

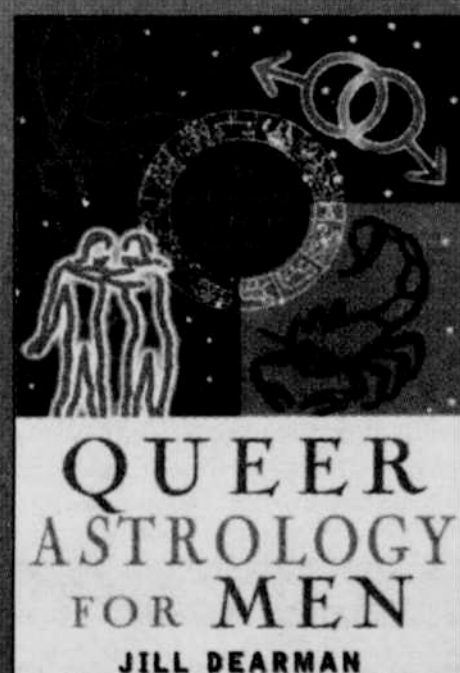
STAR-STUDDED RESOURCES

You can spend an entire transit of Saturn (a very long time) online and not find all the astro sites. There's plenty of free stuff. Get your natal chart cast at www.astro.com. Sample a daily delivery of transits specific to you at www.astrology.com. Receive daily sun sign info at www.free-daily-horoscopes.com.

GAY STARS: THE ULTIMATE GAY GUY'S GUIDE TO ASTROLOGY

by Matthew Abergel. Simon & Schuster, 2000; \$12 softcover.

Includes in-depth character sketches for each sun sign plus practical advice on using astrology to improve aspects of life that most concern gay men—relationships, sex and spiritual growth. Sprinkled throughout are quotes and portraits of gay icons and heroes, providing entertaining examples of astrology at work.



QUEER ASTROLOGY FOR MEN
by Jill Dearman. Griffin, 1999; \$13.95 softcover.

Offers a dozen templates for the modern gay man that could be viewed as archetypal or stereotypical, depending on how you feel about astrological profiling. Sections include how to seduce him, doing him and dating him, how to live over the long haul and even how to get rid of him. The second half of the book describes all 78 possible sun sign matchups to gauge their compatibility.

QUEER ASTROLOGY FOR WOMEN
by Jill Dearman. Griffin, 1999; \$13.95 softcover.

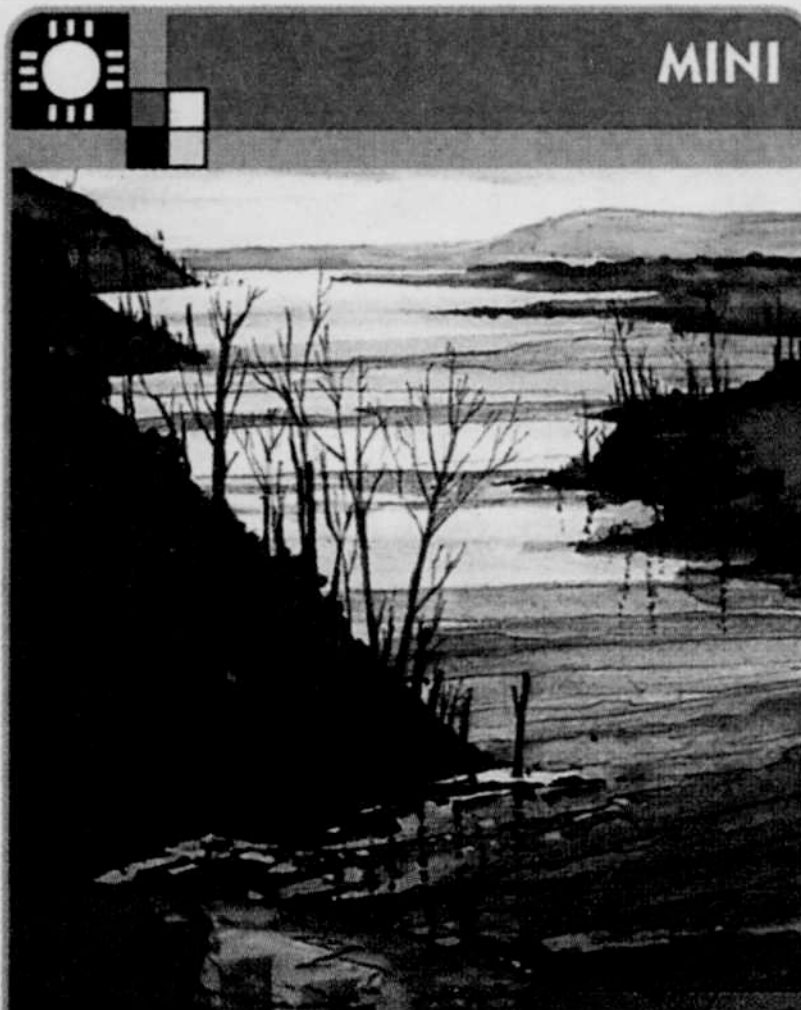
This companion volume for the girl follows the same format.

