises a

potentially *easier* time in securing funds from another person or entity—though *just as eased* a potential of getting yourself into complicated entanglements, due to inviting this other party into the intimate realm of your money life. Will the ends justify the means? Are your financial goals important enough to gamble away a certain amount of autonomy, in exchange for a greater possible return? You may indeed become capable of achieving *much more* with a larger capital investment (and/or the literal helping-hands of said investor) than you otherwise would... but, just so we're clear, it's *not* without its strings. Should you decide to join forces with someone else, Jupiter-in-the-8th-style, going forth on trust and good-tidings is *not* enough. Pluto-in-the-2nd urges you to feel absolutely *no* shame about establishing clear and concise structures to guard your own personal stake. If a collaboration breaks down during such structuring negotiations, it *is* for the best—and you've gained precious experience in standing up for your self-interests.

In addition, your first half of 2014 features a retrograde of Mars (March 1-May 19), leading to another lengthier-than-usual transit of a typically fast-moving planet. The warrior-planet heats up your 11th house from December '13 into the later part of July, with the likelihood of rousing unrest or friction amongst your circle of friends, teammates, or colleagues. Because the 11th deals with our relationship to social networks, communities, and the wider collective, Mars's protracted presence there points to an ongoing need for you to *assert* a certain amount of your own leadership, authority, and/or desire within such groups—even though, should *other* members of the group disagree or take umbrage with what you're putting out there, you might end up *at odds* with the consensus vibe.

Considering Mars will remain in tense aspects with Jupiter, Uranus, and Pluto throughout this period, let's just say you shouldn't expect to blend unobtrusively into any crowd. Instead, battle lines will likely be drawn, particularly if you've been unapologetically honest about how your unique contributions aren't being satisfactorily recognized or your passions adequately honored. You might actually find you're *surprised* by which pals or peers come through for you... and which, sadly, disappoint you with their unpalatable attitudes or disloyal actions. Rather than making dramatic announcements about who has or hasn't made the cut, consider allowing the allegiances to rearrange themselves organically. Whoever you naturally gravitate toward may become your newest truest allies, but there's no need to unceremoniously burn bridges with those who let you down—unless, that is, they corner you into a confrontation.

Jupiter's move into your 9th midway through July is, without a doubt, one of the most *inspiring* and *eye-opening* astro-features of your year. Having good king Jupiter (who's also *your* planetary ruler) hit the house of big-picture philosophic thinking, expansive travel and educational opportunities, and any foreign influences which might push your personal belief-system into unfamiliar territory will, thankfully, generate a fresh *upswing* in your enthusiasm about the future. Pay special attention to an emerging boon of interest in some topic of study, far-off destination, ethical or religious framework, or culture other than your own: If your curiosities are suddenly heightened or your excitement levels amped up, there's something *compelling* to explore here. The 9th house is where we consciously broaden our perspective on what's possible for us, rescuing ourselves from any notion that we're 'stuck' by revealing a new pathway on our journey... which, if we're brave enough to transcend our comfort-zone and actually *take* that new path, can carry us closer than ever to a life that feels rich and meaningful.

From your 9th, Jupiter further fuels this growth-nurturing drive to *try something new* by forming a synergistic trine with Uranus-in-your-5th (first exact in September, then twice more in March and June '15)... combining this positive broad-view enthusiasm with a somewhat cheeky, rebellious desire to express your creative individuality through any activity or participation you find unambiguously pleasurable and/or entertaining. This Jupiter-Uranus trine definitely smacks of more horizon-expanding *fun* in the latter half of '14 and into 2015. Hopefully, that knowledge will help you keep your patience up (and your bank-balance at a healthy level) so all this 'slate-clearing' actually *does* lead to your Next Great Adventure—your impassioned enjoyment of which will *definitely* qualify as 'being your best self'.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

The ongoing presence of Pluto in your 2nd, as I've already mentioned, means that working on your longer-term financial security is a top consideration again in 2014. As part of instilling the requisite self-confidence for believing you *can* indeed reach your material goals, you must stay perpetually aware of *what* this more solid footing will buy you: While you might struggle to find the perseverance to prioritize money-earning-and-saving as an aim itself, once you marry this aim to a more *appealing* or *meaningful* aspiration (an overseas trip! a relocation! a cushion that'd allow you to delve into a new career direction or further education!), you're far likelier to summon the stamina... because you're *excited* about the future! Venus's retrograde in January

brings these questions to the forefront, pointing the way to lucrative new openings—if you're willing to reconsider the entire manner in which you've evaluated your financial possibilities. Though it could take until March before you're clear on whether such openings will actually pay out (or if they were mere phantoms), the whole reconsideration process is a fruitful means for ensuring you haven't ruled out any potentially promising income-streams.

During the first half of the year, however, your capacity for independently looking out for your own bottom-line will be potentially *complicated* at every turn, due to how Pluto-in-your-2nd is continually pummeled by hard aspects from Jupiter, Uranus, and Mars. Please note, though, that 'complicated' needn't yield an *unfavorable* outcome: Jupiter-in-the-8th has been known to deliver *very* rich windfalls, if you're willing to tie your financial fate to someone else's (and participate in lots of back-and-forth negotiations in the process). At the same time, you'll *also* have to potentially contend with antagonistic peers threatened by your serious turn toward this bottom-line focus and/or your diminishing ability to politely deal with a lifeless, lackluster, 'same-old-thing' vibe running through your social scene—not to mention, your own short-attention-span *restlessness*, which could inspire a hasty decision that knocks you back a few steps. These complications hit their peak in April, when you must juggle your own practical interests against both others' interests *and* your own defiant desire to tell everyone to 'screw off!' To counteract this rising rebelliousness, put your nose to the grind and just *work* from mid-April into June, when you'll happily welcome positive fruits from your labors.

It's not until July when you'll begin to see whether potential business partnerships tentatively discussed or entered into earlier in the year are liable to work out—or whether it's in your best interest to cut your losses. Don't fret if you end up having to walk away: The whole process was still fruitful anyway, and you mustn't let your frustration or disappointment fuel any self-defeating thoughts. Whatever the case, don't try to make any self-determined leaps forward during August. It's important to publicly tow the party line, saying only what your boss or an important colleague would *want* you to say (and leaving out the complaints or undermining opinions). By September, your professional stock should be at a high, helping to solidify your confidence in whatever you're working towards. From mid-month and into October, take the lead on pushing your most noticeable career ambitions forward... including *lots* of collaborative checking-in and idea-exchanging with your team, *if* you don't want to piss 'em off. November and December return you to the financial-planning table, for a review of the strides you made during '14—and one final push for *more* money, if you in fact deserve it.



## Relationships / Romance

With your ruler Jupiter still in your 8th through the middle of July, your first half of 2014 presents a continuing opportunity to *go further* and *get deeper* in an intimate relationship. Because the 8th house represents what happens when we *merge* our 'stuff' together with another person's (whether financially, sexually, and/or psychologically), Jupiter's presence there will support an easier-than-usual capacity to *unite your life-circumstances* with a certain special someone more significantly. If you've been wondering about 'taking things to the next level', this would be an excellent time. The emotional risks of doing so will seem less intimidating, while the positive rewards are apt to materialize more quickly and more dramatically. Of course, along with increased interpersonal intensity come additional *complications*: Once your destiny becomes more closely intertwined with somebody else's, it's much harder to just do whatever you want, without checking in or considering how your actions will impact *them*.

And yet, because of how Jupiter-in-your-8th brushes up against Uranus and Pluto, any relational deepening must *also* address your conflicting needs, so you can both (1) continue developing your own material self-sufficiency, rather than letting a generous partner 'take care of' you, and (2) reserve a *lot* of individual freedom for pursuing whatever zany activity or interest gets you jazzed up. On this first point, January's Venus retrograde asks you to reconsider whether you're currently functioning independently enough to provide for yourself on a longer-term basis. If adjustments seem necessary, in order for you to be more directly *accountable* to your financial well-being, you might *also* end up having to deal with pushback from a partner who feels confused by, and/or left out of, your self-securing efforts. These are not simple issues; as such, the conversations required to reach mutual understanding (without surrendering your confident self-reliance) could take months. But if you *really* care for the other person, you'll dutifully corral any impetuous urge to just dash away when this interpersonal work gets hard—an urge which *could* grow continually stronger from February into April, when your burgeoning independence streak comes to its peak.

April is a *highly* active month for romantic twists and turns, whether you'll unexpectedly meet a new hottie who you get *really into really quickly*... or just-as-suddenly realize your existing relationship isn't working for you anymore (because all the fun is gone? or is it infringing on *your* fun?). The fast-moving developments keep coming into May and June, when you're still try to

adjust to changing circumstances through catch-up communications about the unforeseen side-effects to everything that's happened. You aren't likely to feel settled in this changed-up setup until late July or early August. Meanwhile, Jupiter's move into your 9th sets off Uranus-in-your-5th by trine during the second half of '14, indicating your most stimulating love-matches are likely to include some horizon-broadening aspect: Look to individuals who come from foreign cultures or faraway lands, possess expert knowledge in a field you find fascinating, and/or have a thoughtful, curious, or adventuresome attitude toward the world. With Mars in your sign from mid-September through late October, it rests on *you* to be the active pursuer. Want someone? Go for it. From mid-November into early December, you've got the attractive power of Venus on your side. Be sure to get out and about during this time, so you're well-positioned to happily receive the influx of admiration.

### **January**

If you're thinking shrewdly, your 2014 will open with your eyes firmly fixed on your *financial* outlook for the year ahead. To tap into your highest earning capacity, you may want to reevaluate what you *thought* were your most marketable skills, so you're not working too hard for too little—and undervaluing a potential goldmine. As such, partnering up with someone whose talents complement yours *might* make sense... though now's more a time to *scout* possible collaborators, rather than commit. Certain friends or colleagues could take issue with your blossoming self-assuredness, insinuating you've become too self-serving. That's no reason to sabotage your progress, though. Wait until late in the month to address any critics; concentrate more on demonstrating your allegiance to them than on directly confronting their groundless gripes.

### **February**

Don't fall prey to any worst-case-scenario fears about others' perceptions of you, especially if it freezes you in your tracks. You're probably making this rough-patch a bigger deal than it is (if it actually even *exists*), but you won't know for sure unless you *talk it out*. Silently harboring suspicions will only distract you from focusing on your practical goals. Even if you discover your fear was justified and there *is* an issue, it's better for your mental health to *find out the truth*—and, as a result, be able to work through it—than to be left wondering. By the end of February,

you'll be ready to steal a few more quiet-at-home moments than usual. If for some reason you can't get the 'quiet' you crave because you're catering to a less-than-ideal situation on the home-front (such as a needy housemate or family-member), this could be a warning-sign indicator of an unhealthy sacrifice you've been making for too long now.

## **March**

As dynamic developments within your social scene continue to unfold throughout March, you may find certain alliances are on shakier ground than ever, while others are proving to be surprisingly robust. Rather than making any final judgments (or saying things you might later regret), consider this to be an exploratory period: Use your conversational prowess to stealthily draw out more information from the key players, which should reveal *plenty* about where their heads are at. If a certain individual seems like a potentially promising partner, consider initiating a preliminary discussion—but leave the options *very* open for now. The month's final weeks could muddy your thinking, due to emotional concerns that run deeper than the outward events would suggest. Tell people if you're feeling moody, instead of pretending everything's wonderful. They'll be likelier to give you the space you need, without taking it personally.

