

MADAME BIANCA'S



FUTURES OF THE PAST

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 21.
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The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Heel, boy! You've been coming down pretty hard on your group. Step back, breathe, and remember - it's only a game.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Miss Priss, when last we spoke you were plotting vengeance on he who done you wrong. Giving the man a little space may be just the unexpected trick to lure him back to your lair.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I love how hard you're working, but I do not love the toll this work is taking on your body. I prescribe green vegetables and a spa day.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Is it possible to have it all if you're not having much fun? Take some time out of your hectic schedule to plan some spontaneity!

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

If you ask her, she will come.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

So there's this rumor going around that you just suffered a rather devastating blow to your ego. You've kind of had it coming. But don't fret, you'll bounce straight back.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Your team is spinning its wheels, and you're leaving them hanging. You're the ideas person, so get cracking!

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Take a shot on that newcomer who wants a piece of the action. Bide your time; it will pay off big at the end of the week.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I know just what will get you out of those doldrums. Shake up your little world: take a class, join a new games league, take a day trip. Anything's better than where you are now, right?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Roses are red, violets are blue. Somebody close has a huge crush on you.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You're too gosh darned nice. Stop being everyone's carpet. Next time someone asks a favor of you, politely refuse. You know what guy does not look hot to the ladies? That would be the one they can push around.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You have been taking such positive steps lately. Keep it up! The end result will be completely worth it. You may even land a treat tomorrow for all your hard work.

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• B • I • A • N • C • A •

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 28.**

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The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Floundering? Out of options? Do what I do when trouble hits: Sushi! Have an eel and cucumber roll; it brings you luck.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The Archer has you in her sights. Should your subdoleous ways slip, she'll snarl. Scarper.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Shuffle your way to heaven at your weekly card game. Bet big. Triangles are go.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

The fruits of your labor are sour. Taking up arms is never suggested, though it is often appropriate. Just don't forget to take backup.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Great minds think alike, so get together with a like mind this week. Let two halves make a sphere.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your fiery nature ignites a skirmish against a rival team. Funnel your energies into something positive, and stop it. You know, before someone loses an eye.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You seem to be in a bit of a bawdy phase. Doesn't seem like a lasting turn. The slightest overstepping of your boundaries will turn you prim again.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Missing a piece of your interpersonal jigsaw is even worse than misplacing your key. This is a good week to take out a personal ad. Go on, it's only your pride.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Unexpected ventures haven't turned out well for you. It's time to get back to basics. Traditional values are on the rise.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

I think that you shall never be as smart as those who know base three.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your newfound spirit of independence has opened many portals. Pay no heed to those who would direct your course; use your own internal compass.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You are as beautiful as a flower. Why do you let this ugly-minded person make you dinner? (Eel and cucumber rolls can be lucky for all signs, really. Yum.)

And remember, it's not how you play the game, it's how the game plays you, kiddo.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 4

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Persistence pays; this is the week for you to be stubborn. Stand your ground. Beware the Jug who will try to derail you.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

As your skirmish rolls on, you may require a distraction. A fluffy movie, a new pair of shoes, or some Earth-lit might be perfect to lift your spirits.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Try your brain at your local puzzle open this week. I know you can be intimidated by live events, but you owe it to yourself to give it a shot. You're making great strides.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Intelligence has driven you where you are. It is, however, not everything. You're becoming cold, and I fret that you'll freeze out your support system.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Endgame can't come too soon for you, eh? Take some time to really explore your world fully now. Breathe it in while you still have a chance.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

"Nice spec. Buy you a drink?" This haggard line was actually used on me at a puzzlebar this weekend. Needless to say, I had to retort with another classic: "What's your sign, baby?" Dragons, get new material. Please.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Cased any joints lately? Several Balls I know are up to no good. Crime doesn't pay, dudes.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Expect a windfall. Then do the opposite of your norm. Rather than putting those Lecks back into the games, please set some aside. You'll need them next month.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Kick those energy leeches out of your life. You know you have to sooner or later!

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

If we shadows have offended, think but this and all is mended. That you have but slumbr'd here, whilst these visions did appear.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Does my third eye deceive me? Are you really eyeing the Three Balls? If you want to end up like Joya and Alejo, I suppose it's really none of my business.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Spring is all sprungy, so splurge on something cute and pastel. Nothing works as well as fashion for a panacea!

And remember, you won't help children grow by pulling them up higher.

...FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11
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The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You've been hard at work spinning that web of yours. This week you'll finally get a look at your grand design. It's perfect!

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Wear something yellow today. And no, I mean something that started out yellow. It brings out your ruddy optimism.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Getting awfully full of yourself, aren't you? Don't worry, I know a little Hand who's going to put you in your place.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Tuesday will be a very, very bad day. Better call in sick and hide under the covers.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Ever feel like you're the last of a dying breed? That's because you are. And who do you think will miss you, anyway?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You should have a nice chat with your mother. She misses you, and we both know you've got some things you really should tell her.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

All of this practice being patient is having a salubrious effect on you. Blood pressure down, in touch with your inner light, and so forth. You even find solves faster! Keep up the good work.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're getting frustrated at your irrational surroundings. Take a deep breath, help yourself to a good glass of wine, relax. It will all start to make sense before long.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

When every die cast falls your way, be grateful that you're here to play.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This week you'll see right through the Archer's fabrications. Don't be afraid to speak up, you know you're on the right side.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Looking at your spring wardrobe? You'll feel better about it if you wait until next week, after you catch a stomach bug and lose five pounds.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Don't be so hard on yourself on Wednesday, it could happen to anybody. On Friday, though, you should have seen it coming. Better luck next time!

And remember, nobody keeps a secret forever.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 18

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Web's done, so take a time out. Get to the library and ask yourself, "What would Charlotte do?"

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Trust your gut. If you think the hand's bad, it probably is. But then, you knew that, right?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Well, that smarted! Sometimes it is okay to bite that which smacks you.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Remember how much fun you used to have with the neighborhood kids, playing tag in the street? Games can still be that freeing, so go with the flow.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You never were so hot at pick up sticks. Does it sting that she didn't call? Welcome to the rest of the human race, boyo.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

When the revolution comes, it'll be people like you against the wall. Of course, we all know spheres don't rest against a wall easily, so let's just say there'll probably be a vice involved.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Long story short. Snorkels ahoy! Prepare to eat trout, you lucky duckling.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Quite lost down the rabbit hole, aren't ya? This babe's the one to give you a helping hand.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

All work and no play yield great rewards at the end of the day.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

It's like I used to tell my sister: if you're going to head south, make sure you bring the spray. If you mess with the bull, you'll get the horns.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Can't get that promotion you want by resting on your laurels. The effort you'll need to make comes reflexively to others, so you'll have to really put on a good show.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You have reason to stand tall. Just make sure you don't hit your head on that load-bearing strut over there!

And remember, the most amazing journey happens without taking a step.

... FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 25

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You are a rare and special flower. No, really. I don't care what all those other people say.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

My, my. Hasn't my little up-and-downer gone and made himself a big ol' fanboy? A little birdie tells me that you've quite the crush on a certain big name gamer. Remember, they taze stalkers.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Sure have your work cut out for you. Use the week to recharge. It's the calm before the storm.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Well, tip you over and pour you out: someone's hiding a lush secret. It's not as covert as you think. I spy with my little eye a spider in the know.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Dude, have you tried the dragon roll at Asiachique? It's a little explosion of heaven in one's mouth. It's really just the thing to soothe the savage beast.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Grey days got you down? I hear Brain Benders has a special happy hour on when it's raining. Get in out of the wet and have a little fun. Tell 'em Madame B. sent you, and you'll get the works.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your lucky charm isn't working so well these days. Best to grow out of those childish superstitions.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

It happens that I found myself at the Mimasan Maze last night, and naturally I thought of you, dear reader. Meditation early this week will do you much good, leading to unbound clarity in the days ahead.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Phee phi pho phum. Phew that you've returned to mum.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Stop being so frenetic; it's making me nervous. Roll on back to the bar. No eel and cucumber for you, though; it wouldn't sit right when you're so unsettled.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

I see you're getting a little careless. Is it on purpose? Make sure you know what happens when you get caught, babe.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

As the pop song goes, you'll never get the spoils if it's not in the cards. Stick a card up your sleeve, snookums, and let the spoils come to you. But just this once. Our secret. Yours, mine, and the 5 million strong Sentinel readership.

And remember, truth can never be told so as to be understood, and not be believed.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2

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The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

An itsy bitsy conflict finds you on the right end of the debate at the end of the week. Enjoy it while it lasts.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Recent mania notwithstanding, you have, in fact, been trending upwards. Renew your perspectives and clear your mind. Perhaps a Wheel game would be just the ticket this weekend?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Naivete from you, my dear? Don't let a flirty competitor cloud your ambition. Be the first in flight.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Sharks patrol these waters. I know you're ready to get out. I'm pleased to inform you that land is totally ahoy.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Thursday will introduce a tall, dark, handsome stranger. Yes, I hear you moaning all the way over here. Nonetheless, stranger things happen.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

All dressed up and nowhere to go? The party's wherever you are, pet. It's all about the attitude.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Yet again, you find yourself in over your head. When your only tool is a ninja, every problem looks like a bodybag.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Oi. Be careful Friday night. If that hot date doesn't burn the joint down, the candles might.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

When the game is running long, and your apple's out of reach, keep in mind that all things end, and the apple's there to teach.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Riddle me this.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Front-burner some personal time. Play hooky and head to Hex's for an afternoon session. It's in the cards, baby.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Plunge into the dating pool mid-week with some pals. Cast your rod carefully. Here there be dragons.

And remember, with time, the river softens even the sharpest pebble.

...FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 9

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Fashion plate, surely you've heard that tailored looks are the spring thing. Can we ditch the revivalist puffs now? It's not like you to be so behind.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Ambiguity is quite the lifestyle, huh? Let's, just this week during that big date, lay our cards on the table once and for all. See where the ride takes us.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Now that's my wham bam Archer! Take some more names this week during volleyball at the Alchemy Beach season opening on Thursday.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

The idyllic greener grass you seek is merely simulacrum. It sucks to always get what you want, fickle pickle.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

It's too early in the day for me to deal with you, fire-breath. You need to just stop spewing all over the rest of us. Ugh.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Oi. You could use a perk up, and I'm clearly just not getting through to you. I do recommend you hook up with an Archer; the mere wake of the arrow should be enough to pull you upwards.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Prolong this moment of power; the social implications that could result are just dizzying.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Anxiety does not become you. The flattering shade of chill, however, may well suit. I haven't seen you this stressed since your first exams, which, by the way, you so survived.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Candy is dandy, but liquor works quicker.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your actions last week infuriated me. Organ donation: consider it. Soon.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Like to be filthy, stinking rich? Yeah, me too. Settle for winning a round's worth of Lecks? Play the mini strips on Saturday.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Crisis much? It's faith vs. reason right here in the nest, folks. What would Ockham do?

And remember, the only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 23
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The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Things and you: not so together. There's not a lot I can say to fix it, since the stars say you do need to lie in that bed you made. Take matters firmly into your own hands and wrangle them back to normal. I mean, like it can hurt?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

So, so, so off target. You've got precisely one day to sloth about feeling sorry for yourself. I'll even let you stay in your sweats and eat Rummy Descartes all the livelong day. But when the Cinderella hour strikes, get your game on, sweet thing.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Let's recap. Money? Check. Love? Check. And coming around the corner, a touch of harmless adventure? Totally check. Spice it up, babe.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

I see there's another Dragon entering your life. Sure, go for it, why should I care? You two totally deserve each other. It'll keep you out of everyone else's hair, anyway.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

A world of exhaustion has settled over your face, and my dear, I'm sorry to say it shows. Get yourself a facial and a massage, or at least a little beauty sleep.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

If you happen to find yourself at a card table Thursday night, and your hands seem too good to be true, get out fast. Turns of good luck don't last long for you this week.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Feeling a little lost? Sure, you're used to being the puzzler, but being puzzled could mean this is just the Dice you've been looking for.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

On life's vast ocean diversely we sail; reason the card, but passion is the gale.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Jamboree time! Head down to Alchemy Beach with your eighty closest friends for a midnight clambake and volleyball party. It's just what you need to relax into the warm season. Man, I love summer.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

I promise you're getting the hang of it. It might not seem like it now, but you'll feel like an old hand by the end of the month. Psychic's honour.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Yeah, I know you want the one with the snap and the sparkle. But the stars are telling me you'd do much better to have another peek at the mellow fellow.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Free at last! or so you think -- don't let it get to your head, because in about ten minutes you're going to have to buckle down to your next five big projects.

And remember, never apologise until you're sure you know what you're accused of.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 30**
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The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Fell down any holes lately, kid? It's a mad world out there, but you can handle it. Buckle up, suck it up, and generally keep up. The destination is so well worth the journey.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You're boring me. What happened to my brave little soldier? Your life is never a test, man.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Explanations, apologies, and supplications aren't necessary. You are who you are, and this is what it is. You're not being shifty, you're being honest.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your general thriftiness is rapidly becoming unusual cheapness. For [my vicarious] thrills, how's about you splurge on that special someone. Hey, even seers get the blues.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Explore your options, cos Saturday's going to be a doozy. Under cup number one lies pat safety. Cup number two reveals dormant passion yet to resurface. Cup number three offers riches beyond your wildest, uh, poker haul dreams. No choice is a bad choice here, jugglepuff.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Sabotage isn't so much classy, but it sure is a hoot.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I'm sorry, but did you actually need a slave? It's so not cool to lead a dull around by his heartstrings. I don't even want to know what you're actually getting out of this.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

If your mate makes you wait, don't take the bait, just be late.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Could I perhaps interest you in a game of thermonuclear war? No? Huh. Then what's up with the big honking mess of tar into which you just dug your heels? Alright, Wednesday, when you hear the siren's song -- back away, stat!

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your mind must feel scrambled into a googol pieces. When I'm down, here's what I do. a) Always the sushi. b) A really excellent mindbender versus someone "better" than me. Nothing like showing up the pros, right? c) I advise people what to do because I can. For you though, tamale, I vote option number b.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Tricky position you're playing. Playing both sides isn't the smartest bet when you're playing with major league sharps. Sharkbait, take a respite from the weekend rounds, and give some real thought to whether or not your head's in as deep as your heart.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Get a clue, buy a vowel, and otherwise perk up your ears. If one thing leads to another, where exactly do you think this chica is leading you? Oi, Perplexians, whatever it is that's got you so bothered, let's get over it by next week, m'kay?

And remember, the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 6
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The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Stop waffling and start mulling. There's a huge difference, kiddo. The man who takes his time to arrive at a decision is wise, but the man who flits is nothing but a flitter.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Ingenuity will return to the fore on Sunday. That major breakthrough you've been praying for will strike right in time for the deadline.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Run away with me, jug. I'm itching to get out of the city and to cast off my routine. Let's go for a drive and never look back.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Uphill battles, my prodigious friend, are well ahead of you. But, just, just, just over the horizon is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Lucky number: 6.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Resentment isn't the best way to deal with your frustration. You aren't focused, so why would you be on top of the leaderboard? Putting in some quality self-esteem time will give you the boost you need to climb the rankings.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Dear Shakey. Please play the strips on Friday. Love, B. P.S. When deciding how to spend the cash, please don't forget your friendly neighborhood fortune teller.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're just so gosh darned effortless that I don't quite know what to do with you! In fact, you might want to slow down a bit. Tearing through conundrums *this* much faster than everyone else isn't the greatest way to increase your often sorry likability.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

If at first you don't succeed, don't keep trying until you bleed.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

How long do you really think you can keep going on such little sleep? An "ill" turn in fortune on Thursday will leave you with far more free time. Use this time to catch up and be just that more refreshed for your hot weekend.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Confused much? Babe, you're playing in a whole other league now, and I'm afraid you've been outclassed. How's about popping back to the kiddie pool for a while? Maybe with those little arm floatie things even.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Pride goeth before a fall, and, sweetheart, you're about to fall. Salvage a bit of that pride by kicking butt at a poker tourney this weekend. When you get the cards in your hot, little hands, you'll be unstoppable . . . for a while.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Breathe, pumpkin, breathe. The hard bit's over, and all you have to do now is manage not freak out long enough to plan your next move. You're a sharp, you've got talent, and you'll be just breezy in no time.

And remember, comparisons are odious.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 18**
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The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Well, well, look what you've been up to. Feeling a little proud, then? On top of your game? Just make sure you're not so puffed up that you miss out on your next big thing. And I do mean big.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Feeling a little sore from the Gambol? Wear better shoes next time. The comfy ones, not the pretty ones. And work up to it next time. You of all people should know it isn't all or nothing.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Yes, I know he said he didn't want anything for Solstice Day. Keep your baby blues open, though -- you'll find the perfect thing come Wednesday, and you'll be glad you kept your options open.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Cram it, buster. We both know what's what, and frankly you should know better by now. I'll give you the week to untangle yourself, and then you get a do-over starting Friday, 'k?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Can't get into the festive spirit? Maybe you should spend a little less time alone. Madame says your next long, solitary walk should bring you to a jumping

sushi bar. If the eel doesn't get you into the seasonal fun, the drinks sure will.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Gracious, that's quite a crush you have going. This calls for something big. Try the old serenade-under-the-waterfall bit. Cliches work, yo.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Is it the singer, or the song? Dwell anon, or move along?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This is nothing to play around with. The second you start feeling a little funny, make a break for it and hope you get out of the Old Town in time. I've got to tell you, though, sweet pea, things and you? Not looking so good.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Par-TAY! This week is one big dance number for you. Tickets to the PCAG matches? Score. Date to the beach carnival? You're on it. One little thing you're forgetting: Sleep, babe. If you don't, you'll be sick as a dog by Solstice Day.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Let's say you, me, and a bottle of Ol' 204 went down to the Old Town together. Who do you think gets bounced first?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

All that liberation can make you dizzy, huh? Time to knuckle down and spin yourself some structure. You do better in your web than in the wild, hon.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

So your favorite Brain Bender waiter was a little free with your date last night. Cool it, hot stuff, and go back to make up your short tip. Remember: Anyone can flirt, but not everyone can keep your glass so magically full all night.

And remember, you get what you pay for.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 20
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The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

All you do lately is whine, and I for one am bored to tears of you. The gang keeps not getting back to you? Find a way to be not so tiresome, and maybe you'll start to sparkle again. Can't hurt to try, right?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Oh my darling, you are not cut out for this. Too much, too hard, too ambiguous. Well, nobody ever said life was fair, and a good thing, because it just is not. Someone close to you is keeping a fab secret, though, and as soon as the beans spill, your outlook will get rosier.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Gliding along thinking life is just one long party? After last week, I can see how you might get that impression. Gird your loins, babe, because this is fixing to be the worst Solstice Day ever for you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Lose the girl, dumpling. Just do it, no time for small talk about regrets or whatever. That's some toxic karma she's sporting, and I for one don't want to be at ground zero when what goes around comes around.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your edge is so sharp it hurts just to think about you lately. Time to use it to your advantage: Hit some of the high-stakes clubs on the Strip and rake it in. Strategy only, though, kiddo, because your luck stinks just now.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You, my dear, are positively growing mold. Pick the dungeon lock and get some sunlight and a cool breeze before the summer passes you by. Oh, and it wouldn't hurt to smile, unless those muscles have gone and atrophied on us.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Rest not! Life is sweeping by; go and dare before you die. Something mighty and sublime, leave behind to conquer time.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Seriously? No. I mean it. Just give it up already. The dogged persistence schtick is so not working.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

It's easy to get swept off you feet by the holiday, and you do so love a holiday. Keep your wits about you, though, because boy howdy is your work going to be cut out for you come next week. Five minutes today? Totally will save you an hour on Monday.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

It's OK to loosen up this week, you're in the clear. Find something glam to wear, kick up your heels and stay out way too late having way too much fun, then do it again the next day. I totally promise it won't set you back any.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You certainly are handling your tumult gracefully. Keep on with the winning strategy: watch a movie, eat some pie, find yourself some scintillating conversation. This is the kind of interlude people go on wilderness hikes for, and you're getting it plus electricity!

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Lucky duck, your friends have an extra invite to the hottest Solstice Day party in town. Now's the time to make sure they aren't holding grudges for that thing, you know, from a few weeks back.

And remember, nothing can erase regret.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 27**
.....

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Now that the holiday is over, unwind a little. The crew, they don't need you as much as you think. They'll get by, promise.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Stick to salads this week. I've got a third eye that says your favorite lunch spot isn't keeping the faith with the health authorities, if you know what I mean.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

How about we bury that rusty hatchet and take a nice long holiday in Fivebridge, just the two of us? We both know it won't last, but we might get a fantastic week or two, at least.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Just grow up, already. It's not even fitting to see that kind of a sulk in a 10-year-old, so what makes you think it's becoming on you? If you stop pretending the sky is grey, maybe you'll notice how blue it is.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Look, I'm not going to tell you how to run your life, but you don't have to be psychic to see you, blossom, are falling to pieces. Try to say "no" a few times. Unless you're really looking forward

to that breakdown of yours next month, anyway. Tastes differ.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

That is a spectacular Isabella Levenay clutch you picked up, and I for one am so the jealous. Acts of good taste pay off big: later this week, a simple subway chat about the luxe life is going to turn into a whopper of an opportunity.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Fortune, honor, beauty, youth are but blossoms dying; wanton pleasure, doting love, are but shadows flying.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Can't put the pieces together? Give it a little more time. There's a Maze about to come into your life -- and with a terrific Isabella Levenay bag, I might add -- who will totally help you add it all up. Make the most of it, babe.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Wow, when did you turn into such an ox? Eating out with you nearby is becoming hard on the cleaning bill. It's easy to blame butterfingers, but maybe you should fess up and go to bed early once in a fortnight.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Game's up. Put away your set and get back to work, and how. All of this distraction hasn't set you back too far yet, but if you don't cut it out now, the big boss is going to have some stern words for you next week.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Sure, you're all bubble and cheer on the outside, but where's the real Spider? You of all people should know that there's no use pretending to be something that you just so are not.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Whoa, slow down there, champ! That good thing you're looking at may not be so good under the shiny paint. Maybe you should tap around under the intake a bit, tug on the lamps. Best to know what you're getting into.

And remember, everybody has to sleep eventually.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 4

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You knew what you were getting into when you put your finger into the pot, and now you have to nurse your burn. Use your noggin next time and save the rest of us the worry, 'k?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Make up some lost time this week and put your wheels back on the rails. You've got a long way to go, and no way but to trudge forward. I promise next week will be less tedium, sweet pea. But for now, stick it out.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Already itching for an end to the sun and the heat? You always were a cold one. Take a nice dip in Alchemy Bay, that should cool you off fast enough. Don't forget your sunblock, though. Your shoulders are already thanking me.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

It's berrying season, why not hop out to the farms with the whole family and have yourself some good, clean, agricultural fun? It can't hurt you to get a little sun, at least, and frankly you can use the exercise.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Oh, you dog. Enjoy these days running wild and howling at the moon, because you're up for a fall when they both find out what you're up to. Oh, come on, you know you'll deserve it.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Unexpected flowers in your office leave you looking for a secret admirer this week. You so need to stop and figure out how you got so intimidating that your swain can't even show his face.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Will not some say that I presumptuously have spoken? That from hastening disgrace 'twere better far to hide my foolish face?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

I see you've got some big plans for this week! Word of warning: Before you go out, get a second opinion on that outfit. You may find that color makes you look ghoulish, not glam.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You may have been the hot thing last week, but this week, you'd better know your place, yo. If the gang has to hear you talk about your latest exploits for just one minute, they will so totally shut you out, and coming back in won't be easy.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Ever get the feeling that nobody is really listening to you? Let them make their own mistakes, it's the only way they'll learn. You just take a nice trip to the beach and sit it out, so you're rested enough to put it back together when it all goes wrong. And you're right, it so will all go wrong.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You, darling, are in for the fright of your life this week. You'll know it when the time comes. Just remember what Madam always says: Take a deep breath, count to ten, and then make sure you've got all of the information. It won't turn out half so bad as you expected.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Duplication of effort's a tough break, huh? Well, you should have been paying better attention. You'll get these wrinkles smoothed out in no time, though, and you can look forward to a great reward in a week's time.

