



RELATIONSHIP HOROSCOPE

Psychological Analysis of Your Partnership

for Barrett Brown
and Nikki

ASTRO*INTELLIGENCE

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and Nikki

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Astrological Interpretation and Text by Liz Greene

Programming by Alois Treindl

Astrodienst AG, Dammstr. 23, CH-8702 Zollikon / Zürich

Tel. +41-44-392 18 18, Fax 391 75 74

Internet <http://www.astro.com> E-Mail order@astro.ch

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Astrological Interpretation and Text
by Liz Greene

Programming
by Alois Treindl

Illustrated by
Maf Räderscheidt

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction

The Alchemy of Relationship

II. What Brings You Together

A First Look * A Speculative Mind and an Expressive Heart

Heart and Body * A Sense of Safety * Molten Lava * Love
in a Hot Climate * Great Expectations

Mind and Spirit * Riding the Roller Coaster * Flying a Hot Air
Balloon * Opening the Windows of the Mind

Conflict and Challenge * Mutual Therapy * Disturbing Reve-
lations * Emotional Roadblocks

III. The Essence of Your Relationship

Your Relationship as an Independent Entity * The Stuff That
Dreams Are Made Of * Caution, Turn On Fog Lamps * Prom-
ises, Promises

Your Relationship and Yourself * A Stirring of the Heart and the
Passions * And They Lived Happily Ever After... * Muscle
Power * You Can Never Have Enough Chocolate Cake * A
Spur to Creative Expression * The Pursuit of the Millennium *
A Cornucopia * Deeper Levels are Activated Within You * A
Sense of Commitment

Your Relationship and Your Partner * An Activation of Your
Partner's Creative Potentials * An Exercise in Self-Definition *
Your Partner's Mind and Spirit Come Alive * Acquiring a Magic
Carpet * The Deeper Effects on Your Partner's Inner World *
Close Encounters of the Healing Kind * Into the Labyrinth *
Upsetting the Apple Cart * The Bulldog Within

IV. Deeper Issues Activated Inside

Basic Relationship Patterns within You * A Melancholy Vision
* The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner

Basic Relationship Patterns within Nikki * The Romantic Who
Needs Security * A Trapped Youthful Spirit

V. Conclusion

Appendix

The Perspective of the Relationship Horoscope * Astrological
Technique * Further Reading

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Alchemy of Relationship

"The meeting of two people is like the meeting of two chemical substances. If anything happens, both are changed."

- C. G. Jung

When we mix together the ingredients for a cake, we begin by measuring the appropriate quantities of distinct and separate ingredients: flour, butter, eggs, sugar, milk. But somehow, when these are blended together in a particular order and baked at a particular temperature, we create an altogether different entity. The chemical composition of the ingredients has irrevocably changed; the cake smells, looks and tastes different from any single ingredient which we put into it at the outset; and through some magic which the chemist might explain but the cook usually does not comprehend, a transformation process has occurred which is nothing short of miraculous. Some ingredients, skillfully combined, make a delicious treat. Others produce a reasonable but unexciting dessert. Still others, even if they sounded wonderful in the book, create one of those kitchen failures which teach us to try another recipe next time. And perhaps even more mysteriously, different people like some kinds of cakes and find others indigestible; and no one really knows why.

Human relationships are considerably more enigmatic than cookery, for the psychologist, unlike the chemist who observes changes in the molecular structure of eggs and flour, will never be able to totally reduce our interaction with others to a rational formula. There is a profound mystery at the heart of every relationship which always eludes our best efforts to explain why we are with this person and not that one. Yet the essential principle is the same. Take two human ingredients, distinct and separate, and put them together in the mixing bowl of a close relationship. Stir vigorously and apply heat - the heat of sexual desire, emotional need, conflict, intellectual exchange, the challenges of time and mundane circumstances, idealisation and inspiration - and through some extraordinary alchemy a new entity is created with its own life-force, its own



intelligence and vision, and its own identity independent of and different from the two people who generated it.

Even more mysterious is the effect which this new entity has on the character and development of the individuals involved. At best, each person may grow and blossom through the transformative effect of the relationship. At worst, both may suffer. Or the relationship may be healthy for one partner but turns out, however delicious, to disagree badly with the other. Some people bring out the worst in us, and some bring out the best. And this is not necessarily related to how we are treated by our partners. We may feel profound compassion for failings in one individual which invoke only contempt or anger when we perceive the same failings in someone else. We may find ourselves able to explore and express talents and abilities in one relationship which seem mysteriously blocked or thwarted in another - despite any active encouragement or obstruction on the part of our companion. Sometimes even deep love between partners cannot prevent the gradual erosion of confidence and enthusiasm in one or both people. Sometimes a couple who have always been ill-suited and unhappy with each other remain inexplicably locked in relationships for a lifetime, yet at other times a couple who in fact have much in common as well as a deep attachment to each other are forced apart in spite of their sincere and prolonged efforts to preserve the bond. Many failed relationships are due to the unintentionally destructive actions of both partners, and could be helped or even radically transformed through insight and joint effort. Many others are inexplicably unworkable despite such insight and effort. Every relationship contains many ingredients, some conscious and some unconscious; and however deeply we analyse ourselves and our partners, we must sometimes accept some deeper or higher intelligence at work in our relationship patterns. Yet whatever the nature and outcome of a relationship, if - as Jung puts it - anything "happens", both people are irrevocably changed.



CHAPTER II

WHAT BRINGS YOU TOGETHER

Our attraction to another person is rarely as simple as we believe it to be at the time we experience that initial fascination. We may admire someone's handsome face or soulful eyes or lovely body or graceful way of moving. Or we may be drawn to their sense of humour, their intelligence or their personal power and self-confidence. But what we first register about another person is only the tip of a very deep and complex iceberg. You and Nikki are two distinct individuals - two entirely different "substances" - each of whom brings to the alchemy of your relationship a defined personality with its own unique gifts, attributes and conflicts. But what is the specialness of the attraction? What has brought you together? George Bernard Shaw, cynical about relationships at the end of his life, once defined the state of being in love as the fallacy of believing that one person was actually different from another. Most of us, unless we have been deeply and perhaps pathologically embittered by experience, would not agree with him; people are ultimately irreplaceable because they are unique, and you and Nikki create a unique chemistry between you. There may be areas where, in terms of your basic characters, you have an instinctive harmony and understanding with each other. That is usually why we believe we are attracted to another person: They seem to embody what we most admire and need. Yet in your relationship, as in every other, there will inevitably be friction and opposition as well as attraction, and you and your partner must accept a certain amount of compromise and adjustment in order to function together as a couple. And on a deeper level, there may be areas where you touch off highly combustible unconscious issues within each other, stirring up emotions and reactions which surprise you both. "But I didn't know that about her," you may say later. Or perhaps you really did know, but the glow of the initial intoxication obscured your own instinctive knowledge.

1. A First Look

We shall look first at what has drawn you together. You may recognise in the initial overview an attraction of temperaments which you have met before in other relationships. This is because all of us instinctively seek in another what we feel we are missing within



ourselves, and if one relationship fails to provide it then we will continue to seek that sustenance from the next. But your bond with your partner is unique, for you and Nikki are the highly individual human substances whose mysterious chemical interaction may ultimately change you both.

A Speculative Mind and an Expressive Heart

Because the realm of ideas, intuitions and images is your natural abode, you are likely to feel attracted to and supported by your partner's own highly imaginative nature; and the two of you share a love of the dramatic, the romantic and the adventurous which can inject your lives with a great deal of excitement and richness. You are also deeply drawn to her emotional warmth and capacity for instinctive emotional empathy, for your own emotional reserve and self-containment, and the awkwardness you may sometimes experience when expressing your deeper feelings, make you long for a partner who can "thaw" and relax you. Nikki has a quality of understanding and patience with your innate emotional shyness which allows you to be more spontaneous and affectionate. You in turn offer her clarity and perspective, and your ability to think things through and observe life with detachment can help her to communicate more clearly and take a more objective approach to life.