## **April**

Your ability to play things shrewdly and strategically is likely to *collide* with a surge of impatient rebelliousness during this particularly chaotic April. Even in light of the practical groundwork you've been laying since '14 began, you shouldn't try to altogether squelch this drive to express your incorrigible individuality. It *will* pop out, one way or another. Perhaps this will serve as a decisive moment in determining who really *are* your allies: If they can't embrace your fun-loving irreverence, they probably aren't very suitable teammates. Take note of any enigmatic urges to spruce up your home, shack up with a partner or good pal, and/or move to a new residence: This could be your intuition pointing the way to nourishing improvements in your living situation. What changes in your day-to-day routine might facilitate a more peaceful domestic existence?

## May

Stay on top of your everyday responsibilities earlier in May, to counteract any detrimental escapist tendencies. By mid-month, you'll be emitting a red-hot vibe likely to turn a few admiring heads in your direction... and just as likely to rouse competitiveness or ire in a so-called friend (or should I say 'frenemy') who's jealous of your free-wheelin' ways. Don't kowtow to this sort of social pressure—unless a radical response would needlessly jeopardize a financially fruitful situation, that is, in which case a modest amount of placating may be in order. Your knack for speaking to people in whatever language *they'll* be most receptive to will be *very much* heightened: a definite advantage when it comes to having important relationship talks, but potentially problematic if it inspires you to tell someone what they *want* to hear, at the expense of unabridged *honesty*.

## June

The first half of June is *excellent* for diligently attending to whatever work's been piling up on your plate; it won't feel nearly as burdensome as it would at other times (though you'll *still* have to fight off a pessimistic voice-in-your-head asking 'why even bother?'). Any lingering questions about who's sincerely got your back—and who's *not* to be trusted—should finally be answered by the end of the month. Be proactive about expressing your gratitude and devotion to those you've affirmed as loyal like-minded peers, while letting any broken social bonds fall by the wayside. The second half of June welcomes Venus to your relationship house, easing your ability to happily connect with any- and everyone. That doesn't mean, however, they're all *good matches* for you. Beware of pandering to a romantic prospect if maintaining the smooth relational flow requires you to hold your tongue too much. (That's never going to work.)

## July

Rather than complain about how complicated your life's become, you might do better to *embrace* this fact. Though obviously there are more balls you now need to juggle, your potential *payoff* from willingly signing on for this juggling act is that much greater. Keep working last month's uptick in interpersonal appeal to your advantage. If you're hungry to meet some fresh faces, mid-July is an *ideal* time for your friends to take you along to their favorite hangouts,

and to introduce you to *their* friends. Accept any party or event invitations, maybe even *ask* to be fixed up on a date. As the month draws to a close, you'll likely find yourself beginning to get excited about some 'next big adventure' on your journey... though it's only at the very earliest stages of revealing itself. For now, simply fostering this upbeat vision for the future is enough; no need to outwardly *do* anything quite yet.

## **August**

August would be most wisely filled with lush daydreams, restorative retreats, meditative reflections, and rites of spiritual cleansing. With Mars in your solar 12th throughout the month, any more *obvious* forward motion isn't quite as favored. Therefore, don't push yourself to proceed, produce, or progress. Please treat your emerging enthusiasms with a protective delicacy, instead of letting your inner naysayer mercilessly shoot holes in your hopeful optimism. At this point, it's more important to encourage yourself to *believe* your desire for 'something more' can be fulfilled than to practically understand exactly *how* to make it happen. From the middle of the month onward, strive to be exceedingly precise and objective in all your professional dealings. If you don't know an answer, admit that's the case; then go do the necessary research. And if you're merely *wagering* a guess or offering an opinion, be *clear* that's what you're doing.

## **September**

Continue taking everything at a gentler pace as September begins. Once Mars moves into your sign midway through the month, your physical drive and initiative levels will receive a *major* injection of new energy, helping you make up for any supposed 'lost time'. Until then, cruise along on autopilot. This *could* be an auspicious month career-wise, so long as a psychologically-motivated desire to please a boss or client doesn't cause you to fudge the facts or misrepresent your progress. Your reputation depends on *accuracy*. Be somewhat more cautious and diplomatic in your communications than usual, with an eye toward protecting your own (economic) interests. This could be a challenge, alas, when a colleague offers an ill-informed opinion or prejudicial remark. How much is 'putting 'em in their place' really *worth* to you? Balance the satisfying joy of vindication against what's practically prudent.

## **October**

Last month's energy-boost extends into October, making this an *extremely* dynamic and invigorating moment for you. A swell of creative passion will light the path to your latest inspiring interest, gripping new topic of study, or upcoming travel destination. Honor whatever's piqued your intellectual curiosities. Any recent instance of having flubbed the call for diplomacy ought to be fixable mid-month, provided you're willing to do a bit of harmless backpedaling and ego-stroking. You can only pull it off, though, if you genuinely *respect* the offended party; if you're just paying lip service, they'll smell the disingenuousness all over you. The very end of October is perfect for escaping from all the attention that's been following you around. You'll want a little down time, to prepare yourself for another turn in the spotlight come mid-next-month.

## **November**

Remain patiently behind the scenes in the earlier part of the month, when it behooves you to be putting yesterday's business to bed, once and for all, instead of prematurely heading toward brighter horizons. Don't let this passing interval of downtime chip away at your optimism. The more thoroughly you detoxify yourself of stubborn residue from a now-outdated past, the fewer 'repeats' you'll have to endure in the months and years to come. Venus's arrival in Sagittarius halfway into November is a wonderful development, bestowing upon you an attractive glow and extra charisma, making you irresistibly likable in both personal and professional settings. This could be your best chance all year to score a pay raise or some other confidence-raising gain. When going for what you want, calmly make your pitch by contextualizing it within a longer-term strategy, so as to demonstrate you're not just in it for a quick buck.

## **December**

As December kicks off, there's a rather *wild* streak coursing through you... which, though it may lead you to blurt out provocative comments and point-blank questions, is nonetheless exhilarating. Should you watch your mouth? Not necessarily. But, as before, whenever you're feeling mischievous, please steer clear of *anyone* involved with how you make your money. As long as you don't fall prey to foot-in-mouth syndrome, December's actually quite a financially

favorable month for you. Ending the year where you started it—by looking ahead to your projected income and expenses for 2015—will definitely help you reserve the necessary funds for *meaningful* purchases, as well as permitting you to negotiate a sweeter deal from a better-informed perspective. Also, be aware of the increased likelihood of friction with siblings or cousins throughout the month. If caught up in such a conflict, fight on the side of what's *fairest* for all parties.

## CAPRICORN

As if life hasn't kept you on your toes *enough* over these past couple of years, 2014 promises to be yet another *momentous* year for you Capricorns... again featuring unusually *tempestuous* astrology which puts members of *your* zodiac-tribe smack in the crosshairs of its converging aspects.

If that's a rather sensational statement with which to open your year-ahead forecast, please know I don't mean to frighten you. This is hardly a 'doom-and-gloom' outlook, just extremely *active*. As long as you're willing to keep looking *forward* in the midst of dynamically shifting circumstances—and to wisely understand that along with *chaotic change* come numerous fruitful opportunities to *do things differently* and, potentially, *better*—this instability can ultimately serve you quite well. It's any Capricorn who tries to *resist* these currents, desperately clutching to a disappearing past and/or swimming frantically upstream in a futile attempt to fight the strong pressures to evolve, who's in for a difficult time.

You're now a few years into Pluto's interminable visit to your sign (which began in 2008 and lasts another full *decade*), a critical element of this era's tumult... and as such, you've probably already been confronted by at least one intricate psychological snarl which has forced you to examine, more deeply than ever, those unintegrated emotional drives and responses which underlie your tough-cookie disposition. That's what Pluto does: He corners us into situations which become strangely *intense*, then demands we investigate *what* about that situation has gotten us so damn charged-up.

Carrying Pluto around in your sign, then, can *exaggerate* any under-examined psychological responses you feel (e.g., envy, self-doubt, competitiveness, extreme judgment, etc.) whenever you fall short of your 'ideal' behavior in a given situation. Just as often, Pluto stirs such responses *to* you from other people who feel (justifiably or not) threatened or intimidated by some powerful kernel in your makeup which triggers *their* raw psychological stuff. These potential paralleling scenarios are two sides to the same Pluto coin—both cases involving *you*, whether as 'reactionary' or 'reaction-rouser', at their core.



Pluto can actually *worsen* your dissatisfaction in any involvements which leave you feeling ineffectual or undervalued and/or attract *others'* pungent pushback, hopefully pressing you to the uncomfortable point where you *must* stand in your power or else settle for ever-increasing discontent. Pluto will *needle* you, painfully if need be, until you hit that point and make the self-empowering changes. You're liable to continue eliciting unsettling and/or antagonistic reactions until you acknowledge you *do* possess qualities or talents which could attract others' jealousy or ire... and then, from there, learn to *wield your power graciously*, supporting others in rising to *their* best, meeting their threatened responses with compassion and generosity, yet still holding your ground when it's warranted.

This corresponds neatly with the ongoing strain from Saturn-in-your-11th's paring-down influence on your broader social relationships: Plainly put, it's become *intolerable* for you to associate yourself with friends, teams or organizations, or any cross-section of community-members among whom you must *dilute* or *downplay* your genuine personality. Those who are not truly trustworthy allies should *no longer* receive so much of your attention. Let such dubious connections organically wither away—or, if need be, respectfully excuse yourself from the affiliation. On the same token, it's just as critical to explicitly *reaffirm* your bonds with those people who *do* embrace the authentic you, more visibly investing loyal friends-for-life gratitude into the relationships. If you find you're lacking reliable comrades, challenge yourself to actively investigate interest-groups, social circles, and/or online communities likeliest to include more folks with whom you actually *share* something significant in common.

Coming to accept, and to productively own, your relative *advantages* in the world is a critical lesson of Pluto's long-term trip through Capricorn. Perhaps few astro-happenings could make this point even *clearer* than the fortunate presence of Venus, *also* occupying your sign for a lengthier span than her usual three-to-four-week visit. As 2014 opens, Venus will have *already* been in Capricorn for nearly two months, and she'll remain with you into the first week of March. Such a prolonged stay from Venus can only mean one thing: a *retrograde* (Dec 21 '13-Jan 31 '14) through your sign, situating *you* as the happy recipient of auspicious-seeming opportunities *beyond* what you've most recently been considering. Just when you thought you'd factored in all the possible alternatives, here comes an appealing new prospect or two to scramble your outlook with a promising 'backup' option dangling in your face—and all the *second-guessing* that results from it.

Four months of Venus in your sign *and* this rascally retrograde should leave you more aware than ever of the *multiple choices* at your disposal, any one of which would set you down a path toward a *certain* type of ‘success’. The Venus-invoked appearance of these divergent possibilities is your call to *reevaluate* the path you’re presently on, as an effect of your personal and/or professional affiliations, so you can determine whether you’re headed in a direction that aligns with your ultimate aspirations... or if a *different* direction might be a better long-range fit. During these first several weeks of ’14, you’ll likely come face-to-face with promising alternatives to the status quo—e.g., new career opportunities or romantic prospects, a residential relocation or shift in family dynamics—which ought to spur such reconsiderations. Even if you choose to stay with what you’ve already got, this process of reaffirming your existing preferences is a valuable reminder to *appreciate your blessings*.

