

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Eighty-three-year-old author Harlan Ellison has had a long and successful career. In the course of publishing hundreds of literary works in seven different genres, he has won numerous awards. But when he was in his thirties, there was an interruption in the upward arc of his career. The film production company Walt Disney Studios hired him as a writer. During his first day on the job, Roy Disney overheard Ellison joking with a co-worker about using Disney characters in an animated pornographic movie. Ellison was fired on the spot. I am by no means predicting a comparable event in your life, Aries. On the contrary. By giving you this heads-up, I'm hoping you'll be scrupulous and adroit in how you act in the early stages of a new project — so scrupulous and adroit that you will sail on to the next stages.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Are you an evolving Taurus or an unevolving Taurus? Are you an aspiring master of gradual, incremental progress or a complacent excuse-maker who secretly welcomes inertia? Will the theme of your next social media post be "The Smart Art of Compromise" or "The Stingy Glory of Stubbornness"? I'm hoping you will opt for the former rather than the latter in each of the three choices I just offered. Your behavior in the coming weeks will be pivotal in your long-term ability to animate your highest self and avoid lapsing into your mediocre self.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you fly in a passenger jet from New York to London, the trip usually takes more than six hours. But on January 8, 2015, a powerful jet stream surging across the North Atlantic reduced that time significantly. With the wind's extra push, several flights completed the trip in five hours and 20 minutes. I suspect you'll have comparable assistance in the course of your upcoming journeys and projects, Gemini. You'll feel like the wind is at your back.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Actor Keanu Reeves' career ascended to a higher level when he appeared as a lead character in the film *Speed*. It was the first time he had been a headliner in a big-budget production. But he turned down an offer to reprise his starring role in the sequel, *Speed 2*. Instead he toured with his grunge band Dogstar and played the role of Hamlet in a production staged by a local theater company in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I admire him for being motivated more by love and passion than by fame and fortune. In my estimation, Cancerian, you face a choice that in some ways resembles Keanu's, but in other ways doesn't. You shouldn't automatically assume that what your ego craves is opposed to what your heart yearns for and your soul needs.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A Leo sculptor I know is working on a forty-foot-long statue of a lion. Another Leo friend borrowed \$30,000 to build a recording studio in her garage so she can pursue her quixotic dream of a music career. Of my other Leo acquaintances, one is writing a memoir of her time as a black-market orchid smuggler, another just did four sky dives in three days, and another embarked on a long-postponed pilgrimage to Slovenia, land of her ancestors. What about you? Are there any breathtaking challenges or smart gambles you're considering? I trust you can surf the same astrological wave.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): How sexy is it possible for you to be? I'm referring to authentic, soul-stirring sexiness, not the contrived, glitzy, counterfeit version. I'm alluding to the irresistible magnetism that wells up in you when you tap into your core self and summon a reverent devotion to your life's mission. However sexy it is possible for you to be, Virgo, I suggest you unleash that magic in the coming weeks. It's the most reliable strategy for attracting the spiritual experiences and material resources and psychological support you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): According to my analysis of the cosmic omens, your impact is rising. You're gaining influence. More people are tuning in to what you have to offer. And yet your stress levels also seem to be increasing. Why is that? Do you assume that having more power requires you to endure higher tension? Do you unconsciously believe that being more worried is the price of being more responsible? If so, banish that nonsense. The truth is this: The best way to manage your growing clout is to relax into it. The best way to express your growing clout is to relax into it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The immediate future will challenge you to revisit several fundamental Scorpio struggles. For best results, welcome these seeming intrusions as blessings and opportunities, and follow these guidelines: 1. Your control over external circumstances will increase in direct proportion to your control over your inner demons; 2. Your ability to do what you want will thrive to the degree that you stop focusing on what you don't want; 3. Your skill at regulating and triumphing over chaos will be invincible if you're not engrossed in blaming others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I'm about to say things that sound extraordinary. And it's possible that they are in fact a bit overblown. But even if that's the case, I trust that there is a core of truth in them. So rejoice in their oracular radiance. First, if you have been hoping for a miracle cure, the next four weeks will be a time when you're more likely than usual to find it or generate it. Second, if you have fantasized about getting help to address a seemingly irremediable problem, asking aggressively for that help now will lead to at least a partial fix. Third, if you have wondered whether you could ever retrieve a lost or missing part of your soul, the odds are more in your favor than they've been in a long time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The French government defines books as an "essential good," along with water, bread and electricity. Would you add anything to that list of life's basics? Companionship? Stories? Deep sleep? Pleasurable exercise and movement? Once you identify your "essential goods," I invite you to raise the level of reverence and care you give them. Take an oath to treat them as holy treasures. Boost your determination and ability to get all you need of their blessings. The coming weeks will be a favorable time to enhance your appreciation of the fundamentals you sometimes take for granted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Buckingham Palace is the home and office of the Queen of England. It has been the main royal residence since Queen Victoria took the throne in 1837. But in earlier times, the site served other purposes. The 17th-century English lawyer Clement Walker described the building occupying that land as a brothel, a hotbed of "debauchery." Before, that the space was a mulberry garden where silkworms tuned mulberry leaves into raw material for silk fabrics. I see the potential for an almost equally dramatic transformation of a certain place in your life, Aquarius. Start dreaming and scheming about the possibilities.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Poet Carolyn Forché is a role model for how to leave one's comfort zone. In her early career, she earned writing degrees at placid universities near her childhood home in the American Midwest. Her first book mined material about her family; its first poem is addressed to her grandmother. But then she relocated to El Salvador, where she served as a human rights advocate during that country's civil war. Later she lived and wrote in Lebanon at the height of its political strife. Her drive to expand her range of experience invigorated her poetry and widened her audience. Would you consider drawing inspiration from Forché in the coming weeks and months, Pisces? I don't necessarily recommend quite so dramatic a departure for you, but even a mild version will be well rewarded.

Homework: Buy or make yourself a present that encourages you to be more generous. Report results at Freewillastrology.com.

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I SAW YOU

A SPECIAL GIRL DESERVES A SPECIAL UNICORN.

Life can take us unexpected places, but you will still find joy there. Always know, there is a unicorn watching over you.

MAPBIRD,

It's back to the normal routine this week, but it will be summer soon enough. Can't wait to frolic in the sun with you. Steely Neptune, Luna Mars out.

AS MUCH AS YOU ENJOY WORKING WHERE YOU DO,

do not give up a great job for someone, boo. Lame poetry does indeed sell, doesn't mean you give yourself to sell. Whatever dream you think you own, don't give it up for a lame ass bone. My friend, don't sell yourself short, or you'll just end up broken, in jail or in court. There is peace among the stars, come on up here...that's where we are.

YOU SCHOOLED ME ON GRATUITOUS EXPECTATION.

So please let me know if you think it's fine. For me to grow from your unyielding rumination. And share a bit more of your precious time

YOU SMILED AT ME,

and what a smile, what teeth and eyes and fine dark hair, but I guess I was too busy inquiring about soap and salts, when all I was really interested in was you.

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is good with potty training in her current home, but will need a consistent routine to help with continued success. She needs a home where she spends minimal time alone as she does not appreciate being in a crate, and needs a playful companion. Toffee is a lap dog through and through. Toffee loves other dogs, and kids too. She is untested with cats, and can play a little rough, but isn't mean at all.

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