However, the emotional warmth which attracts you to Nikki may also make you acutely aware of your own limitations in the realm of emotional expression, and unconscious envy and feelings of inadequacy may make you overly critical of her emotional needs and somewhat patronising toward what you experience as her "irrationality". She in turn may find you sometimes hurtfully aloof, cool and inaccessible, and may feel threatened by your capacity to distance yourself from the relationship and analyse feelings in an almost surgical way. This dilemma can, however, be turned into an extremely positive exchange, for you can learn a lot from Nikki about your own very human feelings, while she can learn a lot from you about self-containment and the need for space and privacy within relationships.



2. Heart and Body

The most obvious way in which you and Nikki affect each other is through the activation of each other's emotions and desires. Although such a mutual stirring of feelings and passions may not always be comfortable or harmonious, nevertheless even through conflict this activation of heart and body gives life, energy and excitement to the attraction between you.

A Sense of Safety

You are likely to experience feelings of deep fondness and warmth toward Nikki, particularly toward the vibrant and enthusiastic way in which she expresses herself to the outer world. The person she is striving to become strikes a deep resonance in you, and makes you want to offer emotional support and containment. This attraction can bring you extremely close at times, even to the point where you could become one of those couples who comfortably mirror each other's dress and mannerisms; and the sense of safety and security which you provide your partner is also likely to create a deeply affectionate quality both in bed and out. Your tolerance and willingness to consider others' points of view makes her feel more effective as an individual, and more attractive and desirable as well. The mutual sense of affection and warmth the two of you generate is one of the happiest notes in your attraction to each other.

Molten Lava

You have a way of arousing some very intense and perhaps even obsessive feelings in your partner, and it would be a mistake to take the attraction between you lightly. Nikki is fascinated by your ease of communication and social interaction, and the extent of this fascination may be rather threatening to her - especially if she is unaccustomed to such emotional and sexual intensity. You are hungry for her passion, for it nourishes you and makes you feel desired, loved, safe and secure. But no one likes to feel out of control, including your partner; and you may need to be aware that she could unconsciously resort to some highly manipulative ploys, such as making you feel insecure and jealous, in order to reestablish a feeling of control and power in the relationship. The more understanding you are of these deeper defence mechanisms, and the more



openly and sympathetically you can discuss them with her, the less likely you are to feel undermined, manipulated or overwhelmed by the intense emotional undercurrents running between you. Despite the lighter or more detached manner which you might adapt with each other on the surface, something very deep is being stirred between you, and you both need to respect and honour it; for if you begin to indulge in game-playing, both of you are likely to get burned.

Love in a Hot Climate

There is a good deal of passion present in the attraction between you and Nikki, for your partner is likely to experience very strong desire for you, and you respond easily to her intensity. In some ways she is the emotional initiator in this relationship, for she finds your physical grace and innate refinement extremely attractive and stimulating, making her want to "win" you as the prized object of desire. You in turn feel protected as well as aroused by your partner's natural courteous and nonaggressive approach to what she wants, and the result is a high sexual intensity which, although occasionally combustible and conducive to quarrels, keeps both of you feeling vitalised and alive with each other.

Great Expectations

You and Nikki may sometimes feel as though you have stumbled into the pages of a Barbara Cartland novel. An intensely romantic and perhaps overly idealised quality of feeling is likely to arise between you and Nikki because your partner's unquenchable enthusiasm stirs your most intensely exalted romantic fantasies. You have a tendency to envision her as the perfect love and, at least for a while, may feel that she has no human failings at all. This may be flattering to her, but may also leave her with a vague unease because she is somehow not being seen and accepted as her ordinary self. She is more realistic in her appreciation of you, but she can easily become addicted to your romantic and almost mystical feeling about her because she feels more loved, safe and emotionally secure basking in such adoration. You may need to learn not to carry impossible expectations of your partner, for sooner or later she will disillusion you merely by being human and flawed. And she may need to learn to do without her daily shot of idealised love, or she will



find herself beginning to play a false and burdensome role in order to preserve the fantasy. The moments of nearly perfect fusion which you are likely to experience on the emotional level may be very special and beautiful; but neither of you can hope to have such an experience every day of the week, and if both of you are unwilling to climb down to solid ground with each other, you may both become a little too prone to justifying evasions or deceptions in the name of kindness. There is real magic in the attraction between you, but it is an unreliable magic, and there are times when you will need to forego it in favour of a more honest and realistic meeting.

3. Mind and Spirit

You and Nikki have a dynamic effect on each other not only because emotions and passions are stirred, but also because the mind and spirit in both of you are stimulated and expanded as well. Although such intellectual, spiritual and creative stimulation of each other may at times seriously challenge existing attitudes and beliefs, thus causing you to quarrel or disagree, nevertheless the ultimate effect you have on each other is one of increased understanding and vision, and the development of talents and skills in each of you which may have been ignored or undervalued in the past.

Riding the Roller Coaster

Part of the attraction between the two of you involves the electric quality of instability and mental awakening which you bring into your partner's life. Although this may at times be quite disturbing to you both, it is nevertheless a powerful component in what draws you together. There is something about your essential nature, with its high energy and force of personality, which excites and fascinates Nikki, for you open up facets of life and of your partner's personality of which she has probably previously had little experience. You in turn are drawn to a quality of originality and spirit of which she might not have been fully aware, but which attracts you like a flower does a bee. But your partner may not always welcome the stirring of this more unconventional side of her nature, and the feeling of moving into an unknown world of ideas and experiences may bring up powerful feelings of anxiety in her. This anxiety is a natural human reaction to change, for it is likely that you, willingly or unwillingly, will eventually be the catalyst for major changes in her world-view



and the ways in which she expresses herself. Nikki may need to be aware of her tendency toward abrupt and compulsive withdrawals because of her anxiety.

The unpredictable element which the two of you experience is rather like a fluctuating electrical current, and it may lead to crises and separations; for you are like a pair of magnets, sometimes attracting and sometimes repelling. But if you and your partner can recognise that perhaps this element is needed in both your lives, and that you can help to free each other from many old attitudes and outworn habits, you will both be able to manage the challenge you pose each other with greater confidence and trust in yourselves.

Flying a Hot Air Balloon

There is great vitality and inspiration in the energy exchange between you and Nikki, for you spark each other off not only sexually but also in terms of your sense of expansiveness and future possibilities. It is as though, when you are together, you suddenly begin thinking of all the things you could do together, and all the places you could go, and life opens up in a much bigger and more exciting way. Your partner's need to grow and stretch her horizons is triggered by your intensity and depth of feeling, and she is likely to loyally back your efforts and goals because she can intuitively understand what you want from life. You also bring out her generosity and warmth, and whatever goals you pursue, you have a loyal and well-meaning supporter who believes in you. You in turn are energised by her warm-hearted response to others, and there is something about her that makes you want to work hard for the relationship as well as for your own goals. The two of you can very rapidly generate some quite grand dreams about what you will do with your future together, and may sometimes overestimate where you can get and how fast you can get there; for you also activate each other's extravagance and wilfulness. But the optimism and confidence which you bring out of each other create a resilience in both of you which can help you to bounce back from disappointments and find the energy and hope to try again.



Opening the Windows of the Mind

The mental exchange between you and Nikki contains quite a lot of electricity and mutual sparking, for her imagination and fluid perceptions stimulate you to broader and more unconventional ideas and attitudes. You in turn have a stimulating effect on her thinking, and even if the two of you are discussing what pudding to have after dinner, there is likely to be enormous life and sparkle in your exchange. This exciting mental rapport is one of the most positive aspects of the attraction between you; for whatever conflicts might arise on other levels, the two of you have a way of opening up each other's eyes and finding new and more comprehensive perspectives through which to view life. You are also likely to lead each other into the pursuit of more "fringe" interests such as astrology. Whatever the future of your relationship might be, it is probable that you will effect profound changes in each other's thinking, even if this pitches you into the anxiety of letting go of old attitudes about emotions and human relationships which you may have already unwittingly outgrown.