If, however, you *do* choose to make a significant change, the year’s volatile astrology will surely support such self-redefining risks. In addition to Pluto-in-your-1st, you’ve *also* got major planetary action in the three *other* most prominent houses of your chart... including Uranus’s longtime residency in your 4th, as well as Jupiter-in-your-7th *and* another extra-lengthy visit from a typical fast-mover, Mars, to your 10th. This riling impact of Mars on your 10th, the house that represents your professional achievements and/or the reputation you earn for yourself on the public stage, is especially prominent during the protracted *seven-and-a-half months* (from Dec ’13 into the last part of July) when he’s provocatively poking around in your career zone. A good chunk of that time he’ll spend retrograde (March 1-May 19), indicating a likely *diverting* of your assertive efforts away *from* the professional aims you’d planned to work on behalf of... and *toward* newly and/or suddenly emerging urgencies which require immediate attention. While having one’s energies necessarily re-routed can prove undeniably irritating, these unintended developments might *also* be nudging you to a changing professional role that affords you more space to *make a noticeable splash*.

With Mars in your 10th until late July, much of your year is marked by a distinct sense of dynamic unrest and/or outright conflict in the professional zone. You’ll have the driving will to *push* for your desired outcome in career matters, demonstrating your leadership capabilities. But whenever *your* actions collide with the existing organizational structures and/or the authority of a boss or key decision-maker, a clash of opposing wills is *very* likely. Who is in charge here? Who must defer? Mars-in-your-10th for such a long time should help you determine whether the ongoing efforts you’re investing in your outer-world ambitions are indeed constructively

advancing you, according to ‘the more you put in, the further you get’ logic—or whether your attempts to press ahead are merely being met by antagonistic obstacles. Throughout those long months, you’ll be fighting *for* your professional destiny... and/or *against* any structural impediments blocking your ascent.

Mars does not operate as an independent agent of career turmoil, of course, but must be read as one piece of a larger astrological picture. During his trip through your 10th, he’ll cross through sharp aspects to both Pluto and Uranus *three times* (first during the final week of Dec ’13, and again in April and June), suggesting any professional disturbances may be indicative of some *broader* life-transformation in progress. Combine everything I wrote about Pluto-in-the-1st’s intensification in the psychological responses you experience and/or trigger in others *together with* Mars-in-the-10th’s stirring of career-related dynamism and/or strife, for example: Here’s a case where you must discern how to work to your maximum potential *within* the chain-of-command, *or* how to overthrow the restricting reign of this established structure if that’s what’s demanded, while not *abusing* your power or participating in needlessly hostile antagonism.

The fact of Mars simultaneously *opposing* Uranus-in-your-4th further highlights the *internal emotional components* contributing to your evolution toward more empowered self-determination. The 4th and 10th houses constitute what we astrologers call the ‘familial axis’, serving as a backbone to the chart insofar as our relationship to our parents (and/or parent-figures) and how they raised us *always* continues to inform our subjective experience of both the inner and outer worlds. There’s an obvious correlation between (1) an antagonistic dynamic with an impossible-to-please boss, and/or with hierarchies in general, and (2) an originating imprint of unresolved conflict with a tough parent. We learn how to behave toward authority figures—and either *develop confidence* in our ability to achieve something out in the world or suffer disheartening self-doubt—as a result of our earliest family relationships. All those months of Mars-in-the-10th, then, could just as easily point to an ‘overthrow’ of the *original* ‘authority-structure’: a defiant *end* to your willingness to defer to family expectation, whether through actual conflict with a living parent or, more likely, a liberatory casting-off of the internalized parent-figure’s rebuking voice.

Uranus-in-your-4th (another multi-year influence) certainly qualifies as a call to *bust free* from any inner emotional bondage, and to declare yourself unabashedly *independent* when it comes to deciding what best constitutes your version of *nurturing self-care*. You may well be in need of drawing some marked distinction between the self-effacing patterns you've inherited and a radical new stance toward better *respecting* how you feel... which might require taking more space from family members, even moving elsewhere if your current surroundings make it too hard to separate yourself. Because our domestic sphere is symbolized by the 4th, Uranus's presence there can signal a *shakeup* where you live: renovations or a full-on relocation (to a different dwelling or whole new locale), unpredictable relations and/or sudden switches in housemate situations, etc. Rather than trying to ignore this ruckus and clutch to how it's always been, take this as your chance to create the sort of change which gives you a fiercer sense of self-supportive agency over the quality of your home life.

As you answer to these astrological pressures to evolve, your most important one-on-one relationships must grow along with you—or you're liable to *outgrow* them, though this in itself is not a bad thing. With expansive Jupiter sitting in your 7th through mid-July and then moving into your 8th (two interpersonally-oriented houses), your relational involvements are under a rather *fortunate* vibe that eases your ability to reap *more* positive gains from them. While Jupiter's presence here can inspire a greater sense of mutual connection between you and a significant other, his 'lucky' influence does sometimes precipitate a *breakup*... bloating any existing problems to unmistakable proportions, and/or making it clearer than ever how *your* individual horizons are brighter than the pairing can adequately support. Should such a Jupiter-inspired breakup occur, you'll probably look back upon it later as 'the best thing that could've happened'.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

As I've already described in some depth, your work life in 2014 is strongly dominated by Mars's extra-lengthy stay—and 2½-month retrograde—in your 10th house, which continues into the latter part of July. This bespeaks of your striving to outwardly assert your professional ambitions, in a pretty pronounced fashion, throughout the whole first half of the year... and, likewise, of your becoming *very* aware of any powerful people or institutional impediments blocking you in your efforts to achieve a certain mark of accomplishment. Because Mars forms

challenging aspects to both Uranus and Pluto, your path forward will necessitate learning how to responsibly use your personal strength, neither feebly buckling under a higher-up's belittling rule nor recklessly brandishing your abilities like a cruel weapon. Remember: Professional esteem which you earn from honorably standing behind your cogent efforts will be sturdier and more enduring than that which you score by ambushing a so-called adversary. Work-related standoffs will feel more *emotionally rattling* than they ordinarily might; therefore, you'll want to be careful not to react impulsively, due to a sudden flood of wild feelings, with some unreasonable move that irreversibly threatens something you've worked long and hard for.

This unsteady vibe will already be present in your career as soon as the year begins, with Mars sparking potential difficulties and/or power-struggles as '13 wraps up. Though the extra edge to your professional dealings could easily inflame your temper, don't jump to the conclusion that all this turbulence is *bad* for your overall climb-to-the-top. Venus's retrograde throughout January suggests there may be hidden silver-linings to this shifting ground... including the possibility of snagging yourself a raise in income and/or position, in the process of everything shaking out. Start putting out feelers later in January, with the expectation of talks continuing into March before any concrete results come through. All the while, keep yourself in a conspicuous lead-player role at the heart of the action, demonstrating your willingness to occupy the hot-seat. Any simmering workplace dramas come to a spectacular apex in April: Are you ready to blast through any private doubts and take that risky step toward greater authority? Or have you finally dealt with enough bullshit and just can't deal with it a second longer? Launching out on your own could be your best decision ever *or* a hasty act of rebellion, based on whether you've legitimately risen to that level.

May and June are ideal months for trying to re-attain a more practically productive day-to-day schedule, assimilating whatever changes have occurred so far in '14, so you can once again experience the satisfying feeling of *getting actual stuff done* (instead of, say, spending all your work-hours putting out fires or dickering with colleagues about this or that issue). Even still, the ripples of chaos continue to twitch, with the likelihood of one last determining battle due in June. Once July comes, you can finally start acclimating yourself to a new-and-improved routine. If your realigned aspirations may include a potential collaboration and/or financial partnership, Jupiter's arrival to your 8th (for a yearlong stay into August '15) signals an enhanced knack for your attracting funding from outside sources. Make any such proposals during August. Keep your professional communications impeccable throughout September and October, when you'd

better stick close to the 'official' story (and resist any rebellious urge to say more than you know you should) or risk making a big fat mess. December's an excellent time to invest energy in building and/or strengthening financial foundations.

### **Relationships / Romance**

Venus's already-in-motion retrograde through Capricorn ushers in 2014 on an alluring note, positioning you on the receiving end of *lots* of favorable attention... some which might actually *startle* you with its unlikely departure from your usual romantic goings-on. Examples include: a friend expressing their desire to be more-than-friends; an ex showing back up, to wrap up unresolved business and/or check whether there's a chance for another shot; someone who's totally *not* your type suddenly getting you all excited; etc. January's Venus retrograde carries an undeniably *mischievous* edge to the amorous possibilities she flashes, with the aim of spurring you to rethink exactly *what* you're looking for in a relationship. Happening alongside so much erratic movement in *other* areas of your life (namely, your career and domestic spheres), this event affords you the opportunity to assess your current romantic status *together* with everything else, hopefully helping ensure any relational involvement you invest energy into is in line with your larger goals and dreams. Venus remains in your sign through the first week of March, by which point you should have a pretty clear idea of whether her exciting retrograde outcroppings were fleeting or meant to last.

Jupiter, the other benefic planetary influence, continues his yearlong stay (which began last June) in your 7th, another very positive indicator of relationship growth... though, as I said earlier, that doesn't always mean this growth will occur within an *existing* pairing. Jupiter is specifically in *your* relationship house, helping you as an *individual* expand your notions of the companionship, compatibility, and/or connection possible with another person—whether that'll come from consciously investing more energy in your current situation or moving on to a new one with greater future potential. Jupiter also remains in trine with Saturn-in-your-11th through the first half of 2014, making it likelier you'll reap relational success if you've purposely *straightened out* your social life, letting unsuitable or unreliable friendships fall by the wayside while purposefully reaffirming the solidity of those that genuinely fit the present-day you. By developing a clearer sense of which true-blue pals *really* have you covered, you know you can rely on them to provide you honest outside perspective on your relationship choices (even when

it stings your pride). Plus, if you're aligned with the right social group, you can trust that anyone you meet through your friends has already passed at least one test.

Using your social connections, allow yourself to slide into casual conversation with potential love-matches in March and April; with so much going on in *your* life, it'll be a welcome relief to listen to someone else tell you about *them*. You might be pleasantly surprised by the emotional threads you share in common and/or the peaceful vibe that washes over you when you're together. Though your attractiveness quotient is upped throughout June, helping you draw hotties' admiring eyes, Saturn-in-your-11th could spoil the innocent fun: An unsupportive or jealous friend might try to wreck your game, *or* a brave and honorable one may offer a sobering reality-check. Your interpersonal outlook looks *great* in July and early August... though *you* could be the problem, if your behavior is too controlling or judgmental, intimidating the other person into holding back. If you can't see your part in this, ask for outside opinions. Whatever the underlying psychological dynamics in your relationship, good-bad-*and*-ugly, they'll become more obvious in August, with multiple conjunctions to Jupiter-in-your-8th: deeper intimacy or an unmistakable mess? November's your best month for taking ownership over your romantic destiny, but don't come on so strong you scare people away. Venus is back in your sign by December, putting you again on the receiving end of flirty stares and winks.