And remember, you can always get the sauce on the side.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 11**
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The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

I wouldn't normally say this, but you need to get yourself some religion. I'm not saying it's your only option, but it could sure help you look at things in a different light.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You think you're so cool, and you just so are not. You need to give up the gregarious extrovert bit and try out the wallflower schtick instead. Maybe you'd alienate fewer people that way.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

See? Good things do come to those who wait. I know it seems a little surreal, yet, but you'd better strike while the iron's hot. It would be a crying shame to miss out after all of that anticipation.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your week will be thrown off when you find you can't get your morning cuppa to save your life. You'll run late, you'll miss the subway, your shoes won't match. Just grit your teeth and trudge through it, cookie. Things will be back to normal in no time.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

My, my, you're at quite a loose end. Indecision is unbecoming. I vote you pick a direction, any direction, and plunge forward with everything you've got. Life is risk, babe.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

A fathomless and boundless deep, there we wander, there we weep; on the hungry craving wind my spectre follows thee behind.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Now is a fantastic time to start a band. Keep your eyes open for an Eagle with rhythm and a Wave who speaks in poetry -- but it's your job to pull it all together. The stars are scrambling to make you one of their own.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Put your va-va-voom to use, chickadee. That old curmudgeon upstairs won't block your way for much longer if you work it a little. Don't worry, nobody thinks it's unprofessional as long as it's not how you do everything.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Things looking a little tight on the fiscal end, I see. Well, it's going to get worse before it gets better. You've got to do some hard things to make it right, and I frankly don't think you have it in you just now.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The boss getting you down? Put your ear to the ground and you may find some big changes afoot. Stay sharp, and I mean it. This kind of chance to mold your circumstances doesn't come along every day, you know.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

The lies you're telling will benefit nobody in the end. Look, it's going to hurt everybody when you come clean, but there's a good time to do it opening up. If you don't do it now, it's all going to be much, much worse before this farce is over.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Post-holiday, post-birthday, and you didn't get even half the cool stuff you had your eye on. Feeling a little blue, huh? Well, that's what you get for being so greedy. Look at the good things that happened, muffin, not the good things that didn't.

And remember, wisdom is too big for the lone seeker.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 18

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

There is a fine line between lovability and lunacy, duckling, and you've been doing a bit of veering these days. Try to tone down the hysteria and get in touch with what really matters.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Broke much? One word for you: budget. Sure, it takes a little bit of discipline, and that so is not your strong suit. Just think of it as a fun game to see how much money you can not spend, and your high score is the balance left in your bank at the end of the month.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Gosh, I'm scared for you. You've been hanging around some dodgy characters lately, huh? Cut your local psychic a break, promise to lock your doors at night and make sure your mum always knows where you are.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

If anybody ever needed a little sharp red, it's you, poppet. There's something big whacking you right on the nose, and you too dull to just put the pieces together. Why don't you jumble it all together and take another look?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

What I wouldn't give to be you this week! Just between you and me, though, you might want to keep it under your hat for a while. You're about to feel the hand of luck, and that can make people a little jealous.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Loving, laughing, two by two; is that what humankind's to do? If that's the truth that sets us free, then where does that bring thee and me?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Someone you love is easing out of your life. Settle in with some ice cream and cry on Madam's shoulder, poor baby. It hurts, I know, but now isn't the time to fight it, it will all work out for the best, and I so am not just saying that.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Oh, just charming. I know you've got the market cornered on immature, but isn't that a bit much even for you? Be brave and make with the apologies before they sail you out of town on a rudderless dinghy.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Thinking about a big change? Start with a haircut instead. It might change how people react to you just enough that you can figure out how happy you really are, after all.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You make those webs look so easy, but we both know how hard it is to keep up that cool nonchalance of yours. Maybe you should take a little rest from the weaving and see how things pan out without all the help from you. You just might be pleasantly surprised.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You, sweet pea, need to get back to nature, or something like that. Me, I'm an urban kind of seer, but you need to go and surround yourself with some trees and grass for a while, or something like that. I'm told it's cleansing.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Splash a little paint on your walls, hot stuff, and buy some new curtains. You've been leading the frugal life well enough, and you do deserve a little luxe now and again. And anyway, I see a happy windfall coming your way by week's end.

And remember, sometimes it's better to sneak in the side door than to march in the front.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 25**
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your usual panache is losing its gleam. Take an inventory of your personal flair and I bet you'll figure out how to recapture your magic. Here's a hint to get you started: Lose the blues, babe, no matter what it takes.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

That's one fine losing streak you've got there, muffin. I think you must have set some kind of personal record. The good news is, you just may yet learn how to handle defeat graciously. Then again, knowing you, maybe not.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

I was out at the Mobius Strip last weekend on a wild goose chase for some restaurant a friend told me was oh-so-great, and stumbled across the perfect thing for you this week. Go check out the luck-inducing berry-custard special at Murphy's on the Strip. Your tongue can thank me later.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Feeling a little nautical? Me, too. This is a good week to while away a few hours at the Marmalejo Boathouse looking at the pretty boats and the pretty, pretty crew teams.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You need to get out of town and give yourself a little time and space to think. Alone, thanks very much. There have been some fast-paced developments in your personal life, and getting in touch with what you're really thinking will help you deal better.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Glimmer, glitter, glow; do true truths thus show? Nay, pure truth in thought -- it hides and must be sought.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You've been hitting Crispy Heaven a bit too much lately. Lucky for you there's an Apple-Thief right around the corner for you, just waiting to induce that infatuation weight loss. And not a moment too soon.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

I see some horrid bags under your eyes, and we both know you don't handle lack of sleep very well. I never thought I'd say this, but maybe getting a little more shut-eye is more important than keeping up with your hopping social calendar. Just, you know, for a little while.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

I think it's high time you went out on a weeknight and did something a little crazy. Take your ex to a pick-up poker game. Try to get into the Neue Curiosity Shop.

Whatever spins your wheel. Just, you know, something to show you remember how to be fun and impulsive like a normal human being.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

My, my, haven't we been busy? You just may be pulling yourself out of that messy web after all. If you keep up like this, you might lose your carefully-cultivated rep for youthfully indiscreet.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

This is an easy week to just bob along and see where you wind up. But I'll bet you ten lecks on the five that you'll reap bigger rewards by fighting the current and going where you choose to go instead.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Melancholy days at hand, kitten? Sorry to say they'll last for a while, yet. Nothing you can do but try to wait out the storm and not get blown overboard.

And remember, that calm-before-the-storm bit? So not true.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 1
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You're not cut out for a life of crime, bub. If you let go of that illusion that you can carry out all of those maniacal daydreams of yours, you may find your days go a lot smoother.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

It's fine to pretend to be too busy at work, but you're reaching a point where it just might be true. Frankly, you're about to start dropping balls left and right. Talk to your boss, sweetum, and be a little bit honest for once.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Got dumped, huh? And it was a little harsher than even I expected. Before you use up your lifetime allotment for weeping and brooding, you should know it's just a phase. You lovebirds will be back on track in no time at all.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This week, keep a sharp eye on your surroundings, watch where you're walking, and don't do any chopping for dinner. The stars say you're accident-prone this week, and nobody wants you to make an emergency visit to Phuah over those lovely peppers you found at the market.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

When you go out on Thursday, the cutie at the bar may give you an ice-over, but don't lose your inner warmth. There's somebody else watching how you react, and you could ignite a very cosy blaze of sympathy.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Day after day we can't help growing older. Year after year spring can't help seeming younger. Come let's enjoy our wine-cup today, not pity the flowers fallen!

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You, muffin, have got to learn to keep your nose out of other peoples' business. A little misplaced curiosity on Monday is going to have you in a mess you didn't ask for by Friday.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

This week is leading you into an effort to try new things. Don't resist this time, you're about to find your new favourite hobby. Doesn't hurt that it comes as naturally to you as breathing, either.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

This is a great week to look for all of the oddments you've misplaced over the last several months: That book you swear you bought, those comfy trousers... maybe even the affections of your ex. Just be sure not to go looking for something

you don't want as long as you're superfinder.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

It's nice and all to savour the past and anticipate the future, but you need to start enjoying your present, peanut. Otherwise your life will pass you by before you figure out why you're never having any fun.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I am so tired of your built-in sense of entitlement. Sometimes you need to work a little to earn what's coming to you. Don't think about it too hard, though; now is a good time to forget the navel-gazing. Just grab your pick and chip away.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Nice little mystery you've got there. Holding out for more information? Tough, it's so not happening for you. Suck it up and get to work figuring out how you can apply what you know already. You could figure out more than you think.

And remember, the more you know, the less you need.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 8**
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Grill on, my friend. Take some beer and your beau down to the beach and enjoy these long, hot summer days -- trust me, everything else you have going on right now can wait until September.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Oh, please, can't you put six squares to make a cube by now? You're not being optimistic, you're being ridiculous. It's time for you to have a hefty dose of reality and take a look around with fresh eyes. You may find you aren't in the sweet spot the way you've been thinking.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

The yammering and the drama in your workplace are getting out of hand, huh? Bad news, muffin: Nobody upstairs is paying attention to you. You might be better to pack up your toys and find someplace new to play.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

I can see you're thinking of heading down to the casino to escape the heat. Watch out, you may find it's too hot for you inside, too -- they still remember that last stellar lucky streak of yours.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Look, your friends may be too polite to say, but in the interest of the public: your hygiene is a train wreck. It's time to take a break from your rich inner world and pay some token attention to the physical one. Please. From all of us, please.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

What hardships on the road may come, will make us more in love with home; home--the dear scene of all that's pleasing, though boys are rude and girls are teasing.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Fast times are turning you into a real doll. Looks like you're finally hitting the pace you've been looking for. Just make sure you find the right number of pots to boil and you should have a golden time the next few months.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Avoid ocean-derived foods this week, muffin. Especially sushi. That great place you just found? Not quite as fresh as advertised.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Swoop over to Dalia Way and take a good look at the fall merchandise coming in. Your best colours are in all the hot boutiques, but if you don't fly your best bets will be selling out.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Touch base, sweetie. They all love you and they're super-worried. A little bit of reassurance can go a long way -- and who knows, maybe you'll find a little bit of help in getting through what you're going through.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Cards are mostly lucky for you until Thursday, but if you value your pride, don't play pyramid. Really you should just stick to poker. If you play pyramid, I can't guarantee your personal safety.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

All of the pressure winds up giving you a nasty summer cold this week. Take some time out to rest, and it wouldn't hurt to read up on ways to boost your immune system. You've been giving the ol' bod a nasty beating these days.

And remember, you have to sacrifice to gain.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 15
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

It's natural to want to overindulge on a special day, but I promise you're going to feel so the rat's tail the next day. Use a little forethought and try to make sure you're not going to have any strenuous demands while you recuperate.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You are positively steaming hot this week, darling. The hair, the clothes, the flair, it all falls together for you like a finished jigsaw. Take advantage and have a new portrait done.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This is a lucky week for you to plan a picnic at Creation Park; say, Friday in the early evening. Bring lots of wine and cheese, and be prepared to share with other Dice -- oh, and bring your own deck of cards, because you Dice do tend to forget these things.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Sorry to say, looks like your key is going to malfunction this week. Just when you had it comfy, too. Sorry, duckling, but it isn't your week for tech. Check your data caches before it's too late.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Summer's kiss may touch your neck and lead your sleepy head astray; but cool and thought are yet in reach, for golden autumn's on her way.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You'll be cursing your fine immune system this week. It's going to keep you from getting that nasty thing that's hitting your office, sure, but it means you're the only one around to do all of the, you know, work. Better cancel that date, since there's no way you'll get there on time.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your flatmate is throwing a party for when you have plans this week, and no, you aren't invited. If I were you, button, I'd throw one of those famous tantrums. Oh, and maybe start looking for a new flatmate.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Promise me not to wrap any presents yourself. I don't care how long the line is, stay for the complimentary gift-wrapping at the store. Otherwise you're going to be an embarrassment to yourself, and frankly, also to me.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You're fuzz-headed and overwrought toward the end of this week. Nothing in specific to blame, just not yourself, kitten. You shouldn't watch anything sad with anyone you don't want

seeing you sobbing your poor, red eyes out.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

That idea you've had scratching at the back of your brain is just about baked, sweet pea. It's about time for you to write it all out and then make with the ambition and initiative. Sky's the limit unless you don't try!

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You are going on a long journey. No, I swear, you are. I know it's trite, but I have to call it like I see it, so stop your eyes before they roll right out of your head.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Try your hand at some domestic pastimes for a few days. Especially try to make some berry pies before the season is gone. It's not particularly lucky for you or anything, but everybody likes a good berry pie, right?

And remember, goodness speaks softly, but evil bellows.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 15**
.....

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And remember, goodness speaks softly, but evil bellows.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 22
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

It may seem a little premature, but maybe you should start planning your, you know, final arrangements. Maybe look into a good life insurance policy. I'm not saying anything. Just a sharp kid is always prepared.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Feeling a little slowed-down, sunshine? It's the summer heat. Things will start to pick up again in a month or so, when the wind of change will turn into a right tornado for you. Batten down the hatches, button.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You've been dreadfully ascetic, my pumpkin. You need to treat yourself to a night on the town and some old-fashioned pampering. Even you are a social animal.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Shun clover honey at all costs, especially for baking or as a yoghurt topping. Buckwheat has a much deeper, richer colour, and a lot more flavour.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

If it means nothing after all! And nothing lives except to die -- it is enough -- that solemn light behind the barns, and you and I.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Try to catch some cat-naps this week. You simply haven't been taking care of yourself, and I can't bear to watch it any longer. Drowsy is the mortal foe of sharp.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You need to learn that whinging will not get you what you want. Quite the opposite. If I were you, I'd learn to ask nicely and cope with frustration.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Some time ago, someone you love wronged you, and you've been harbouring a grudge ever since. Soon, that someone is going to try to make recompense. It would be much better for everybody if you just let it go. The other way lies a lifetime of regret.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Secrets, secrets, whispering to you from every quiet corridor. A little overwhelming, isn't it? Don't worry, it's so not your job to be everyone's special confidante, so start telling them you just don't want to know.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Your motives may be pure, honey, but you need to take a step back and look at what it looks like to everyone else. Sometimes it's better to leave well enough alone, got it?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You need to start paying more attention to your surroundings. Sure, you can spot a good tell at a poker table, but you'll never notice the brunette with the full house making eyes at you. Wake up and spot the flirtation.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your head is full of moonbeams this week, but don't fret over it. The very best ideas need a little moonlight of the brain for you to notice them.

And remember, a flag will follow the wind.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 29**
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Those birds, chirping on the windowsill -- what are they trying to tell you? Well, I'll tell you, maybe you shouldn't be coming home at sunup when you're due at work in a few hours, pumpkin.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Time's about right for a shower, don't you think? I mean, I know you're busy, but nobody is as busy as all that. Really.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Skip breakfast this week. I see delays in your morning travel, and also unsightly stains on your clothing. Better not to risk it. And anyway, you could so lose the calories and not miss them.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I took a lovely trip to Rudon Forest this weekend and thought of you. So peaceful. So calm. So not like you. I'd say you should go, but I don't want you bothering everyone else.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

As the willow bends with the wind, casting her seed to the earth; a city will rise up and purge the sins from all peoples of worth.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Remember that party last year, when you thought your sweetie was having a spring fling without you there? And how it all proved to be not true after all? Well, hoo-boy is it true now!

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

This would be an excellent week to finally finish up some loose ends. Definitely not for starting, just for finishing. I know you're not used to it, but don't you think it's about time to, you know, grow up a tiny bit?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Aw, muffin, I know you're feeling down. It won't last, though. Cheer yourself up and go take a few hands down at Bullets. For once, the cards will be flipping right for you.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The hottie with the smouldering eyes is so into you, but you don't have a real shot unless you can ditch your loser friends. Try to do it subtle-like, though, because there's nothing unsexier than "Beat it, guys, I want a hook-up."

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I see flooding in your future. Lots of flooding. You should preemptively move anything you really, really need to stay dry to someplace high, and preferably in a room without a water-emitting appliance.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You, my pretty, are having a little too much, shall we say, adventure? It may be a riot, but it's taking a toll on you, what with the wrinkles and the greying hair. If you won't tone down the party-life, at least try to make a spa day.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You should spend a day thinking about what your instincts tell you and then doing the opposite. Preferably Thursday. It will be an eye-opener, that's for sure.

And remember, when you sleep between the onion and its skin you get nothing but the stink.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 5**
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

No plan turns out the way you'd expected, this week. Of course, what else is new? It won't be all bad, but you will have to do a lot of reconsidering stratagems.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Whoa, muffin, try to keep a lid on that temper! The one thing you do not have right now and so need: perspective. Try to keep a rational head on your shoulders until the urge to tantrum passes.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You, my sweet, need to find yourself a new pair of boots. The ones you lived in last year are looking the worse for wear, and out of style by now, anyway. If you shop sharp, you should find something you love even more.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Just breaking a glass is only the beginning of your troubles. I would highly suggest that you not handle anything you can't replace for a good long while -- unless, you know, you don't like it.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

From a pot of wine among the flowers, I drank alone. There was no one with me -- till, raising my cup, I asked the bright moon to bring me my shadow and make us three.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

It isn't so like you to be going all dewy-eyed over little furry animals and babies, but there it is. Try to enjoy this newly found soft side while it lasts; it might even help you impress a few people who wouldn't have given you a second thought before.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Don't spend a single leck this week. Everything that catches your eye will be on sale next week, so if you can just contain your enthusiasm for a few days, we'll be just peachy. Also, you may be surprised how many people step in to buy things for you.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Somebody's got stars in his eyes! Don't go planning a wedding yet, though. You should really work on that first date, instead. Remember: arrive on time and don't blabber about dumb things you did in grammar school.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You should really check the weather report before you go out. Your instincts are wrong every day this week, so you're going to find yourself freezing, baking, and wet, unless you follow my advice (which you won't, but a psychic's got to try, right?)

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You need to get more fruit into your diet, sunshine. It's just getting into apple season, so why not run out to one of the harvest festivals outside town and have yourself some rural fun? If only to make you appreciate the urban life a little more.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You're in terrible danger -- of being the last person in the city who hasn't heard the new RFD album! What are you waiting for? Hurry up and buy, poppet. You know you wanted to, anyway.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Go on, soak up some sunshine while it lasts. Summer's done, and it's almost time to get back down to serious business.

And remember, don't let an angry man wash dishes; don't let a hungry man guard the soup.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 12
.....**

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Well, well, colour me impressed. Looks like you've got your balancing act perfected (for now). Don't get on your boss to notice, though, since she's too busy trying to clean up the mess you made last week.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

A paper cut this week in an awkward spot leaves you uncomfortable and whiny for three days. Now is not a good time to try to make new friends, pumpkin. Decline all party invitations until the self-pity peters out.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're going to get a once-in-a-lifetime chance at a childhood dream sometime soon. Throw caution to the winds, sunshine. There's a time to be prudent, but every great achievement starts with a big gamble.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Vain, foolish man! How vast thy pride, how little can your wants supply! 'Tis surely wrong to grasp so wide. You act as if you only had to triumph -- not to die!

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The boy is treating you wrong, and you know it. I can see you aren't ready to do what needs to be done just yet, oh, but muffin, when you see what he's been up to on Thursday, you sure will be.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Exuberance will get you in the door, but if you can't tone it down, it's going to show you the exit, too. I suggest you start by omitting the words totally, awesome, great, and sharp from your vocabulary.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

A malfunctioning key throws your entire week off before you figure out it's going haywire. They may be durable, dear, but that doesn't mean they can stand up to your brand of mistreatment. Bet your warranty won't cover it, either.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You so need to liven up your living space a little. I'd say houseplants, but you do not have the nurturing instincts of a gardener. Time to hit some craft fairs and pick up some paintings, I think -- but colours, please, and not the drab stuff you're normally drawn to.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You've got your sizzle on this week, hot stuff! Use your sexy power responsibly -- don't break too many hearts. Unless it's, you know, absolutely necessary.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You've got some emotion bubbling in there, and it's high time you found a creative outlet for it. Don't hold back. It's important that you, at least, figure out what's going on in that nog of yours.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You've become too disconnected from the world, dumpling. Spend a few days dipping your fingers back into the media stream. You'll find you were missing that zing of connection.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You may think your tough month is past, but things are just getting started for you. You're being pulled in so many directions that even I can't guess what's best for you. Keep your eyes open, and try not to jump to any unwarranted conclusions.

And remember, the greatest river starts as a tiny stream.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 19
.....

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Well, ducky, that should teach you to meddle, shouldn't it? The price was certainly high enough. We all know you won't keep your fingers out of others' business, so let's just hope you've learned a thing or two about finesse.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Nothing is ever enough for you, is it? Word to the wise: setting high standards and being unreasonably demanding are so not the same thing. Life might be a lot sweeter for you if you'd open your eyes and widen your expectations.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

A bit of offhand kindness last week pays big dividends this week -- practically a freebie, considering how little effort it took you. See? Doing the right thing is always the right thing to do.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The beautiful star shines over the woods, smoking as it sinks and vanishes; the moon, too, dies over the forest green.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The thrill of the chase is at hand. Throw everything you've got at it, babe; particularly your keen skills of observation and deduction. Your would-be sweetheart won't be able to resist once you've armed yourself.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your indecision would be forgivable if you were galvanised to action when the need arose -- you need to work on acting this week, lamb. Life demands total participation to be enjoyed.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Aw, muffin, feeling a little down this week, huh? For what it's worth, even psychics get the blues. Cry it out, wear black for a few days, really get into the mood of it -- acceptance is a necessary prereq for carrying on.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Have you ever felt like you'd forced someone into doing favours for you, and then abandoned her during her own hour of need? Well, you should, you cad. I am ashamed of you.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Pyramid is clearly too complicated for you this week, sweet pea. You've had some emotional times, lately, and you simply won't be able to focus on anything. Stick to something simpler, like checkers.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Well, sunshine, that is a tough knot you've ravelled. If you think about it hard enough you'll be able to work yourself out again -- just don't tense up and thrash around, that will only make it worse.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You have what you wanted, don't you? And I can see it isn't making you happy, that's for sure, no matter what you'd expected. It just goes to show the proverb is true: Be careful what you wish for, pumpkin.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Things may not be what they seem. Remember, though, that means something that looks and feels contrived may be legit. Be sure to check the cards for yourself on every call.