4. Conflict and Challenge

In many respects, as the above analysis indicates, the ways in which you and Nikki affect each other are lively and positive. Even when there is friction, it is likely to be stimulating rather than oppressive. But there are deeper levels at work in every relationship, and the unconscious exchange between two people may be quite different from what is experienced on the conscious level. It is as though one drama is being enacted openly between you in the sitting room of the house, but an entirely different and more disturbing one is taking place in the basement - and periodically some sulphurous fumes may rise up the staircase to disturb the activity above. The unconscious fears and defensive reactions which you and your partner activate in each other may from time to time rise to the surface of your life together, creating hurtful difficulties which you may initially not understand. But if you are willing to explore the motives and feelings at work beneath the threshold of your everyday awareness, these conflicts can lead to great insight, growth and compassion in both of you.



Mutual Therapy

Your ability to contact a rich lode of imagination within yourself activates your partner's admiration, but it also stirs up some very deep anxieties in her. You seem to embody not only all that she respects and values, but also all that she feels unable to express herself; for you are, albeit unwillingly, a catalyst for unconscious hurts and frustrations which spring from her childhood and which will very likely arise in quite disturbing ways within this relationship. If Nikki is not honest with herself about the challenge you pose simply by being yourself, and not able to face her vulnerability and need of you, she is likely to sometimes display a critical and defensive attitude, and may even cut off her feelings in an abrupt and hurtful fashion.

Because a deeper level of interchange is invoked through your attraction to one another, greater consciousness is required of you both. You are probably quite sensitive to your partner's fear of communicating her ideas and feelings, and you are likely to feel strongly protective and loyal toward this hurt and awkward side of your partner. But elements of inadvertent bruising are still likely to arise between you. If you wish to avoid wounding and being wounded in this relationship, both of you need to be open and honest about yourselves. The healing which Nikki seeks from you can truly be achieved, but the key lies in your being able to feel compassion for her flaws as well as admiring her strengths; and for her to accept this more realistic but also more enduring kind of love.

Disturbing Revelations

You produce a highly ambivalent response in your partner. On the one hand, she needs your love and affection deeply, for it constitutes a kind of healing for her; but on the other hand, the old childhood hurts and wounds which are activated by that very love may make her feel extremely vulnerable and highly defensive. Your capacity to express love in a frankly realistic and earthy way may arouse a certain amount of envy as well as unconsciously making her feel vaguely inadequate; and she is likely to experience quite a bit of jealousy and insecurity, whether she admits this to herself or not. You have a deeply sympathetic response to her constraint in communicating thoughts and feelings to others, and are likely to feel



strongly protective as well as needed and more loving when you are able to offer her the affection she so badly needs.

But the attraction between you stirs much deeper layers in you both than mere physical desire, and if the two of you are to avoid wounding scenes with each other, you may need to confront these deeper layers with great honesty. If your partner becomes too defensive, she is capable of a coldly cutting and critical denigration of your love, and may inadvertently do to you what was once, long ago in her childhood, done to her. And you may also become fed up yourself with having to be so understanding, and may inflict wounds on her which reenact the original one. There can indeed be healing between you. But the key to turning this challenging dynamic into a creative one lies in your both understanding the hidden levels of human interaction, and in your partner's ability to let herself be loved for her flaws as well as her strengths.

Emotional Roadblocks

You seem to have an instinctive empathy for your partner's awkwardness in spontaneously expressing her creative ideas, and this is likely to arouse deeply protective feelings in you. You can sense that Nikki is shy and defensive in this sphere, even if she does not recognise or admit it; and you try to respond with sensitivity and tact when the "hot" issues are encountered. Your partner in turn needs this feeling of protection and containment because it provides a kind of healing for her earliest childhood wounds and deprivations. She has had to struggle to develop strengths which can in turn give you a quality of stability and structure, supporting your sometimes overly refined and idealistic approach to life. However, because your partner is deeply touched and stirred by your response to her, this is likely to activate some of the old childhood feelings of anxiety, and the extreme vulnerability which this can invoke in her can make her react at times with what seems like coldness, rejection or hurtful criticism. You are highly sensitive to such defences, because you are quite dependent on her support; and if you cannot learn to stand alone at times and let things be, you may find yourself becoming depressed, lonely and extremely sorry for yourself.

Thus, if you and Nikki do not face and work with this complex dynamic, you should not be surprised if there is a tendency for sulky



atmospheres and unspoken resentment to hover between you, often without either of you realising quite why or how it has happened. Yet you could turn this often difficult energy into an extremely creative exchange, because the two of you need each other and could provide each other with deep loyalty and strong emotional support. But great honesty with yourselves and each other is required of both of you, for the awkwardness and anxiety which Nikki is likely to feel around you, arising from her unspoken fears, may make her perversely deny you the emotional reassurance you most need just at the time you need it.



CHAPTER III

THE ESSENCE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

1. Your Relationship as an Independent Entity

In alchemical symbolism, two substances combine to create a third, new entity. The relationship which you and Nikki create together is a living thing, an independent entity in its own right. It has an essential character or basic nature just as any living thing does, and therefore its development process follows the integrity of its own inner law - just as a tomato plant grows from a seed into itself rather than an apple tree. This essential character might or might not be what either you or your partner has in mind as an individual. Probably it is a little of both. And neither you nor Nikki may fully perceive the real essence of your relationship until sufficient time has passed for you to experience on the emotional as well as the intellectual level what you have created between you. Also, this mysterious entity has an outer personality which expresses itself in the world in very distinct ways which are different from your own personalities; and it may surprise you when friends or relatives or colleagues describe how they see you as a couple because you are not aware of the outer shape of the life-form you and your partner have created together.

Your relationship is the product of the mysterious chemical interaction that occurs between the two of you. Yet it is not wholly under the control of either of you, and it is possible that, while you can bring greater consciousness to the core issues expressed within the relationship, you cannot ultimately turn it into exactly what you want through any act of will. Once the ingredients for a cake are chosen, mixed and baked, we must accept the nature of the thing we have made. We can make certain alterations, like putting on a delicious frosting, and we can try to ensure that we have our cake at a time when we are hungry and will appreciate its taste. But we cannot unbake the ingredients and demand that they combine differently to get a different sort of cake. Once we create a relationship, we must also accept and work with the thing we have made; for it is the product of a combination of individuals, alchemically mixed, cooked and brought to life.



The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of

The keynote of your relationship with Nikki is enchantment. This quality of dreamlike beauty and bewitchment embraces many dimensions of reality, from the erotic to the spiritual. And some aspects of it can be inspiring and uplifting while others may be painful, confusing and disappointing. Above all, enchantment implies a state which is above or beyond ordinary mundane reality - an alternative world where feelings are heightened, events are infused with hidden meaning, knights protect princesses from dragons, and gods and heroes walk the earth. Here in this magical Paradise Garden, protected from the intrusion of the banal, the loneliness of human existence can be mitigated through a "true" union of souls.

Because of your intensely individualistic personality and your determination to pursue your own path in life, you may find your relationship with Nikki sometimes difficult and even a little threatening because of the loss of individual boundaries which you are at times likely to experience. The romantic qualities inherent in the relationship, and its almost mystical sense of merging, tend to slip beneath your defences and penetrate your inner isolation and self-absorption, making you more aware than you might like of your need of and dependency upon others. Also, the adjustments and sacrifices which the partnership might require are likely to make you feel vaguely resentful at times, because you are strong-willed and generally like to have things your own way. Yet if you allow this relationship to work its subtle alchemy on you, you may discover that it is actually alright to need another person, and that a shared burden is not an insult to your strength.

The rather exalted emotional atmosphere of the relationship is likely to stimulate a lot of idealism in both you and your partner, and both of you may at times experience a sense that some "higher" destiny was at work in bringing you together. There may also be a strange sense of recognition between you, fostered by the sense of fusion which the relationship generates, which may lead you to believe that this is a bond which has endured through many lifetimes. Whether or not these feelings are "true" in any objective sense (and no horoscope can answer that question), they are certainly true on the psychological level as a reflection of the relationship's emotional tone. This bond might well give you and



your partner a feeling of being lifted out of the usual limits and difficulties of communicating your thoughts and feelings to others, and having to define yourselves and your separate realities through words. When you are together, your mysterious sense of nonverbal understanding seems to transcend these things. Others will also appreciate the creative spark and intensity between you, because together you tend, consciously or not, to project an image of style, grace and harmony which to some people may seem the embodiment of the "ideal couple". Whatever you might really be feeling, there is a romantic ambience about the surface style of this relationship which will make the two of you dress and interact with others with qualities of harmony and good taste. This is in many ways a true reflection of the more romantic and idealistic elements within the relationship. The two of you are also unlikely to air your feelings in public, regardless of how combustible things might be between you at times; and this enhances the elegant and courteous persona which this relationship carries.