## **January**

With Venus retrograde in your sign all month, you're apt to receive at least one favorable opportunity you hadn't anticipated and/or a whole bunch of friendly (or, um, *very friendly*) attention from an unlikely source. How does this new angle on the *other* available goodies shift your perspective on what you've *already* got? The reevaluation process itself is more important than one certain outcome or another... especially since promising Venus-retrograde possibilities often lack *staying power*. Therefore, please don't let the mix of (1) some passing whim or maybe-prospect and (2) a shorter-than-usual fuse inspire you to impulsively lash out at those who challenge you and/or expect you to consider their say, particularly in professional or public-world contexts. From mid-January onward, start making plans for how to protect your own economic interests while still taking ambitious risks; this conversation (with yourself and/or a key player) continues into March.

## **February**

As any circumstances altered by last month's kooky Venus-retrograde happenings continue to shake out, you may need to readdress or revise any practical and/or career-related decisions you thought you'd already made. One potential hot-button consideration: How do *your* personal aspirations conflict with the larger needs of the group and/or set you apart from your team of peers or colleagues? There's no shame in reaffirming the specific claim *you* wish to stake in this matter... though too single-mindedly pursuing what *you* want, no matter the impact on the other parties, could challenge the strength of certain alliances. (Or maybe they weren't that 'strong' to begin with, if they rest on you compromising your potential?) Later in the month, it'll be easier than usual to connect socially with pals you're just getting to know or haven't seen in a while. Lose yourself in the conversation, instead of trying to steer it any certain way.

## **March**

The unforeseen need to divert your energies or efforts somewhere *other* than you'd intended is just one likely effect of Mars turning retrograde in your career house (the 10th)... as is the heightened potential for a boss, important client, or competitive 'frenemy' to act out in some manner that causes you uncalled-for trouble. But even in the midst of more-than-usual professional tumult, you're sitting on a higher-than-usual earning capacity: Look out for lucrative chances to insert yourself into the cracks of these dramatic unfoldings. Your willingness to step in and manage any dangling loose-end responsibilities could net you extra income. As before, probably not *everyone* on the team will support your take-charge posture. At the same time, you can *enhance* your interpersonal connections by sharing sensitive truths about yourself, helping folks see your more 'human' (i.e., less intimidating) side.

## **April**

During this most unstable month of '14, you'll want to watch out for any excessively *rebellious* emotional reflexes overtaking your rational mind. Your impulse to declare independence and/or assert authority could very easily become *misdirected*, due to converging chaos on multiple fronts. Try extra-hard to accurately discern between mountains and molehills, to prevent yourself from taking critical action in an inappropriate setting or toward the wrong person. Your



real conflict may be an *internal* one, as you seek to free yourself from long-suffered family pressures; these outer events are just too perfectly symbolic of what you're fighting *for* and/or *against*. Diffuse your elevated temper by shooting the shit about frivolous topics with your chit-chattiest friends, diverting your mind *away* from whatever's got you heated... and giving you a bit of much-needed distance.

## **May**

Early on in May, your readiness to express a personal preference about some creative or romantic interest might be *blocked* (or just loudly *criticized*) by someone who obviously doesn't have your back. Well, at least now you know. You won't have a lot of time or desire to get into all *that*, though, because your mind will *still* be on your work... and hopefully exploring different methods which could increase your efficiency and/or improve the quality of your results, rather than just doing it the same way you always have. Think of this continuing on-the-job instability as an opportunity to come out the other side more productive than ever—and that much *smarter*, as a direct consequence of this experience. Sudden changes where you live and/or in your familial relationships could turn out pretty *well* despite the initial shock, courtesy of Venus's conjunction to Uranus-in-your-4th, provided you can let go of your supposedly 'perfect' plans.

## **June**

Your capacity to attract pleasurable activities *and* attentive admirers who are likely to provide *even more pleasure* is magnified throughout much of June. But should you resist full engrossment in such delights, due to vocal peer pressure and/or your own concerns that this interest is somehow incompatible with your role in the wider community? It's on *you* to decide how best to balance the roles of *individual desire* versus *social responsibility*. On the job front, there's still one more round of unsettling movement as Mars-in-the-10th completes his last clash with Uranus and Pluto, to bring the events of '14 so far to a somewhat *finer* resolution. With Mercury retrograding back into your 6th, you'll likely have to readdress some of the methodological revisions recently made and/or contend with redoing certain pieces of work that were done inadequately or incorrectly. Don't grumble too much, since this is actually an ideal chance to polish your approach 'til it shines.

## July

In the first part of July, your workflow may *finally* hit its improved groove once you iron out any kinks brought up by last month's Mercury retrograde. By mid-month, you should be able to see *where* your longer-range career trajectory will point you, as long as you keep consistently following the steps you're laying out... and that ought to help you stay rolling optimistically along with the current tasks-at-hand. Once Venus and Mercury have arrived to your 7th in the second part of July, you'll have a slicker handle on what to say and do to keep a special someone happy and interested—if, that is, you don't give off an overbearing or self-important air. Please don't treat this hopeful relationship prospect like a game you're trying to win. Let your softer, more receptive side out to play, using that 7th-house boon to *draw the other person out* rather than keep 'em in their place.

## August

The stakes become higher in August, whether in romantic dalliances or professional partnerships, once the more *complicated* issues between you reach the point where they *must* be dealt with. This is no time to preserve a polite front, to the detriment of what's *really* going on. In fact, you are far likelier to come out with *more* of what you want if you're brave enough to go to those scary places. Your decision to go *even further* in a particular direction could prove unpopular with certain friends or colleagues, creating a tension between this one increasingly significant involvement and your larger social affiliations. With whom does your most promising future rest? Be warned: *Too* harsh a fight with someone, and you may *never* come back from it. With that in mind, let your overriding *moral integrity* keep you in check (*minus* any boasting about your 'high morals').

## September

As far as the outside world is concerned, September's your month to slap on an tactful nonchalant face and *only* speak public sentiments with the most carefully *diplomatic* sheen possible. You might still feel the periodic urge to go off-script, to stand up for yourself and/or call someone else out on their bullshit. Please fight such urges. It's not worth risking your good graces, just to make a point. Your most favorable move is to instead *take a few steps back*, to

get some distance and regain a bigger-picture view that'll put this littler crap into better perspective. From *outside* the emotional heat of the action, you can formulate a calmer game-plan that *won't* create collateral damage. When Mars hits your 12th midway through September, you should probably lower your expectations of getting much done—and allow this to be a time of relative *retreat* from earthly activity, to psychically prep yourself for a busy end-of-year.

## **October**

Continue taking time to recharge yourself in October, in order to allow daydream epiphanies to emerge from the emptiness... and, if all goes well, to strike you with inspiring enthusiasm for what the coming months could bring. However, please postpone any significant *actions* to 'get the ball rolling' until November. Even in the midst of supposed 'downtime', you'll *still* have important eyes watching you in the professional zone. If you lost your communicative cool and/or caused an organizational hiccup last month, make a heartfelt public apology; taking responsibility for your actions might actually *boost* your reputation in the end. For the moment, your best career luck comes from simply maintaining an even rhythm—and *not* rocking the boat with sharp turns or shocking new initiatives. Late in October, you're likely to enjoy extra warm-and-fuzzy feelings by spending quality time with your favorite peeps.

## **November**

You're a total *powerhouse* in November, with strongman Mars occupying your sign throughout the month (and tangling with Uranus and Pluto). Consciously try to use your power for good, instead of provoking frustration or conflict (intentionally or not) everywhere you go... and don't forget you might be coming off more *aggressive* than you realize. Without a doubt, this is your *best* moment all year for initiating decisive action, asserting your will, drawing firm lines in the sand, and/or grabbing for what you most desire. Be deliberate and well-controlled, not careless or reactionary: After all, you want to win *the whole race*, not just a lap or two. On the social front, go out of your way to show your love and gratitude to those die-hard compadres who always go that extra mile for you. This additional investment in friendship will pay you lasting dividends.

## December

Cruise into early December with a loose grip and little attachment to what's happening in the here-and-now. While other folks might be falling prey to nervousness or hysteria, you can be quietly hatching your own plans for next year, based in part on the unassuming observations you're making (and the conclusions you're drawing *about* them). One top priority: laying necessary financial groundwork, through salary-hike inquiries and/or year-ahead budgeting, so you can actualize your still-unspoken hopes. As the month progresses, you'll become increasingly less quiet—and increasingly *more* appealing to those fawning fans who are dying to hear tell of everything you've done this year. Graciously accept credit where it's due, without lordling your successes over anybody else's head. The year ends as it started, with you striving to find the proper balance between empowered pride and hospitable humility, in response to one more gust of favorable attention.

## AQUARIUS

How else to start off your 2014 forecast, Aquarius, than to report you've got sort of a *strange* year ahead?

Before we further explore what exactly I intend with this fairly vague, non-descriptive term 'strange', let's just jump ahead to the punchline: You're not *supposed* to 'understand', not with that clear-and-confident intellect which characterizes your sign (and which sometimes lapses *too far* into know-it-all-ism), the full extent of what 2014 promises to bring. In fact, a guiding theme of your year is trying *not* to assume you've 'figured it all out'—whether we're talking about your long-range career plans, your passionate commitments to people or ideas, and/or the undergirding beliefs which guide your most significant life-choices—but allowing it to unfold, moment by moment, and discovering more fine-points about your special role in the universe through *experience*, rather than mental machinations. Are you up for it?

The main culprits behind this cryptic forecast are not new players to the scene, by the way. Like the rest of us, you remain under the extended influence of that world-rattling square between Uranus and Pluto. In your case, Pluto's lengthy residence in your 12th house (2008-2024) is undeniably the *weirder* one... a mystical conjurer of 'strange', which, no matter *how* you slice it, cannot be contained within a competent singular summary. By its very definition, the 12th is the most unintelligible house in the chart, mainly because it represents nothing less than our connection to *all of existence*—including, and especially, those most mysterious elements, such as dreams, visions, psychic hunches, synchronistic happenings and/or uncanny vibes, which 'accidentally' (or serendipitously?) knock us off one and onto another path, without our even having consciously *sought* such a change. The 12th is a house of otherworldly *magic* (or, if you prefer, *spiritual interconnectedness*); as such, it defies the laws of earthly logic. Any planets moving through the 12th, therefore, are somewhat hidden from conscious view and operate according to a cosmic illogic, forcing us to play by a *different* set of rules if we wish to productively utilize their energies.

As far as planets go, Pluto may be the most potent agent of transformation, but he's no light-and-fluffy 'think positive and everything will work out perfectly' kind of guy. If anything, he represents the *opposite* of such upbeat sentiments: our *shadow*, the repository of all that

uncomfortable psychological matter, such as envy and fury and lust and despair and shame, we've all got lurking *somewhere*. When we work *with* Pluto, we claim these difficult feelings as our own, integrating them into our awareness, and thus becoming better able to wield our power in the world—*without* unconscious drives or responses surprising us with their unruly ferocity.

When we *ignore* our Pluto issues, we unfortunately *project the blame outward*, again and again drawing people and encounters which play them out *for us*, while we wonder why the hell this same upsetting scenario keeps happening to us. Pluto's answer: If the common denominator's *you*, then you've got to take *some* responsibility for these repeating dynamics. It's not 'blaming the victim' to examine what in *your* makeup is attracting such unpleasantness, and to figure out which of *your* attitudes might need to change to put an *end* to it, once and for all.