And remember, half a loaf is better than none.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 26
.....**

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You're in need of some culture. Go see a show, take in a concert, visit a museum -- just pick something, and make it fast, because your same-old chatter at parties is growing tedious.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Did you ever think you'd see the day when you were on the winning side of every draw? Yeah, me neither -- a tradition that carries on through this week, at least. Polish up that losing streak, muffin, it's all you've got to show.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Sometimes you puzzle me with your moods and your seasons. Unfortunately, it seems like you puzzle yourself, too. Try taking up some solid introspection to figure out your own motivations. After all, you can't get what you want until you know what that is.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The pauper who wants only what he can afford sleeps soundly. But he who would fly to new fortunes, although he hastens abroad speedy vessels, sees his trouble stand by.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You: taciturn. Everyone else: not buying it. Don't expect sympathy if you don't let anyone else know what's going on, exactly, pumpkin.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Aren't you too old to stuff yourself on harbonnes like that? I prescribe a daily hike round Polygon Park until you've managed to sweat them out again. And anyway, it's a nice change to spend some time outdoors before it gets too cold for that kind of thing.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You clearly did not listen to your mother well enough growing up. Don't you know better than to bite off more than you can chew? And no, I so am not talking about table manners. Though you need to work on that, too.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You've spent a long time at the self-improvement game, but I give you permission to take a bit of a break. What's the fun if you can't be at least a little naughty some of the time?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Passive much? There's a time and a place to act. I'll give you the benefit of the doubt for now, but remember, sooner or later you have to step in and grab the reins of your own life.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You know that boss that keeps taking credit for the things you do? Well, there's some good news and some bad news. The good news: You won't have that problem much longer...

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

I was out at Fenlon's grabbing a cup of tea over the weekend, and realised that what you need is some structure to your life. The creative spirit free-thinking thing? It's nice and all, but it doesn't seem to be keeping you in clean underwear.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Isn't it funny how sometimes you can miss something that's staring you right in the face? I imagine you'll sort it out eventually, but if I were you, I might start to work on my powers of observation.

And remember, better late than never.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 3**
.....

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Your paranoia is getting out of hand, my sweet. Time for you to start marching forward without all of that looking over your shoulder nonsense. Honestly, if they were all against you, do you think you'd stand a chance anyhow?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Quit it with the sleepy eyes and get to work! You're getting a reputation around the office for not carrying your own weight, lately, and you don't want word getting up to the top, do you?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

This week, you will become the victim of petty crime. So petty you may not even be aware of it. I suggest you keep a sharp eye on your mints -- and it wouldn't hurt to count them.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Silences are melodies heard in retrospect.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Are you still using that old, worn-out model of key? Not even new charms on it? Oh, pumpkin, if you want to run with the fast crowd, you have to keep to the fast tech.

Upgrade your kit and you just may upgrade your life, too.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Keep away from the sharp things this week, kitten. This is a good week to order in for your meals. Trust me, there's no cute doctor in the world who will be impressed by your tomato-slicing injuries.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Luck is with you for a few days, but it's up to you to figure out how to use it. Try not to squander it on small stuff like finding your missing sock -- I'm talking big picture, muffin, like getting those shoes accidentally marked for clearance.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Dress warmly. You will be inexplicably chilly for a few days. You're not coming down with anything, mind you, you'll just be a bit cold. This will disappear as suddenly as it came on Friday afternoon.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I know we're into harbonne season now, but that doesn't give you leave to go on the all-harbonnes-all-the-time diet. I mean, nobody is stopping you, but you might want to have a bit of a talk with your belts first to make sure they're up to it.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You know that new fashion trend you thought you'd give a whirl? You know what I mean, dumpling. Well, stop it. It's so not flattering to you, and if you're not careful, someone you know is going to see you.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Ever since you did that thing when you were at home by yourself, I can't think of you the same way. Sometimes being a psychic is a real burden. I might forgive if you send flowers, though.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

In the coming week, there will never be a writing instrument available when you need one. Not even if you make a special note of bringing one with you. It's in the stars, don't look at me.

And remember, conversation is better than riches.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 10**
.....

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

There's never a bad time to make a fresh start, sweet pea. Why don't you tally up the things you shouldn't be doing and then stop with the doing them part? Bettering yourself, it's an ongoing process.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Don't fool yourself into thinking you know what's going on, muffin. The real sharp will see that there are always forces at work that verge on the unknowable -- lucky for you I'm here to explain fate, at least.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

A date will turn sour when your second cousin shows up at the same spot and makes free with stories about your last flame. Who by the way was better for you anyway. It's never too late to make that 'take me back' call.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Light breaks upon the water, breaks in a thousand pieces. So is it with all things, what is broken once will never again be made whole.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

If you feel strongly about something, it's always a good idea to act on it. You don't tend to regret the things you did do half so much as the ones you didn't. Except for that one thing you did, the thing we're not going to talk about anymore.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

A friend will try to borrow five hundred lecks from you this week. Do your best to squirm out of it, you'll never see it again.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your lucky beverage this week: delicious mulled cider. A good solid quaff every day this week will bring you untapped reserves of vigour and ambition. (It's the cinnamon.) Bringing some in to the gang at work may raise your profile to the people on top, too.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You are so getting dumped this week. I'd give you the poor-baby treatment if you didn't deserve it oh-so-very-much. Try harder next time, duckling. At least pretending to listen? Would be a good start.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Outstanding performance on a pop quiz later in the week is the last before a long, dry spell of intellectual fog. If you don't want to lose your standing as the brainiac among your peers, now is a good time to start quietly stockpiling some mental

pharmaceuticals, if you know what I mean.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

A sudden surge of piousness this week leaves you wondering if you have any idea what you're doing with your life. Don't worry, it's going to pass by Sunday and leave you your old, heretical self.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You feel the need to create something with your hands, I see. It's been a little while since you've let your creative vision run free and unfettered, so you may as well give it a go. Just try to keep your blinds down this time, 'k?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your flaky ways have begun to annoy even those you consider your closest and dearest. Shape up, pumpkin, or you won't be able to cash in on your favours-owed anymore -- and worse, you may find yourself giftless at the end of the year!

And remember, none grow fat without eating.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 24
.....

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You, doll, have too much going on. Time for you to start saying handing out more nos before you lose your shiny rep for having it all under control. Delegation: Not just for the weak.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Love what you've done with the place, but it needs a final touch. Hit the Maitland this weekend, I hear they have some very reasonable prices. An original Fairmer may be just the thing to impress you-know-who.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Ah, dearest man, if but thy face I see, I know not what compels me to thy will: So much have I already done for thee, that scarcely more is left me to fulfil.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Nice to see you know how to roll when the dice don't go your way. It's good to know how to handle adversity, muffin. Just make sure you know there's no virtue in always coming out the loser.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Now that cooler weather is coming in, you will pull out your winter clothes and discover you really don't have any. Looks like you got a little too enthusiastic with the purging last spring. So, yes, you do have to go shopping, but at least keep one eye on your account balance, 'k?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

A days-long headache will plague you over the weekend. It's the weather changing, you should be used to it by now. Lay in the sweets and the analgesics, and cancel your plans. Nobody likes to be with a cranky baby.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

My goodness, you seem to be settling into a positive routine. Make sure it's not turning into a rut, darling, that would kill your free creative spirit. Now would be a good time to do some wheel-tipping, just to make sure you've still got it.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Saturday you will receive a long-awaited apology. Don't respond too soon, though; you don't want to look too eager. Play it cool and give yourself some time to figure out the note you really want to strike in this whole sordid matter.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Deception always comes out in the end, sweet pea. Sometimes it's better to face the music up front -- it's very rarely as bad as what happens after you try to get out of it. Your winsome excuses can only take you so far.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A poorly thought-out prank turns the joke on you on Friday. There is the distinct possibility of personal physical harm. You're sure you have a sense of humour?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

I'm becoming very peeved with you. You know that I know that you have a perfectly good fashion sense, but you haven't been acting like it lately. What gives? Mama Levenay misses you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Remember that time when you didn't get promoted? And remember how it caught you when you were already feeling low? Well, the good news is: at least this time you've got your dignity. For now.

And remember, improbable is not impossible.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 17**
.....

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

The stars love you this month. Everything is ready for you to set forth on a great achievement. You can't fail, kitten, so be as grandiose as you can imagine.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

A mystery welt midweek turns into a full-blown allergic reaction by Friday. I'd go and visit a doctor before it gets much more serious, if I were you. It's better to face this kind of thing armed with the info.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Daily we drink our tears and survive on our sorrow. Strange is the way we spend our nights and days; what we go through is hard to describe. What is surprising, is that we are still alive.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You've been lost in your own head a lot lately, doll. Even your pets are feeling a little neglected, much less your friends and family. Block out some time to reconnect -- good for you and for them.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Sleep. It's where it's at. I'm not saying it's not fun to dance 'til dawn, but I am saying you can't expect to keep up like this, still get out the door on time in the morning, and then expect to not fall over sick. Know your limits, sweetling.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

The man with the stick is the one in charge. In this case, looks like it's you. My, I never thought I'd see the day. Use your power wisely. What goes around comes around.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The change of seasons is a wonderful time to contemplate your wardrobe and how very, very wrong it is. Take a look at some of the fashion glossies, hon, because what's in them? Not the same as what's in your closet. Fix, please.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Haven't you had enough of other people's business by now? While you've been off trying to put your ear where it doesn't belong, you may find somebody else has been doing the same to you. Careful, it's not who you'd think, either.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

I see you're curled up licking your wounds. All well and good, but one thing to bear in mind during your introspective time: You need to spend some time looking at your own motivations,

too. Friendship is as friendship does.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You want to be a hero, but you can't seem to find anybody in their hour of need. Look a little smaller, Madna. Sometimes just smiling at the right time can make you somebody's hero.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

I once knew a girl as unreliable as you. I don't know how she got through the day, and I don't know how you do, either. Maybe a life-planning clinic could help? At any rate, you'd better come up with something, and fast.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Put a little oomph into your life. You've got some exceptional charisma this week, so you may be able to finally score a date with that hottie at the puzzle bar who keeps flipping you up. Enough charm can make even a loser look good.

And remember, dig your well before you're thirsty.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 31**
.....

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Lean times, eh? Frugality doesn't come naturally to you, but you know what they say: if you want to drink, you have to pay the bartender. Unless you can talk someone else into paying the bill.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're filled with boundless energy through Saturday. Try to channel it into something useful this time, and not reorganising your drawers, 'k?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

You are like the Sun in all that you have done; what your heart desires comes to pass. If you wish a plan by night, at dawn it comes instantly to pass.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your brain is getting a little rusty, darling. Polish up your sparkling wit and go participate in a few games of skill. Use it or lose it.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

All is well, so you can stop with the fretting and the planning. It might be a good time for you to wake up your senses, though -- a nice hike through Catbite might do the trick, followed by dinner on the Strip.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You need to stop being such a slave to the whims of Fraction Media. Even they can produce a stinker, you know. Branch out a little. Or even a lot. I'm sure just about anyone will have suggestions for you.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Confidence crisis, huh? You know you're a beautiful and special flower, right? OK, maybe not that, but you know that you've got that naughty-crowd zing, at least. Nobody's as good at being bad as you.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Time for a new you. Get to the salon and have a long heart-to-heart with your stylist about your follicular destiny, and work up the courage for some major change. The safest look is almost never the best one.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

My, my, are we having some trouble letting go. You feel the need to make everything just exactly so, and it's doing you worlds of harm. Sometimes, just getting by is good enough.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You and I both know this can't last. In fact, I know it won't even be the good time you're expecting. Pull up anchor and heave to, lamb, or you'll live to regret it.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

I spy a Dragon who needs to spend some time with an Eagle. I know it's a little tense, a little combative, sometimes even outright dangerous, but you'll come away from it with some much-needed perspective. That's what you need. Perspective.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You, my lucky duck, will be the toast of the roast with your oh-so-sharp tongue. Use a little sensible caution, though, or you'll discover that nobody cares for toast much the day after.

And remember, the path of reason is narrow.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 7**
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The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Time management escapes you. Now is a very good time to start examining your data environment and do a little selective tweaking -- even the most beautiful garden needs some pruning and weeding now and then.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I never did know what you saw in her, and it looks like after this week, I won't need to bother about it anymore. Brace yourself, muffin. Sometimes good things only come through hardship.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Only the bones that bleach upon the plains, only the fleshless skeletons that lie in ghastly nakedness and silence, cry out mutely that naught else to him remains.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Time for you to start trying to relate to people a little more unlike you. Seek out and befriend a Dragon or a Spider. It's one thing to rely on the judgement of people you trust, and another thing entirely to only trust the judgement of the people you rely on.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

This week, words fail you. Which is to say, the words that you do come up with are invariably wrong, be they written or spoken. Better to keep your lips tight and work on being a good listener. It's all about the damage control.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your horizons have become a little too wide, sweet pea. Winnow your interests some. There are only so many hours in the day, even for you, and there's no time to savour if you take only the barest taste of each thing.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The next few days will take you through a real confidence-shaker. Now isn't the time to make with the self-doubt and get all introspective, honey. There's time for that after you have what you want, 'k?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

A mental fog has descended upon you, I see. Now isn't the time to break into enhancers, though -- this one is brought on by the stars and not by any sort of imbalance. You'll bounce back to your usual self before too long.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

That whole earnest and sincere act isn't going to fly with me, duckling. You can talk about your principles and ideals until you're blue in the face, but make sure you know your own motivations.

You can lie to yourself, but I'll still know the truth.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Don't wear light colours this week. At least, not if you value the garment. Oh, and try to stick to dry foods. You're going to have a dazzlingly comic way with a glass this week, and forks won't be your strong suit, either.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

The time is coming when you'll be called to account for all of the using and abusing of those around you. You may have danced through it before, but some of us are frankly getting right tired of it. A veritable uprising may be afoot.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

This week is going to be positively dull for you. I'd suggest you try to come up with a way to burst out of your ho-hum haven, but I know what's in store for you next year, so trust me when I say you should cherish this downtime.

And remember, the one who wins gets to describe the struggle.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 14
.....

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I've always thought you should pay more attention to detail. Being a big-picture kind of thinker doesn't do you any good unless you have someone to point out when your shoes are untied.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Music, like an ocean, often carries me away! Through the ether far, or under a canopy of mist, I set sail for my pale star.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You need to reconnect with your past, sweet pea. You'll get a chance when you run into a childhood friend on Wednesday -- take advantage of this to remember where you're from and how you got here.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your problem: taking what others tell you at face value. Do you know, duckling, not only do some people lie, but it's even sometimes so that somebody can spread an untruth through ignorance. Take nothing on faith this week.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Everybody thinks you take yourself too seriously, but nobody wants to be the one to tell you. Case in point: That business with the hat last week. Honestly, lighten up already!

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

By the end of this week, you will accumulate an impressive array of bruises. Nothing serious and nothing skin-breaking, mind you. Just a diverse collection of the blues and purples. I hear dance classes can improve your sense of balance, lovey.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Did you know that the things you do can have an actual impact on other people? I know, surprise! A certain someone is for some reason looking up to you right now, though, so you'd best pay more attention than normal to what you're doing.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Sometimes I think you're too easily led. Peer pressure isn't an unstoppable force of nature, dumpling, and it really wouldn't hurt you any to give a try to resistance. You might even find it positively refreshing.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Deception doesn't suit you, honey. Sure, you have your reasons, but then, everyone does. I'll keep quiet for now, so long as you promise you'll be coming clean eventually.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Sometimes you find yourself staring at the puzzle, and then click! Two pieces will come together that you'd have sworn had nothing to do with one another. You know, like your best friend and your sweetheart.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Some roller-coaster you're on, huh? Things will level out for you, but not for a few months, yet. Eat lightly to keep your stomach settled and it should all work out in the end.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Bad news, muffin. The stars have decreed that through this week and into next, your every move will encounter absurd and meaningless delays. I suggest keeping a good stock on hand of things to do while you wait, because you so will be doing some solid waiting.

And remember, a lone candle will not withstand a tempest.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 28**
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The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Get your creative juices flowing, sweet pea. Whatever it takes: a peaceful walk in the woods, a long bath, a fifth of whiskey. I just know there are words inside you clawing to get out.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

With a cup of wine, listening to songs of new words, in the same pavilion tower and last year's weather. The sun is setting in the west, but when will it return?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Something new has caught your eye. It's all well and good to spend a little time getting side-tracked. Just be sure you don't forget your way back to the main path.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Spend a little time enjoying your health this week -- you know, while you still have it. I'm not saying you have a long and miserable winter ahead of you, but I'm not saying you don't, either.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Isn't it funny how you haven't really achieved anything lately? That's so not like you. Time to harness your legendary drive and get something done, don't you think?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You've got all the moves, now you have to put them to use. Set up a hard goal -- like getting that number today -- and work it like it's your last chance. Sometimes you've got to make it happen, muffin.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Your conversation is getting positively tiresome. Here's an idea: curl up with a thesaurus and learn some new vocab. Nothing is fun quite like telling your boring date that such plerophory is misplaced.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Time for you to put your thinking cap on, sweetling. A friend will come to you with a bit of a nutty problem, and only your particular talents can help sort it out. It never hurts to have favours due you, does it?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You're feeling awfully put-upon, and I can certainly see why. But your soft heart just won't let you ignore someone who needs help. Pay out your cosmic debt and keep on with the good-doing; what goes around comes around.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

This week you will be overcome with nostalgia. Try to fight it off and carry on with your usual fulfilling of obligations and so forth. Your heart may not be in it, but sometimes just going through the motions is enough.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Sit this one out, precious. You may think your ingenuity and talent are what's needed, here, but sometimes other people want to rely on their own resources. There will be plenty for you later on.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You have a big project staring you in the face, and it's not going to go away all on its very own. Grit your teeth and forge ahead, my pumpkin, or it will only continue mocking you.

And remember, the tallest tower draws the strongest winds.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 5
.....

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

An unusual number of demands on your time leaves you scrambling to find that elusive extra hour a day. I highly suggest you don't find it by abandoning bathing, this time.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The waves wash over sand and stone, then leave me once again alone to dream about the far and endless golden days, when I was home.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A lucky find leaves you wondering where to go next, but don't be fooled, duckling. You've saved yourself some time on the front end, but unexpected complications mean you still have to keep one hand on the wheel, for now.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Dig a little deeper into your internal reserves this week. Self-discipline isn't so much like you, but you've taken on a commitment and now you have to see it through. And don't worry about it quite so much while you're on the case -- you have what it takes, promise.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

All this dry weather means one thing for you: chapped lips. Get yourself to a tube of Winterwear's truly spectacular citrus-vanilla lip salve before it's too late. And trust me, you need your kissing tools in good order for this weekend.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Isn't it just like you to get to spring cleaning at the wrong end of the year? This strangely-timed fervour for freshness catches you just in time. Unexpected guests will drop by late in the week, and you could do worse than to impress them.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Weight of the world on your shoulders? You may feel like it, but it isn't so much the truth. Lighten up a little and stop taking yourself so seriously a whole lot.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You never were good at keeping a secret, were you? Bite your tongue a little harder, dearie, because if you can't even keep your own secrets, why would anybody else ever trust you?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You're driving yourself much too hard. There's no harm in taking a bow out of some of your social engagements to just plain nap. Your true pals won't mind; anyway, abject fatigue isn't so much fun to party with in the first place, muffin.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Someone new and fascinating is coming into your life. The stars aren't saying where it could go, so you'll need to find out for yourself. Could be a little dangerous, though, so keep your guard up if you want to come out of it all in one piece.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

I see you're on something of a roll. Good job, that! Carry on, then.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Optimism and unrealistic expectations? So not the same thing. You need to temper your cloud-headed ambitions with a good, square dose of reality. Not saying you shouldn't have aspirations, but you do need to remember the part about working hard to get there.

And remember, home is where your heart lives.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 12**
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The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The snake raves, in its hole scratching itself. The ants have mobilized, the snake is angry.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The stars have aligned in a rare configuration that means you will be having a stunningly bad technology week. Not only will your own kit malfunction, but also that of the people around you. A good week to go for a nice hike in the woods, poppet.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

A party accident goes unexpectedly your way when the resulting stain's unusual shape turns into a conversation piece. Who knew your clumsy elbows could bring you love?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

In a bit of an internal muddle, doll? If you seem to be unusually confused, it's because you keep losing the thread of context mid-conversation. Nobody can tell that in your head you've jumped onto a different three topics, so they're still waiting where you left them.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

That sweetheart with the charming advice just might have an ulterior motive. Hate to disappoint, love, but you know what they say: if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Feel like you're stuck against a stone wall? Sometime a change of scenery helps. Take your work to a tea house and you'll find your cup won't be the only thing steaming along.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Cheeses are unlucky for you this week. Focus your culinary attention as much as possible on green leafy vegetables and red fruits. Perhaps a lovely series of spinach-strawberry salads would do.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

The championships are putting a flame in your blood and you're going to be just jumping for a chance to compete yourself. Best pick your venue wisely, though; it won't be so fun when you find yourself soundly outclassed.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Do you know what happens when you take the base cube out of a tower? That's right, it all falls down. You, my duckling, need to think long and hard about that for a few days.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Called to the sea? So not the season for it. Stay away from direct contact with the water and satisfy the song of the waves by taking an evening stroll at the Mobius Strip. All the visuals without the cold-and-wet bits. Perfect!

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Here's a special tip from me to you: You may have a song in your heart, but please keep it off your lips. They don't want to tell you, but your incessant humming is driving your colleagues absolutely mad.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Sorry, no drama for you. Your low energy and irritability are not a creeping illness, you hypochondriac. Nothing but simple dehydration. Madame prescribes several tall glasses of water, and you'll be perfectly well again.

And remember, stone by stone, a stack becomes a home.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 19**
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The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

When love beckons to you follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to him, though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

No invite to a hot championship finale party yet? Time's a-wasting, duckling. Use your animal magnetism, your cunning, deceit, anything you have to -- just make sure you're at a good party when the games resume. It's more important than a good time, promise.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

All of the year-end stress wearing on you? Madame's got a prescription for you. Call in sick, turn off your key, and spend a day in bed with a box of chocolates, a bottle of wine, and a paper copy of the collected works of Bunny Lurabee. Soothe what ails you, sugar.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Searching for a special solstice gift for that certain someone? Forget about Earthworks and Isabella Levenay. The most meaningful gift is the one you make with your own hands, you know, like when you were five years old.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

A midnight malfunction in your security systems leaves you wet and cranky. Worse: you've been neglecting your routine maintenance, so your insurance won't cover it. Whoopsie.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Avoid the colour black this week, particularly in clothing. Bright colours are good, white is even better. Let's just say that it will be very unlucky for you to maintain the couture of low visibility.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Your antics of the last few days leave you with sore muscles and nothing to show for it. Pop an analgesic and try to learn from your mistakes. Here's a pointer: next time, plan the whole thing before you actually start, so you know what you're doing.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your life takes a turn for the utterly weird when the past comes back for a pleasant visit. Try to take advantage to learn a little about who you are, muffin. Your past is what shaped you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

It's time for you to adopt some kind of personal mission statement. You've been drifting for so long, nobody really knows what you stand for anymore, not even you. For what it's worth, the pursuit of ice cream is not a laudable mission in life, either.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Eye strain on Thursday leads to a headache, which leads to you being snappy at an inopportune moment. You can try to head it off by resting your eyes and changing tasks frequently, but it's unavoidable, so really you shouldn't bother.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

The packaging on your new toy slices your thumb and leaves you bleeding all over the goods. Worse, the damage caused by your precious life fluids isn't covered by the warranty. That's just what you get for being so materialistic, doll.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

For once, your perpetual tardiness works to your advantage when you're the only one not left out in some truly inclement weather. This nonetheless manages to work out against you, when everyone else in your party resents your sole status in the warm-and-dry department.