But this state of fusion which lies at the core of your relationship may in part be illusory, because it requires the blurring or disregarding of your individual boundaries. Because the emotional energy of this bond has a way of eroding your sense of separate reality, it may also lead both of you into an unwitting abdication of personal authority and responsibility within the relationship. There may be a deep sadness inherent in the spell which the relationship casts over you both, for there is always some sacrifice involved in enchantment - whether this means giving up certain material rewards in order to be together, or giving up the hope of a permanent relationship. The heightened perceptions which the relationship is likely to stir in you and your partner are impossible to preserve intact in a world bound by time and human limits. Some compromise of the dream must ultimately be made, and some acceptance of each other's flawed humanity. Thus the enchantment of your bond opens up the gates of a magical world, stirring the spirit and the creative imagination in both of you, but at the same time containing within itself the inevitable seeds of disillusionment. This relationship is liable to activate a very deep and perhaps previously unconscious need in both of you to transcend the loneliness of mortal life and restore a lost state of union which is really reminiscent of the pre-birth state. This longing exists in all human beings, and in some way it is a very powerful drive, stimulating the desire to find meaning beyond the ordinary



events of life. Perhaps you and Nikki were not really aware of this before you met. But something about this relationship activates it powerfully in each of you.

If you perceive yourselves as soulmates, bound together through many lifetimes or connected by some inner purpose, you may experience times of deep joy and peace with each other. But equally, you may find it extremely difficult to shift gears and deal with everyday limits and disappointments. There is a kind of addictive quality to your bond, which may make you avoid or reject the natural process of getting to know one another as ordinary individuals, and confronting each other about your differences and conflicts. The enchantment of the relationship may cause you to stifle emotions such as anger or assertiveness, or may lead one or both of you to sacrifice your own valid path in life in order to remain in this soothing bath - even after the water has grown cold. And this movement toward the submergence of individual will and desire may be so extreme that, in a subtle way, you and your partner actually avoid any real commitment - either through some voluntary sacrifice or through an external situation which may be unconsciously architected by one or both of you, and which seems to prevent you building a stable life together.

Caution, Turn On Fog Lamps

The greatest danger which you and your partner face in the midst of all this beauty and enchantment is the tendency to indulge in self-deception or deception of each other, because the ambience of the relationship makes you try too hard to preserve the magic you have experienced together. Self-deception in this instance means that you may both easily repress or ignore your own very legitimate emotional needs, ideals, beliefs and goals, pretending that each of you wants only what the other wants. If you lie to yourselves in this way, you may stifle fundamental and healthy aspects of your own natures, and these repressed drives will one day rise to the surface and create great confusion and difficulty. Individuality and fusion are indeed mutually exclusive; but it is possible to have a balance between them. You may also deceive yourselves by ignoring qualities in each other's characters which seem to threaten the feeling of two hearts beating as one. But if you remain willfully blind to the truth of another's character, you do not allow the other person to

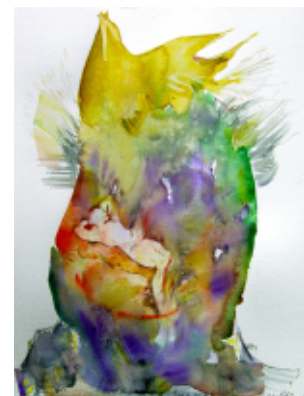


become real. This may generate deep resentment and anger between you, because you are really asking each other to be some perfect image rather than an actual person. One or both of you could resort to deception in order not to be a disappointment. This can mean deception in small, unconscious, cumulative ways; or it may lead to such big deceptions as secret relationships with others. One way or another, you and your partner, if you do not keep your feet on the ground while your heads are in the clouds, may build a relationship rooted in illusion.

Promises, Promises

There is a deep sense of meaning and spiritual purpose in this relationship, and this enhances the strongly romantic ambience at the core of your bond. Also, because the qualities of fantasy and creative imagination are so strongly emphasised, you and Nikki may find that your creative potentials are given a powerful stimulus. The relationship contains great expansiveness and optimism, and is likely to invoke a need in both of you to progress and stretch yourselves into a constantly beckoning future of endless possibilities. This means that you and your partner really need to work at finding creative vehicles for all those plans and dreams, so that the promise of the future can have some reality in the present. This relationship needs goals which are achievable in worldly terms. Although the romantic idealism of the bond is a beautiful and moving thing, unless you build a bridge between the Paradise Garden and the mundane world the relationship could also begin to generate a feeling of disillusionment and passivity in both of you. The pressures of mundane life are likely to prove difficult for you and your partner because of the highly mystical tone of the bond, and the sense of future potentials may simply become a repeating chorus of "One day we'll..." which never produces any concrete results. But if you can find meaningful vehicles through which to express your dreams and ideals, you can strike a creative balance between the visionary tone of the relationship and the limits of mundane reality which will not go away, however much you dream.

You might, for example, develop your shared intellectual and cultural interests. Education and communication of ideas are important for you as a couple, and so is involvement in any sort of social or humanitarian work which allows you both to practise what



you preach. This relationship provides a strong stimulus to the mental development in both of you, and this could be a positive and productive channel through which the relationship's innate idealism can be articulated and shared with others as well as between yourselves. If you and your partner can venture out of the strangely enclosed world which this romantic and highly idealistic bond creates around you, you will be able to preserve the sense of magic between you while at the same time actively growing and making a real creative contribution to life as a couple.

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2. Your Relationship and Yourself

The following sections describe the effect of this relationship on yourself. While the previous sections of text always spoke to both of you, you and your partner, the focus here will be on your side.

A Stirring of the Heart and the Passions

Your relationship with Nikki is likely to activate particular aspects of your personality very strongly, and this includes first of all a stirring of your emotional and instinctual nature. The ways in which your passions, your needs and feelings, your sexual responses and your inner sense of self-worth and lovability are aroused - sometimes happily, sometimes through conflict - all contribute most powerfully to the transformative effect the relationship has on you.

And They Lived Happily Ever After...

There is a magical, elusive and dreamlike quality inherent in your relationship which is likely to arouse some very strong erotic feelings in you. You are particularly sensitive to the subtle and elusive promise of perfect love which the relationship generates, because your own ideals and values are so closely attuned to it. This partnership has a way of enchanting you and capturing your heart because it reflects back to you your own vision of love; and you will probably feel at times both loved and lovable, desired and desiring, to a very



intense degree. Initially at least, you may well believe that you have truly met your soul-mate. However, despite the magic, you may need to keep your feet firmly on the ground and not allow your state of enchantment to blur the boundaries between the reality of your partner and the love-dream which the relationship invokes so strongly in you. For if you set your expectations too high, and expect 24-hour-a-day free entry pass into the Paradise Garden, you may be setting yourself up for a lot of confusion, hurt and disillusionment - not because either you or Nikki is at fault, but because you have forgotten that both of you are human after all. But if you can accept the ordinary everyday limits and constraints which accompany any partnership, you will find that this relationship has the power to truly open your heart and imagination, and can help to restore your faith in the power of romantic love.

Muscle Power

The image this relationship carries in the eyes of others, and its general style and energy, could be tremendously exciting to you, and you may find yourself greatly aroused by it - sexually and creatively. The partnership also constellates in you a strong desire to work for and put energy into the development of the bond, and it may well have been your initiative which brought it into being in the first place. You may sometimes feel as though it is your passion and enthusiasm which keep it alive, but it brings you to life as well - and you are likely to become better at making decisions and taking charge of your own life as a result. Whatever conflicts might arise between you and your partner, the entity which the two of you create in the world has a positive and energising effect on you, making you more aware of your own potency and generating within you the courage to meet whatever challenges life brings.