Pluto's influence in your 12th stirs up these shadowy emotions and complexes running real deep... but does so in a way that's easy to *disown*, if you aren't paying close attention to the spiritual fact that *everything* which comes across your path is *directly relevant* to your ongoing psychic evolution, even the 'dark' and 'harsh' and 'ugly' stuff. Those gloomy descriptors are purposely inside quotes to highlight the negative judgments we too often attach to life-developments which force us to intensely engage our emotions. As long as we *disavow* the absolute inevitability of such Plutonian experiences (for *nobody* will escape disappointment, pain, grief, and death), we live *in constant fear* of their happening—and that fear *owns* us. We hesitate to make bold innovative moves, fearing all the unknowns. We don't dare risk leaving our safe bubble (no matter how illusory its promised 'safety' may be), afraid to step this way or that. We are frozen in our tracks.

Pluto-in-the-12th is your encouragement to privately work with your deepest fears, to courageously face this indivisible duo of light and dark—they *require* each other in order for *either* to exist—which comprises existence, to raise yourself into a more integrated spiritual being who *embraces* the everythingness unafraid, rather than *futilely* trying to run from its inevitabilities.

Pluto-in-the-12th sometimes intensifies any obsessive worry, paranoia or panic you might internally harbor about things which could *possibly* go wrong. Pushing these thoughts out of your mind is *not*, however, the constructive way of engaging with Pluto. You need to go *further*

*into* them: Your most severe anxieties are *rich* with information about the aspects of life you're most unresolved about and/or triggered by, which also makes them some of your greatest spiritual teachers. Unpleasant or painful developments may happen *to* you and/or *around* you, but not necessarily *due* to any distinct action you've taken (other than, maybe, silently beckoning Pluto to arrive) and/or mostly out of *your* control to avert. Should such events occur, acknowledge that their 'higher' purpose is to rattle you into deeper awareness and appreciation—and *feel those raw feelings to their fullest*. Lest you read this forecast as a justification for pessimism, please stop right there: There is no 'bad news' here, merely *life*.

To astrologically reiterate that last sentiment, benefic Venus opens your 2014 *retrograde* in your 12th... an indicator to look out for a *favorable* angle to your adopting a fairly *hands-off* approach, one which you hadn't previously considered. Throughout our lives, all kinds of critical plot-twists occur without our having much hand in them or much ability to change their outcome. For you, Aquarius, this may be even more *conspicuously* the case early in '14, as the folks around you act out in bizarre and/or unanticipated ways which will likely *directly impact* your life. But please don't rush to react, prematurely (mis)interpreting these goings-on as some horrifying doomsday scenario (when it could likely prove quite *otherwise*) and/or trying to interject your agency into the scene without actually *knowing* the full extent of what's occurring. Instead, just let the *other* players continue maniacally shifting the game-pieces around, allowing the details to further shake out *before* making your own moves, once Venus lands in your 1st early in March. Until then, rest on your faith in good things to come; that's what a 12th-house Venus does.

Your release from all this kind-of-heavy, kind-of-inspirational Pluto-in-the-12th business can found, naturally, through the square to Uranus-in-your-3rd. The 3rd house is where we shoot the shit, chit-chat, coffee-klatsch, casually connect with those we see regularly and/or share our local community with, and exchange the latest tidbits of news and gossip and trivia—just about as *far* as you can get from the enigmatic wordless seclusion of the 12th house. Wild-card Uranus's prolonged residence in your 3rd (2010-2019) rouses you to *buck* social convention, with its proscriptions against saying 'too much' or 'the wrong thing' or acting too familiar with strangers or offhand acquaintances... to actually take self-liberating conversational risks, which could just as easily irk or irritate someone as it might lead to a surprisingly meaningful exchange, if not a sudden full-on friendship. Who's to know in advance? The worst that's likely to happen? You suffer an awkward moment, maybe a little embarrassment, and then it's over.

The best? Tiny ripples of positive consequence, reverberating outward, enhancing your life in literally *countless* ways.

Uranus-in-your-3rd holds its own valuable lessons that complement and/or counterbalance what Pluto-in-the-12th is liable to dredge up. Most obviously, your willingness to spontaneously initiate bold conversations which breach the polite superficiality of cursory social-exchange and actually *go* to those deeper places can certainly help you productively *process* whatever's been weighing on your mind. We often forget we're constantly surrounded by a wealth of experts on the human condition, each of whom has lived and learned from their distinct experiences and, as a result, has earned a certain degree of wisdom. Once any initial shock that you've dared to *be so real* in a supposedly 'casual' social context subsides (and once those certain folks who want *no part* in such encounters, as is their given right, have abruptly excused themselves), you'll probably be pleasantly *startled* by the quality and variety of feedback you receive from people who possess actual lived knowledge that can support your evolution. It may only take a single enlightening comment to spark a life-altering epiphany. But where will you find it? The wider a social net you cast, the higher your odds of enjoying such serendipitous encounters.

The very purpose of an *interaction*, after all, is to get out of your own head and bounce ideas off of other people... maybe put your own preoccupations aside for a spell and simply *listen* to someone else go on for a while, a perfect antidote to too much private brooding. Even in the most seemingly irrelevant contexts, you might find an insightful nugget.

Bringing some *mischievousness* (but hopefully nothing more serious) to these interactions is Mars, who'll spend an inordinate amount of time (rather than his usual seven weeks or so) in your 9th during the first half of '14... not leaving until late July, and enduring a 2½-month retrograde of his own (March 1-May 19) within the house of your ethics, values, and guiding principles. Mars's many months in your 9th only further accent your year's theme of humbly realizing what you *don't* know, especially in light of his challenging aspects to both Pluto and Uranus. Though you're astrologically encouraged to be irreverent and risk-taking in your social interactions (Uranus-in-the-3rd), Mars-in-your-9th presents the ongoing threat that you'll stir controversy or conflict, dare you claim the universality of some 'truth' that dishonors another person's reality or otherwise come off preachy or condescending when discussing your views. You might not even need someone else's help in upending an imperfect belief-system: Some out-of-your-control event



could *pin* you into rethinking what a 'right' or 'wrong' response are. Experience trumps ideology, it turns out. Rather than be mad at yourself (or at the person who exposed this lapse in your thinking), see this as an invitation to *learn more*.

Saturn still has one more full year in your 10th, where he's forcing you to legitimately *earn* every bit of career success and/or outer-world stability you want. You're either treating your professional (and/or public-community) responsibilities quite seriously, and embodying your role with more confident authority than ever... or you're hitting up against a glaring wall to further progress, indicating the need to push yourself harder, reengineer your strategies, or perhaps admit to yourself this current course may be a dead-end.

Midway through July, planetary good-guy Jupiter crosses into your one-on-one relationship house (the 7th), inaugurating your most *fortunate* year of interpersonal dealings in over a decade. Though this growth-fostering relational influence applies to *any* important partnership(s) in your life, your primary romantic pairing(s) is the first-and-foremost one under Jupiter's expansive grasp. While Jupiter-in-the-7th *has* been known to deliver that brand-new love-match you've wished for or a heartwarming renewal in an existing relationship, he doesn't always *make things happen*; he merely creates a highly auspicious astro-climate in which *you* can proactively take steps, knowing you're being helped along.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

Your career life remains *challenging*, though not necessarily unrewarding, with Saturn atop your chart in the 10th for the duration of 2014. Saturn-in-the-10th serves essentially as a professional progress-marker: If you attain a new level of achievement and/or receive some reassuring sign that your efforts are paying off, this is not some happy fluke. You legitimately deserve it, and it's yours to keep. Yet, if you face a stubborn road-block in your continuing forward-motion, you ought to view that as a signal you've got to ask yourself some tough redefining questions. Maybe you've gone as far as you can down this particular avenue. Might your natural talents be better used elsewhere? Would you be happier in a less distressing job situation? If you think the stall is merely a factor of not putting in enough effort, you're in a good spot to try to remedy this lack: Jupiter remains in your 6th (and trine to Saturn) until the middle of July, granting you his synergistic benefits whenever you invest stronger and steadier steam

into your day-to-day workload. As long as Jupiter's in your 6th, you're simply able to *do more* on a daily basis.

Throughout Jupiter's first-half-of-the-year presence in your 6th, however, you must deal with periodic distractions which compete with your capacity to take fullest advantage of this productivity boon. Certain of these distractions will be beyond your grasp to do much about, and must be navigated as deftly as possible. Those that involve too much socializing and/or excessively strident debates, at the expense of diligently attending to more pressing matters, must be nipped in the bud... or you'll end up wasting gobs of time without even *noticing*. Be careful not to let your mouth run away with itself from mid-January into early March, when too freely expressing your uncensored opinions could rile those in charge. If you're delivering consistently good results into March and April, please don't forget to collect the *credit* that's due you for your hard work: With Neptune as a persistent cloud-of-idealism in your money house (2nd), it's way too easy for you to overlook the *financial* aspects of what you do. If you don't insist on fair compensation for your efforts, it's unlikely anyone else is going to foist it on you.

Don't get too flustered if your best attempts to move a certain item forward get thwarted or returned to the drawing-board in June. Pick yourself back up, and try a different approach during July, your best month all year for plain nose-to-the-grindstone productivity. Later that month, Mars hits your 10th (where he'll stay through mid-September), heralding what's perhaps your most *pivotal* moment to assert leadership in plain view, for *all* the key players to see. Because of Mars's conjunction to Saturn at the tail-end of August, what you put forth (the good *and* the bad) will have a lasting effect on your reputation. Be particularly respectful around bosses or VIPs; even if you have a bone to pick about the work-at-hand, vent your frustration in a disciplined and deferent manner. All your industrious labors lead to a distinct culmination in late October and into November, when a lineup of planets in your 10th have their *last* face-to-face meeting with Saturn before he starts wrapping up his 2½-year visit. Enjoy the hard-earned fruits, while taking any disappointments like a champ. At this time, you're catching an exceptionally *clear* glimpse of your current lot in professional life.

## Relationships / Romance

The big relationship news of the year, as I've already mentioned, is expansive Jupiter's arrival to your 7th house midway through July for a yearlong visit (through August '15) that *increases* your chances of finding interpersonal satisfaction. Jupiter brings a perspective-widening effect to your 7th, as if you've previously been looking at your relational prospects through blinders and *now* they're gone, revealing *how much more is possible* than you'd realized... whether by considering a different sort of match or a more inclusive relationship structure, or investing more conscious intention into your existing partnership. For the record, though Jupiter is traditionally considered good luck, his presence in the 7th *sometimes* brings relationships to an *end*. In such cases, the underlying problems already existed; Jupiter merely 'expanded' them to a critical breaking-point. Most of the time, when one *looks back* on a Jupiter-inspired breakup with a bit of distance, it turns out to be one of the *best* things that could've happened.

During the first half of '14, *prior* to Jupiter's landing in your 7th, the main developments in your story may *not* be directly related to your romantic life... though your earnest engagement with them should help you clarify your own values, obviously increasing your likelihood of attaining satisfaction in interpersonal relationships. Venus's retrograde through your 12th in January *could* impact an existing coupling and/or conjure the appearance of an old flame or new prospect, though not likely as a result of any actions *you* take. Your best approach in such odd circumstances: Watch, and wait. Chances are, what unfolds will prove to be more an illustrative self-reflection on how you've changed over the years rather than true love calling. Starting early in March, Mars goes retrograde in your 9th while Venus moves through your sign, suggesting you may attract interesting individuals from *outside* your typical milieu, whether from another country or culture and/or otherwise knowledgeable in areas you know less about. You could learn a lot from spending time with this person *if* you're open to looking at life differently (rather than acting like you're jaded)—and, as a result of having your eyes opened, might start looking at future romantic prospects beyond your usual 'type'.