And remember, only the foolish ask a fool for advice.

FOR THE YEAR 269

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Yes, thrice have I this fair enchantment seen; once more been tortured with renewed life. When last the wintry gusts gave over strife with the conquering sun of spring, and left the skies warm and serene.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The coming months will be a trial for you, bringing an endless string of chance encounters with your ex. It may seem a little too coincidental -- suspicious, even -- but it's just fate having a little fun with you. Honestly, don't flatter yourself. There's really nothing there to feed any sort of obsessive stalking.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Family strife will leave you cross and belligerent in the coming year, despite arguably good intentions from everyone. To calm it, take a little bit of your own advice: there's a line between "trying to help" and "meddling" that shouldn't be crossed, sweet pea. Sometimes it helps to keep your distance.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your robotic lack of enthusiasm for your work begins to attract notice over the next several months. Fortunately for you, the heads above you will surmise that you're dull and not being used to your fullest potential, just what you've been saying the whole time. Too bad for you that living up to your fullest potential involves working much, much harder, huh?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You're finally going to build a good, solid structure into your life, and about time. Be careful, though, about temptation to go back to your old ways. When your friends want you to go out to play at clash at midnight of a Wednesday, sometimes you just have to say no, poppet.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

My goodness, you're going to positively blossom in the days ahead. I always knew you had it in you, but now everyone else will, too. Enjoy being the life of the party, darling, you've certainly earned it, but don't think it's going to bring you true love or fortune or anything tangible like that, because it just won't.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You have a long, dreary winter ahead of you, followed by a spring so dull it puts my teeth on edge. Summer, though, will sweep new love into your life. The thrill may lure you into making some really poor choices, though, so be careful with your heart and your belongings until you're really sure you know who you're with.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A sudden fondness for physical athletics strikes you this summer, despite your total lack of any sort of natural ability. Your sudden madness will come to a crashing end when you receive a sporting-related injury that will plague you for years to come. But at least you'll be able to predict the weather, right?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

The coming year will be one of great internal significance for you. Sure, to everyone else it may look like you're going about business as usual, but underneath it all, you'll be a simmering cauldron of change. By this time next year, you'll be so renewed and changed you'll practically be a whole new person.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

That dark little secret you've been keeping close to your heart makes it out into the daylight this year. While some of your friends and neighbours may start looking at you a bit differently, you'll find a surprisingly warm reception from new circles that had previously been closed to you. Just goes to show there no point in keeping secrets, muffin.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

The coming year is a doozy for you, lovebug. It's hard to say yet which way it's going to go: accolades or jail time. Sadly, which way it winds up won't be up to you at all -- it depends on matters under your control, but the deciding will be a little counterintuitive, so let's just say this year is one you won't ever be forgetting.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Your love for a bit of a tippie begins to get out of hand early this spring. Dry up over the summer, honey. The stars tell Madame you can do it, so never fear on that count. I know it's hard, but trust me, your body and especially your brains will thank me in a few years. Sometimes you have to know when the party's over, got it?

AND REMEMBER, LUCK IS A THING YOU MAKE.



**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 1**
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The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Sad soul, take comfort, nor forget that sunrise never failed us yet.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The championship and other assorted revelry are taking their toll on you, and at this rate you're going to sleep through the finals. Remember, dove, sleep when the players sleep.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

This is not the right time for you to be throwing a dinner party and making that signature dish of yours. It would be much better if you had it catered, and better yet if you pushed it to next week. I'm not saying you'd set your kitchen on fire, but I'm not saying you wouldn't, either.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

This week, you discover why that great piece of hardware was such a bargain when it fills your home with an acrid and cough-inducing smoke. I estimate it will take about a week to get the smell to disappear.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

A little too much introspection is leaving you blue. Buck up, little camper, things aren't bad as they seem. I mean, sure, they're bad, but trust me, you haven't even seen trouble yet.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

In a fit of nostalgia, you will sit through a veritable marathon of media from your formative years, only to discover that it was, in fact, really terrible. Not only can't you go home again, you can't even watch Storm Rider again.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Your powers of observation are dim this week, muffin. I hope you're not planning on doing anything that relies on powers of perception. Or at least nothing important. I suggest using public transit as much as possible.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your thoughtful gift goes horribly amiss when your darling thinks it's a backhanded way of assigning blame for certain contentious incidents. Madame says stay away from the thoughtful for a while, it doesn't work for you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Hate to break it to you, but your attempts to turn on the charm this week will go largely unnoticed. Maybe even counterproductive. Why don't you find some ways to get what you want that don't

involve relying on getting other people to like you?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Hey, sunshine, your beaming face is infectious this week. You will bring happiness everywhere you go, no strings attached. Call it a little gift from fate to make up for what's coming on Saturday.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You've got some money riding on the championships, eh? Think you've got the sight? Think you know what's what? Well think again, because you're dead wrong. Cancel the bet while the cancelling is good. Madame is just trying to save your nest egg, darling.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

My, what a dull week you have ahead of you. Use the time to deal with all of those unexciting but necessary loose ends, like caulking your shower and dusting out your cabinets.

And remember, sweep your own walk before complaining about your neighbour's.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 9

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

As I watched, the apparition (captivating me in passing) never to return, flew by; I pursued - but it had gone! 'Twas a vision merely fleeting, transient illumination leaving nothing but a legend of its passing through my life!

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This week, it seems like all of the exciting things are happening to someone else. Bad news, muffin: you're right. Try to choke down the jealousy and make a show of being pleased for your friends.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Usually you're a giant hypochondriac, and given your track record, others might be inclined to shrug it off this week. And it honestly seems pretty harmless, right, poppet? But trust me, this week, there's no such thing as a minor ailment. Make haste to the doctor.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

The wind may have your fur ruffled the wrong way, but you've got nobody to blame but yourself. Honestly, you should know better. Knowing you, you'll be casting blame everywhere but the right spot, of course.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

On Sunday, a plan long orchestrated comes to an elegant and satisfying fruition. Bask in your own glory for a while, darling; it's not like this kind of victory comes along every single day, now is it?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Punctuality eludes you this week when you get wrapped up in some of the finer chapters of a Howler classic and completely lose track of the hour. Oh, well, you didn't really want that promotion anyhow, right?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

The grey twilight of winter leaves you with dry skin and a gloomy disposition this week. Madame's prescription: drink much more water, apply some of the new Citrus Creme Dream from Pamper, and eat lots more greens. No, those lime candies do not count as greens, so don't even think about it.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

This is the week you just blend right in to the scenery. Don't like being overlooked? You could try doing something outrageous for a little more attention, but I promise it would not work to your advantage. Sometimes it's better to stay out the spotlight for a bit.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

I thought you'd started to spin your wheel the other way, but looks like I judged too soon, after all. What a shame, I'd nearly started to like you again. I suppose panthers can never change their fangs for molars, eh?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

This week will bring great hardship, and nothing to do but grit your teeth and endure, love. I know it seems impossible now, but by the end of the week, you'll wonder why you were dreading it so much.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your hot date planned for Friday night will be the most unmitigated romantic disaster seen in five generations. You know, the Brotherhood does have a celibate order dedicated to good works and a fuller understanding of the Cube. I suggest you look into it.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

When someone close to you calls your latest endeavour shallow and amateur, you might do well to take it to heart. I'm just saying, sweet pea, that if even your mum doesn't like your art, maybe it's just plain bad.

And remember, knives cost more at dinnertime.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 16**
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The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your sense of the profound spins crooked this week, so every mundane piece of advice seems like a gem of infinite wisdom to you. In this kind of circumstance, your best bet might be to avoid talking to others. Turn the key off, babe.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your love for your own cookery doesn't mean you have quality skills, and your guests on Thursday just might find this out the hard way. Might I suggest ordering in instead? Trust me, everyone will be better off.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your new resolve to take more exercise hits a wall when you strain your ulnar collateral ligament. Well, when you don't really want to do something in the first place, any little excuse will do, won't it?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Hard times ahead, muffin. Stock up on special treats for your pantry; you'll be relying an awful lot on comfort foods for the next few days. I'm not saying you'll be justified, but one does need to be pragmatic.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

The opportunity of a lifetime knocks on your door early Tuesday morning. Trouble is it might be a little hard to recognise. Madame's advice: don't refuse anything Tuesday morning, no matter how strange or unpleasant, so you don't accidentally turn down the big one.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

This week brings fatigue for you. Bone-ossifying, muscle-sapping exhaustion. Coffee and Ceretin will only get you so far, doll, so maybe you should clear your schedule of anything you might have planned where you don't want to seem dumb as a post.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

An overinflated sense of etiquette prevents you from making necessary (if bold) strides toward your own heart's desire. You know, pumpkin, sometimes people don't mind if you just get right to the point.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

This is the week that the winter chill finally gets the best of you. Layer, sweetheart, and talk your way out of any outdoor sports. Your delicate constitution simply can't tolerate the weather.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

According to the stars, this week you will be biting your own tongue a lot. Can't explain it, but there you have it. Might be best to stick to brothy soups and other non-chew-requiring modes of sustenance.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

That bank error in your favour of last month comes back to haunt you this week, when the bank finally corrects itself and puts you back in the hole. It's not likely, but maybe if you move fast, you can fix it before you incur penalties.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Try as you might, Thursday through Saturday, nobody will have any idea what you're talking about. It's not that you're a raving lunatic so much as that the stars have it in for you in the communication department. It'll pass by Sunday, though by then it'll be to late for you.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Knowledge is to understand -- to understand who you are. If you know not who you are, what's the use of learning?

And remember, a dog does not play at pyramid.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 23

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

That tiny little favour you did for an old friend last month blossoms into a huge deal this week. Isn't it nice when you can see the good you've done in the world?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

This is the week you discover everybody already knows that tight secret of yours. You may think everyone is looking at you a little differently now, but to be honest, they were snickering up their sleeves at you before all of this, sunshine.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

This week you are plagued with an array of ailments too minor to consult a doctor or skip work, but certainly enough to keep you from accomplishing anything worthwhile. Funny how a loss of concentration can so profoundly affect your life, isn't it?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You're considering doing something rash, and for once, Madame advises you think again. The stars are all about consequences this week, muffin, and they aren't feeling kindly toward that kind of thing.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Aw, feeling a little left out, huh? I promise your friends didn't mean to snub you, and they're feeling as bad about it as you -- maybe even worse! Try not to let it get you too down. There's always another day, doll.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

This week you are utterly irresistible. People pay ridiculous sums for the kind of magnetism that you've come by naturally! You'll learn the down side to this sought-after condition, though, when you discover that the people drawn to you for this reason only aren't so much worth your time and energy.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

By the end of Tuesday, your feet just want to dance. Let 'em have their way; you'll meet a very interesting older gentleman while you're out, and it's a connection that will be very important to you in the months to come.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Friday afternoon you'll finally find that file you spent all last week looking for, and practically right under your nose. Too bad it's too late now, huh? Better luck next time, sweet pea.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Your political stances are all thrown into question late this week when a friend asks you an innocent question and you find the answer isn't as clear in your brain as it was in your heart. Time to do some serious thinking between now and the next election.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Things for you to avoid: gambling, the color red, starchy vegetables, people with three-syllable nicknames, public transit, books about aesthetic principles, scented candles. Whew. Boy am I glad I'm not Dice.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Starting yesterday, your personal sense of direction is gone, baby, like those hundred lecks you bet on Serena. I highly suggest you not travel unaccompanied at any point before Thursday; at least not if you want to be punctual.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Ill fare we when the trees are rent, whose friendly shelter erst was lent in sun, and wind, and rain. Ill fare we when the thunder-shocks let loose the torrents from their rocks, to sweep away the mountain-flocks and flood the standing grain.

And remember, when you watch the sun, you will not see the shade.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 30**
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The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Isn't it funny how a week can start out one way and end up going in a completely different and unexpected direction? Well, of course not for Madame, but that's what will happen for you. Stay sharp.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

By Thursday you'll feel like everyone you encounter is spinning you off the second your back is turned. Well, with an attitude like yours, sugar, who can possibly blame them? Maybe you should keep your mouth shut more often.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Tuesday is your day to shine. You'll have it all: luck, charm, wit, and fresh ginger. What can I say? Use your influence to do only good, sweet pea. There will be rewards in due time. If you're lucky they'll even involve a trip to Dalia Way on somebody else's leck.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Well, it's nice to see you relaxing into your element, at long last. You're not all the way there yet, mind you; and it will be much better if you keep your aspirations on the down-low for another couple of weeks. Just, you know, to be safe.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

All the cold is really wearing you down, huh? The cure is to embrace it. Go down to Alchemy Beach and have a nice long walk in the bluster. When you come back, you'll practically feel like a new person.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

A new venture this week sounds terribly exciting up until you realise how very much actual work is involved. Too late to bow out now, muffin; better get used to eating cold leftover noodles.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

That reading list of yours is getting a little too high. One might even call you uncultured if one were unfavourably inclined. Get to work, pumpkin, and be sure not to start on the trashy Earth pop-lit, OK?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your total lack of empathy is getting to be a problem for everyone around you. You, button, need to pop your head up out of your nest and notice that there are bigger things going on around you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

If ever there was a week for you to avoid cheese, this would be it. Also foods that involve dipping. Roasting, though, is a big plus, and roasted beets are especially lucky.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Just a bit of a correction -- when Madame said keep away from gambling last week, she meant keep away from ambling. Don't worry, the sore ankle will be fine in a few weeks, so you'll be able to kick copy editors in no time at all.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

If you were thinking of tossing a few lecks into the PCX, think again, hon. This is not a good time for you. In fact, your luck is so poor this week that any sharp investing house would turn down your money rather than contaminate their accounts with you -- you'll drag the share price down for everyone else.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Thoust heard the knave abusing those in power bawl freedom loud and then oppress the free; thoust sheltered hypocrites in many an hour that when in power would never shelter thee.

And remember, just because it has eight points doesn't make it a cube.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 6
.....

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

There's a big snowstorm coming toward the end of this week, muffin. Make sure you've got more than that half-empty bottle of wine and those five stale crackers in the house to get you by, because there won't be any delivery for you.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Those big plans for Thursday? Reschedule, and I mean it. Unless you somehow relish the idea of spending your Friday cooped up with your ex and the cute thing that's replaced you.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Heavy snow and ice work to your advantage by delaying the nasty business you had coming this week anyhow. Still not totally avoidable, but at least you'll get through to Monday before the axe falls.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Don't worry, the snow won't affect you at all, button. You'll be housebound by Wednesday night for unrelated reasons. Embarrassing ones, at that. You should really know by now when not to act on those impulses you get.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You, my child, will be sent clear back to the happiest days of your school years when the city sees the worst snowstorm in thirty years. Rally together your neighbours and have a rousing snowball fight, followed by a nice hot cup of cocoa -- with whipped cream, of course.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Think you're cleverer than Madame, off trusting to the meteorologists and their weather predictions? Don't worry, it doesn't hurt my feelings. I know you'll get what you deserve by the end of the week.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

As snow blankets the city, you will find in the white and silence a heavy peace. It's a message to you from the stars, pumpkin. It shouldn't take an extraordinary weather event to bring you calm.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You never were the cold-weather type, were you? Best pull out the blankets you keep for guests, you'll be needing them yourself. Not that it's so cold inside, it's just that you're so very suggestible.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Well, well, I see somebody has been reading up on emergency preparedness. You're well-stocked for the weather, and plenty to spare. Share the joy,

sunshine, and invite over a few friends you know won't be ready. Know any Hands?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

My, aren't you the lucky one this week? Soft glow of candles inside, soft fall of snow outside, and you snuggled up with someone who thinks you're the dreamiest. Who needs the rest of the city, anyway?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

An urgent personal crisis drives you out into the snow against all public advisories. Sometimes you've got to do what's necessary, right, lovey? Don't worry, it'll take you five times too long to get anywhere, but you'll be safe enough.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

But one who remains ecstatic within the self; self illuminated and fully satisfied within the self only; activities do not exist for him.

And remember, the grain of rice does not choose who eats it.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 13**
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Feeling a little overwhelmed, huh? You may think Madame will tell you to feign illness to get out of your obligations, but not this time. Put your head down and just work through it, muffin.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

The little gift you picked up for your friend turns out to be a much bigger deal than anyone could have expected. Don't let it trouble you too much, there was no way you could have predicted it.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You are going on a long journey -- by which I mean, you will be going on a very short trip, but it will take a ridiculously long amount of time to get there. Don't leave home this week without a bottle of water and a snack in your bag.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

This week, you'll finally find time to start into that novel that's been languishing away on your night table. The bad news: as it turns out, it wasn't so much worth the wait. Don't feel obligated to read the whole thing, doll.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

An old incident that resulted in a minor injury is knocking around in your brain this week. Thanks to the magic that is muscle memory, this vastly increases the chance that you'll do precisely the same thing, so think twice before you show off that dance step.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Poor nutritional choices this week leave you with a cold by Friday, just in time to spoil your weekend. If you want to salvage that dinner with the gang, start munching those carrot sticks, sugar.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Weight of the world on your shoulders. Again. You know, sometimes you can be downright tiresome with all of this moping and melancholy. Here's what you should do: even if you don't feel great, pretend you do for the rest of us, OK?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

This is a terrific week for you to start angling in on a major goal. Pick what you want this year, pumpkin, and then make a plan to get it; if you do it by Wednesday, the stars will make it happen for you.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Up, down, left, right, nobody knows where you'll be next. If you want everyone to stop tiptoeing around you and your wicked mood swings, why don't you cut the coffee and start going to bed at a decent hour? No, really. You'll be amazed.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Love is in the air, sweet pea, whether you want to admit it or not. Sometimes to move forward you have to swallow your pride and just keep going. Sure, you don't have to, but if you don't, you'll never get away from your personal cul de sac of the heart.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

And, friends, that call me back from decline, seek out remedies for unsound hearts: I shall bear with fortitude cauterisation and knife, If only I'm free to speak as my anger wants.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This week, you will develop a maddening aversion to xylophonic music. I suggest you stay away from grammar schools, circuses, and remedial music classes. Other than that, this will be the most staggeringly eventless week of your life. Enjoy.

And remember, a drunkard will tell you the truth.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 27
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

The scent of desperation hangs heavy around you. Don't think they won't notice, it's really impossible to miss, dumpling. You won't be getting what you want until you don't seem to want it so very badly.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Did you know that the fabled composer Katerina Goodenough was never recognised during her lifetime? She worked as a baker's assistant her whole life, and her work only came to light after her death. It's nothing to do with you, I just thought it was interesting.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

A happy surprise awaits you, and what's better, you don't even have to work for it. I'm of course not telling what it is, since it would ruin the surprise. Just sit back and let the universe bring fortune to you, you lucky scamp.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

This is the one week out of the entire year that it's crucial for you to avoid speaking on the record to a representative for the government. No matter how important or favourable it may seem at the time, nothing good can possibly come of it. Reschedule, sunshine.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Oh, honey, aren't you tired of the drama yet? Everybody else is, especially when we all know nothing is even half so interesting as you're painting it. And a special tip for you: things might seem a little less pressing if you'd just take a step back to gain some perspective.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Nothing you do can possibly make this week work out for you. Ill luck will dog you like wet in the sea. You might be tempted to try to take an impromptu holiday to mitigate the damage, but trust me, that will only make it worse. Just grit your teeth and march onward.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You love a scandal, don't deny it, and whoo is there a whopper of a scandal about to unfold before you. I know usually it's against your policy to get involved. This time, though, maybe you should exert yourself to make everything a little less messy. There may be compensation later.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Yeah, for you? I've got nothing. Nothing interesting, anyway. Although you should probably be avoiding hot liquids for a while.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This is it, pumpkin. This is the week you've been waiting for. Hate to tell you, but it's not going to be anything like you thought. By the time next Monday rolls around, you're going to be asking everyone what the big deal was.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Seek out salty, crunchy foods and blue environs this week. Under no circumstances should you commit your thoughts to writing. This is a good week to create puppets to donate to the schools out of all of those lonely singleton socks of yours.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Long in thy shackles, liberty I ask not from these walls, but thee; left for awhile another's bride, to fancy all the world beside.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

The winter hasn't been kind to you, muffin, and you haven't been kind to yourself, either. Lay off the pastries and sweets for this week, and no cheating. I promise you'll find a new spring in your step by the weekend.

And remember, however sharp the mind, you still need hands to build.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 5**
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Better to cover your face with bees than to do that thing you're thinking of. Sure, you can't see how it could go wrong, but that doesn't mean it can't, just that you're suffering a lack of imagination.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

This week, onions will sit poorly in your small intestine. Madame suggests going onion-free at least through Thursday, when the painful symptoms should begin to ease.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The universe is in love with you next Saturday. I suggest you save up any big gambles you have pending and throw the dice on them all that day. This kind of day doesn't happen to just anyone, muffin.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Everything you do today is a desperate cry for attention, isn't it? You need to take stock of yourself and figure out why you can't be content in and of yourself. The true self is the one you find when nobody else is focused on you.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

After some stops and starts, you're finally starting to settle into a new groove. It won't be comfortable for weeks yet, but at least it's something, right? Now if we could only get your love life squared away. Hah, like that's ever going to happen.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Wednesday you will stumble upon your new favourite lunch spot. See? Sometimes nice things can happen when you take risks! I mean, not mostly to you, but even you can catch a little break once in a while.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

This would be a great week to get a pet. Fur or scales, honey, but nothing smaller than a coffee mug, and nothing with feathers. There's nothing like a little companionship to point out how very empty your life is.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You're starting to see a bit of spring colour, and just in time to save your sanity. Why don't you take a good long hike over in Newguard to see the buds and blossoms just emerging. It might even give you some hope for the future.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Don't look now, but while you were off mooning over the meaning of your life, those humdrum demands kept piling up. Funny how the everyday keep intruding into those times that are supposed to be magic, don't you think, dumpling?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You, my darling, will fall afoul of technology problems in the days to come. My advice to you? Don't even try to sort it out with the bank until Friday morning. You'll just wind up making things worse for yourself otherwise.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Bigger than earth, certainly higher than the sky, more unfathomable than the waters is this love for this man of the mountain slopes where bees make rich honey from the flowers of the kurunci that has such black stalks.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You won't find what you're looking for this week, anyway. It wouldn't kill you to take it easy, you know. All work and no play makes you bloody tiresome to hang around with. Seriously.