You Can Never Have Enough Chocolate Cake

The vital and expansive qualities of your relationship with Nikki can contribute enormously to your sense of self-value, making you feel more attractive, more lovable, and more worthwhile in your own eyes. You are likely to both have more fun and be more fun through the enthusiasm for life which the relationship invokes in you. Because your heart is stirred and your feelings of romantic love strongly constellated, you are also likely to feel more generous,



affectionate and sympathetic toward others. Your sense of beauty, harmony and aesthetic appreciation is also likely to be enhanced. Although this extremely positive and enjoyable dimension of the relationship will not spare you having to cope with all of life's usual dilemmas, nevertheless this partnership has the power to make you feel more creative and more loved; and you are therefore much better armed to cope with conflicts because you believe in yourself more.

A Spur to Creative Expression

Your relationship also serves as a catalyst for the development of your talents, creative abilities, worldly goals and sense of individuality, although sometimes this personal growth may occur through friction and challenge rather than harmony. However, even with a certain amount of conflict, your partnership with Nikki can offer you many opportunities for growth, self-development and an enhancement of your capacity for worldly achievement, as well as a more defined sense of who you really are.

The Pursuit of the Millennium

This relationship is likely to stir your imagination through its expansive and inspirational qualities, and will probably constellate enchanting fantasies of perfect union and togetherness. All your innate idealism (whether you were conscious of it or not) will be brought to the surface by the relationship, and you may even experience profound mystical feelings of meaning and purpose in your life. You may also sometimes find this a little uncomfortable, particularly if you see yourself as a more sober and realistic sort of person; and your love-dream may lift you too far off the earth and make you expect too much from the partnership. You may need to be careful not to set yourself up for disillusionment and disappointment because you have lost touch with the reality of human limits. It is the feeling of boundless potential within the relationship which has this powerful effect on you, and at times you may really not be able to see where you are going. But your bond with Nikki also has the power to open your heart and soul to a finer and more magical dimension of life and love; and provided you are able to keep your feet on the ground at least some of the time, your relationship with the inner world will be deepened and expanded.



A Cornucopia

The way in which you and your partner interact as a couple in the eyes of the world is likely to have a very positive effect on your self-confidence and faith in life. Something about the way others see the relationship, and the image it projects, have a way of expanding your imagination, your intuition, and your sense of unlived potentials; and you are also likely to feel brighter, more optimistic, and more inclined to see the funny side of life. Although deeper conflicts may disturb the emotional flow between you and your partner, nevertheless this bond can provide you with a great creative stimulus and a renewed sense of hope and trust.

Deeper Levels are Activated Within You

However, your relationship with Nikki also has a powerful effect on the deeper and more unconscious levels of your psyche, constellating profound and often permanent changes in your attitudes, your outlook on life, and your understanding of yourself. Because of the more complex effect this relationship has on you, it may not always invoke pleasant responses; for no deep change can occur without conflict, and you may not always like what you discover about yourself. But if you are willing to accept the importance of this partnership, and its potential to heal old wounds and make you more whole, you may be able to tap hitherto unknown resources within yourself and find the most creative ways of dealing with the process of transformation which the relationship will very likely set in motion - with or without your consent.

A Sense of Commitment

The specialness and creative energy of your relationship with Nikki may sometimes trigger feelings of limitation and inadequacy. But this relationship can also inspire you to break through your own inner constraints, and you may find that you can be a freer, more spontaneous and more creative person. The road to such an opening up may be thorny, for there is something about the relationship which raises some very deep issues for you - issues of commitment, responsibility, duty and obligation. Also, hurts or limitations from your childhood may have made you too self-controlled or defensive in particular areas of your life, and you may feel as though you must



protect yourself from the relationship because it breaks through your adult adaptation and constellates the child's early hurts and needs. You may feel burdened by this bond at times; but it also invokes a deep sense of commitment in you, as though you know on some level that it is your strength and tenacity which can give the relationship form and durability. Consequently you may have a strong feeling that you cannot let the relationship down. Your bond with Nikki, although complex and sometimes testing, can help you to a much greater consciousness of who you are and how your past has shaped your responses in the present - particularly in those areas where your defences against life, rooted in childhood, have blocked your emotional or creative progress. This relationship can help you to discover greater inner strength and insight through the challenges it offers.

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3. Your Relationship and Your Partner

The following sections of text describe the effect of this relationship on Nikki.

An Activation of Your Partner's Creative Potentials

Your partner can also benefit from the relationship on a creative level, for it is likely to activate her imagination and creative abilities as well as her capacity to express herself in the world.

An Exercise in Self-Definition

This relationship has a way of making Nikki feel deeply responsible for its life and continuity. She may sometimes feel that she is carrying the whole weight of it on her shoulders, for the inherent limits and difficulties of the bond both define and frustrate her sense of who she is. On the one hand, her feelings of strength, potency and individual value are being activated by the relationship, and she also draws life from its challenges because they stir a deep sense of commitment in her. This makes her feel safe and contained, and



also makes her aware of her own capacity for loyalty and generosity. But at the same time, the relationship has a way of thwarting her individual goals, requiring her to compromise her own will and purpose in order to sustain the partnership. The problems and obligations which she must face may block her independent progress in some way. But although your partner may sometimes feel extremely constricted at times, in fact this relationship is defining her as a person, deepening her and giving her greater realism, patience and authenticity. If she is able to carry its weight, it will help her to establish a more solid sense of her own authority and effectiveness in life; for, paradoxically, it is through her voluntary choice to adjust to the relationship's limits that she can become most truly herself.

Your Partner's Mind and Spirit Come Alive

The relationship also affects your partner's mental outlook and world-view, just as it does your own; and because of the way in which the partnership activates particular aspects of her mind and spirit, she could experience a definite broadening of her mental horizons and vision.

Acquiring a Magic Carpet

The feeling of unlimited potentials which this relationship seems to possess has a way of opening up your partner's mind and broadening her thinking, so that her mental attitudes and perceptions of reality are likely to be greatly changed. Although this expansion of thinking may be triggered in part by disturbing crises and disruptions, nevertheless Nikki is not likely to remain the same person; for all her old attitudes are likely to be shaken up, and the dross left behind. Although she may sometimes find this unnerving, the effect the relationship has on her mind and spirit is ultimately extremely positive, and the relationship seems to hold a sense of meaning for her which connects her with the awareness of an intelligent pattern at work in her life. If your partner has been a more earthbound person in the past, she may get a dose of flight sickness from time to time. But if she can avoid reacting defensively because of the anxiety which change tends to invoke in people, then she will find that her perspective on life is transformed, and her sense of a bigger and more deeply interconnected universe is awakened.



The Deeper Effects on Your Partner's Inner World

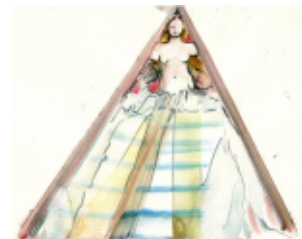
Your partner is also liable to be deeply stirred by the transformative effects of the relationship, and she may, like you, find such activation of unconscious issues sometimes highly uncomfortable. But this relationship offers a potential for profound healing and change in Nikki as well as in you, provided she can meet the challenge with an awareness of the importance of your bond.

Close Encounters of the Healing Kind

This relationship is likely to have a profound effect on your partner's inner life, because it touches and opens up understanding of areas of her personality which have been hurt or blocked since early childhood. Because her insight into herself is likely to grow, she will have the opportunity to face these early issues and heal or make peace with problems which may have troubled her for a very long time. In the past, Nikki may have avoided emotional encounters which were able to penetrate her defences and which might have confronted her too strongly with this more vulnerable aspect of herself. But a quality of generosity and faith inherent in this relationship not only makes her more aware of her own complexity; it also offers her enough optimism and trust to enable her to express this vulnerability. Her reactions to such psychological exposure will probably be very ambivalent, for self-confrontation is inevitably painful at times. But the healing and expansive effect the relationship has on your partner is potentially extremely positive.