The appearance of Venus in your 5th (the house of romance and flirtation) late in June is your first cue that a positive shift in romance is upon you. If you want to lure a fun-loving admirer, go out and *have* a heap of fun. Like attracts like, after all. Good relationship vibes continue rolling in during July, the official start of your Jupiter-in-the-7th year... and get *even better* in August,

provided you don't allow work stress to keep you from those little generous gestures that'll warm your sweetie's heart (and provided you're *not* carrying on with a co-worker and trying to conceal it). By the end of September, Jupiter slides into an auspicious trine with Uranus-in-your-3rd (in effect through mid-'15), further enhancing your chances for new and/or reinvigorated relationships whenever you push the conversational envelope, take social risks, and/or introduce yourself to fascinating strangers. For the remainder of 2014, you're under *excellent* relational astrology whenever planets move through your 11th, forming a grand fire trine with Jupiter and Uranus to strongly support you staying busily out in the social scene, behaving like your provocative self. This effect is at its height in early October, and again from late November into December. Just be aware that if you're *too* obnoxious, you're liable to piss the hell out of certain folks... though they're probably *not* the type who'd go for you anyway.

### **January**

If you're wisely modest and *don't* presume to hold an extensive understanding of the strange proceedings you spy all around you as 2014 arrives, you might be able to keep yourself *above* January's messy fray. It's best to let *everyone else* make the critical moves for now, with you merely waiting and watching. You *could* be tempted to insinuate a nervous remark into the scene—and needlessly draw *inopportune* attention to you—if you obsessively indulge your private worries about what *might* happen later as a result of what's happening now. Rather than project into possibly unfavorable future-scenarios (and help bring them into being), nurture your faith in the perfectly timely unfolding of everything... and back the hell off. Even when you think it's important to speak your truth right away, your longer-term professional aims suggest you maintain discretion for the moment.

### **February**

With Mercury retrograding back through your sign this month, you might need to revisit a disclosure you made and/or revise a conclusion you drew, if you jumped the gun and claimed fuller knowledge of the relevant details than you possessed. Should that be the case, please ask the other players *lots* of open-ended questions ... and then intently *listening* to their answers, without interrupting or correcting. Even if *their* version is as incomplete as yours, it's still useful to learn the ins and outs of this alternative logic. You'll have a better chance to

reassert *your* interpretation of the situation—and actually receive a much warmer reception—if you hold off until next month. As you continue biding your time, practice much diligence in *not* rocking the career boat; in the short-term, it's all about *preservation*.

## **March**

Let the first few days of March pass, as you confidently settle into your most coherent summary of what you've discovered over the past few months. *Then*, once Venus arrives in your sign to boost your likelihood of attracting positive outcomes, you may feel free to *finally* share your thoughts more completely. If a previous attempt to do so fell flat because you hadn't properly considered a certain angle, please *confess* this prior lapse and/or *admit* how your mind has changed. Still, be sure to express yourself with all due respect to those in charge: Even if *your* truth includes a critique of the existing authority, there's no reason to be gratuitously harsh or nasty about it. On the work front, don't be pointlessly self-sacrificial about any compensation you've fairly earned; you're not toiling this hard for *nothin'*.

## **April**

If you don't keep your unconscious judgments in check, an inadvertently preachy comment on your part may abruptly unleash the wrath of someone who won't hesitate to *read* you for your offense. Arguing for your 'innocence' (even if your motives were above-board) will only make things worse... though that won't necessarily stop you from fanning the flames. Such is April's explosively stormy astrology, which could catch you in its collateral blow-ups at any point. Your best defense is knowing when to cut off an exchange, and successfully doing so *without* being insultingly dismissive. Your most emotionally raw sentiments should only be voiced behind closed doors, *away* from anybody whose opinion of you could impact your professional standing. In the midst of all this chaos, April's *also* a surprisingly favorable month for you financially: Perhaps it's shrewd to lose yourself in practical efforts that'll bump up your bank balance, thus escaping the treacherous social hazards lurking all around.

## May

May should prove to be an increasingly chit-chatty month as it progresses, if you're flowing in sync with the astro-vibes encouraging you to speak up about this, that, *and* the other. In fact, you could stumble into a startlingly dynamic new friendship (or more?), simply by taking the risk to spark up a convo with somebody who, upon first instinct, struck you as interesting in some way. You mustn't allow this social excitement to distract you too totally from your job duties or other urgent tasks-at-hand. On the practical level, you should beware of making careless financial choices, due to your desire to keep the party going at any cost. Nor should you entertain any private anxieties about 'where all this is going'; such heavy meta-level concerns will only weigh down the otherwise light-hearted tone.

## June

Spend as much luxurious me-time on the domestic front as you possibly can during the first half of June, when the grounding pleasures of home are your perfect antidote to ongoing professional pressures. Putting a bit of extra effort toward improving the quality of your home-life will go a *long* way. Later on in the month, you might encounter one more critical test of how well you've refined your belief-system when, yet again, you're put in the challenging position of articulating your views to someone who disagrees with you, doesn't get where you're coming from, and/or thinks you're taking this issue too seriously. Though you've come a long way since the last time such a situation presented itself, you still should take care to qualify all your statements as 'personal opinion' or 'self-expression'—and *not* as inarguable fact. You won't win over any minds by haughtily wielding your knowledge like a weapon.

## July

Keep consistent work rhythms throughout July, which could end up being your most tangibly productive month of '14... as long as you don't feed any internal demons who would convince you none of this matters and/or lure you away from your duties with devilish escape-plans. Don't take the bait. You're soon heading into a phase where your professional efforts are up for review; every little impression you make now *will* count. Besides, there's plenty of fun to be had *without* going to such excess that you create problems for yourself. Midway into the month,

growth-inspiring Jupiter arrives in your relationship house (the 7th), ushering in your most favorable year of interpersonal evolution in quite a long time. This is just the beginning of a phase in which you *won't* have to figure everything out on your own—if you take the plunge and dare to share more of your private thoughts with your closest companions.

### **August**

A lineup of positive indicators in your 7th makes August a superb time to build new relationships and/or strengthen existing ones through generous displays of gratitude. But August is *also* a critical month career-wise, with a chance to make a *significant* impact toward that goal you've long aspired to—or just-as-significant a *mistake*, if you overstep the bounds of your position and/or provoke an important player to conflict by assuming a familiarity with them you haven't earned. Please juggle this contrast between interpersonal opportunity and professional responsibility with aplomb; you won't want to endanger your good reputation by trying to cruise by on charisma or getting lax with the work/play boundary. In intimate negotiations (particularly around money or sex), don't create more complications for yourself by feigning a nonchalance about some concession you'll later wish you *hadn't* made.

### **September**

This time around, your ability to go on record with a perfectly-worded synopsis of the core issues at stake is *slicker* than it was earlier in the year—though that's still *far* from a guarantee that all parties will agree. At least during September's possible ideological standoffs, you're far less likely to misrepresent your position... and in a prime spot to patiently *stick with* any intense conversations, to further elucidate all the subtle distinctions to your argument, even if the bearer of an opposing view loses *their* cool. Any interpersonal ugliness with which they reply is merely a symptom of how deeply your perspective has gotten under their skin; receive their bad behavior with compassion, instead of responding unkindly. With Mars landing in your 11th mid-month, your opinions are liable to cause waves among your team, friend-group, or community-at-large. So what? When have you ever shied away from standing out because of a dearly-held belief?

## October

Mercury retrograde strikes again in October, as your unique perspectives on life once more put you on the hot seat. But this may be less an instance of having to backtrack, and more a case of warmly *welcoming* any controversy, in the spirit of enlightening yourself on which of your affiliations are in alignment with your integrity... and which may need *snipping*, if they require you to compromise your ethics in order to 'play along'. Rather than focus on what may be falling away, invest your energy in exploring the positive potential of going *further* with an intellectual interest or cultural fascination. The more unabashedly you put your life-passions out into the social world, the more efficiently you can alienate those who *don't* belong on your team—and, therefore, the *easier* it'll be to attract the people you best *fit* with.

## November

November brings a crowning progress-report in your professional (and/or public-world) life, with a trio of personal planets (including Venus) conjoining Saturn-in-your-10th. If you receive good career-related news, you ought to truly *take in* this triumph. Any sobering disappointments, on the other hand, should be accepted in stride: There *is* a silver lining here, if you're fearless enough to look for it. Regardless, this month *isn't* the time to actively try to build further upon your success, make up for prior missteps, or effect a decisive course-correction. Mars-in-your-12th's relative ineffectiveness at carrying out worldly actions suggests your drive to 'do something' about these latest developments is best spent in creative *incubation* mode: hunting for inspiration, nurturing fledgling dreams, licking your wounds, and/or expressing your gratitude. Don't spend *too much time* alone later in the month, since you're liable to have *more fun than you expect* whenever you're out amongst your pals.

## December

When Mars hits your sign early in December (for the first time since early '13), you can expect a surge of invigorating initiative to flood your system, gifting you with both the energy *and* the drive to more assertively pursue what (and who) you want. Along with this vitality-boost, alas, comes a heightened capacity for irritating other folks who *aren't* grooving with your new edge. You might consider sticking close by your tightest chums, so they can watch your back... and, if



need be, intervene on your behalf if you (accidentally?) find yourself starting shit. Late in the month, despite Mars's put-it-all-out-there-ness, it nonetheless behooves you to hold back a piece of yourself. You'll want to parse out your intensity a bit at a time, instead of coming on like gangbusters and screwing up a good thing. Leave a little mystery lingering out there; your audience will remain intrigued.

## PISCES

If you know yourself well, Pisces, you've probably realized your greatest asset in this life—your heart-centered *openness* to the many varieties of human experience—can also turn into your biggest *liability*, if you let it overwhelm you.

And since Neptune, considered by many to be the modern ruler of Pisces, is now in your sign (starting in 2012 and lasting into 2025), the very qualities that often define your sign—emotional sensitivity, compassion, intuition, sympathetic understanding—have become even more *exaggerated*.

As such, you Pisceans are in the process of learning to use these special watery gifts to inspire in others a similar heart-centeredness, to support and connect with them, all while serving *your own sense* of divine purpose. Thanks to Neptune, your emotional experiences are *intensified*... which means you're likely to feel *deeper* unhappiness, sorrow, and/or hurt whenever you encounter situations and involvements which *aren't* in alignment with your higher purpose or the greater-good-of-all. On the same token, when you're able to provide kindness, solace, and/or caring companionship to help *alleviate* suffering you come across, you will beam even more *brightly* with the joy of knowing your heartfelt contributions make the world a better place.

Pisces *feels* on behalf of all of existence; that is your astrological job-description. When you draw upon these feelings to motivate yourself toward actions which altruistically, aesthetically, and/or lovingly improve our quality of life, in whatever manner is uniquely an expression of *your* talents, you *fulfill* this calling. But when you too passively allow such feelings to just wash over you, in big and potentially menacing waves that demand an adept self-protective response if you wish to stay afloat, you're liable to *lose yourself* in these vast emotional seas.