And remember, the choice to do right is never easy.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 13

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Feel moved by the spirit of poetry? Go ahead, write it down. Get all of that emotion on paper. You'll feel the better for it, promise. Just don't, you know, show it to anyone where you're done, 'k?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

I see you looking at that really adorable new key. Don't do it, though. What you're forgetting is the break-in period, and you don't have the energy to deal with change right now. Or you won't after Wednesday, anyhow.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Go out on a limb and throw an office barbeque. The weather will be fine and the flowers are already flirting at Polygon. Besides, offering free food and drink was never a bad career move.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

I love you, but sometimes I wonder why. You need to stop concentrating so hard on the big picture and take a look at the little things you've been missing, like meeting your friends for a drink and some gossip. They miss you, doll.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Put together a big party for the Builder's Celebration this year. You may not have it planned, but I am telling you this will be a big year for home improvement for you. Costly infrastructural improvements, at that.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Everyone but you will be out sick pretty much the whole week. Think you're lucky you missed the bug? That's because you haven't figured out yet who will be getting all of the work done single-handedly.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You're letting your brains get positively mossy, sweet pea. Step one: get outdoors and get some blood pumping through that old grey matter. Step two: find a PCAG qualifier and give it your best shot. Use it or lose it, button.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Spring is warming up your blood, but don't let it make you hot-tempered. Find something peaceable to do for a few days, until you get used to being thawed out again.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You will be plagued by a foul taste in your mouth for several days. There will be no helping it, so don't even try. At least nobody else can tell, right?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

When love entered my world, it first flew in my heart, then wandered about place to place; perched in my brain, inside my head, asking tears from my eyes, and got blood instead.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This is it! Beginning the moment you read this, you will have a whole new lease on life. Breathe in deeply and feel some gratitude; it's not every day the stars grant you a fresh start, pumpkin.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Be easy on your friends and acquaintances this week, darling. You can be on the demanding side, and frankly, nothing you want is that important right now, so give it a rest.

And remember, the blackest clouds don't always rain.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 20**
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The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Love what you've been doing with yourself lately. Looks like this birthday is the one where you get a little extra confidence. Looks like you're going to start figuring out what Madame has known for years: being young is so overrated, isn't it?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Your authority problems could make life hard for you this week. Try to swallow that pride of yours and just do what you have to do. You can stand up as an individual against the man another day, when it's a little more important.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Get out into the countryside sometime soon, doll; you need the fresh air and exercise. I promise it's good for the spirit. Sometimes it helps to get away from your problems to get a new perspective; and sometimes nothing is as bad as you'd thought.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

A string of surprises takes your carefully scheduled week and tosses it right out the window. Things may still work out, but my goodness, pumpkin, you need to learn to be more flexible.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You are the star of the show, honey, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. It's up to you to make sure the show is the one you want to be in, mind you -- the stars don't control everything.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Just cut out the snark, sweet pea, nobody wants to hear it.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You think you need a change, but trust me, that's the last thing you need right now. If you must seek variety, try to keep it small. Put a different condiment on your burger or something. Just don't do anything dramatic like cutting your hair, 'k?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Thursday will be a day you've dreamed about. You know, the dream where everyone knows what's going on except you? There's just one crucial piece of information you're missing, though, and once you figure out what that is, you'll be fine.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Last week's flirtatious look on the subway grows into a bit of small talk about the weather mid-week. Press your luck, hot stuff, and try for a cup of coffee by Friday. What have you got to lose?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Let us, then, be up and doing, with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing, learn to labour and to wait.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Keep your key close at hand this week. Sometime in the next few days you're going to stumble on an amazing holiday sale, and you'll of course want to tell all of your friends. Buy an extra one for me, too, muffin.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Things are looking up for you this week! No, I mean really, look up. This will not be a good week for you, in terms of things falling on your head. I also advise against opening very full cabinets.

And remember, memory can be longer than life.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
MARCH 27
.....

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

All of that running and you never get anywhere, do you? I think if you take a hard look at yourself you'll find you're back where you started. Try to remember the things that are important to you, like your friends and your family.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Well, I'm pleased with how things are shaping up for you. Pity about the terrible misunderstanding on Wednesday, but at least it'll be sorted out by the weekend. Unless, you know, it isn't. Anyone's guess, really.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

How is your garden growing? Bulbs up yet? Now is a good time to prune roses, transplant trees and shrubbery, and start some vegetables from seed indoors. Even if you don't have a lot of space to plant, it's important this year to make the most of what you have.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Love hurts, muffin. It may seem now like you don't know which way is up, don't know who to believe, don't know what's in your heart, but it's perfectly obvious to the ones close to you. It would help to squash down your pride and ask for some advice.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You find salty foods invigorating this week, but careful not to overdo it. It's amazing the affect diet can have on one's health, isn't it? But too much of a good thing leaves you too much at the mercy of your bladder.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Oh, please, it's too early to bring out your skin-baring summer wardrobe. Spare yourself the indignity of your dry winter flesh in display for at least another few weeks, all right? The whole city will thank you, as will I personally.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Your holiday was a little too hectic, and now you're wishing for another one. You need to learn to pace yourself, darling. Try to cut down on your demanding social obligations through the rest of the week. You need to consider your health!

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Throw yourself on the mercy of fate this week. No plans, just float where the wind blows you. You will be pleasantly surprised at how well it turns out for you, just this once. There's something magnificent waiting at the end of the week that won't happen for you unless you leave yourself open to it.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

A beautiful week ahead, and spring is always a nice time to make fresh starts. You owe some apologies, and don't think you can hide it from me. If you make them by Thursday afternoon, they have a much better chance of being well-received.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The Road goes ever on and on down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the road has gone, and I must follow, if I can, pursuing it with eager feet, until it joins some larger way where many paths and errands meet. And whither then? I cannot say.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your recent foray into success turns sour this week when you totally lose motivation to keep forging ahead. Responsibility is a real downer, isn't it? Your stuck now, hot stuff, people are counting on you. You can bow out gracefully when this phase is over.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Ever get the feeling that somebody is watching your every move? You know, the tingly feeling at the back of your neck? No? Well, maybe you should have that feeling. No reason in particular.

And remember, not everything of worth can be measured.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
APRIL 8**
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The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Don't be so dazzled by the sun in your eyes that you miss the gap in your path. It's a real long way down, honey, and there's no landing softly this time around.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Always so busy, busy, busy with your planning and your scheming. You've been at this for how long, now? And how's it working for you? I know you're thinking 'so far, so good,' but you need to keep an eye out for the day when it's not true anymore.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Stay far, far away from your boss this week. I suggest a course of arranging as many off-site meetings as possible and a few judicious messages about your poor health. Try to avoid direct conversation, though. It just won't go well for you.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You need to loosen up a little, sunshine. Get yourself a kicky new key, maybe a day at the spa, and very definitely a night out on the Strip. The world won't end if you take some time out, you know.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Make sure to try on that shirt before you buy it on clearance. You'll find it's a bit too tight in the shoulders, and a shirt you can't really wear isn't a bargain at any price, now is it?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Look, everybody is tired of listening to you complain. Get yourself to a physician who can establish for once and for all that you're really in perfectly good health; you just like to whine.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Bad decisions from a few years back come home to roost this week. It's interesting, isn't it, how clear it is in hindsight that you shouldn't have done those things? If you grit your teeth and weather it out, things will look up for you on Friday.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

That cutie you met last weekend really did lose your number, so don't feel awkward about making conversation when you meet again on Thursday night. That is, if you're fine with dating someone so careless with their information.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

One word for you this week: culture. Your horizons are ripe for broadening, so hit some museums, take in some plays, maybe even purchase a work of

art for your home. I'd suggest a bit of literature, but really you need to get out more, muffin.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

A vast similitude interlocks all, all spheres, grown, ungrown, small, large, suns, moons, planets, all distances of place however wide, all distances of time, all inanimate forms, all souls, all living bodies though they be ever so different, or in different worlds.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You will be haunted in the coming days with the spectre of improbability. Coincidence will be your constant companion. It really isn't fate trying to tell you anything, so just relax. Sometimes things don't happen for any particular reason at all.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You know that great project you keep meaning to do, if only you had the time? Yeah, too late, pumpkin. You really need to learn to hop on these things right when you think of them. I'd say maybe next year, but we both know better, don't we?

And remember, you can't put an egg back in its shell.

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...FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 10

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The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You run a high risk of static shock this week. It might go better for you if you wore a different pair of shoes, but you should trust me when I say you can afford to take the electricity a whole lot more than the fashion hit.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Fresh lemonade for you, duckie, it's your lucky beverage this week. Light and refreshing! Best accompanied with a nice savoury cheese-and-herbs pastry. This is the snack that will seal your good fortune for weeks to come.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

An embarrassing but highly itchy rash will leave you in a variety of comical predicaments in public situations in the days to come. Madame prescribes oatmeal baths and perhaps a healthy dose of hermitage.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

OK, honey, it's all done, you can drop the act now. Everybody knows you're not the sunshine baby you try to be, so go ahead and embrace your inner sarcastic wag. You may be surprised to find people like you better that way.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A burst of manic energy allows you to take off early nearly every day this week, but watch out that you aren't leaving a bad taste in the mouths of your colleagues. If your work seems too light, they can always arrange more, you know.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Funny how you've mellowed out with time. Some might even say you've gone soft. I'm not saying you need to go back to being an impulsive spitfire, though, I'm just commenting on how very complacent you've become.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Looks like your personal gyroscope is a bit off this week, muffin. The good news: you won't do permanent harm to yourself or others. The bad: you're going to collect an impressive and extremely colourful array of scrapes and bruises.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This is the week when that whole not-sleeping thing caches up with you. Do yourself a favour, pumpkin, and take Thursday off to sleep all day. You'll be back to your bad habits by the next day, of course, but at least you'll be rested for the weekend.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

That stormy relationship of yours finally blows itself out. I'm not sure if you can do better, button, but you can for sure do calmer, which just might be more important. You've got a long wait, though, since the stars won't be sending you even a bit of flirting for weeks yet.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Passion you know not or anguish or punishment; feeling you lack, you are free -- free eternally, you have no homeland, for you there's no banishment.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Please abandon your ambitious gardening plans for this spring. It won't go well, and who's going to think of all of those poor, innocent plants? What did they ever do to you to deserve such mistreatment? Have you no heart at all?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Always up for a challenge? Think of five things you can do to make the city more fun and whimsical for everyone else this week, and then go do them. I know giving isn't so much your thing, but I promise just this once it'll be more than worth it.

And remember, one old friend is better than two new.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
APRIL 17**
.....

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Take this humdrum week and try to get something useful out of it, pumpkin. I'm thinking personal development, here, like reading up on the history of the city sewage system or, you know, something dull but enriching like that.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You've got a way with a glass for the next few days; your magic touch will make the most delicious sand hoppers and mint dreams anyone's ever tasted. Throw a midweek cocktail party to get the most out of this unexpected and temporary skill while it lasts.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Did you know that four out of five PCAG champions leave the games within five years to go on to careers that help to shape public life and industry for the entire city? Makes you wish you tried a little harder, doesn't it?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

This is not a week to be a spendthrift, doll, no matter how adorable that thing is and no matter when the sale ends. There are some unexpected expenditures brewing for you, and you'd best be miserly with those lecks if you want to get through it without undue harm.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your weekend trip to the country instigates an overpowering episode of nostalgia. Just don't fool yourself, muffin. It wasn't all sunny days and gooey treats. Remember the biting insects and the stomach aches, too, and you won't feel so down about how long gone it all is.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

An impressive show of self-possession leaves your colleagues in awe of your apparent confidence and inner strength. No, really, don't laugh. Just because you and I know what a mess you are on the inside doesn't mean that everyone can tell just by looking.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You're wrapping yourself ever tighter in a net made of self-imposed obligations. Sometime soon you're going to need to snip away at some of these faux obligations of yours, or else suffocate while you keep weaving in more. Choose wisely.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're starting to look on the grey and pasty side of things, sweet pea. You desperately need some fresh air and sunshine. Promise me you'll at least start spending a half hour outside in the afternoons, 'k? If you don't take care of yourself, nobody else will, either!

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Where are you my sweet heart, I don't hear your beat. My pain is so great that I can't even cry. I wish I could cry but I have no more tears.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A bit of a misunderstanding leaves you with a few hours to kill by yourself at Polygon Park next weekend. You'd do better to duck into the museum for a while, though, instead of getting shaken down by the ducks for crumbs you don't have.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You really need to stop with the half measures, duckling. Either something is worth doing or it isn't, and if you're suffering some sort of inner turmoil about it, you should work that out before you get started.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

I saw the most divine paper journal at the stationer's on Dalia and Spin Down, and it made me think of you. There's something satisfying about writing things down by hand, and you just may find it soothes those raw nerves of yours.

And remember, if your tail is made of paper, stay back from the fire.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
APRIL 24
.....

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Don't get your heart too set on those birthday plans. Sit back and remember the spotty record of the one you're making them with; if you really want a day to remember, better take matters into your own hands.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I'd tell you to cut that incorrigible deceiver out of your life, but turns out the one who fools you the most is yourself. Honesty, sweet pea -- it's the best policy.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You may have a song in your heart this week, but for mercy's sake, please keep it away from your lips. I advocate a steady intake of chewy snacks in order to prevent the inevitable embarrassment that will come when somebody catches you crooning Aurora songs.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Wear vibrant colours this week. You know, highly visible ones. Let's just say that the more easily people can see you over the next few days, the less likely it is that things will go poorly for you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Do your part for science, dumpling. Take part in a study or maybe even do a little research of your own (haven't you always wondered if it's true that older children are bossier?) After all, science has done so very much for you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Baking is an acceptable activity this week, but I absolutely forbid you to use cutlery or any other form of heat application. I just couldn't bear having that on my conscience.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Not much of a risk-taker, are you? Why don't you step out of your element this week and do something wild and crazy, like wearing mismatched socks or walking on the other side of the street. Seriously.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Whatever am I going to do with you? I try and try to help, and you never listen. Well, you know what? I've had it with you, so I'm not even going to tell you what the stars have in store for you this week. You wouldn't pay attention to me anyhow.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

I've just reached a place where the willow don't bend. There's not much more to be said; it's the top of the end. I'm going, I'm going, I'm gone.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

I really love what you're planning on doing with your place. It could use a little more greenery, though, and I have to tell you, those cushions and that paint don't so much go together. Take another look in better light and you'll see what I mean.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Early on Thursday you'll think of something you really urgently need to do. Write it down, because otherwise you'll forget within a few minutes, and by the time you remember what it was, on Sunday evening, it'll be much too late for that.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

To the victor go the spoils, babe. Too bad that's not you. This week you're on a losing streak so wide you may as well pack it in and find a another way to spend your summer. Something non-competitive.

And remember, sometimes the best purchase is nothing at all.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 1**
.....

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Well, looks like this is the week you're finally going to work up the courage to tell that certain someone what you really feel. I'm not saying it's going to go poorly, but if I were you, sweet pea, I'd make sure to have a very thorough set of contingency plans in place.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Come on, chucklehead, the winter is over. Time to wake up and get on with it! You can blame the cold-weather blues for your lack of motivation and productivity for only so long; mainly until it's warm and sunny. You know, like today is?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Shoot me a sign, darling. Things seem strained between us; you know you can feel it, too. I can't bear to leave things like this, after all we've been through together. If there's still something there, wear those kicky shoes on Friday and meet me at our special little nook.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Congratulations! You have a whole lot of personal growth about to roll right over you. Sure it might sting a bit, but we'd all much rather you be a better person than be, you know, undeservedly happy. Fair's fair.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Look, you have to get over yourself and make some decisions before they're made for you - permanently. You don't want to be the kind of person whose entire life is shaped by being in the wrong place at the wrong time, do you?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You need more orange and yellow produce in your life. Consider adding citrus fruit to your lunchtime salads. They're refreshing and add an unexpected but delightful twist to the same-old lettuces and tomatoes.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This is your lucky week! And I do mean lucky. Throw away any preconceived ideas about what you had planned, because something way better will be happening to you. Don't worry about being prepared, it's all going to work out for you.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Sometimes even your deepest, pettiest suspicions are right. They aren't this time, though; this time it's much, much worse than you could've thought. Think about that the next time you decide not to pick an argument because it wouldn't be graceful.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Fain would I fly the haunts of men - I seek to shun, not hate mankind; my breast requires the sullen glen whose gloom may suit a darken'd mind. Oh! that to me the wings were given which bear the turtle to her nest! Then would I cleave the vault of heaven, to flee away, and be at rest.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

That look you're contemplating wouldn't work for you. With your bone structure and features, you'd be too obviously trying, and that's never appealing on anyone. Stick with the tried and true, at least through another season.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

It would behoove you to plant something today. The stars say a tree would be best, but if you don't have the space for it, I suggest a few pots of kitchen herbs. They'll make your home greener and your cooking zestier all at the same time!

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Oh, you poor thing. I usually try to give fair warning when terrible things are coming, but sometimes it's better to let you live in relative peace while you still can. All I can say is, enjoy life to the fullest these next few days. You'll need those memories to savor in the times to come.

And remember, the thief is a king until he gets caught.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 8
.....

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

My, my, you're thinking about taking quite a big step, aren't you? The stars aren't against you, if that's what you want to know. Some things are up to nobody but you, muffin.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Nothing will refresh you quite like a fresh berry-lime sorbet. If you make a batch this evening and eat it, a few spoons at a time, through the rest of the week, nothing at all can go wrong for you.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Get used to disappointment, honey, because this is not going to be a pleasant week for you. I'd suggest a concerted effort not to get your hopes up over anything for a few days, but to be honest, that won't even help. Nothing wrong with a little wine to soothe the sting, either.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

So you're the one causing all of this chaos and uproar. You're kicking up too much psychic dust, darling, and it's making my eyes itch, so do you mind settling it down for a while?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Determination will bring you fortune. You've always known in your head that perseverance is the way to make a terrific career or relationship or rose topiary or what have you, but if you actually set your mind to following through, your heart might believe it, too.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Want to have a party but you're afraid nobody will show up, kitten? Don't let it worry you. Send out the invitations and then celebrate no matter who's there (or who's not). The cool kids know the quality of your fun isn't determined by who's there to watch.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You will speak urgent and profound truths in the days to come, but your formerly attentive audience will for once turn deaf ears to you. Be strong, you'll at least get a reputation boost once it's too late and all of the evidence is in.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're falling into some pretty slovenly habits, sweet pea. I'll let it go for this week, but you'd better start thinking about what you need to do in order to shoot straight again. By June it's going to matter.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Eyes burning fiercely, he strains to find the sign he seeks: Behind, the sound of enemy draws ever closer.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Here's an idea for you: go visit your doctor for a regular check-up, and soon. Not saying you've got any sort of pernicious health ailment or anything, but wouldn't you feel much better knowing you don't?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You really need to get to some of that pruning and weeding. You don't want the neighbours to think you've abandoned your home, do you? Take a little pride in your garden, and it will come back to reward you.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

It's really past time for you to have a family gathering. Why don't you get together with your cousins and plan a reunion picnic for this summer? Memories you'll cherish forever, pumpkin.

And remember, if you clasp a scorpion to your breast, don't be surprised when it stings you.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 15**
.....

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You would do well to take up carrying an old-fashioned pocket kerchief with you indefinitely. You will be pleasantly surprised at how many uses one can find for a spare scrap of linen.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You may find a feverish urge to record a minute accounting of your time and actions is overcoming you this week, like some sort of horrible disease. Get a grip on yourself, pumpkin. Nobody wants to be friends with the one who keeps minutes of the office gossip.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Know what you need? A fresh start. Throw out all of your plans and goals and take a day just to evaluate the big-picture stuff: who you are, where you want to go, how to get there. That kind of thing. You'll do better if you pack a nice lunch to mull it all over.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Life is just full of surprises, isn't it? This week, you'll finally find the perfect chance to talk to that certain someone who lives down the way. What you'll discover, though, is that you can't read a book by its cover. Find someone new to pine over, doll.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

A simple mathematical misunderstanding leads to comedic hilarity for days to come. Interesting, isn't it, the kinds of errors one can avoid by using a calculator that doesn't limit decimal places?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

It's time for you to liberate yourself from the tyranny of your personal-grooming regimen. Cleanliness is a noble goal, but vanity not so much; and I think you may find that nobody else really gives a hoot whether your hair is precisely mirror-glossy or not.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Lilacs and lavender are unlucky for you this year. Other flowers of that colour family should be fine; it's the strong scent from these blossoms that can lead only to harm befalling you. If you live close by a large stand of lilac in particular, consider staying with friends until the flowering season has passed.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Take this kiss upon the brow! And, in parting from you now, thus much let me avow: you are not wrong who deem that my days have been a dream; yet if hope has flown away in a night, or in a day, in a vision, or in none, is it therefore the less gone?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You, Hand, need to put your hands to good use and practice that ghastly penmanship of yours. Communicating primarily by key is all well and good, but how can you leave romantic messages writ in the sand of the beach if all you can muster is an illegible scrawl?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Conspiracies surround you, duckling. You would do well to keep your head down and your eyes closed, if you know what's good for you. Sometimes ignorance is the best course.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Exfoliate, my dove, you're looking a little rough around the edges. And use a good skin cream once you've done it.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The item you've been trying desperately to purchase exists no place outside of your own skull. Give in to the creative process, dumpling. Make the thing yourself. It won't be too hard, and then you'll have exactly what you wanted.

And remember, joy is in being and doing, not in having.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 22**
.....

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Don't waste any time this week, it's the only thing you have going for you. That doesn't mean you should time your meals to the minute, but it does mean you should do as much task-combining as possible. Idleness brings bad luck, muffin.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Do you ever get the feeling that you'd totally dropped out of the loop, and nobody is telling you anything important anymore? Well, at least the good news is you're not paranoid.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A strange soapy flavour on your tongue for the next several days is not a medical condition with which to be concerned, so don't bother trotting off to the doctor. Spicy or acidic foods are the way to go, dumpling, if you want a few minutes of respite.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A stranger will offer you unsolicited advice late on Wednesday evening. You would do well to listen carefully and take it to heart, pumpkin, because it's definitely something you need to hear right now.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Please let others open all food containers and packaging for you this week. If you try it yourself, you'll likely starve to death with the spilling and the cleaning up of messes. If you live alone, this would be a good time to take up restaurant dining.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

A long-standing mystery will resolve itself, only to be replaced by a far more mind-itchy conundrum. Don't let it make you crazy, darling, because this is simply your lot in life. Just do your best to accept it and move on.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Something about you these days is just breathtaking. I mean it, nobody can breathe around you. Madame says it's time to reassess your personal grooming regimen, if you know what I mean, and it might help to get an outside opinion.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Some have learn't many tricks of sly evasion, instead of truth they use equivocation, and eke it out with mental reservation, which, to good men, is an abomination.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A careless comment on your part reminds a close friend of some deep-rooted ill feeling from months past. You know, it's never too late to apologise and go about making things right again.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You, my child, are leading a much too active life, and it's positively wearing out the people around you. Why don't you take it easy for a while? Catch a few naps, take up meditation, that sort of thing. Bystanders will be grateful, trust me.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Even I don't know what that sticky substance is you keep finding in your flatware drawer, so I'd advocate judicious caution. Don't use anything without giving it a good rinse first, just to be safe.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You attempts at introducing greenery into your home aren't going so well, huh? It might help you to make a rigorous watering schedule and set your key to remind you to actually do it. You'll have to buy some new plants, though, it's too late for the ones you have.

And remember, when the well runs dry, you learn the price of water.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
MAY 30**
.....

