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IN THE **ASTROLOGICAL JOURNAL**
July/August 2026

Russell Grant:

"I was the first astrologer publicly connected to a member of the royal family"

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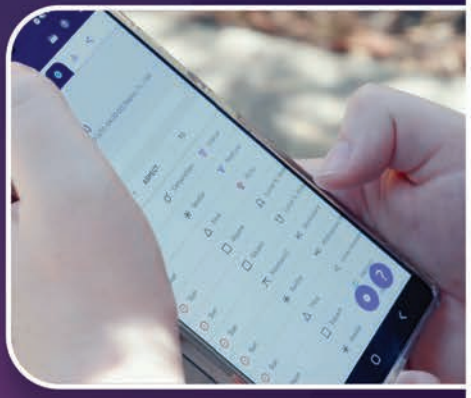

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Russell Grant on the Queen Mother, King Charles and Queen Camilla

Sue Brayne

Britain's most famous astrologer talked to *Stellar* about his association with the British royal family and his astrological history in this short extract from a much longer interview. See details at the end....His first royal 'client' was the Queen Mother...

Russell Grant: My very first book, *Your Sun Signs*, was published by Virgin. They signed me up when I ended up on breakfast television. I dedicated it to the Queen Mother and sent her a copy.

Sue: Did you actually sit with her and do her chart?

Russell Grant: We had 'conversations.'

Sue: Fair enough.

Russell Grant: Client confidentiality!

Sue: But she played a huge role in your life.

Russell Grant: The Queen Mother was opening this Ideal Home Exhibition. This was in 1978. Then I heard from Janice Nash, head of PR. She was Canadian. She rang up and said, "The Queen Mother would love to meet you". I said, "I don't think she's asked personally." She said, "She's into astrology." I was so surprised.

Just before we were due to meet her, it was called off. Janice came to me and said, "It's been called off." I asked why. They said they didn't think it would be the right thing for the Queen Mother to be seen with an astrologer.

Then, seconds or minutes later, I got another call: she was coming after all, and she was just around the corner by the Cornish pasty stand. At that point, I rushed to get changed again — and I'll never forget this — my zip went in my trousers....

There's a lovely picture of me with the Queen Mother where she is absolutely grinning. The chart was put together at the last minute. It wasn't done by me; it was done by Chris Cresswell. We had teams of astrologers doing charts because there were no computers. Chris did a lovely chart for her, which we presented to her.

After that — and I don't really talk about it — I met her a couple of times. But the impact of meeting her was enormous. The photos went all around the world. One of the first cuttings I received was from the *Halifax Courier* in Yorkshire, and then another came from Halifax in Canada.

She changed my life. She was a super-duper Leo, Sun Leo. We just hit it off. The PR lady Janice came back after and said, "She absolutely fell in love with you", which is why she spent so much time [with me]. Normally she would pass the stalls saying, "Yes, lovely, thank you very much".

Sue: Looking at your chart, you've got Pluto in Leo. Was her Sun conjunct your Pluto?

Russell Grant: She was August 4th — ironically the same date, not the same year, as Meghan Markle. I think you'll find it was nearer in opposition to my Sun or Moon.

Sue: Certainly to your Moon.

Russell Grant: Yes. I felt a very strong vibe, and I will never forget it. Why would you? She was in a lovely velvet outfit, and I felt I was meeting my grandmother. It was that kind of vibe, and that's where the Moon comes in.

You're not allowed to do the talking first. They said she must address you, and you must call her "Ma'am", certainly the first time. But by the time we were walking around *The Stars in Your Life*, which was the name of the feature, it was very chitty-chatty, like you and me here — except you couldn't be my grandmother because you're far too young.

Sue: How do you see the royal family turning out now?

Russell Grant: I've never been a huge fan of Charles. What turned me off was that his mother said to him, "Make Camilla Queen Consort, but not the Queen". But now we all hear "Queen Camilla". I don't know Camilla and I don't know Charles. I've not met either of them. But to me, if we could have skipped a generation and gone straight to Diana's child, straight to William, that would have given us more longevity.

The greatest sadness is that when I did the *Royal Variety Show* in 1984, I met Diana. Her first words to me were, "Oh, Russell, I'm so glad to have met you. When I was having Harry, you used to brighten up my mornings". Of course, I was doing breakfast television at that time, doing straight-to-camera stuff, much like what I do now on Instagram and TikTok.

I loved Diana so much. July 1st — what do you expect? All that stuff trined my Pisces and my Uranus....