2014 is another year still fairly early on in Neptune's psychically-magnifying visit (with many more to come), leaving you as open as ever to the universe's call to *follow your feelings* toward whatever circumstances offer the promise of purposeful engagement (no matter if that call makes little *logical* sense)... and, likewise, *away* from those which merely perpetuate, if not worsen, any suffering you've endured.

Here's your big warning: You Piscean souls sometimes go *very* wrong by following your feelings into self-destructive situations (e.g., tireless work in a dead-end job, messy romantic or familial relationships where you put yourself second to *their* needs-and-wants), falsely believing you're serving a 'greater good'. Instead, what you're *really* doing is expending all your emotional energies, martyr-style, in an attempt to serve (or *save*) a person or program that's *undeserving* of this effort—not because they're 'bad' or unworthy of care, but because, in their current state-of-being, they can neither constructively utilize your support nor return the favor. Your perceptive ability to see the best in someone doesn't mean they will *ever* rise to that ideal; it's on *them* to nurture that higher vision of their self, and to take the necessary steps to actualize it. If you dive into those choppy waters, believing with the purest of intentions that you can save someone from their own self, you're far likelier to *drown* right alongside them than to successfully pull off a miraculous rescue. You do no good in the world through such a tragically romantic sacrifice. You've got to save *yourself* first and above all else.

Your traditional ruler Jupiter's presence in your 5th (since June '12) continues through the middle of July, a buoyant influence on the house of creative self-expression and other pleasurable participations which can certainly *support* you in not forgetting to incorporate plenty of what *you* want into your broader vision of a life-well-lived. Jupiter-in-the-5th makes it *easier* for you to experience joy, by increasing your enthusiasm for certain activities and/or activity-partners that suit your particular desires or groove well with your unique individuality—for no other reason than you love *this* more than *that*, based purely on personal preference. Do yourself the favor, therefore, of paying closer attention whenever you notice yourself getting *giddy* or *fired-up* about any fun-time engagement, a game or sport, an art-form, a person who puts a smile on your face, anything that energizes your creative spirit so you give off *more* of that happy glow, which, of course, is *contagious*. Should you struggle to tap into this playful excitement, try spending more time with kids (who are also ruled by the 5th house); interacting with their naturally creative attitude can help you better nourish respect for the childlike qualities in *you*, getting you in touch with your distinct likes and dislikes. The more intentionally you participate in things you personally enjoy, the less likely you are to lose yourself in blind acquiescence to only what *other people* want.

Saturn-in-your-9th is another anchoring tool that can aid you in *warding off* the directional confusion which Neptune sometimes feeds. A presence in your 9th since late 2012, Saturn's task here is to compel you to directly *address* critical life-questions from the broadest

perspective possible: What matters *most* to me? What are my primary ethical rights and wrongs, dos-and-don'ts? What guiding principles should I follow... to ensure I'll look back from my final moments and know, yes, I led an upright and *meaningful* life?

Throughout 2014, you remain more pressingly *responsible* for articulating (to yourself and to others) the non-negotiable behavioral guidelines you must *respect* in order to stay in integrity with yourself. To do so, you've got to step back from any current circumstantial particulars, and look at your *whole* life-trajectory as a journey that carries you ever closer to becoming the most intentionally honorable individual you can be. If you have trouble attaining that wider view, consider pursuing further education in a field that feels sufficiently growth-inspiring and/or taking a soul-searching travel adventure somewhere far from your regular haunts, two mind-opening 9th-house undertakings which would indicate you're taking Saturn's challenge seriously.

More than anything, Saturn-in-your-9th is pushing you to develop an ethical *consistency*, which can *prevent* you from veering off-course due to psychically sympathetic pulls and keep you on track with *your* intentions. Because of Pisces's susceptibility to others' emotional needs and concerns, you sometimes find it hard to *stick* firmly to unwavering principles. Identifying the beautiful soul-level 'specialness' of every individual too commonly leads to making exceptions and/or excuses for their bad behavior. *Of course* there are always reasons why people behave badly. Yet, subjectively reconsidering your guidelines on a case-by-case basis leaves *too much room* for error. Besides, drawing a firm boundary that *disallows* someone else's unacceptable conduct into your life (no matter *who* the culprit is) is often the *best* support you can give them, removing yourself from role of 'enabler' and instead positioning yourself as a positive behavioral model for them to emulate.

Admittedly, this is easier said than done: Don't expect those with whom you erect such ethical boundaries to react kindly, even if you're doing it 'for their own good'. If they've gotten themselves *this* far into hot-water, they probably aren't used to accepting 'no' for an answer.

This Saturn-assigned necessity of standing your moral ground, despite any potential interpersonal fallout, dovetails rather nicely with Pluto's ongoing long-term occupation of your 11th house... a transit that's been making it increasingly *difficult* for you to inconspicuously blend into any crowd, friend-group, or community of folks without evoking *some* palpable

response, one way or another. Though you Pisceans are usually pretty effective social chameleons, that adaptive act of shifting your demeanor to better conform to those around you *now* carries a heightened potential for delivering unpleasant consequences. We *are* judged by the company we keep, after all... and *especially* so when Pluto is in the 11th. As an agent of psychological integration, Pluto *detests* a neutral stance when there are *real* ramifications for taking one side or another. By Pluto's logic, your tacit social affiliation with folks who perpetrate actions or attitudes you quietly consider improper or abhorrent *does* still taint you by association. You either *speak out against* whatever behavior you disapprove of, though such an act is likely to rouse some uncomfortable and/or complicated issues within the circle—or you implicitly *sign off* on that behavior by keeping your mouth shut, submitting to peer pressure, intimidated and overpowered by your own supposed 'friends' or 'allies'.

Pluto is a polarizing force which pushes underlying power dynamics to the surface, insisting we no longer avoid acknowledging what's *really* going on. In your 11th house, it can *intensify* whatever lurking problems exist among the players in any group... to the point where it becomes nearly *excruciating* for you to bear, and you're cornered into taking a side or enduring worse trouble. Certain of these intensifying dynamics *are* inextricably connected to the other astrological pressures you face—to defend your beliefs (Saturn-in-your-9th), to pursue more of what *you* enjoy (Jupiter-in-your-5th), and to continue taking risks that build your uncompromising self-confidence and, in the process, boost your self-earned income (Uranus-in-your-2nd). As you grow and change, you may organically discover a need to realign your wider social relations so they fit the evolving you; it's natural for shit to hit the fan with those who'd prefer you to stay in your old deferent stance towards them.

Interestingly, your 11th house will *also* feature Venus's retrograde, already in effect when 2014 opens and continuing through January... and even after she goes direct again, she won't leave your 11th until the first week of March. Venus retrogrades are notorious for, among other things, creating outlook-flipping circumstances which force us to *reconsider* the value of our existing relationships, by flashing us glimpses of folks from our past, almost-weres and maybe-meant-to-bes, as well as appealing new prospects which may or may pan out. Falling in your 11th, then, this Venus retrograde will just as likely spur reconsiderations of your friendships, your group or organizational involvements, and/or your role in the wider social community. Be on the lookout for old friends whose reappearances help you gain perspective on how much you've changed, and/or for surprise discoveries about certain individuals in your social scene

which lead you to either lose or gain a significant degree of respect for them. Combined with Pluto-in-the-11th's deeper impact, early 2014 is a prime moment for making or strengthening new alliances and/or letting the outdated ones fall away.

All things considered, your year ahead definitely promises a considerable amount of *intensity*, particularly if you're willing to take potentially challenging stances, both 'for' and 'against', in order to confidently direct your life into circumstances which will make *you* feel most proud and virtuous. The first half of '14 holds the more disruptive energy, with Mars spending the first *seven* months of the year—including a retrograde from March 1 through May 19—in your 8th, the house where the deeper psychological repercussions of our personal entanglements play out. To be blunt, Mars can be especially severe and upsetting when he's in the 8th: He'll often fight messy and/or mean when he doesn't get what he wants from the other person (financially, sexually, and/or psychologically), knowing just what hot-buttons or tender-spots to hit to provoke the sharpest response. From another angle, though, he *thoroughly* hammers away at the hidden feelings and pent-up resentments until there's no stone unturned... which, though often unpleasant in the process, is very effective in *clearing out* whatever issues had been buried. Should you find yourself in such a purging process, please engage it to its *fullest*, with a brave heart: You're simply burning off the effects of actions already taken (hard though it may be), so you can rebuild on transformed ground, with a clean conscience and no unfinished business hanging over.

### **Work / Career / Finances**

This year signifies the approximate halfway-point of Uranus's multi-year transit (2010-2019) through your house of economic self-sufficiency (the 2nd), continuing a prolonged trend of marked financial *instability*. Let's be clear, however, that 'instability' itself doesn't automatically equate to a bleak outlook: Uranus-in-the-2nd can just as easily bring unexpected *boons* as well as less-desirable chaos. This boom-or-bust quality is tied to your willingness to take progressive *risks* in your financial life, with the goal of becoming increasingly self-supporting... and/or liberating yourself from soul-crushing servitude or indebtedness. Even in best-case scenarios, where you choose to break out of confining circumstances to chase your own independent success, you cannot avoid that early-stage reality of never quite knowing exactly how much income to expect in any given month. That, of course, is no reason to try and play it

safe—especially since Uranus will keep shaking up your 2nd house *regardless* of whether you take an emancipatory gamble or cling to a more (theoretically?) secure position. Might as well work *with* Uranus's unruly energy in your money house, rather than fight it off and invite its rabble-rousing unpredictability to *shock* you.

This long-unsettling financial vibe is coming to a pivotal *peak*, starting in the final couple weeks of '13 and stretching into June, due to Uranus-in-your-2nd facing (among other sharp aspects) *three direct oppositions* from Mars-in-your-8th. The 8th is another money-related house, but one which ties your financial fate together with another individual or entity in an enmeshed knot. Mars's extended stay in your 8th (more than seven *months* when he's usually in and out in six-to-seven *weeks*), along with a 2½-month retrograde *and* the repeated clashes with Uranus (and others), is a glaring indicator that you may well have a *fight*, for a fairer end of the financial stick, on your hands during the first half of the year. This could involve ongoing negotiations with a business colleague or romantic partner regarding who should get what, the divvying up of joint resources following a breakup, and/or the sorting out of debts, tax issues, or family drama related to a loved one's estate. Rather than curse this protracted complication, go *all the way into* resolving it, eyes wide open to how long it may well take. For the first three months of the year, let the other party take the lead in presenting offers, while you respond with firm self-interest as *concisely* as possible; let *them* keep coming back with one variation after another. Don't make *your* big self-assertive claim until April, in the height of this dramatic astrology: Timing it *this* way definitely *ups* your chance of receiving good news in May. Whichever way it's going, though, aim to wrap it up by the end of June.

Your aptitude and enthusiasm for working harder and more productively on a day-to-day basis *increases* in mid-July, once lucky Jupiter hits your 6th house (where he'll stay into August '15). Jupiter's arrival to your 6th ushers in a *very favorable* yearlong period when investing extra hands-on labor will bring better-than-ever results. And with Jupiter moving into a trine with Uranus, your added effort and diligence in your everyday wok will have a *direct* positive impact on your financial standing, even more so than usual. You've got pretty excellent work-related transits through the whole second-half of 2014. August is probably your best month for pure physical initiative... though you might run across some brewing conflict between the tasks you're filling your days with and your bigger-picture purpose. From mid-September onward, your professional efforts will be much more publicly prominent. If you've got your eye fixed on a certain professional goal, the last months of '14 are a *spectacular* moment for making your big

push towards it. In the very last days of the year, Saturn pokes his head into your career house (the 10th). Come 2015 and beyond, you'll be due for a *serious* progress-report.