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You need a little sparkle in your life, sunshine. Why not go sailing? The wind and water will rebalance you and get everything back the way you liked it.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Sometimes, finding your way again involves striking out in a patently wrong direction. Not that it will become right or anything magic like that, but there's nothing so like doing the wrong thing to help you figure out what the right thing was.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You're losing your street cred. Time to hit the key and brush up on all of that technical arcana you used to know so much about. Funny how it all keeps changing right under your feet, isn't it?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Do you ever have the feeling that your life is going absolutely nowhere? Take a good hard look at yourself, muffin. Your career is no great shakes, your love life is a study in shades of noncommittal, and your family thinks you're a loose cannon. Nothing wrong with a little change.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

If you're looking for the newest flavour sensation, try one of the thick, creamy honey teas found at that new cart in Polygon Park. I don't know why nobody made these before, but I promise you it's the new taste of summer.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Reach back to your childhood sometime this week. Make paper dolls, play silly board games, imagine your bed is a fantastic spacecraft, that sort of thing. Nothing like a little exercise to get the old imagination humming along again.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I've spent far too many hours trying to come up with a rational explanation for that thing you did last week, and all I can come up with is it's some sort of terrible cry for help. Productive channels, dumpling.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

We might be fifty, we might be five, so snug, so compact, so wise are we! Under the kitchen-table leg my knee is pressing against his knee.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You can't keep doing the same reckless deeds and expect to get away with it forever, pumpkin. Even a not-so-sharp child figures that out pretty early on, so why haven't you? Just because you're lucky doesn't mean you're invincible.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Trust nobody. No, really, I mean it this time.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

An unexpected development puts a spike through your plans for the end of the week. Stay flexible and your carefully calculated plan may survive to fruition anyhow. Though really you should plan less and play it by ear more.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You've worked your energetic little paws off the past few weeks, but you're a fool's fool if you think it means you'll get any rest now. Here's a little advice courtesy of Madame: There's nothing wrong with working at, shall we say, a sub-optimal speed for a while after what you've been through.

And remember, a coward dies a thousand deaths, but the brave live only once.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 5
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The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

A misunderstood conversation leaves you with a two-week obligation to work at one of the berry farms north of the Mazy. By the end of it, your fingers will be stained permanently red and you'll know about twenty new types of pie.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You think you need a holiday, but trust me when I say your blood pressure simply can't tolerate the additional stress right now. You know, if I were you, I'd really see a doctor about those black spots in your vision. Soon.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Avoid loose garments this week. A personal breeze will follow you wherever you go, and if your garments are billowing in the wind, you'll look much puffier than you really ought. Not flattering, dumpling, and especially not on you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A dreary weekend trickles into a dreary week, eh? Spice up your life a little, visit some of your old haunts, play some of your old games. Didn't you used to be more fun than this? It's not too late to go back.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Cut it out with the weird diet, and especially the conversation about it. If there's anything more dull than someone who will only eat the right amino acids for his eye colour, it's someone who won't stop talking about how you should only eat the right amino acids for your eye colour.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Excessive taking of unnecessary risks leads to personal injury. Not you, just someone in your vicinity; but still, it'll be the most interesting thing to happen to you this week, so there it is.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Late this week, you will be horrified to discover you can no longer touch your toes. Take up some regular stretching routines, muffin. Wouldn't hurt you to do something a bit more active, as well, and get that blood pumping.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

As I wend to the shores I know not, as I list to the dirge, the voices of men and women wreck'd, as I inhale the impalpable breezes that set in upon me, as the ocean so mysterious rolls toward me closer and closer, I, too, but signify, at the utmost, a little wash'd-up drift, a few sands and dead leaves to gather, gather, and merge myself as part of the sands and drift.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You will be betrayed by someone very close to you. Honestly, though, the signs were there all along, if you'd only bother to stop the navel-gazing long enough to notice them.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

An unusual alignment of stars fills you with an unusual ambition to take up crochet. Not that there's anything wrong with that. If you can't stifle the urge, though, I'd very strongly encourage you to keep it to yourself. Preferably in a locked closet.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Like Joya and Alejo, your love is not meant to be. The two of you simply aren't right for each other until you grow and change into better, less psychotic people. Shed a few tears if you must, sweet pea, but then let it lie.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

If your ancestors knew that all of their bone-crushing toil and struggle through unimaginably difficult times were going to culminate with you watching vids and eating crisps for dinner every night, they might've struggled a bit less hard, don't you think?

And remember, a new perspective can change everything.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 12**
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The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

An unexpected heat wave leaves you wilting like a delicate spring lettuce. Others are in the same pickle. Carry a spray bottle of water with you, and spread some joy by misting strangers in the street. It will be welcome.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Thursday you will require emergency dental work. Honestly, muffin, most people learn not to take risks like that by the time they're seven years old. You should seriously consider a somewhat more adult lifestyle.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Be careful not to misrepresent yourself during that important meeting on Friday. It's understandable that you don't want to appear contrary, but you also don't want to leave anybody with the idea that you really adore blueberry wine when you can't stand it, or you may find yourself having to fake enjoying cases of it in the near future.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Unburdening yourself to those close to you should leave you with a bit of a spring in your step, but it manages not to. Why don't you get a new hairstyle, pumpkin? You're long due for a makeover, you know, and your split ends are just horrifying.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

A new love interest walks into your life, and then, much like a ray of sunshine in Allerdun, is quickly extinguished. If you want to keep a spark going, you need to put in some effort to appear, you know, engaged with modern culture and all that.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

The winning of a much-vaunted prize leaves you with nothing but tedious and undesirable commitments on your personal time. Strongly consider being strung up in a bag of mongeese before you let it happen again.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

That cousin of yours who hero-worships you for some benighted reason or other is about to get a boost when a series of unbelievable coincidences leaves you looking particularly clever. Lucky for you that you're so, well, lucky, isn't it?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Oh forlorn kitty with its soft paws, with its kind legs, with its warm heart. It has caressed the entire earth. What thorns have pricked its paws, what kicks on its back, what stones at its head?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your slight elevated temperature is not the sign of a medical condition so much as that you really need to get more exercise, duckling. Putting out that minimal level of effort just shouldn't do that to a person in good condition.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

That on-again off-again relationship of yours is going very, very off again just when you thought it might be going on pretty well. You'd save yourself years of angst and bad poetry if you'd only let it go now. Not that you will, mind you.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your awful day will be turned around when a stranger mists your overheated face while you wait for your train. Isn't it nice to know that there are people out there working for the benefit of others?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Looks like your lot in life is improving in leaps and bounds. Optimistic and enthusiastic? Great! You'll need all of that positive energy to carry you through the long, dark plateau ahead.

And remember, doubt is the key to knowledge.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 19
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The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You finally give in to peer pressure and try that new game everyone says is so terrific. Sadly, because you put it off for so long, your skills are weak compared to your friends', and your efforts will result only in mockery.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your garden will show signs this week of being infected with some sort of wasting illness. Don't wait it out, pumpkin, call in a professional at the first sign of mottled leaves, or you won't have a garden to speak of for much longer.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Just when I thought you'd gone onto the straight and narrow you have to go off and do something like that. You should give me one good reason why I shouldn't just wash my hands of you and leave you to your own miserable devices from now on.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

I never thought I'd say this, but things have become a little too unpredictable for even you. Drama and spontaneity are wonderful things, but they don't buy the groceries or fold the laundry. Consider fostering some humdrum routine, dumpling, for your own good.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You will be reunited with a childhood sweetheart. Don't get trapped into a long conversation, though. At first glance, it may seem the old magic is there, but upon prolonged contact, it is terribly obvious that your old flame has become a raging bore.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

An unexpected stroke of fortune leaves you with a staggering amount of fresh citrus. It won't stay fresh forever, though. I highly suggest you make a few jars of marmalade to keep their sunny flavour for months to come.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Let not the foundations be of marble, let them be of samite and of scarlet... And to all thy warriors and their leaders thou shalt give the sacraments and orders, for thine army shall most surely perish, and thou too, shalt perish with thine army.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

An absolutely unforeseeable series of events will leave you sunburnt, embarrassed, and bereft of baked goods. Hey, at least you'll have an interesting story to tell at cocktail parties for the rest of your life.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

I know your feelings are smarting right now, darling, but you should consider the source. Perhaps you're being a bit more sensitive than the situation really requires. One simply can't expect tact from a Dragon, you know.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You need some good old barbaric physical exertion to clear your head. If you start today, you can still participate in the Gambol. Failing that, you should probably find a good pick-up Wheel team and take it from there. Just stop with the thinking for a while.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

This week, you will be haunted by the melody of a song your mother sang to you when you were very small, but you won't be able to remember the words. Keep it to yourself. I think you'll find yourself very red in the face if you discover what that song is among polite company, poppet.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Good news, sunshine! Suddenly this week you'll find a new perspective on a riddle that's been itching your brain for weeks now. Sadly for you, it's still the wrong perspective. Too bad.

And remember, pear trees can't bear apples.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JUNE 26**
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The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

This week will be a string of hard mornings followed by annoyingly uneventful afternoons. The evenings, well, those will be whatever you make of them, sweet pea. Use some imagination.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

This is a great week for you to plan out your agenda for the rest of the summer. You've got stardust on you this week, so every ticket you buy will be the best seats and the lowest price; the time spot you really wanted will be open for reservations; and the schedule will come together perfectly. Just don't miss your chance, 'k?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Everyone around you is so very tired of listening you talking just to hear your own voice. And it's a grating voice, too. Sometimes, darling, it goes better for you to just shut your mouth for a while and see if anyone else has something to say.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Now, don't be alarmed, but it's a good time of year to make your your first aid kit is up to snuff. Check that your creams aren't expired, your bandages have been replenished, you know the routine. Oh, and don't stand near closed doors.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Trying to win the heart of that special someone? Make a nice curry of chicken and plums, deglazed with a good white wine and candied ginger. Trust me, it's a dish that would make anybody fall in love.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Feeling a little alienated, huh? It happens. To reconnect with your sense of being a part of the human condition, schedule a late-night marathon of old Benigno vids. You'll feel better in no time.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Of that great number that one will send to relieve those besieged in the fort, plague and famine will devour them all, except seventy who will be destroyed.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your garden just isn't growing the way one might hope, is it? It's time for you to turn to the professionals. Take leaf samples in to a good nursery and they'll be able to tell you what's blighting your blooms, and what the cure will be. No shame in asking for help sometimes, muffin.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

All may look snug on the home front, but it's always nicer to work at it anyway. Sneak a hand-crafted puzzle into your sweetheart's pockets, preferably along with a

bit of chocolate. You'll both be glad you did.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

An obvious career coup will open up right before your eyes toward the end of this week. I know it may be hard to believe me, but don't do it! If you take that action, sure, you'll get ahead for a while, but over the long run, it's going to be bitterness and tears.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

No matter what clever rationalisation you may have come up with, allow me to make one thing perfectly clear: under no circumstances is now a good time for you to become a pet owner, not of an animal feathery, furry or scaly, and not even if someone else is promising to do the work

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

A series of major life events is happening to those around you, which may make you feel a little like a cork bobbing in one place and going nowhere at all. It's true, of course, but don't feel bad. Your day will come. Eventually.

And remember, the absent are always wrong.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 8

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Grab a bunch of friends and head out to Polygon Park for a picnic this week. There's nothing like a jug and a loaf among friends to make you appreciate how good you have it.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

An Apple-Thief holds your fate in his hands this week. Whether you get to take that fabulous fall holiday or not? Totally out of your control. I suggest meditation. Bringing him a basket of muffins couldn't hurt, either.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You keep thinking you see something out of the corner of your eye, but when you look, nothing is there. Don't bother getting your vision checked, though, dumpling. It's just a subconscious manifestation of everything you have on your mind.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

A surprising turn of events leaves you able to look like a martyr while in fact serving your own interests handily. Don't sweat the ethical dilemma, though. It's not hurting anybody, so milk it, baby.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your wit is much sharper than it typically is over the next few days. Now is a good time to work up the courage to propose that lunch date you've always only daydreamed about. Wednesday and Friday are the absolute best days for it, if you really want to leave an impression.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Break out the paints and dabble in a little self-expression, sweet pea. Don't have a canvas? Don't worry. You can always paint a mural on your wall. And if you don't like it once you're done, you can just paint right over it again!

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

But who that godlike terror of the plain, who strews the smoking field with heaps of slain? What num'rous legions fly in dire dismay, whose standards wide the eagle's wings display?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Big changes afoot for you, sweetling! The intervening disruption is going to be difficult and unpleasant, no doubt about it, but trust me when I say that the new equilibrium will be much, much nicer than the old one.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

The fruits of your labour have become ripe. No, I mean it. Go out and take a good look in your garden and for crying out loud pick what needs picking, or the fauna will eat all of those goodies you spent so much time and money on growing in the first place.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Due to an unusual configuration of stars, you will bruise easily in the coming days, both physically and emotionally. Take care to protect yourself, darling, or the marks will last long after the stars have moved on.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

My, haven't we become the happy domestic? You need to throw a little old-school drama into your life or risk your head melting from the tedium. Why don't you call up some of your long-last pals and have a night out on the Strip?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Just look at you go! Madame can't remember the last time she saw you moving with such verve and determination. Remember, though, it's a bad idea to work too hard toward an outcome you didn't want in the first place.

And remember, different houses have different mice.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 10**

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The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

A silence you had long grown accustomed to is broken, with unexpected consequences. It's very important that you be punctual in the next several days, so be sure to check that your key is keeping the correct time periodically through the day.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your enthusiasm for fresh produce is admirable, but when you're having a dinner party, you really should arrange to serve a few things on the more sophisticated side. It wouldn't hurt for you to have cleaners in ahead of time, either. Trust me on this one.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You will be stricken this week with an uncontrollable urge to purchase office supplies, particularly paper goods. In the interest of fiscal responsibility, you should get a grip on yourself and ask if you really, truly need yet another colourful unlined notepad with bunny stickers.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

If you're going to put a decision in somebody else's hands, well then, you're just going to have to live with what they decide, aren't you? Don't you go blustering and whining that they should have known what you'd wanted a little

better. You gave up that right, muffin.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Any luck you ever laid claim to abandons you this week. Avoid games of chance as though your life depended on it, and pad your schedule to accommodate outlandish delays. Be sure not to carry valuables on your person, and if possible, make sure someone besides you is at your home at all times.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You're in a midpoint, darling. Too far to remember the beginning, not close enough to see the end. It may be difficult to carry on what with the overpowering sense of futility and all, but at least a surge of renewed zeal will revive you toward the end of the week.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The false fair days have flamed the livelong day, and still they flicker in the brazen West. Cast down thine eyes, poor soul, shut out the unblest: A deadliest temptation. Come away.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You poor dear, you need a nice rest. Take it easy for a few days. Delegate when possible, cancel even more, and just generally make a good space for naptimes and recuperation. It'll all be better by Sunday, I promise.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Great peril awaits you if you renege on your gambling losses. Sure, you can choose to do that. It may even appear, on the surface, as though you can get away with it -- but fate knows everything. Isn't keeping your destiny doom-free worth paying up that forty lecks?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Something tiny you did without thinking many months ago has grown into something much bigger while you weren't looking. Unintended consequences can be pretty amazing, can't they, sweet pea?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The whole time that you've been off sulking, other people have been actually having a good time. Get over yourself, duckling. The fact is that life goes on, even without you, so you'd better get used to it.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You know, sometimes you fail just because you're trying too hard. Relax, darling, and trust that the universe will get you what you deserve. Though I suppose in your case that's not exactly something to look forward to.

And remember, staying at the crossroads instead of choosing left or right is still a decision made.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 17**
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A massive and unprecedented wave of productivity will crash over you, leaving your house cleaner, your work more organised, and your personal grooming vastly improved. Sadly, in the weeks that follow, you will revert to your usual slovenly ways.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Summer languor creeps into your bones, leaving you unusually calm and receptive to opinions from others. Exert what little energy you have in order to seek out wisdom from those you'd typically ignore. Which, really, could be just about everyone.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You need some strategy, dumpling. Time for you to take a good, hard look at the paths ahead of you and decide where it is you really wanted to go. After Sunday, there won't be any turning back for you.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your love affair with cheese comes to a bad end with several days of stomach-wrenching pain. Next time, pumpkin, make sure the cheese is supposed to be moldy like that, 'k?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

The purchase of a new set up measuring spoons drastically improves your quality of life. Here's a hint from Madame, though: to get the full bonus, be sure to get rid of the old ones, somehow.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Clouds float into a great expanse. Birds fly but do not sing in flight. How lonely are the travellers. Even the sun shines cold and white.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Tuesday brings word from someone you'd long forgotten you'd ever met. Arrange a meeting and see how much both of you have changed; this information is going to be very important to you before much longer, duckling.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Friday night you're going to overdo it at that big bash, so plan on spending most of Saturday regretting it. Not that you ever spend your Saturdays doing much of anything else, really.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

A number of imperceptibly tiny adjustments to your daily routine finally catch your notice, and you realise this week that your whole life has become unfamiliar territory. Change is the only thing that's permanent, babe.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

That missing key of yours shows up in your mailbox on Thursday, looking none the worse for wear. Too bad none of the data on it will do you any good anymore, seeing as you've long since changed all of your passcodes and accounts.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Take to your namesake this week, by which I mean it's an excellent time for you to go sailing. Take a few days for it, if you can. Just be sure to wear a hat and sunblock, darling, you'll need full mobility come next week.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You, my sweet, may be pining for adventure, but you really need to concentrate better on your housekeeping. The dust under your bed is just days away from achieving a vicious critical mass and taking control of you by way of your lungs.

And remember, the bird sings simply because it has a song.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 24**
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A situation you arguably got yourself into drags on and on without abatement. Don't worry, it won't last like this forever; but the stars say you've probably got a solid couple of months before any sudden denouement. Be strong.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Prepare yourself for long and acrimonious rounds of self-recrimination. Seriously, though, the world doesn't revolve around you, and sometimes things happen that aren't really your fault, duckling.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

What you need, my friend, is to take a good hard look at your clothing sizes and adjust as needed. Sometimes things begin to pinch and wrinkle so gradually you don't even notice there's a problem. Oh, but there is a problem, pumpkin.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

In the days to come, you are a lightning storm of creativity. Inspiration strikes you again and again, leaving you feverishly scribbling down plans big and small. The best part: when you come up with as many ideas and plans as this, usually at least a few of them are really, really good.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

This is a good week to come out of your head and apply what you've found there to the world around you. Knowledge and understanding are valuable, sure, but knowing how and when to apply them is way better.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Our skies have more stars, our prairies have more flowers, our forests have more life, our life more love.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Toward the end of the week you will have trouble finding hilarity in wildly inappropriate situations. Practice biting your tongue. With your teeth. Hard. To keep from laughing, doll, or you'll find yourself in worse trouble.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

An otherwise harmless fixation on minutiae may distract you from taking a look at the things that actually matter. Sometimes it doesn't matter whether mint and lime taste good together, so much as it matters that you're out of ice.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Yep, there you are, just plugging along business as usual. You might be tempted in the days ahead to make some dramatic changes to your standard op, but really, if it's not broken, why fix it?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You're losing sight of yourself, my dumpling. It's really wonderful to give pieces of yourself to those who need it, and it's really wonderful to adjust with changing times, but you do need to set aside a core of yourself to preserve your identity.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Someone you'd never have dreamed it of secretly looks up to you. Maybe you should take a little more care in the things that you say and do, seeing as how you're somebody's role model.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Life can be a little bit like one of those overblown and exactingly detailed historical dramas. Sometimes, you just have to get through the long slog of tedium to get to the exciting bits.

And remember, it takes two to have a fight.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JULY 31
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Serendipity smiles on you, and a group of old friends joins you for some good old-fashioned nostalgia. Enjoy this peaceful interlude while it lasts.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

That anger of yours is successfully burning off the fog of depression for a while, but pumpkin, just make sure that it doesn't lead you into any impulsive and foolish actions. Sometimes doing nothing at all is the better course.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Early this week, you'll happen upon the perfect gift for an acquaintance. While it may feel a little awkward giving a present with no special day to go along with it, trust me when I say this is the perfect thing to turn that acquaintance of yours into a close and lifelong friend.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Two words for you, my friend: Berry. Pie. Be sure to make two, though, since the stars are on your side for baking and the crust will be the best you've ever made.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

The heat is going to your head, dumpling. While it may be tempting to spend all your spare time at the beach for the next few days, trust me when I say you'll be much better served by adequate hydration and constant shade.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

When grief for fiction's idle words more real than human life appears, reflect that life itself's a dream and do not mock the reader's tears.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Big changes are afoot for you, muffin, and the clock is a-ticking whether you're paying attention or no. It may be hard to look transition in the face, but trust me, you really want to go into this thing fully prepared.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

For the next month, you will be overwhelmed by a passion for living hard. This will arguably be the best month you've ever had. Just be sure to get some rest sometimes, or your zeal will ensure that the month after will be one of the worst months you'll ever have.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You, darling, need to shake off you self-absorption and take stock of what's going on in the world around you. Oh, didn't you notice? There are things going on in the world around you. Pay attention.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Your susceptibility to fad and trend alike render you helpless to avert a very public fashion disaster on Wednesday. Darling, darling, please, start taking somebody a little more classical in style with you when you go shopping.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

A vivid dream gives you the clue you need to make sense of a long-standing conundrum. Too bad it's too late to take advantage of the opportunity, eh, hot stuff?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Your eagerness to leap into new things is admirable, but please, sweet pea, try to keep the number down to a manageable level. Even you can only do so many things at one time!

And remember, the drowned are not troubled by rain.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 7**
.....

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Bone-crushing fatigue foils you at every turn in the coming days. Do not operate heavy machinery and for the love of all things right-angled, don't try to do anything clever. No, not even that.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A piece of music you had, until now, found utterly delightful will be ruined forever by its appearance in your life in conjunction with some imagery you would prefer to sear from your brain. I hear some victims of this kind of thing have excellent luck with hypnotherapy.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Remember that niggling little voice you had over the weekend that you were forgetting about something important? As it turns out, the voice was absolutely right, and you-know-who is pretty angry about it. Find an alibi, dumpling, and fast.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

The party of the year is coming up for you, hot stuff. Word of advice, though: Take a stroll down Dalia and get a couple of honest assessments of that look you're trying to work. You just might find a last-minute style change in order.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You've got to express yourself, muffin. Words seem to be failing you just now, though, so you might want to try another medium, like paints or coloured glass. Not that those will get your message across any better, but it may at least feel less futile.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The world's great age begins anew, the golden years return, the earth doth like a snake renew her winter weeds outworn; heaven smiles, and faiths and empires gleam like wrecks of a dissolving dream.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Looks like you need to invest some meaningful effort into frugality. Just trust me when I say that sometime over the next few months, your cash ingress vs. egress will become markedly less favourable toward you, and the time to prepare is now.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You think you've got it all figured out, don't you, sunshine? Hey, maybe you do, who am I to judge? Just remember, actions speak louder than words. You won't get anywhere sitting around in your house feeling smug, that's for sure.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your overinflated ego is finally going to get the sudden loss of pressure it's been needing for much too long, now. The discomfort in your ears will only last until your sense of self-worth has reached a more sustainable volume.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Remember, the people who love you most are the ones who tell it to you straight, not the ones who make it look good. And let's face it, people who feel the need to suck up to you are pretty pathetic to begin with.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Words beginning with vowels are unlucky for you this week, and you should avoid them at all costs. You won't, of course, but don't come crying to Madame next week when you've learned your lesson, sweet pea.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You're still trying, aren't you? Bless your little heart. Irrational persistence has always been one of your most endearing traits.