From the days of the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret, and Her Majesty the Queen [Elizabeth II], there was a feeling of security. If we look at the chart of the United Kingdom — my lovely friend Nick Campion, whom I've known for many years, uses a chart with 0 degrees Aries, though some use Taurus or Capricorn.

The royal family and the United Kingdom are interconnected. We've had Uranus going over the UK chart, and Pluto in Aquarius is going to square that Taurus stuff. Charles is the end of the line as we know it. When Charles goes and Camilla goes, you will see something completely different happen.

In seven years' time, Uranus will be crossing William's Sun. Whether Charles will last that long, who knows? It's a great sadness that he has the illness. He's Sun Scorpio, and I'll be very surprised if it's not something like prostate cancer for a man. They're not saying what it is....

Russell's astrological background...

Sue: So you trained as an actor?

Russell Grant: I did.

Sue: But you used to be in the dressing room doing astrological charts. Tell me about this. How did you get into

astrology? Did it run parallel for a while?

Russell Grant: I don't know if it ran parallel really. No, I don't think it did. With [my] Uranus on the Midheaven, there are always these very sharp changes which you just aren't expecting. I don't think Uranus on the Midheaven takes kindly to anything running in parallel with it. It is an all-or-nothing placement, and in your career you just go for it.

I obviously have the Sun-Moon opposition Pluto, which is quite obsessive and focused. But what happened was somebody bought me a book — I'm trying to think who — and I came across Jeff Mayo's *Teach Yourself Astrology*. It came from [bookshops] Barnard and Warren in Uxbridge. I was born and raised in Middlesex.

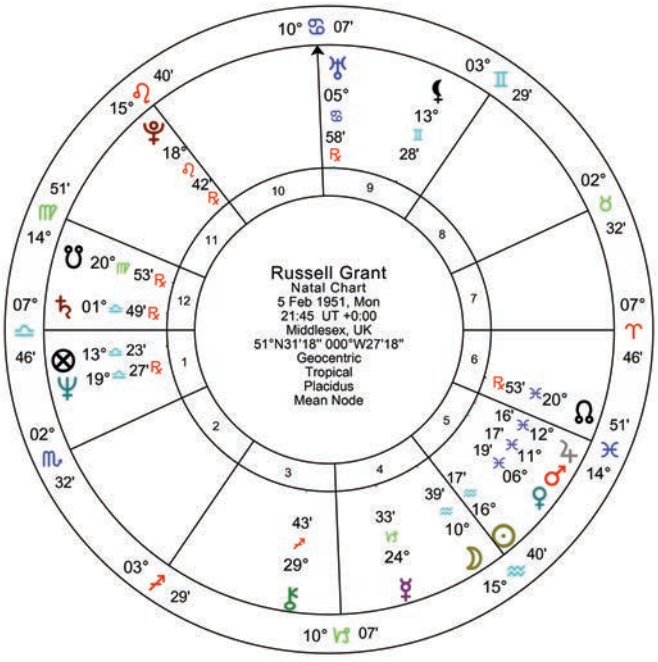
Then I was given a book token by my grandmother and I bought Julia and Derek Parker's *The Compleat Astrologer*. Those were the two books that set me on the path.

Then, when I was about 15 or 16, I met a lovely woman quite by accident — Uranus on the Midheaven — while sitting in a medium's waiting room in Waterloo, London. Her name was Rita Shamansky. I say "was" because she changed it to Zia Shimanski. At the time, I think she was secretary to the Astrological Lodge, Madame Blavatsky's joint down Gloucester Place.

I went there, and through that I became very close to people like Liz Greene, Martin Freeman, and Zia. Rita had this very strange thing about me. She wanted to teach me all she knew about astrology, and I'm very grateful to her for that.

She took me back to Jeremy Court in Clapham — I remember this, Number Two Jeremy Court — and she used to pick me up from the family home in Uxbridge and drive me to Clapham. She taught me everything she knew for four years.

Out of the blue, she suddenly said to me one day, "You've got to stick to this, Russell, because you're going to become one of the most famous



astrologers in the world". And I said, "No, no, no. I'm an actor".

[As an aside...] Oh, we've got the Coast Guard outside my house now. I can barely see. This is wonderful, isn't it? Uranus on the Midheaven — the unexpected. We have the Coast Guard about to do a rescue outside.

Sue: Where are you?

Russell Grant: My window is just there. The helicopter. How divine.

Sue: Where do you live?

Russell Grant: Blackpool at the moment. That's due to health and other reasons. Anyway, I used to do charts in the dressing room when I was doing shows. I appeared in the West End with Tommy Steele in *Hans Christian Andersen*. I was in *Tom Brown's Schooldays* with people like Chris Guard, Keith Chegwin, and the Duran Duran singer [Simon Le Bon].