Into the Labyrinth

Whenever your partner encounters what she experiences as an obstruction or block to the progress of the relationship, she is likely to have a complex response which at times may test all her resources. Grappling with such difficulties (whether they are caused by an external situation or by personality conflicts between you and her) may stir up very painful feelings of anxiety, hurt and inadequacy in her which she might not have been aware of, or which she thought she had worked through long ago. It is not that the relationship is unusually fraught with insurmountable problems; it is that Nikki is reacting in a highly subjective manner which may distort the reality of the situation. It may sometimes seem to her as though



she is "missing a skin" and cannot detach herself sufficiently to handle matters objectively, because the inherent limits of the partnership are triggering long-forgotten childhood feelings of rejection and frustration. This relationship will truly test Nikki, but it could be an immensely creative challenge; and paradoxically, if she is willing to listen to her own inner voice, the relationship is also likely to invoke a deep sense of commitment and responsibility, giving her the determination to see things through. Nikki is bound to this partnership through complicated and profound ties. In some ways it is her strength and protection which could ensure the durability of the relationship; yet she will need to face and understand the roots of her anxiety and bouts of hopelessness or depression in order to find that strength. It may be that at some point she will feel she has had enough. But if she is willing to look at the earlier and perhaps forgotten life-experiences which are subtly colouring her interpretation of the present, she may find great healing from the experience, as well as the reward of a deep and enduring bond.

Upsetting the Apple Cart

This relationship is likely to have a disturbing and disruptive effect in those areas of your partner's life and personality where she clings to security too tightly. There is a volatile and unconventional element within the relationship which will sooner or later challenge any rigid or defensive attitudes she might carry; and this may bring to the surface some quite uncomfortable feelings of inadequacy and anxiety which have their roots in her childhood, but which she may have concealed from others and even from herself. She may react to the challenge the relationship poses through defensive behaviour or an unduly critical attitude toward you; and it is also possible that she may try to control her anxiety in the face of possible change through setting up too many rigid rules and structures which eventually become claustrophobic for her as well as for you. But if Nikki attempts such methods of control and defence, she is much more likely to get hurt; for the buildup of tension within the relationship would probably erupt sooner or later in much more dramatic and unpleasant ways, causing estrangement or separation initiated by one or both of you. However, if she is able to recognise those areas of her life and personality which she might have outgrown, and can use the unpredictable elements of the relationship to help her understand



her own defensiveness, she could find herself changing enormously and breaking free of many inner blocks and restrictions.

The Bulldog Within

The limits, obligations or constraints within this relationship may have a very disturbing effect on your partner's emotional life. Where the difficulties of other relationships might merely lead her to take stock and make reasonable compromises or adjustments, in this relationship she may experience a sometimes frightening degree of anger and a tenacious determination to sweep the obstacles out of her path. A deep and primitive level of her feeling nature is constellated by the frustrations inherent in the partnership, and her responses may well be somewhat out of proportion to the situation. Every relationship has inherent limits, and Nikki may be quite realistic about life's limits in general. But not this time. She is more prone to becoming involved in unconscious power battles with you than would normally be the case, even though it is not you but the relationship itself which seems at times to thwart her will. However, if she can refrain from either totally annihilating the relationship in anger, or becoming obsessed with changing or dominating you whatever the cost, she may find that these restrictions can help her to understand and come to terms with a darker and more archaic side of her own emotional nature - one which she might not have recognised before.



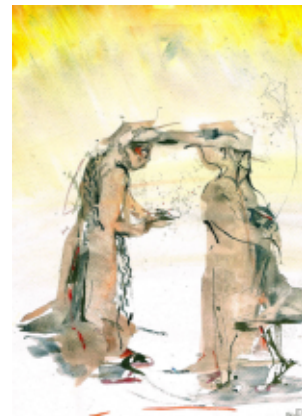
CHAPTER IV

DEEPER ISSUES ACTIVATED INSIDE

1. Basic Relationship Patterns within You

The transformative potential of your relationship with Nikki may be greater than you realise. Every important human bond activates many levels of the personality, and some of these levels are unconscious and unrecognised. All of us bring our own inner issues and preconceptions into a relationship with another person. A relationship involves not only the chemistry between the two personalities, but also our unconscious images of what it is to be a man or woman. These inner images are partly shaped by our experiences of the first man and woman we meet in life - father and mother. But perhaps more importantly, they also reflect profound hidden truths about our own essential characters. The less aware we are of these deeper aspects of ourselves, the more likely we are to enact and project them blindly - and sometimes destructively - in our relationships. The inner images of man and woman which we all carry are really pictures of our own needs, expectations and potentials. They may be coloured or even distorted by childhood experiences, but fundamentally they belong to us as individuals. They have both positive and negative features, and we have the freedom to express both. Because people are by nature complex and multifaceted, we have more than one of these inner pictures of masculine and feminine within us. And each deep relationship we encounter in life could activate a quite different aspect of our inner world, presenting us with very different challenges and bringing very different responses out of us.

The relationship which you and Nikki have created, because it is an independent living thing, will have an effect on the inner world of both you and your partner, triggering unconscious images of masculine and feminine in ways which you may not always be aware of. It is as though the two of you are living with a third person who exercises a subtle but powerful influence on how you feel and behave when you are together. This is the real alchemical work of the relationship, for both of you will be changed by the energies which have arisen between you. Some of its effects might feel very positive, and others might be extremely disturbing. Most human interaction



involves a mixture of both. It is likely that sooner or later this relationship will stir up old childhood patterns and feelings, because the inner images of masculine and feminine which you and Nikki bring into the relationship are coloured by the past. This gives you both a chance to discover untapped potentials in yourselves, as well as facing and healing hurts and wounds from early life. You and your partner could respond to the activation of your inner world in a creative and productive way, using what you learn about yourselves to make important changes in your attitudes and manner of self-expression. Or you could blame everyone and everything in sight for your discomfort, and make a general mess out of things if you so choose. You and your partner may not be able to unbake the cake you have made. But you have a great deal of choice in terms of how you deal with what this relationship activates within you.

A Melancholy Vision

Whatever you may consciously define as "masculine", there is a curiously disembodied image within you of man as *logos*, or creative mental principle. This image is powerfully activated by your relationship with Nikki. It is the realm of ideas that this archetypal image portrays. In myth it is best expressed by those primal heaven-gods such as the Greek Ouranos, who are themselves invisible but who conceive of the idea of a material cosmos before it has been created. This may seem a strangely abstract image of manhood. But "abstract" is indeed the operative word here - for it is not easy for you to experience a solid sense of masculinity on the personal body-feeling level. You are much more likely to express your masculinity through a quality of detachment and distancing, as well as through a gift of working with ideas. This may in part have to do with the rather disconnected or aloof nature of your father's personality as you experienced it in childhood, for it seems you may not have felt a direct emotional or physical connection with him as a model of manhood.

The "absent father" who is portrayed in myth as the invisible god of heaven suggests, on the positive side, a fertility of ideas which is immensely creative, and which inclines you to a broad and somewhat unconventional perspective of life. You are likely to be open to new and innovative philosophies and systems of thought, even if you conceal these behind a mental "brown paper wrapper" when



talking to others; and you have the ability to stand back from personal situations and pick out the larger pattern at work. This element of detachment in your character may sometimes make you feel a little isolated and disconnected; for while everybody else is rushing about reacting subjectively, you can see beyond the immediate histrionics to the larger and more impersonal design. You may during the course of your life become involved in subjects which might be considered eccentric or "new age". But this is not because you are a "crank" - it is because your capacity to disengage your mind from identification with immediate material reality allows you to see further into the future than many people. However, this same quality of detachment can cause you problems in your relationship with Nikki. You may, like the god Ouranos in myth - or perhaps like your own father - devalue or ignore the instinctual side of life, seeking the clear and uncomplicated air of the mental realm and backing off from direct emotional engagement with your partner.

Your sense of detachment and disconnection from life may also spring from a feeling that the mundane world is oppressive and imprisoning. The free and boundless realm of the mind then seems an irresistible escape route from the responsibilities of material life and the difficulties of committed relationship. This may equally have been true of your father, who was perhaps burdened by his domestic and financial responsibilities, and whose difficulty in relating taught you that such commitments can crush the spirit. On the other hand, you may compulsively try to identify yourself with the structures of the mundane world because they give you an illusory feeling of stability and involvement with life. But if you try to replace a sound inner sense of masculine identity with concrete outer forms in this way, you may experience deep frustration and may need at some point to forcibly break free. There is a sadness within you which accompanies all your dealings with the outer world, because you project onto this world your own feelings of inner isolation. You may need to understand and share these feelings with your partner; for it is through the comfort of human relationship that you can heal the wounds of childhood loneliness.