HERSCOPES: A GUIDE TO ASTROLOGY FOR LESBIANS
by Charlotte Lichtenstein. Simon & Schuster, 2000; \$12 softcover.

Shows how each sign meshes with various careers, personality traits, lifestyles, family relationships and, of course, romance. On that topic, this is racier than other books, and the author speaks openly and graphically about sex. Entertaining but with serious underpinnings.

GAY STAR SIGNS: HOW TO MEET AND KEEP THE MAN OF YOUR DREAMS
by Max Bowman. Marlowe & Co., 2000; \$24.95 spiral-bound.

Perhaps you'd prefer a fun and colorful flip-book for parties! Then here's a unique concept emphasizing compatibility. Pages are split horizontally, and characteristics such as personality, body care, lifestyle and career of the 12 sun signs are divided by color-coded strips with symbols. The bottom half of the page tells what to expect from a particular sign in different areas of life.



Water

Forget Miss Cleo's incessant television pitch—for a real tarot card reading you want to sit across from someone who will tap into your personal essence, someone who can read your face as she reads your future.

Tarot readers are as varied as the wide array of decks available. Traditional decks have 78 cards: 22 major arcana cards that generally represent human archetypes and 56 minor arcana cards divided into four suits.

Traditional decks are really much like regular playing cards except with four family members in each suit. Nontraditional divination decks can have any number and may feature the wisdom gleaned from trees, stones, animals and other cultures.

Mariah Redwood reads from a feminist perspective, and her deck of choice reflects that: the round "Motherpeace" cards created by Karen Vogel and Vicki Noble, from whom she has received advanced training. They reportedly did the drawings while in a trance state.

Mariah Redwood puts a feminist spin on the advice she offers Becky Bilyeu

Redwood reads from about 6:30 to 9 p.m. most Tuesdays at the lesbianic Touchstone Coffee House. I watch her spread a blue cloth on a corner table in the cozy back room and do a quick reading for owner Becky Bilyeu. She uses a classic spread, laying out 11 cards and assigning specific meaning to each position: One stands for the seeker, her challenges, her recent past, her near future and so on.



Act of Wands

"People sometimes have a negative idea about tarot," Redwood says. "I like to demystify it, then give a reading and mystify it again."

Laughing at her sly approach, Bilyeu says: "I just love Mariah. She's a big ol' witch!"

Redwood does emanate an earth mother vibe. And even though Bilyeu is no stranger to readings, this night she seems to receive new information that helps answer some questions on her mind.

Redwood explains what kind of queries work best: "Open-ended ones, not yes-or-no questions. Don't be afraid to ask what you really need to know. And it's usually best to do it without your partner or friend watching," she advises.

"A lot of people go to a tarot reader when they're in crisis because they need guidance, and I think that's an excellent time," she says. "Other good times are your birthday, the new year or a peak time such as the new or full moon or a solstice."

Redwood also reads for herself; in fact, reading is something that is fairly easy for beginners to do for themselves. "Tarot is a really good tool...I usually pick a card a day, and I'll ask, 'What should I be looking out for today?'"

But when she reads for others, Redwood makes it interactive. "I like to involve the asker in the interpretation. What they see and feel about it is far more important than what I see," she explains.

A professional reader for a decade, Redwood has other tricks in her bag.

Continued on Page 24



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