We all got on, but I was doing charts because Rita was teaching me.

Sue: Russell, you must have been doing these by hand.

Russell Grant: Of course. The most forbidding thing was those bloody logarithms at the back of the ephemeris. I hated it. When I used to do interviews, I'd say to people, "You don't understand: it's an art and a science". The science is doing the algebra and the logarithms, and all of it was done by hand.

But what I absolutely loved — and what came to me quite naturally — was that I didn't really have to read any books. I'd look at a planet and see things about it.

Sue: Wow.

Russell Grant: This is what excited Liz Greene and everybody when I was doing consultations. Then I met another woman who became so important in my life. You'd know her as Pamela Crane, the Reverend Pamela Crane. She and a friend of hers, Ken Fretwell, took me under their wing. I used to trot down by train to Deal in Kent, where they lived at the time. Pamela now lives in North Wales with Gerard.

So I was doing astrological readings for members of the cast. I used to do the chart, which was the hideous bit, and then once I got into the interpretation it was wonderful.

It was only ever a hobby. So when you ask me if it ran in parallel, I think the big change came when I was asked to do a reading for the wonderful woman that she was: Her Majesty the Queen Mother.

The full transcript of this interview will be published in the Sep-Oct 2026 issue of *The Astrological Journal*.

AstroCartoGraphy Petition

Help us to protect this technique.

The Astrological Association has sent an email to the individual who has applied to trademark 'AstroCartoGraphy' in the EU. We kindly asked her to withdraw her application to the EU and to relinquish her French registration. Regrettably, we did not receive a reply.

An EUIPO application was filed on 12 December 2025 and is currently listed as pending. The trademark was successfully registered in France on 14 November 2025 (applied for on 4 July 2025).

As practitioners and students of astrology, we understand that 'AstroCartoGraphy' is a foundational, descriptive term for the discipline of locational astrology. Since its development in the 1970s, this terminology has served as a vital, common-use descriptor for professionals, researchers, and software developers worldwide and has been widely used internationally for many decades. Although originally associated with Jim Lewis and his work, it subsequently came into common use among astrologers, authors, teachers, researchers, publishers, and practitioners around the globe, and the term has been used continuously in books, magazines, conferences, educational courses, and professional consultations by numerous independent practitioners.

The Astrological Association views any attempt to restrict the use of this term as an attempt to privatise a shared professional heritage. We believe that such terminology should remain in the public domain, ensuring that all astrologers can continue to describe their services and practices without fear of legal impediment or the burden of licensing fees.

We need your help to show support for the Association's aims, which include collaborating with the wider astrological community, lending our support to our European friends and groups, and safeguarding the future of the term AstroCartoGraphy and other generic astrological terms.

Please register your support by signing the petition below. Your personal details will only be used for the purpose of this petition.

https://www.astrologicalassociation.com/astrocartography-petition.com

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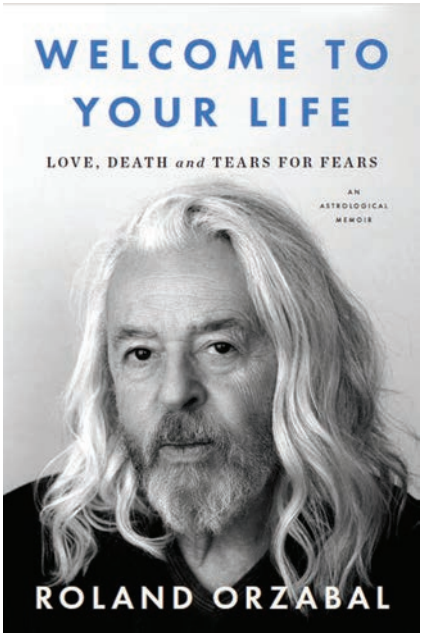
Tears for Fears Star's "Astrological Memoir"



Roland Orzabal – frontman and primary songwriter of the Eighties' mega-rock and synth pop band Tears for Fears – has a book out this summer described as an "astrological memoir, the first of its kind, I believe," he tells fans on his Instagram page.

Titled *Welcome to Your Life: Love, Death, and Tears for Fears* and released on 4 August 2026 from Little Brown, he reveals he's been studying astrology since 1986. He says: "I explain how the planetary archetypes correlate to personality and behaviour, how the transits coincide with the triumphs and tragedies of my personal life, the highs and lows of my career. Sounds hard to believe, doesn't it? Well wait till you read it. It also serves as a nice introduction to a much misunderstood subject."