The detached quality which belongs to your inner image of manhood contributes many gifts to your personality; but it may also be bound up with complex defence mechanisms which block, rather than facilitate, your capacity to express your whole self.



The Loneliness of the Long-Distance Runner

Some of your sense of disconnection from life springs from a deep inner feeling of woundedness or loss. Whether you are conscious of this or not, it can make you feel rather world-weary and resigned about what you can expect from life and from your relationship with Nikki.

Your strong sense of life's unfairness probably arises from early experiences in your own life, as well as from what you might have seen of your father's personal unhappiness. This feeling of vulnerability and victimisation sits uneasily beside the more detached and impersonal qualities of your character. Because your clear vision can discern an orderly and understandable pattern in the cosmos, certain kinds of experiences have wounded you deeply simply because they do not have a reasonable explanation. No spiritual philosophy, political ideology, or psychological insight can explain away every unhappy thing that occurs in people's lives. This conflict between reason and experience can increase your feelings of withdrawnness, and make it difficult for you to share yourself fully with your partner. If you feel threatened or insecure, you may unconsciously rely on your capacity to disconnect from your feelings to avoid experiencing pain. This would inevitably result in Nikki having to carry the pain instead, through your rejection of her. But if you are willing to try to balance what has actually happened to you in life, and how you really feel about it, with whatever ideology or philosophy you espouse, you will be able to heal many wounds within yourself as well as finding a fuller participation in your relationship.

Thus your inner image of manhood provides you with a great gift and also a great challenge. Any degree of increased consciousness or vision is inevitably isolating because it separates us from the blind instinctual compulsions of the collective. On some level you will need to come to terms with this periodic sense of isolation, and pay the price willingly, if you wish your innate gifts to enrich your life and your relationship. But at the same time you need to learn to be more human and vulnerable. Your sense of potency as a man is perhaps too restricted to the mental realm and not sufficiently anchored in your emotional and instinctual life. The heaven-god Ouranos in myth rejected his children because they were made of earth



and therefore imperfect. It is possible that, because of his own inner conflicts, your father inadvertently did this to you on some level, however much he might have loved you. If you impose such super-human standards on yourself or on your partner, you will inevitably create deep unhappiness. But if you can express your fine qualities of mind and at the same time allow yourself and your partner to be human and flawed, then heaven and earth can meet, and you can have it all.

2. Basic Relationship Patterns within Your Partner

Nikki also has within her images and patterns of response which are activated by the relationship. Thus your partner is also receptive to the transformative potential of the bond; and even if this sometimes involves conflict and uncomfortable self-confrontation, she could experience deep and positive changes as a result.

The Romantic Who Needs Security

Whatever your partner may consciously define as feminine, there is an image within her of woman as adventuress, playful companion and eternal girl. This image is powerfully activated in her by her relationship with you. The image of the eternal girl is best portrayed in myth by the Greek goddess Artemis, mistress of the Moon and of wild nature. This goddess personifies an untamed feminine spirit which can love and be joyful yet belongs to no man as wife or chattel. The mysterious and changeable nature of this mythic figure reflects a quality which is part of the fabric of your partner's feminine self. Even if she has denied it in her life, her inner image of woman is not the stable, responsible figure of the wife and mother who presides over home, family and domestic duties. This may present Nikki with certain conflicts about committing herself to this relationship, whether she is conscious of such ambivalence or not. Your partner has a longing not only for freedom, but for the feeling that life's potentials and possibilities will always be open to her, and that she will throughout life be in a process of becoming, never of crystallising or stagnating. Satisfying this longing while at the same time honouring her emotional need for stability and continuity within the relationship may require a delicate balancing act.



The image of the eternal girl within your partner also describes a craving for romantic excitement and adventure. She may not feel wholly alive unless she is in the thrilling stage of beginning something - whether it is a new relationship or a creative project. Because she craves the new, she needs to be careful to provide herself with a creative life outside the relationship, preferably a field of work which presents her with new and imaginative projects and challenges. Her restless spirit can easily feel bored and confined, and she will inevitably vent her frustration on you, directly or indirectly, if she does not provide herself with change and challenge through her work. It is possible that Nikki perceived a similar restlessness in her mother during her childhood, although this parent may have concealed it beneath a more dutiful or self-sacrificing manner. Because her mother may have felt trapped and unhappy, your partner may on some level fear commitment because she too might be imprisoned. Thus she may be too extreme in her pursuit of change and freedom in an effort to avoid the frustration she saw in her mother's life. At the same time, your partner needs to be careful not to stifle her irrepressible spirit beneath too heavy a weight of responsibility. Her gifts do not lie in patience and endurance so much as in inventiveness, creative imagination and a capacity to infuse life with joy and meaning.

Your partner also has a very strong need to function as an independent person with an active mental life, and too rigid or conventional an image of womanhood may ultimately prove very frustrating for her. Although she might enjoy family life, and could no doubt handle the emotional commitments and responsibilities involved with care and reliability, she may also have a certain amount of ambivalence about the doors to the future closing on her because of such bonds. It is possible that her mother may have married and had children at too young an age, before she had had a chance to explore life and test her wings. Nikki may have sensed a quality of angry frustration and irritability in this parent, and such childhood experiences have left her feeling anxious and insecure, although the source of that anxiety may not be clear to her now. This rather fearful feeling about life may have made your partner take on too much responsibility too early as well. Therefore it might be important for her to carefully examine whether she really needs to carry as much as she does for others at the expense of her own free spirit. She needs to learn the art of expert juggling, for her longing



for security within this relationship is evenly matched by a resistance to any ties from which she cannot extricate herself voluntarily. It is possible for your partner to have her cake and eat it too. But she must first recognise her own complexity, and arrange her life according to her needs and values rather than those espoused by other, more collectively minded folk.

A Trapped Youthful Spirit

However, there is also a powerful need for security and structure within your partner which may conflict quite strongly with her restless and youthful spirit. She may find herself spending quite a lot of time worrying about whether she is being too responsible or too irresponsible. For she has a tendency to polarise between these two extremes and overdo them both rather than finding a way to blend them.

It is possible that your partner's mother submerged her own need for adventure and excitement beneath an overly conventional and dutiful exterior. This may have been because security mattered a great deal to her, and she did not have the confidence or the opportunities to live out her more renegade side. Perhaps the mother was too withdrawn and somewhat demanding or critical of her daughter's behaviour. Nikki may now feel that she too should be responsible and unselfish, and not indulge herself in life's more colourful offerings. But rather than stifling her adventurous spirit, she needs to find a way to balance these two poles of her nature. Other people's opinions may matter a little too much to her, perhaps because she experienced criticism or coolness in her childhood and is unsure of herself as a result. Your partner may not believe enough in herself and her right to pursue happiness in her own way. She could help this problem by aiming for professional achievement which earns her some recognition in the eyes of the world, and which can also give substance to her fine imagination and creative ideas. But most importantly, she needs to distinguish between her genuine desire for stability and structure - which is not incompatible with the wilder side of her nature - and a deep fear of "breaking the rules" which she probably imbibed in childhood.