### **Relationships / Romance**

With Neptune in your sign through all of 2014 (and for many years still to come), you should have absolutely no problem meeting *any number* of people with whom you can easily connect on a meaningful level. That's one true benefit of Neptune-in-the-1st: You're able to look *beyond* the surface-level identity divisions which too often keep us separated from one another, and develop genuine fondness for the core-of-self beneath the mask. The *real* concern is whether this leads you to look *past* any glaring warning-signs and fall for wounded or tortured souls who'll drag you down *with* them... and/or whether another person's only seeing you as they *wish* you to be, while you surrender into this prescribed role just to preserve the conditional and/or illusive bliss. Because so much of your year's astrology centers on nurturing self-sufficiency, exploring individual preference, and strengthening your personal integrity, too compulsive or all-consuming an interest in interpersonal relationships—at the expense of focusing on your *own* growth and well-being—can actually become a destabilizing pitfall.

All that said, benevolent Jupiter spends the first half of '14 in your 5th, the house of *love* and *romance*... which, in astrological tradition, is *not* the same thing as full-on relationships (ruled by the 7th) but merely the easier fun-and-flirty part before the chemistry develops into 'something more'. Jupiter-in-the-5th encourages you to identify and/or pursue the type of romantic prospects that fit what *you* like (instead of just going along with whatever shows up). Jupiter's positive aspect to Saturn-in-your-9th suggests you'll effectively *support* your ability to express your romantic preferences and proclivities by sticking close to your ethical guns, assessing possible paramours based on whether or not they match your belief-system. It's perfectly okay to *judge* somebody as out-of-sync with your life values and desires; it doesn't mean you're judging them as a 'bad person'. In fact, forming such judgments will help you avoid the sort of Neptune problems described above. At the same time, however, Jupiter's tangled involvements with Mars, Uranus, and Pluto during this period points to potentially bumpy responses to your more resolutely expressing your personal predilections, whether from jealous or unsupportive friends and/or past or present intimate-partners who'd rather keep you under *their* constraining influence.



Your powers of attraction slowly grow stronger beginning in February... with your magical appeal culminating in April, once a happy Venus in your sign forms several beautiful aspects with other planets. Because this fortunate Venus influence happens alongside some of the most turbulent astrology of the year, whatever transpires romantically could be but *one* part of a pretty wild ride. Expect any interpersonal developments which occur at this time to be interwoven with snowballing turmoil in *other* areas of your life. Beware of any false-start urges to confess your affections in late May or early June, right as Mercury's turning retrograde in your 5th. You'll be in a much better space to confidently express yourself in July, once the Mercury-retrograde threat of saying too much or having it come out wrong has passed. The latter half of August is your best moment all year for important heart-to-heart conversations with a significant other; the burden is on you, however, to speak your truth accurately (instead of backing away because you're too sensitive to their possible reaction). With Venus in your 7th through much of September, that's your time to consciously enjoy and appreciate *smoother* relational sailing. If all's going well, expect the intimacy to deepen in October.

## **January**

As January begins, you're liable to find yourself embroiled in a larger drama among friends, teammates, and/or the community-at-large—one in which, despite potentially unpleasant consequences, you'll probably need to *pick a side* or risk being unfairly lumped together with folks who *don't* accurately represent who you are. Should you indeed go on public record with an opinion, be very clear to only speak for *yourself*... and concentrate on the ethical questions at stake, rather than taking personal potshots at anyone (especially since *your* axe-to-grind with the problematic character is likely *beyond* the scope of *this* situation, and bringing it up will only make the whole thing *messier*). With Venus retrograde in your 11th, this drama could well lead to *shifting loyalties* within the group, as you discover what certain individuals *really* think. From mid-month onward, say very little and listen *a lot*. This story's not over.

## **February**

You might *think* you're ready to speak out about last month's events, but Mercury turning retrograde in your sign early in the month (then slipping back into your 12th) says otherwise. Should you jump the gun and unload your thoughts too quickly, you may spend much of the rest

of February defending yourself against unfair accusations based on others' *misinterpretations* of what you said and/or backtracking from sensitive material you really *shouldn't* have shared. As before, your most self-protective stance is to stay mostly quiet and exceedingly observant while the other players shoot themselves and/or each other in the foot. Stand by any allies who've recently proven themselves trustworthy, letting *them* put words to what you're silently thinking. Right as the month draws to a close, you'll just barely be starting to feel more capable of confidently expressing yourself.

### **March**

With Mars retrograding in your 8th right out of March's gate, you may well need to answer for any unfinished business from former or current entanglements: unpaid debts, unresolved conflicts, unkind acts which call for restitution, and/or any due consequences from having 'gotten yourself in too deep'. Though this hardly sounds like a ball of fun, your willingness to confront it head-on could actually *clear* this weight from your psyche once and for all. Speak from your heart, truthfully exposing your vulnerabilities instead of putting on too brave a face. What you may fear losing in the act of confessing past transgressions, you'll more than earn in emotional maturity. Don't expect any tidy storybook resolutions to cap it off, however: With Venus hiding in your 12th, your rewards will be more subtle and elusive, though no less significant.

### **April**

Though Mars's 8th-house retrograde madness threatens to get even *nastier* during super-chaotic April, you *also* have the benevolent support of Venus in your sign all month, helping you eke out a certain advantage when facing oppositional forces. Even if you're embroiled in a standoff that's been going on for some time, your own approach toward this problematic dynamic is actively evolving: You're now far *less* likely to sell yourself out, due to a short-sighted belief that it's easier to just give the other party what they want. Don't, therefore, fall for their attempt to guilt-trip you for wishing to change the deal. That's your prerogative. If there's ever been a good reason to fight, it's to release yourself from any agreement which binds you to losing terms. Should you start feeling weird about behaving with such unabashed self-interest, reframe the situation and ask yourself what's the *fairest* outcome.

## May

May is potentially quite a financially *lucrative* month, provided you're gutsy enough to *jump right in* should an out-of-the-blue chance to earn more money suddenly materialize. You'll have no time to dicker around, wondering whether you're capable of what this opportunity requires. Whatever you *don't* know, you can just learn on the spot, right? These days, of course, nothing is that simple: Your sharp split-second choice to serve your own interests could make certain people peculiarly upset. Please remember such responses are more about *their* discontent (and/or their need to keep you similarly dissatisfied so you keep on playing out *your* part of the drama) than about anything *you're* doing wrong. Maybe you're finally seeing how this particular association works *against* you developing a more confident autonomy? Clearly, *something's* got to give.

## June

Earlier in June, you're working a cool social charm that enables you to click more warmly with casual pals and other local characters. Because they'll feel so comfortable in your presence, however, somebody might make an ignorant or offensive comment you really mustn't let slide... not if you want to feel *proud* of yourself, rather than regretful later on. Confront 'em in a kind and constructive manner, and you might open a heart or change a mind. As the month goes on, you may face one more climactic round of whatever complicating commotion has dominated your year so far. If all goes well, this could be the final hurrah, so make it *count*. With Mercury retrograde much of the month, it's perfectly understandable if you need to backtrack on something you previously said, in order to be more accurate or up-to-date with how you're feeling. If they don't like that you've changed your mind, too damn bad.

## July

By the time July rolls around, you're going to be undeniably *ready* to blow off some steam, following such a wacky first-half of '14. Considering all the recent back-and-forths with pushy folks who believe they ought to have a say in what *you're* up to, it should feel pretty awesome to just do whatever sounds the more fun... and let others come and go (or rant and rave) as they please. For every smug critic or jealous shit-stirrer, you can expect just as many avid fans who

want a piece of what *you're* serving. Concentrate your attentions on those who pump you up, rather than tear you down. In the latter part of the month, you should feel the astrological tides shifting: Soon it'll be time to look back upon this messy chapter from a *higher* vantage-point, putting the pain behind you (as 'a valuable lesson learned') and getting to the practical nitty-gritty task of building your ideal work-life.

## **August**

You'll be rather *enthused* about diving into your work throughout August: You should see this as a fortuitous opening for adding more *personal* touches to your daily efforts, and for receiving more personal *satisfaction* (and money?) from the way you spend your days. Don't get so lost in the close-up details, however, that you *miss* a critical adjustment in your big-picture strategy which must be made. You may need to slow down a bit and review your guiding motives—*without* your enthusiasm—to ensure you're not wasting time on tasks that aren't essential to the mission. Interpersonal communications flow extra-nicely late in the month, making this an ideal time to get back on the same page with a special someone... provided you don't fudge the truth, just to meet their expectations.

## **September**

September's the month when Venus in your relationship house (the 7th) blesses you with an interpersonal appeal that turns others to putty in your hand. If you've wanted to pose a sensitive question and/or ask for more from an intimate partner, you'll know *just how* to phrase it so they give you what you want... maybe even without their having noticed you just talked 'em into something. Keep up the hard work on your career front, especially once Mars is lighting up your 10th starting midway through the month. People are beginning to *notice* your recent fired-up moves to take charge. Don't try to downplay this critical leadership role you've assumed, in order to portray yourself in a non-threatening light. Of course your evolution into this more influential position is liable to make certain higher-ups a bit nervous.

## October

October continues your streak of *major* professional progress, as Mars-in-your-10th trines both Jupiter and Uranus. Don't shy away from the spotlight, if this greater public attention and support will in fact benefit your personal goals. The more confidently you can stand there as the 'official face' of whatever you're working towards, the likelier you are to receive offers from parties wanting to collaborate and/or invest in your vision. To pull this off successfully (as opposed to signing away your freedom to some control-freak svengali), you *must* be unapologetically self-interested. Please don't hesitate to put forth your *real* opinions about certain career-related matters, even though your blunt truth could ruffle a feather or two. Late in the month, your best luck comes from actually *standing* for something.

## November

This is *not* the time for any 'shrinking-violent' performances. 'Squeaky-wheel' would be a far more fitting role, with a Mars-Pluto conjunction in your 11th pushing you to directly *challenge* any rotten apples in your circle, no matter if it causes friction among the various other players. Pretending *not* to notice the objectionable behavior would be a cop-out you'll have to live down later. Going on public record with your uncompromised integrity *intact*, on the other hand, will gain you *lasting* respect in the eyes of your true ideological allies. The professional good-fortune you've been striving to attain in recent months should start bearing its desired fruits starting mid-month, once Venus and the Sun hit your 10th. Don't rest on the laurels of these early rewards: This career momentum not only continues into next month, but sets a precedent for more hard-earned achievements next year.

## December

Make the first week or two of your December really *count* career-wise, while you're still under harmonious work-related transits that carry a gust of magical *oomph* with every step you take. At the same time, you'll probably notice your productive energies are finally starting to run down after such an active few months: That's just Mars-in-your-12th, asking you to please make room for more time to do nothing but *be*. Haven't you *earned* that retreat? Spend your last weeks of 2014 surrounded by the true-blue friends who proved their allegiance by sticking with you

through this chaotic year. Go the extra mile to show your appreciation, showering your most important people with sincere compliments and gifty tokens-of-gratitude. Just as you've been calling out troublemakers for their unacceptable behavior, you must similarly *honor* the deserving ones for their solidarity and support.