His publishers write, "Roland uses astrology, a life-long passion, as a narrative tool to underpin the storytelling, teaching readers the power of the stars and how his life has been moved by where he was in his astrological chart." Oddly, the Amazon blurb for the book makes no mention of astrology.

Among Tears for Fears' many hits are 'Everybody Wants to Rule the World', 'Shout', 'Head Over Heels', 'Mad World' and 'Sowing the Seeds of Love'. Their albums include *The Hurting, Songs from the Big Chair, The Seeds of Love* and *Elemental*.

The band was founded by Orzabel – born on 22 August 1961 in Portsmouth at 11:45 p.m. – and Curt Smith in 1981 in Bath, UK. He is a Leo only by a few minutes – he could so easily be a Virgo if the birth data is not accurate.

In 2021, Orzabal and Smith were honoured with the Ivor Novello Award for 'Outstanding Song Collection' recognising their "era-defining Tears for Fears albums" and "critically acclaimed, innovative hit singles".

The Stars Who Also Look to the Stars

Many celebrities actively use or follow astrology, often consulting astrologers for career decisions, relationships, health, travel or major life events. Some are quite open about it, while others keep it more private. Here are some prominent examples based on public reports and interviews:

Angelina Jolie: She's one of the most cited examples. She has consulted astrologers (and even Buddhist monks influenced by astrology) for timing medical procedures, movie releases, and personal milestones like her marriage to Brad Pitt. She's spoken about Gemini traits and uses astrological insights for daily and big decisions.

Lady Gaga An Aries, she's openly discussed using astrology to time tours and events (e.g., avoiding or aligning with Mercury retrograde). She's described as quite into it for guidance.

Kendall Jenner The Kardashian-Jenner family frequently reference zodiac signs, read horoscopes, and incorporate astrology into their lives and public personas. It's a recurring theme in their shows and social media.

Jennifer Lopez She regularly reads horoscopes, consults psychics and astrologers, and has expressed interest in using it for future insights and decision-making.

Selena Gomez She's been listed among celebrities who follow and use astrology for personal guidance.

Dua Lipa Openly embraces astrological themes, even incorporating them into her book club activities.

Kendrick Lamar Reveals his Gemini identity in his works.

Lana Del Rey is also known for her interest in astrology, further expanding the conversation.

Madonna During her Coachella 2026 performance, she referenced a New Moon in Taurus and claimed seven planets were in Aries. Fans quickly disputed the latter, with some joking she should "fire her astrologer" and others calling for more accurate astrology talk from public figures.

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Jaafar Jackson plays Michael

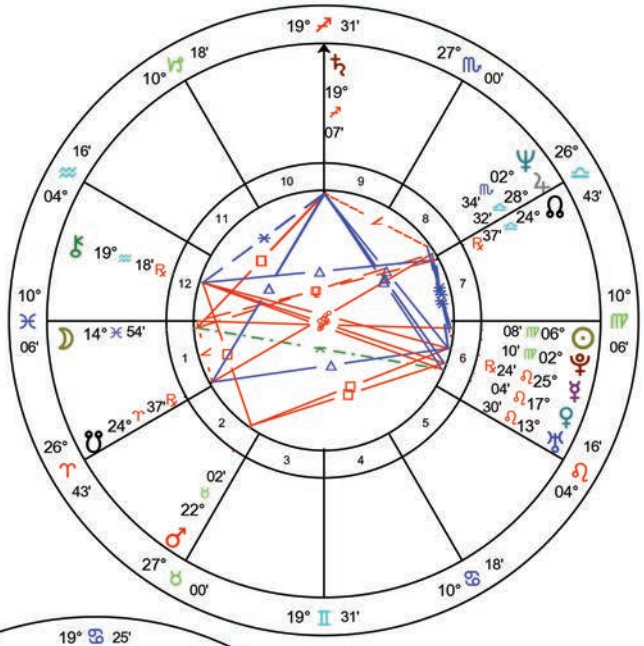
Wendy Stacey

The musical biopic *Michael* stars Jaafar Jackson in his breakout film debut as his uncle, Michael Jackson. Jaafar's performance has earned him high praise even if many critics are cold on the King of Pop who faced multiple high-profile child sexual abuse allegations during his life.