The youthful feminine spirit within Nikki offers her a quality of enthusiasm and optimism which age and circumstances can never



destroy. This untamed and self-possessed inner image may, however, raise problems between the two of you. For by its nature any relationship will, over time, root itself in the familiar and the everyday, sometimes at the expense of the excitement and sense of new possibilities your partner craves so much. It is up to her to make sure she provides herself with avenues for the new and the adventurous to enter her life through her creative and intellectual pursuits. If she leaves it up to chance, fate or you, and follows the dictates of a more conventional voice, she will find herself facing the same sense of claustrophobia which probably made her mother unhappy and unfulfilled. Your partner cannot afford to remain unconscious of her own restless and untamed spirit. For it will sooner or later erupt anyway, or she may inadvertently push you into acting out her need for freedom so that she can have it herself as well. But if Nikki is prepared to juggle her complex needs with grace and humour, she can enjoy the rewards of the youthful spirit within her while also preserving happiness and stability in her relationship with you.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

It has been suggested by various psychological investigators as well as dramatists, poets and novelists over the ages, that without relationship we would never become conscious of ourselves. It takes another person to reflect back to us, as in a mirror, who we really are, whether this is on the most superficial level of public image or the most profound level of essential identity. Plato once wrote that we see in the face of the beloved a glimpse of the god who presides over our own soul; and it might also be added that we see a glimpse of our personal devils there as well. No astrological chart, whether interpreted through the skills of an individual astrologer or the more limited capacities of a computer, can tell us whether we should or should not be involved with a particular person; nor can it tell us whether the relationship is "good" or "bad", or whether it will endure. Ultimately, human choice, human creativity and human compulsion always upset the most careful of psychological and astrological predictions. But insight into why we are drawn to another person, what we create with that person, and how we are changed by it can give us tools for greater choice and creativity, and fewer compulsions. If a relationship has depth and the power to transform, it will inevitably, at some point, cause us pain - especially the pain of leaving an old and outworn self behind. If we are able to recognise that the only time we truly get to enjoy two hearts beating as one is in the womb, then we can approach our relationships with realism as well as idealism. The medieval alchemists knew that the gold they sought was human gold, not metal; and if we can rediscover some of that vision, then we are better equipped to perform the great and mysterious alchemical work of loving another individual.



APPENDIX

The Perspective of the Relationship Horoscope

In developing the Relationship Horoscope, Liz Greene began with her professional experience of clients wishing to gain astrological insight into their personal relationships. These clients most often have been in a relationship for a period of time, perhaps one or two years if not more, and the romantic and blissful beginnings have moved into a deeper and more realistic interchange. The darker aspects of both personalities have by this time been revealed, and problems and conflicts have come to the surface - usually resulting in a desire to understand more about the dynamics at work.

Both partners may not express the same interest in an astrological analysis of their relationship. One may even be quite skeptical of astrology. But very clearly, one partner is interested - and in this case it is you. You might come alone for an astrological consultation to discuss your relationship with Nikki. The Relationship Horoscope is written with this scenario in mind: It addresses you as the one who has requested the analysis, and it refers to Nikki as a third party, as "your partner". Thus the Relationship Horoscope does not speak to both partners, but to only one. The contents, however, refer to both partners in a symmetrical fashion.

If you want to share your Relationship Horoscope with Nikki, you might suggest that she bears this in mind while reading, rethinking the text accordingly. However, if this seems inappropriate for you and your partner, you are free to order a second copy with the text reversed so that it addresses Nikki, referring to you in turn as "your partner".

To order a reverse Relationship Horoscope with the text addressed to Nikki, please write an e-mail to order@astro.com and note the order code TPPE as well as the complete number of your present Relationship Horoscope. You will find this number at the bottom of the title window and at the bottom left of each page.

This second report is available at a dramatically reduced price (this may depend on the country from which you order).

Astrological Technique

To create the Relationship Horoscope, three astrological charts are examined - the natal chart of both partners and the composite chart calculated according to the midpoint method. For the compilation of the interpretation text, the following main astrological factors are taken into account: cross-aspects between the two natal charts, dominant themes in the composite chart, aspects between the composite chart and the two natal charts, and certain themes in the two natal charts which are triggered by either the partner's chart or the composite chart.

Further Reading

The Relationship Horoscope touches upon many elements in both natal charts, but particularly focusses on those relevant to relationship patterns and themes. Having read the present horoscope, you or your partner may be interested in a broader analysis of your own personality beyond the relationship perspective. In this case we would like to recommend the PSYCHOLOGICAL HOROSCOPE by Liz Greene (also available from us).

Recommended astrological reading referring to relationship themes:

"Astrology for Lovers" by Liz Greene: An amusing but profound view of the zodiacal signs regarding their characteristic behaviour in relationships.

"Relating" by Liz Greene: An insightful approach to relationships which synthesises astrology and depth psychology.

ASTROLOGICAL DATA USED FOR THE RELATIONSHIP HOROSCOPE

for **Barrett Brown** (male)

birthdate **14 Aug 1981**

in **Dallas, TX (US)**

local time **7:01 am**

Lon: **96w48** Lat: **32n47**

U.T.

12:01

sid. time

03:05:05

☉ Sun	Leo	21.035'53	in house 12	Ascendant	Leo	23.03'22
☾ Moon	Aquarius	7.02'24	in house 6	2nd House	Virgo	17.24'16
☿ Mercury	Leo	26.03'04	in house 1	3rd House	Libra	16.10'18
♀ Venus	Virgo	25.08'20	in house 2	Imum Coeli	Scorpio	18.43'43
♂ Mars	Cancer	18.01'32	in house 11	5th House	Sagittarius	22.18'01
♃ Jupiter	Libra	8.23'00	in house 2	6th House	Capricorn	24.04'28
♄ Saturn	Libra	6.47'48	in house 2	Descendant	Aquarius	23.03'22
♅ Uranus	Scorpio	26.05'44	in house 4	8th House	Pisces	17.24'16
♆ Neptune	Sagittarius	22.11'32	in house 4	9th House	Aries	16.10'18
♇ Pluto	Libra	22.03'52	in house 3	Medium Coeli	Taurus	18.43'43
♋ True Node	Leo	1.41'54	in house 12	11th House	Gemini	22.18'01
♎ Chiron	Taurus	22.46'19	in house 10	12th House	Cancer	24.04'28

and **Nikki** (female)

birthdate **4 Nov 1986**

in **Irving, TX (US)**

local time **8:36 am**

Lon: **96w57** Lat: **32n49**

U.T.

14:36

sid. time

11:02:23

☉ Sun	Scorpio	11.52'52	in house 12	Ascendant	Sagittarius	3.24'36
☾ Moon	Sagittarius	14.26'02	in house 1	2nd House	Capricorn	4.24'45
☿ Mercury	Scorpio	28.45'50	in house 12	3rd House	Aquarius	9.08'02
♀ Venus	Scorpio	13.12'03	in house 12	Imum Coeli	Pisces	14.21'33
♂ Mars	Aquarius	15.51'06	in house 3	5th House	Aries	15.30'05
♃ Jupiter	Pisces	12.59'35	in house 3	6th House	Taurus	11.17'20
♄ Saturn	Sagittarius	8.43'36	in house 1	Descendant	Gemini	3.24'36
♅ Uranus	Sagittarius	20.15'12	in house 1	8th House	Cancer	4.24'45
♆ Neptune	Capricorn	3.43'40	in house 1	9th House	Leo	9.08'02
♇ Pluto	Scorpio	7.28'43	in house 11	Medium Coeli	Virgo	14.21'33
♋ True Node	Aries	20.47'20	in house 5	11th House	Libra	15.30'05
♎ Chiron	Gemini	20.34'35	in house 7	12th House	Scorpio	11.17'20

Joint Composite Horoscope (house system Placidus, midpoint method)

☉ Sun	Libra	1.44'22	in house 12	Ascendant	Libra	13.13'59
☾ Moon	Capricorn	10.44'13	in house 3	2nd House	Scorpio	10.54'31
☿ Mercury	Libra	12.24'27	in house 12	3rd House	Sagittarius	12.39'10
♀ Venus	Libra	19.10'12	in house 1	Imum Coeli	Capricorn	16.32'38
♂ Mars	Taurus	1.56'19	in house 7	5th House	Aquarius	18.54'03
♃ Jupiter	Sagittarius	25.41'18	in house 3	6th House	Pisces	17.40'54
♄ Saturn	Scorpio	7.45'42	in house 1	Descendant	Aries	13.13'59
♅ Uranus	Sagittarius	8.10'28	in house 2	8th House	Taurus	10.54'31
♆ Neptune	Sagittarius	27.57'36	in house 3	9th House	Gemini	12.39'10
♇ Pluto	Libra	29.46'17	in house 1	Medium Coeli	Cancer	16.32'38
♋ True Node	Gemini	11.14'37	in house 8	11th House	Leo	18.54'03
♎ Chiron	Gemini	6.40'27	in house 8	12th House	Virgo	17.40'54