And remember, nothing cleanses like tears.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 14
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

The past is coming back to haunt you. Be on your guard, duckling, and make sure you know where you're putting your trust these days. Trust is such a terrible thing to misplace.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Careful not to overdo this week, dove. A sudden burst of energy might induce you to more physical pursuits than you're used to, and if you don't temper your enthusiasm, you'll be sore and regretting it for a week.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

This isn't a great week for baking what with the weather, but it is an excellent time to experiment with making a mint granita. Why don't you have some friends over and float the granita in a little rum for a party?

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

All is not what it seems. The raven flies at midnight. Stay alert.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

I have walked and prayed for this young child an hour and heard the sea-wind scream upon the tower, and under the arches of the bridge, and scream in the

elms above the flooded stream; imagining in excited reverie that the future years had come, dancing to a frenzied drum, out of the murderous innocence of the sea.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

This week, you will learn a hard-won but very important life lesson about keeping valuables away from grabby, slobbery infants. You really should have known better already, muffin. Anyway, don't say I didn't warn you.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your time in the sun is coming, and I mean that literally. Not to say too much about unexpected delays or detours during the bright bits of the day, but do yourself a favour and wear sunblock and a hat when you leave home in the mornings, 'k?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

If you're feeling a little overwhelmed by the chaos around you, at least take some comfort in knowing it's only natural. Don't worry, things will settle down. Someday.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Your horizons are getting terribly narrow these days. Spend one whole week doing at least three things a day totally out of the ordinary for you, lovey. And I don't mean things like putting your socks on before your trousers, either. Make it count.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Your direction sense will be hopelessly compromised by Wednesday. On the plus side, on one of the many times you get lost by the end of next week, you'll discover your new favourite spot to bring someone you're trying to impress.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Good fortune will come to you provided you avoid your usual gaming haunts. Come to think of it, they've got you pegged a little too accurately there, and if you want to go back to winning, maybe you should keep away for good. Or else find a new strategy.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Lonely, huh? Yeah, I can't blame you. Since all your friends have apparently abandoned you for their own selfish ends, I say screw 'em and go find a new crowd to run with. There's a killer party at Alchemy Beach this weekend, that'd be a great place to meet some new faces.

And remember, to eat a nut, you have to crack the shell.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 21**
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The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)
Sometimes my darling, you read far too much into things. Why do you have to make everything complicated? All you're doing is suffering needlessly. So just quit it already.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)
O you lucky duckling, the stars have come together to make this week an absolute singularity of opportunity for you. Make sure your hair is neatly combed and then strike out to see what comes your way.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)
I see you're still a bit foggy today, so let's keep this simple: Vidscreens? Bad. Gambling? Bad. PCAG events? Good. Squash risotto? Good. Oversleeping? Bad. Painting your bedroom? Good. Travelling? Very, very bad.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)
Particularly loud expression of your political opinions might be just the kind of therapy you need over the next few days. Try it, maybe you'll like it!

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)
Well hast thou said and holily disprais'd these shapings of the unregenerate mind; bubbles that glitter as they rise and break on vain Philosophy's aye-babbling spring.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)
Your grandiose schemes all come to naught in the coming weeks. Construction is all well and good, but even the Cubeheads agree you have to know how to lay a foundation before you can build a tower.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)
Lay off the sweets. You'll be meeting someone very important in the coming days, and you won't be able to make a good impression with a mouth full of caramel, will you?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)
Your usual methods are failing you, aren't they, pumpkin? Take the lesson as it's offered; maybe you should leave off your regular (and, I might add, very dull) routine and try a few new tactics. I mean, it can't hurt to try, can it?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)
You may think you don't have the time for idle chatter, or you may think it's against your hardy moral fibre or some such nonsense, but trust me on this one: indulge a little and you just might learn something you really needed to know.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)
A summer cold leaves you sapped of energy and intellect alike. Be easy on yourself, muffin, or it'll last clean through to the Lighting of the Way and you won't even be able to celebrate.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)
It may strike you like some sort of thunderclap to learn that as many as 23% of the children entering school this year don't even know how to play Pyramid yet. Yeah, I didn't know, either! Crazy, isn't it?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)
This week, you'll find something you've been looking for has been practically under your nose the whole time. You should listen to your mother when she tells you to look underneath your sofa cushions and whatnot. You can't expect results if you're not thorough.

And remember, sometimes you can't see the library for all the bookshelves.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
AUGUST 28
.....

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your key word for the week: *espalier*. Use this as your guiding principle in all things over these next few days, and nothing can possibly go wrong for you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

What's even better than being invited to a party: being invited to several parties on the same day. Live it up, sunshine, and make a point of saying why you have to leave on those breezy transitions from one venue to the next.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Finally, all of that busy-bee industriousness pays off for you and everything starts to fall into place. Enjoy that sense of accomplishment while it lasts. Remember, though, that no major milestone is worth much if you never walk that last fifty steps of your journey.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Oh, duckling, if I had five lecks for every time you'll ever think your heart is breaking, I wouldn't have to write this column. Back off from the melodrama, pumpkin. Not every first date is going to be true and enduring love.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Images of broken light which dance before me like a million eyes, that call me on and on across the universe; thoughts meander like a restless wind inside a letter box, they tumble blindly as they make their way across the universe.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You should really bring a sweater or light jacket with you on Thursday night. It might not look like it's going to be too cold, but you'll find it unexpectedly breezy, and you'll welcome the extra layer.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

When I'm feeling at loose ends like you are right now, I like to find an activity that occupies my hands and my mind; you know, sorting through old papers, weeding the garden, rock-climbing, that kind of thing. Not that that helps you any.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

This is a terrific week for you to seek out some new music. You have to admit your usual rotation is getting a little repetitive, and there's something out there that will make you into a lunatic fan all over again.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

This week it's important for you to pay attention to all of those tiny, doubtful voices in your head that you usually work hard to ignore. Can't say when or how just yet, but in the coming days, that paranoid delusional in the back of your head is really going to save your bacon.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

An unexpected find in a store will take you back to that one summer when you were fourteen years old, and that one cool thing that happened that one time. Ah, memories. Too bad it can't possibly ever happen like that again, huh?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

This is one of those weeks where you should remind yourself: at least you've got your health, right? You should seek out the company of a Spider, they have lots of experience with trying to remain optimistic at times like these.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Persistent curiosity in the face of relentless lack of provocation is one of your finest and most endearing features. Don't worry, everyone already knows you're a gossip and a busybody, so you don't need to go round apologising for it, duckling.

And remember, reputation lasts longer than breath.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 11**
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The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Something about that crisp, cool air is putting a whole new spring in your step. A new outlook on life, I guess you could say, filled with bright optimism. Enjoy it during this brief time that it will last!

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Poker every night this week, dumpling, and bet high. For once your luck will be running so high it'll far, far outpace all of the damage your skill (or lack thereof) does to you.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You know, just because you can do something doesn't mean that you should. There's a valuable place in the universe for taking a hands-off approach every now and again.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Stand or fall I know there shall be peace in the valley, and it's all an affair of my life with the heroes and villains.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

There are deep mysteries that will never be revealed to you, duckling, and chief among them is why it is that you never get a song stuck in your head that you actually, you know, enjoy.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

The Lighting is coming up fast, and you have your work cut out for you in that party you're hosting. Oh, didn't you know? Better hop on the invites, doll, this is the most important shindig you'll be throwing in the next five years.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

I cannot emphasise enough how very crucial it will be for you to keep your hands and feet well-moisturised for the rest of the month. These few weeks of developing the habit will help you avoid the rough appendages you typically sport all winter long.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You may unexpectedly find yourself thrown into the company of small children late in the week. Keep in mind that kids are smarter than you think they are, OK? They're inexperienced, not stupid.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Take a hard look around you this week and you just may discover you have far more stuff than you'll ever have a use for, pumpkin. Why don't you collect some of the worst of the bunch and give

those things away to people who will love and use them?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Sometimes you're just so smug, cut it out already! Some of us lesser mortals aren't rigged with the same sort of drive and ambition you are, and you'd be much nicer to spend time around if you could really grasp that that is totally OK.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Give it up, that pair of shades is lost forever. I wish I could say you'd find a pair you liked even better, but I have a policy against lying.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Sometimes you have all of the romantic sense of a rectangular shrubbery. All of these possibilities and opportunities are zipping around you, and some of them are very good and some of them are very, very bad, and you can't even manage to see they're there!

And remember, you don't have to laugh even if you get the joke.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 18

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

I never did see a better opportunity for you to make a shrewd career move. Here's the best part: You don't even need to do anything dazzling or difficult, just show up on time and put in some minimal effort, and that alone will make you stand out this week.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

A compulsion to read historic works of literature overcomes you this week. Try to resist, sweet pea, or you'll find yourself taking an unusual number of unscheduled mid-afternoon naps.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Don't bet on the PCAG for a few days. Things aren't going to be going the way you had expected, and given the shocking developments this sleepy knockout round will bring, you'll be all-around happier if you don't have any money riding on it.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Think it not loss of time a while to stay, tho' thy companions chide thy long delay, tho' summon'd to the seas, tho' pleasing gales invite thy course, and stretch thy swelling sails.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Dress warmly, dove, there's a cold snap coming and you're especially vulnerable to the cold this week, what with all of the, you know, stress in your life. Eat a lot of soup and do try to get to bed on time, all right?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Well, if it isn't just like you to make things as inconvenient as possible for everyone else. Timing just isn't your strong suit, is it? Lucky thing for you that most people find it hard to nurse a grudge against you for very long.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You will soon have the opportunity to do something small but exceedingly thoughtful for an acquaintance. Take this chance, darling. I can't promise it will shower you with long-term benefits, but wouldn't you rather live in a world where everyone does that sort of thing?

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

That big home improvement project you've been involved in just got longer and even more tiresome. The thrill, it's all long, long gone. Buck up, though, muffin. It may seem otherwise, but even you can't be stuck in plastic sheeting and construction dust forever.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I give you an assignment for this week. Go to a furnishings store and sit in all of the chairs. You will find the one perfect seat in which to rest your bones, eschewing all other forms of seating the rest of your long and colourful life. Then buy the chair. This will ensure you lifelong good posture and ease.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Your grand plans for a dinner party are set unexpectedly askew when you discover there isn't a single market in town that has your key ingredient. Do yourself a favour, darling, and order in from that trendy restaurant on the corner, just this once.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You are filled with the jittery sensation of expectation this week. Try to relax and get some rest, dumpling, there are some things you just can't hurry along.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You are just such a baby, moping around like that. In fact, you put most of the Babies I know to shame. Just knuckle under and stop pretending the world did something awful to you; sometimes you need to work a little to deserve what you want.

And remember, habit is a powerful force.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 25**
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The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

The abuses of a minor government official cause you no small amount of inconvenience these next few days. Persevere, my sweet, and you will prevail in the end; it just won't be very enjoyable during the trek.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Your friends will never admit it to your face, but they are frankly all appalled at the state of your disgraceful love life. Honestly, leading perfectly nice people on like that? And a respectable role model like you, at that!

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

This week you will make all of your profits from volume and not from margin. That said, you should seriously evaluate your overall business strategems. There's a whopping big improvement you need to make if you could only see the obvious.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

With speed that may not tire and with pain that shall not part -- who livest -- that we know -- in Eternity -- we feel -- but the shadow of whose brow what spirit shall reveal?

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

An idle hobby shows potential for turning into a whole new lifestyle late this week. Examine this opportunity carefully to be sure it's what you want; not everyone is cut out for the life of the cottage industrialist.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You're making the people around you tense. Here you are agonising over your next move, and everybody else knows what it is already anyway. You're so obvious. Why don't you just get on with it instead of forcing everyone to wait for you?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Your lofty self-perception about what a terrific team player you are will be revealed as the bold delusion it is in the days to come. Don't let it bother you, pumpkin, we all knew how you really were already.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You and fashion need to have a long, quiet talk, darling. It's one thing to use style to express your own inner light, and something else again to look like the sidekick from a forty-year-old action show. Use some judgement. Preferably not your own.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You will be blessed with the gift of a silver tongue for one day only, that day being tomorrow. Best spend tonight working out the best plan for how to apply it,

but be warned, muffin, don't try anything if you can't seal the deal in one day.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

How is it that you can take a situation of such drear and isolation and have a good time with it? Ah, well, it's just that trait that makes you such an inspiration to those around you. Carry on, duckling, as you are.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

What you need are some comfy cushions and a nice long queue of vids to watch. Rest and save your energy, doll. You won't be able to get much else done until you wait it out, anyway.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Mind your own business and keep your ears to yourself. Everybody loves to gossip, sweet pea, but nobody loves a gossip. Guess which side of that fence you live on?

And remember, work is necessary for creation.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 2
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The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Feeling a little frazzled, pumpkin? Don't worry, soon you'll settle into a cosy autumn routine of sorts. Once that happens it'll be far easier for you to keep your usual frenetic pace without falling flat.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

No time for resting on your sweet but comfortable accomplishments, darling, there's a lot of work to be done! Worse, some of your colleagues are proving disgracefully unreliable these days, so you'd better count on doing it all yourself.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Absolutely and without question do not make any significant entertainment purchases this week. Your inner sense of enjoyment is being harmed by the stars, and you'll find that anything you buy before Sunday will only irritate you over the long term.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

You were born in times auspicious, child, into this world below; with God's help, in days before you, pain and grief you shall not know.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your ineffable love for the human race this week makes us love you back, sweet pea. Let that inner light shine and only good things will come to you.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Seriously? You need to rearrange the furniture in your bedroom. Soon. While you're at it, the stars say it's very likely you'll find an item long thought lost forever.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

I have to say, I didn't know you had it in you, dumpling, but in retrospect it shouldn't surprise me. You'd do well to take this new-found steel in your heart and apply it to that worthless freeloading friend of yours, though.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Don't use any fragile glassware this week. It will only end in shards and blood, and you really have enough to think about already. To be extra safe, avoid foods that require cutlery. Lucky you it's getting cool enough for soup again.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

An errant tree branch will fall and strike you in the shoulder on Wednesday. No lasting harm, but perhaps you should look into getting that towering chunk of wood pruned before the winter starts, eh?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

My goodness, this week you would lose your head if it weren't fixed to your neck so tightly. Remember what you were taught when you were small; when you've lost something, think of the last place you knew you had it and retrace your steps from there. And keep a better eye on your belongings, 'k?

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Well, aren't we all glad that's finally done? Not saying that you've been unbearable these last few months, but let's face it, you've been pretty unbearable. I mean, I guess it's a bit understandable, but honestly, show some consideration for others.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Did you know that every time you eat a harbonne made on the Lighting, you actually lose half a pound? Science has proven it. Go ahead, be a glutton with those holiday leftovers, your waist won't mind.

And remember, water carves through even stone.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 9**
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The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You might want to keep guests and pets away from your furniture this week. Unless, you know, you're looking for a good excuse to buy a new living room set. If that's the case, then it's a fantastic week to throw a party.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Honestly, I'm surprised that you've lived this long without more major disasters, considering the careless way you've been treating your sterling reputation. There's a time for prudence, darling. Look it up.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

You've been examining the possibility of beginning a major life change, and this is the week to do or die, muffin. Personally, I say go for it. You need some sort of transformation, if nothing else because everyone has heard your same old boring party anecdotes already.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Love found me all disarmed and found the way was clear to reach my heart down through the eyes which have become the halls and doors of tears.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Your colleagues leave you feeling under-appreciated and unloved this week. Don't let it get to you, pumpkin, they're just all too busy focusing on their own tiny inner worlds. You don't need anyone else to tell you how fab you really are.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

News from a long-lost childhood friend leaves you on the decidedly nostalgic and melancholy side. Remember, though, that those were simpler times for everyone. Promise me you won't do anything drastic to try to bring the past back to life, 'k?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

I was strolling along the Mazy this weekend and couldn't help but think how much good it would do you to do the same. You need to get out more, you know. Madame prescribes fresh air and exercise while the weather holds.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

If I were you, and I thank the heavens every day that I am not, I would keep mum about my private life for a week or three. One never knows who in a crowd is listening in, nor what embarrassing route your words will take to the least-convenient person that could possibly hear them.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Sore throat and sneezes strike you this week, but it's nothing serious. It is, however, a fantastic excuse to get out of work and slip to that astounding sale on Levenay leather goods for the winter. Bargains like that don't come along every day, you know.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Schedule at least double the travel time you think you'll need on Thursday, or you'll not get anyplace on time at all. Unless that's what you'd prefer, duckling, in which case just stick to your usual plan.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

One major accomplishment is behind you, but the true challenge is yet to be faced. To get through this chaotic time with your sanity intact, I highly suggest you develop and stick to a very strict schedule. It's not glamorous, but it's the only way, sweetling.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Your stomach may be rumbling a little louder than usual this week, but you must resist the urge to stuff your craw if you value your health and figure. Stick to celery and ice chips to fulfill that pesky chewing need.

And remember, a breeze now can make a hurricane later.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
OCTOBER 16
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The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Do yourself a big favour, go out and expose yourself to a few new ideas this week. You may not feel like you're at a loss for inspiration just now, but if you don't keep a fresh flow of experience running through your synapses, you will be soon.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Someone close to you is feeling a little lonely and -- dare I say -- even neglected lately. Reach out this week with a small gift and a dinner invitation, and see what you can do to make someone else's life a little better for once.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

'O dreary life,' we cry, 'O dreary life!' And still the generations of the birds sing through our sighing, and the flocks and herds serenely live while we are keeping strife.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Embrace your whimsical side, doll, and give something to the universe. I can't promise you'll see any tangible results out of it, but you should at least enjoy the smug satisfaction of knowing you've made the world a better place.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You need to make good chums with the freaky obsessive part of yourself. Cram your head as full as you can, because the things you don't know are so going to work against you by the end of the month.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Spread those wings of yours and fly as high as you can so you can take the long view again, pumpkin. You've been too deep into things lately and become much too distracted by all that messy-but-irrelevant detail.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Here's a little test for you. See if you can go an entire week without ever using two words in a row that start with the same letter. I bet you can't, it's harder than it sounds!

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Brace yourself for the unexpected, sunshine. The road is about to get a lot bumpier than it used to be, and despite any transient discomfort, you've still got the same destination to get to.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

That cousin of yours that you never really got along with makes a surprise cameo appearance in your life this week, and in a most unpleasant way. All I can say is, if you carry through on that angry impulse of yours, the whole restaurant will cheer for you.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Resist the urge to buck authority, darling. Sometimes you just have to know when to take an expert's word over your own. Remember, nobody knows everything. Though I do have my days, don't I?

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You will be overcome with the desire to consume far too much cheese in the days that come. Moderation in all things, muffin, but moderation in cheese most of all. Please, for my sake if not your own.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Take a much-needed rest at the end of this week, button. You've been through a lot lately, and there's really no harm in taking a while to recuperate and regain some inner fortitude.

And remember, the quickest solve isn't always the cleanest one.

**...FOR THE
FORTNIGHT OF
NOVEMBER 3**

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The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

A bold gamble over the weekend leaves you wishing for a new pair of galoshes. Sadly, the stars decree that you will be unable to locate an acceptable pair in your size, no matter how many stores you visit. Beware of errant viruses.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Your tastebuds act up these next few days, meaning that your coffee is always too strong, vegetables too mealy, and meats all have a smoky flavour reminiscent of salmon. It should pass by the 13th, but in the meantime stick to brothy soups, risotto, and chocolate.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Iâ€™ll not leave thee, thou lone one! To pine on the stem; since the lovely are sleeping, go, sleep thou with them. Thus kindly I scatter thy leaves oâ€™er the bed,

where thy mates of the garden lie scentless and dead.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

An unforeseeable incident involving autumn leaves, a broken lock, and fifteen pounds of chess pieces leave you the boss in the office for a few days. Don't let the power go to your head, darling, what goes around comes around.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

A sudden and uncharacteristic desire to engage in physical activity in the great outdoors gives you a surprising energy boost. And you wonder why all of the experts keep recommending you get more exercise. Honestly. Keep it up and you just might find a new twinkle in that special someone's eye by December.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You sail through early November smoothly and easily, but by the middle of the month it will be nothing but nonstop interruptions and distractions. Make a list, muffin, and then pare it down to only the things you have to do. Save the ones you want to do, for now. Don't worry, you'll have

a lot of free time coming to you before long.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

You are afflicted with a strange feeling of emptiness, deep in your soul. Don't rush out to join any humanitarian organisations, though; this is a very bad time for you to embark on any philanthropy, and you'd frankly just make things worse for the people you were trying to help. Stick to hot baths instead, pumpkin.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You may try to keep your bad news a secret, but these things have a way of getting out, don't they? Resign yourself to public humiliation for next week, and meanwhile use the mortification-fueled drive to keep it from happening again, 'k?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

This is an unlucky fortnight for you, though worse luck is on the way. I highly suggest you don't engage in unnecessary travel or dining out for a while, and absolutely under no circumstances should you participate in gambling or team sports. Unless

you're playing against me, I'll go easy on you, I promise.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Someone you trust isn't all that, sweet pea. You may be trying to look beneath the surface and give people a fair shake and all that, but let's be honest, here. Sometimes you can judge a book by the cover. Especially if it's by that hack, Applebaum.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

These next few weeks you will relish time to yourself. You're starting to need some solid time for quiet introspection and self-examination and all of that reflective nonsense. You'll have to do it in the shower, though, because that's going to be the only time you get to yourself for a long, long while, dumpling.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

You must absolutely keep a pen and a small notebook on your person at all times from now through the 11th. I can't predict why, exactly, but I do know if you don't, you're going to miss out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity once your key fails on you. Which it will, mere seconds before you desperately need it.

And remember, as the oak is, so will the acorn be.

...FOR THE FORTNIGHT OF NOV.

17

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Your subtle hints get you nowhere in the coming days. Be bold, be bellicose, but most of all, be very blunt or that prize you seek will wind up in someone else's hands. Not that it's unique or anything, but it could be a long, hard wait before you get another chance.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

And as for fortune, and as for fame, I never invited them in though it seemed to the world they were all I desired. They are illusions. They are not the solutions they

promised to be. The answer was here all the time.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Diligence pays off for you in the coming days as something you've worked for long and hard becomes yours. Remember what your mother always said, though, muffin: If you can't take care of them, you don't deserve to have nice things.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

For once, your impatient nature pays off. In your haste to get out of the office a little more quickly, you'll find a whole new method of cutting corners and seemingly improving your productivity that will get you promoted. Before anyone catches on, you'll be long onto a new job.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Flip to the classic vids and spend a few rainy days watching the old greats, like Train to Nowhere or Echoes. It'll keep your mind off the fact that all of your friends have snubbed you and are out doing much, much more fun things. Now, now, pumpkin, jealousy isn't becoming.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Your comprehensive program of self-improvement is tottering along so far, but you'll fall off it with a resounding thump by late next week. Sure, they say you can always pick yourself up and try again right away, but you and I know it isn't worth the bother, right, dumpling? Especially with the winter holiday season approaching.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You never wanted to be the smooth talker, and a good thing, too, because late in the month you'll demonstrate how very decidedly unsmooth you can be. Fortunately the most influential bystander will find your bumbling rather endearing, turning a potential catastrophe into a new chance at love.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You'll run into that cousin you never liked while dining out in the days to come, and discover that in fact she's become quite charming - even, dare I say, enjoyable to spend time with. Too charming and in demand, in fact, to spend time with a boring dullard like yourself. Don't be shocked when your calls go unreturned.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Your appalling lack of table manners is starting to cut into your social life, darling. If you want to break into the dinner party set, practice eating in front of a mirror for a week or two. Of course, if you're happy just swilling mugs at the corner dive, that's your choice to make.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You are in a time of confusion, even desperation, and more than anything you need some guidance. I'd tell you to seek out a mentor, but frankly you won't be able to find anyone who's been in your situation before. I'm not saying nobody has been, just that

those who have don't like to talk about it, and for good reason.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Stay away from Hands and Mazes as much as possible through the end of the month. They're a nasty, needy lot, and you should be saving your energy for more important things, like carrying through with your overly complex scheme to obtain a long-coveted possession. You people have far too much time on your hands, did you know that?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Forget your plans for one last outdoor gathering, sweet pea. No matter how carefully you scrutinise the latest forecasts, weather is very much against you. If it isn't rain and high winds, it'll be flying ants. Better to move the whole thing indoors, or, you know, just wait until spring.

And remember, children keep like dew on a rose.

...FOR THE
FORTNIGHT OF
DECEMBER 1
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The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Your squeaky-clean image gets roughed up a little on the 8th when everybody finds out what it is you've been up to lately. I have to say, I'm feeling a little extra gung ho about it. You needed to shake up your public persona anyhow.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Thence the welter of waters washes up wan to welkin when winds bestir evil storms, and air grows dusk, and the heavens weep. Now is help once more with thee alone!

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A sudden burst of inspiration gives you an unfair advantage in that puzzle design competition. Not quite enough to win, but you'll place and get heavy bragging rights. Enjoy it while you can, you'll be decisively upstaged in just a couple of weeks by a way more impressive feat by someone in your peer group.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

I don't usually advocate extra risk-taking for you since you so rarely think anything through to a socially adequate degree, but the stars are clear on this one: Take

the big leap this week and only great things will come of it.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Love is in the air, but not for you, duckling. While everyone around you is pairing off, do your best to keep track of the who's who or risk a blunder that could potentially end your social life for months to come. That's a lot of vid and takeout.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Time for some tough love. I love you, but you've lost your magic touch, precious. Take a step back from all your myriad affairs and just take a look at yourself for a while like you're a work in progress. See yourself with honest eyes and then fix the broken parts, 'k?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Keep your mouth shut, and I do mean shut. The stars have revoked your gift of the gab, not that you have such a gifted tongue in the first place. Let's just say that you'll regret every word that leaves your mouth for a while.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

A meaningless spat with someone close to you leaves you with your hackles up and your ire raised for days to come. After a few days you'll try to patch things up but instead you'll have an even bigger squabble over it. Honestly, you need to learn to let things go, sweetcheeks.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

I've been putting off telling you this for a long time now because I know how much it means to you, but those ratty shoes of yours have got to go. Invest in the future, doll. Get something zippier and shinier. And less smelly.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A plethora of adorability fills your life in coming weeks: wide-eyes babies, fluffy kittens, the whole deal. You'll have to work hard at maintaining your cynical appearance under this assault of sentimentality, but don't worry, I know you have it in you.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

An heirloom blanket plays a significant role in the unfolding of things to come for the next several days. Not your heirloom blanket, mind you, and if you know what's good for you you won't even look at it, much less touch it. Touching will lead to nothing good, dumpling.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Get your groove on, baby. The rhythm is in your soul, and better, everyone can see it. Don't waste a second, get out there every night and dance until you can't stand up anymore. It won't bring you love, fame, or fortune, but you may never have a better time again in your entire life.

And remember, don't sell the pelt until you've killed the tretretrete.

**...FOR THE
FORTNIGHT OF
DECEMBER 15**

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The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Ah, happy, happy boughs! that cannot shed your leaves, nor ever bid the Spring adieu; and, happy melodist, unweari'd, for ever piping songs for ever new; more happy love! More happy, happy love!

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

As the holidays come and go, your urge to snack will be happily met at every turn. You're going to finish out the year with an extra curve or two, but it's nothing to fret over; it looks fantastic on you, dumpling.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

The joys in your life are precisely the same as the ones that infuriate you most. Once you accept that the universe isn't going to knot itself up to meet your every whim, I think you'll find yourself much happier.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Preparations for your PCAG championship pool are a little off-kilter this year. Here's a hint, doll: when you're preparing your roster to take bets from your officemates, make sure the players you have are the same ones that made it all the way through the knockouts.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

A personal victory rings particularly hollow. Maybe you'd do better, muffin, if you picked your battles with a touch more care. There's something to be said for not squandering what little energy you have on stupid, petty squabbles.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You'll be happy to learn some astonishing news early next week. Try to temper your enthusiasm, though, sweet pea; it's not going to be anything like as wonderful as it is in your imagination. Then again, what is?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You're feeling the need to make some big changes, and that's perfectly fine, but make sure you're clear on what your own motivations are. You don't want to leave yourself in an even worse spot, pumpkin, and that's exactly what will happen if you're hasty.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

My goodness, don't you have foot-in-mouth disease! You can't go around saying things like that, darling, or somebody is going to arrange for something very, very bad to happen to you. Like, for example, what will happen on your way home on Friday.

And remember, nobody likes a tattle-tale.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A new person will make a splashy entrance into your life by the end of the month, and you will be giddy with the new feelings of affection warming up your stone-cold heart. Fear not; you'll find your new crush has flaws like anyone else before long, and you'll be able to resume your ordinary, icy-hearted life as per usual.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Look at you go, you social butterfly, you! Have a great time at that holiday party, but take care not to eat the fish cakes. If you knew what I do about what was going on in the kitchen when they were made, you might be put off fish cakes forever.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Ordinarily I'd urge you toward better punctuality, but over the next few weeks, a distinct tendency to be the last to arrive will only work out to your advantage. Use this lucky confluence of stars to catch up on sleep, doll.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

That Levenay bag you've had your eye on will be on mega-super-sale at your fave Dalia Way boutique sometime during the last week of the month. I advise you hit that shop every day after the 19th just to be sure you catch the discount. Being stylish is fab, but having lecks left in your account is way better.

**...FOR THE
FORTNIGHT OF
JANUARY 5**
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The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

I watch the ripples change their size, but never leave the stream of warm impermanence, and so the days float through my eyes, but still the days seem the same.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

You had a nice long break, didn't you? Time to stop enjoying yourself and all of that free time, though, because the stars mean for you to turn over a brand new leaf with the whole meeting-your-responsibilities bit. And about time.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Your vapid holiday antics leave everyone around you cold, and not just from the weather, dearie. You should perk up and put some sweat in toward the common good before you're written off as a freeloader.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

You might be smug now, thinking you've got it all under control, but be careful how you let it show, because sweet, sweet comeuppance is headed your way, pumpkin. You'll get more sympathy

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Please, for the love of Gyvann, don't wear that beaded number out in public. It may make you feel like a billion lecks, but even a billion lecks can't buy you good taste. Though if you ask very nicely, there's a Baby in your life who'd be more than willing to dispense some good fashion advice.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Bad luck dogs your steps in the coming weeks. It could take any form, from becoming allergic to your pet chinchoa to pernicious key malfunction. You do have one hope, though, if you empty your mind with a few days of solid meditation. I hear the Brotherhood in the Old Town put on a sensational spiritual retreat for people like you.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Saddle up and ride hard, cupcake. I can't put my finger on it, but something big and bad is thinking about you, and running means you'll live to fight another day. You'd be in a better place right now if you'd just hone those avoidance skills of yours.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

As the song goes, love won't keep your lights on, so stop with the lovey-dovey stuff and start attending to more mundane affairs. And stop with the PDA, that's so Aurora Belle, and I expect better of you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

A thoughtless comment comes back to haunt you late next week, when you discover that no, in fact they didn't forget all about it. Time to start with the back-pedaling, love, while you still have it all.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Just looking at what the stars have planned for you this month makes me yawn, I can't imagine having to live through all of that. It may feel like you're stuck in a rut now, but at least you'll get a lovely change of pace in a few weeks.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

That ridiculous sense of urgency may be driving you mad, but if anything, you're still dawdling too much, sweet pea. Tick tock, tick tock, better start running to beat the clock!

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Go ahead and dream big, sunshine, but it's going to be a while before any of it reaches splendid reality. It's OK, though, you should be used to delayed gratification by now, right?

And remember, it's the journey, not the destination.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 22**
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The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Graham crackers topped with sunflower nut butter is absolutely delicious. Also lucky. I suggest you make it your snack of choice in the coming weeks, darling. How can you get better than nourishing, lucky and delicious?

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You will be going on a long journey. No, I'm serious, muffin. The stars are waffling on whether it's a journey of the body or of the mind, but some part of you or another is about to get some serious mileage.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Take care what you say and do in the coming days, and especially make sure you're clear on what you're in for ahead of time. Calculated beats frantic hands down.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Don't let a bit of a sniffle keep you from doing any of your usual activities, doll. Trust me, sitting around at home feeling sorry for yourself will make you feel a whole lot worse than taking a shower and getting out the door.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Did you know that eight out of nine deceased artists on display at the Ha Gallery died of natural causes at exceptionally advanced ages? Sort of diminishes the mythos of the tragic, young, suicidal artist, doesn't it?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Well, don't say I didn't warn you, cupcake. You could try to show a little initiative and unpickle yourself, but to be frank, you're better off now conserving your energy and hoping the cavalry arrives.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You know that feeling like you're forgetting something really, really important? It's right. Concentrate very, very hard, dumpling. Try to work out what it is if it's the only thing you do this week at all.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Why does it have to be this way between us? Wasn't there a time when it wasn't all so bitter, so hollow? Let's try to make peace, pumpkin. We could never go back to our salad days, but we could try to forge a new, golden era.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Heavy winds prevent you from participating in your most-desired plans for the evening this week. All will be back to normal soon, except for the part where you'll never quite figure out exactly what you missed.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

I wish I could tell you this week will be all frolicking through meadows, but it won't be. It's all going to be hard work and no thanks at all. Buy yourself a good bottle of whiskey, sweet pea, and comfort yourself with the knowledge that next week will be different.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

For once, your inflated sense of self-worth will serve you in good stead. Your appearance of extreme confidence will, by Friday, allow you to impress someone who will soon have a weighty influence on your life. Good job!

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Oh, thou demon Drink, thou fell destroyer; thou curse of society, and its greatest annoyer. What hast thou done to society, let me think? I answer thou hast caused the most of ills, thou demon Drink.

And remember, once is an accident, twice is a crime.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 29

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Wishful thinking is the order of the week for you, sweet pea. You may soon find yourself consumed by a raging case of the coulda-shoulda-wouldas. Don't call it regrets, though, call it nostalgia.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You may soon find yourself wishing you really did lead the kind of life you tell your parents you do. Living on the edge is about to get a lot less compelling than it used to be.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Get thee to the Old Town, muffin, and do some slumming among the consignment shops. There are some dazzling gems buried among all of those dull pebbles, if you only spend a little effort on looking.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

A careless comment made years ago comes back to haunt you this week. Doesn't it just figure that everyone would remember and hold you to something as ridiculous as that? Maybe you should watch what you say more carefully, doll.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

I'm telling you, take your date to Conundra and try the ragout of lentil, yam and raisins with duck. If you can afford it, spring for the '60 sparkler from Harbin, too. It's the surest way to get what you want.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

You know I love you, but pumpkin, you really need to regain your sense of proportion. Some problems are big, but some of them aren't nearly as big as you seem to think, and I swear you used to know the difference.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

I so thought you had turned over a new leaf, and here I find you haring off on the wrong track all over again. No wonder your place is littered with half-finished projects.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You're in for a bunch of surprises this week, sunshine, chief among them what you do when you're put into a tight spot. Funny how you can never quite picture every possible scenario, isn't it just?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

'I told you so' may be sweet on your lips in the moment, but they sour fast once they're hanging in the air in front of you. Forego the instant gratification, doll, and remember when to bite your tongue.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Stop with the self-promotion, everybody can see right through you. Why don't you work on a party skill, like showy bartending or speed origami? It'll work a lot better than you do right now.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Remember to bring a hostess gift, dumpling. You may have trouble with all of the niceties that you need to remember when you're invited to such an event as this, but a well-chosen bouquet can get you forgiven for a lot of other oversights.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends.

And remember, the most exciting point scored is the last one.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 5
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The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A chance sighting of an early spring bird makes you take a good, hard look at where you're going and how you plan to get there. The future is a big, beautiful place, darling, but always a little out of reach. Better focus on the present.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

All good things come in multiples of three for you in the coming days. Don't be tempted into excess, though, muffin; you'll find yourself well served if you stow away some of those good things for a rainy day.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

The chill in the air is only temporary. Don't let it freeze you into some sort of winter paralysis, though, or you won't have any spare time to enjoy the warm weather once it finally arrives.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Things rarely go the way you plan, sweet pea, so don't take it too hard that your plans have gone awry, too. Just take a deep breath and forge ahead. I'm not saying the times you're coming into will be easy or fun, but they will be very interesting.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

That expensive purchase of yours turns out to be significantly less worthwhile than you'd hoped. You're going to want to take it back, darling, so hop to it before the returns period has expired.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Rest, pumpkin, and recover. It won't be simple, and you'll be hurting for a long while to come, but with time you'll lose that sense that nothing can ever be right again. It won't be the same as before, but it will be right.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

A celebration turns unusually pensive once everyone's had a little bit of festive beverage. It's all right, though, a thoughtful sort of gathering can serve to bring all of your friends closer together.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Nothing is ever fair, is it, doll? And you feeling like you should be the one to get the worst of it. Well, don't fret over it too long. Sometimes people become stronger because of the burdens they carry; but you knew that, right?

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Through the caprice of fate, you will find yourself with a lot of free time on Thursday. Use it wisely, dumpling, on being good to yourself. I'm thinking a bubble bath, a nice book, some fine

chocolate, and a small glass of the expensive fizzy stuff.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

If your nerves were strung any tighter, they'd be able to play you as a new musical instrument. I'd tell you to try to relax, but you and I both know that would be disingenuous, so just try to focus on deep, slow breaths once in a while.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

I've never pegged you for the type, but apparently this week you're going to be getting all weepy and sentimental on me. Gain some perspective, bright eyes. It's nothing like all over for you.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

You ask how many friends I have? Water and stone, bamboo and pine. The moon rising over the eastern hill is a joyful comrade. Besides these five companions, what other pleasure should I ask?

And remember, patience brings rewards unattainable by any other means.

• T • H • E • F • U • T • U • R • E •

...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 12
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

An unsettling encounter leaves you restless and wondering whether you have your priorities straight. Fear not, pumpkin, this new perspective will make all sorts of sense when you've had a few days to sleep on it.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Feeling lucky, champ? That's because you are. Get your game face on and go find a tournament or three, preferably the kind with cash prizes. Madame promises you'll rock the house down.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

It's never too late to make a fresh start, muffin. Just wash your hands of the same-old same-old and strike out in a new direction. And don't listen to the naysayers; caution isn't the path to greatness, now is it?

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Feeling a little blue? Don't worry, a new love is coming into your life and you'll have forgotten all about it quicker than two shakes of a tretretre's ears. Something about all of those zingy hormones makes you forget your sorrows.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

The worst is definitely over, darling. It may not seem so sunny now, but by the time the first green shoots of spring poke through the soil, you'll be well on your way to being something quite a bit stronger than before.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

You put on this whole tragically-misunderstood act, but you and me both know it isn't true.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Don't take the critics too seriously, sunshine. You know you did what you had to, and as long as you can make peace in your own heart that's the only thing that matters. That and finding a new card game where nobody knows you so well.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

I can tell you're having a hard time letting it all go. Relax, dumpling, and enjoy the ride. Things are looking up all around, blue skies and clear sailing ahead. At least for a little while.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

You may be feeling a bit like everyone else's sock puppet these days, but don't let it get you down. Shake off those chains, pumpkin, and get to doing the things you want and need to do and not just the things somebody else says you ought to.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Nobody ever had it as good as you and still managed to blow it. Them's the breaks, kid. But hey, better luck next time, right? And at least you've still got your health.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

So take the photographs and still frames in your mind; hang it on a shelf in good health and good time. Tattoos of memories and dead skin on trial. For what it's worth, it was worth all the while.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

A few simple rules for the days and weeks to come: Never say no to a dance or an evening in good company, never take yourself too seriously, and keep your wits at all times, you never know when you'll need to be sharpest.

And remember, the journey never ends as long as you keep walking.

**...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 19**
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

Life, like any other worthwhile venture, takes some effort in order to reap true rewards. I'm looking at you, dumpling. Put a little elbow grease into it, eh?

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Dress for the weather, darling, and choose your shoes for function this week, not fashion. As it turns out, you're going to be doing rather more walking than you would ever have expected.

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Open your tastebuds to a whole new dimension of deliciousity. Pay a visit to one of the old farmer stands a few miles outside of town, and sample one of those authentic tender-crusting meat pies. You won't regret the trip.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

All this week you'll be loaded down with tools, none of which will be the one you urgently need. Maybe you should start to reconsider what you keep in that rucksack of yours, sweet pea.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Surprises are just around the corner, sunshine. The good kind, I mean. I know it isn't quite your speed, but relax and be just a little patient. The time will go before you know it.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Rough times, eh? It's easy to feel overbooked and overwhelmed, and nobody would blame you for that; but just think of how fantastic you'll feel when you get it all done!

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

Sure, you're getting the smiles in the corridor, but you still feel like the ball everyone else kicks around, and you're not sure why. Sometimes, pumpkin, it takes a while for your image of yourself to catch up with everyone else's.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

A worrisome symptom turns out to be a very minor medical problem. Don't lose any sleep over it, but do keep an eye on it; sometimes even doctors can be wrong, you know.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Don't buy any produce this week. As it turns out, your social calendar will be rather busier than you had planned, and anything you buy will just spoil before you get a crack at it. Such a waste.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

Intuitive leaps may not be your most cosy way of working, but this week you're all about the stunning flashes of insight. Call it a little lesson in learning to trust yourself, muffin. That's one of

those things you're not so good at, is it?

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

The Road goes ever on and on down from the door where it began. Now far ahead the road has gone, and I must follow, if I can, pursuing it with eager feet, until it joins some larger way where many paths and errands meet. And whither then? I cannot say.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

What would your mother say if she knew what you were up to? Starting to feel a little guilty, aren't you? Well, good. Maybe it's about time.

And remember, never use a stranger's dice.

...FOR THE WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 23
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The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

You've come a long way, Baby, but the stars are far from being done with you yet. Stop trying to second-guess destiny. It's totally okay sometimes to just relax and take what happens as it comes.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

A whole new chapter in your life is about to unfold, duckling. You know how some of it will go, but there will be a ton of surprises along the way, too -- so don't let yourself get too complacent!

The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

Prepare to be perplexed and amazed, sweet pea. You and your friends have been very hard at work in case you didn't know, and the fruits of all your labours are about to pay off handsomely.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

Try new things, pumpkin: new friends, new books, new foods, new music. You may think you know what you like, but why not shake things up a little when there just might be something out there you like a kabillion times better?

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

It may seem like it's all over for you, but cheer up; you have lots to look forward to, psychic's honour. You'll need to forge a whole new path for yourself, but

you know, sometimes it's better to be who you wanted to be and not who you were expected to be anyhow.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Nothing ever turns out precisely the way you'd expected, but ask yourself: Would it be any fun at all if everything did? Take your sugar and your lumps alike with a brave face, dumpling, and remember that the pain fades with time, but the joy never does.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You're riding high and fast now, but don't forget that fame and fortune both may yet forget your name and number, sunshine. The day will come again when you need to roll the hard six.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Well, aren't you a quivering ball of conflicting emotions? Don't worry too much about holding it all in and keeping up appearances, doll. Nobody would blame you for being overcome by sentimentality during times like these.

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

Keep your neurons limber, sweet pea, and be sure to present yourself with fresh mental challenges every day. There's going to come a time when you'll be regretting any loss of capacity. Use it or lose it, that's what I always say!

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

If I had two lecks for every time you put your foot in your mouth, I wouldn't need to write Futures for the paper anymore. Still, you've got a certain convincing charm to you, and that gold-toned tongue of yours just might be useful for outing the truth a more tactful person wouldn't find.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

But further way found none, so thick entwined, as one continu'd brake, the undergrowth of shrubs and tangling bushes had perplexed all path of Man or Beast that past that way.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

So you've made some bad calls, tipped a few wheels, maybe you're feeling like you could have done better. But you've come through the fire with your dignity intact. That has to count for something, right?

And remember, thoughts are fleeting, but actions are eternal.

**...FOR MAY AND
BEYOND**

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The Spider (April 11 - May 10)

The other day I saw a butterfly landing on a rosemary shrub, and something about the colours and the scent made me think of you and how you really need to work hard at being a less picky eater. Grow some windowsill herbs and do a little experimental cooking, sunshine. You'll reap the foliage of your labour and all that.

The Wave (May 11 - June 10)

You know how sometimes you can look at a picture and think it looks like one thing, and then your eyes refocus or something and you realise that what you're seeing is, in fact, something entirely different? Yeah, it's like that.

The Archer (June 11 - July 10)

Just when you were relishing a return to humdrum normality, interesting events rear their shiny head again and make you question where it is you're going with your life. Take it easy, doll. It's OK not to rock the boat when you're afraid you'll drown.

The Half-filled Jug (July 11 - August 10)

Love is in the air, darling, but not for you. You may feel a little out of place with all of the cosy pairing up going on around you, but try to stay gracious about it. We both know the time just isn't right for you.

The Dragon (August 11 - September 10)

You are the golden child of fortune this month, but luck can only point you in the right direction. No amount of luck will save you if you aren't willing to do the legwork, muffin.

The Three Balls (September 11 - October 10)

Mazes are lucky for you this month. And, come to think of it, lucky for everyone around you, too. Maybe it's time to trek to Mimasan this year and reap what good comes your way from it. At the very least it's a fun time, right?

The Dice (October 11 - November 10)

There are times when you just need to put your head down and plow straight through the job you have to do. Now is one of those times. Don't think about it too hard, duckling, just get on with it. If you overthink you'll underdo.

The Maze (November 11 - December 10)

It behooves you to do favours for your friends, even if you can't quite see where it's all going. It never hurt anyone to do their part in making the world a nicer place to live in, now did it, sweet pea? And no talking back to Madame, you know perfectly well what I mean.

The Apple-Thief (December 11 - January 10)

All the stars are melted together in the crucible of time, then cooled in the sea and turned into a many-faceted stone-block. A dying lapidist, the Night, setting to work with all her heart and all her grief to see her mills crumbling, crumbling, like ashes in the wind, cuts with what living care the prism.

The Hand (January 11 - February 10)

Live music is the order of the day. It's almost certain you're feeling a little blue, so get your concert on and try to lift yourself out of that dark mood, pumpkin. Do a little hunting around for a big show, I'm sure you'll find just the right thing.

The Baby (February 11 - March 10)

It would do you a world of good to get out and try some new things. Playing a new instrument, say, or trying a new sport. Breaks some boundaries, get out of your rut, blaze your own trail; call it whatever you will, just make sure it's different from the so-not-working things you're doing lately.

The Eagle (March 11 - April 10)

Sometimes you just need to step back and look at the big questions - you know, the whys and hows. I'm not saying you're going to find the answers to them, but isn't it fascinating how much you can learn when you figure out the shape of what it isn't you don't know?

• T • H • E •

• F • U • T • U • R • E •

And remember,
everything
in the world
is connected
if you look
hard enough.