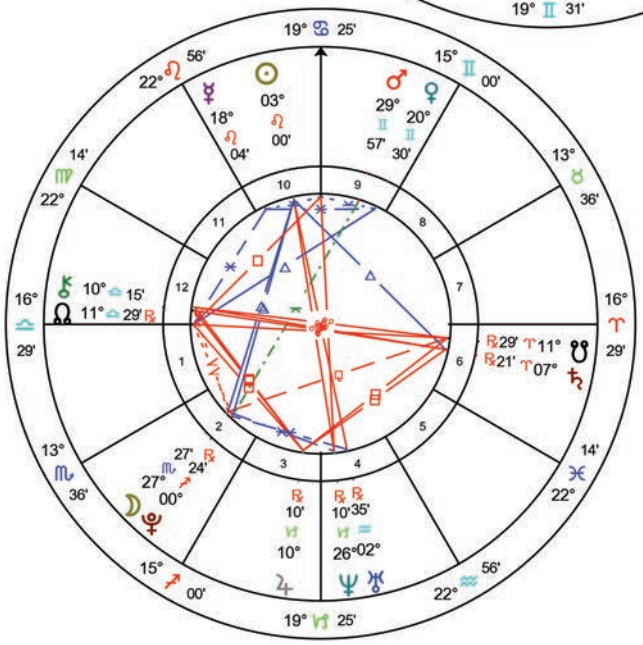
We don't know Jaafar's birth time (big sigh); however, what we do know is still exciting. His performative Sun in Leo sits beautifully in a grand trine with Saturn and Pluto and possibly his Moon.

He commands a standing ovation before he even adorns the stage or screen. His Sun in Leo also makes a tight and interesting opposition to Uranus in Aquarius, giving him a powerful urge to be free, unpredictable, and with a little bit of quirkiness thrown in. He probably doesn't like rules and, as a non-conformist, plays by his own book and enjoys being a free spirit.

He may not have been the easiest to work with behind the scenes but he needs to be different, to stand out in the crowd, and be highly unique. His Sun is also widely opposite Neptune, so he can merge into scenes easily, morphing and dissolving into character effortlessly. It also highlights his exceptional imagination, something he shared with his late Uncle Michael (who had Moon and Ascendant in Pisces),



Upper Right:
Michael Jackson
Natal Chart 29
Aug 1958, Fri 19:33
CDT +5:00 Gary,
Indiana 41°N35'36"
087°W20'47"
Geocentric Tropical
Placidus Mean Node



Bottom Left:
Jaafar Jackson
Natal Chart 25 Jul
1996, Thu 12:00 CDT
+5:00 Chicago, Illinois
41°N51' 087°W39'
Geocentric Tropical
Placidus Mean Node

and where he identifies with his uncle's ability to create magical worlds. The opposition, although wide and out of sign (Leo and Capricorn), demonstrates an impressively masterful quality in his work.

His Mercury in Leo is expressive, and sextile Venus in Gemini, which makes him playful, witty, flighty, coordinated, and flexible, perfect for the part to dance to the reverberations of his uncle's moves and echo his voice so smoothly. It would not be surprising if Jaafar had input into the choreography of the dance in the film. This is emphasised by the lovely synastry of Jaafar's Mercury sitting very closely (within a degree) to Michael's Venus and Jaafar's Venus sitting on Michael's Gemini IC, again within a degree, thus Michael having a similar sextile.

Jaafar brings lightness and joy to Michael's legacy and he found it easy to understand his uncle's style of expression. Mercury and Gemini can be attributed to the feet, and both

Michael and Jaafar share a common element here in speed and technique. It also reflects the striking physical resemblance that made Jaafar a natural choice for the role.

For most of the day of his birth, the Moon is conjunct Pluto, bringing a sultry, private but mysterious charisma to his personality. This strong intensity he also shared with his uncle, who had the Sun conjunct Pluto.

Both men possess a very strong Mars in their charts, although the expression differs. Michael has a fixed t-square, where he has Venus opposite Chiron, both square to the apex, Mars in Taurus in the 2nd house. Potentially, money and body image created internal security struggles for Michael. Whereas Jaafar possesses an unaspected Mars at the last degree of Gemini, meaning his Mars is powerfully rogue and operates without boundaries, again emphasising his free spirit. Jaafar's Mars is more about seeking, learning, boundless curiosity, and confidence in using his voice.

The Mars in both their charts tends to have an innate irritability about it, perhaps underpinned by unfiltered anger and being wary or fearful of their own tempers. However, it also demonstrates a highly individualistic nature which is driven, raw and commanding along with a strong uncompromising need to get things over the line.

With Jaafar having both Venus and Mars in Gemini, he has great potential for mimicry, and his talent in achieving this in the movie *Michael* proved exactly that. He made it unquestionable to the audience that he was the *only* man for the job. He can both mirror his uncle, magnificently capturing his essence through song and dance, whilst simultaneously carving out an incredible, masterful road for himself, a far greater achievement than imitation alone.

Both men display strong Mercurial and Leonine qualities as well as

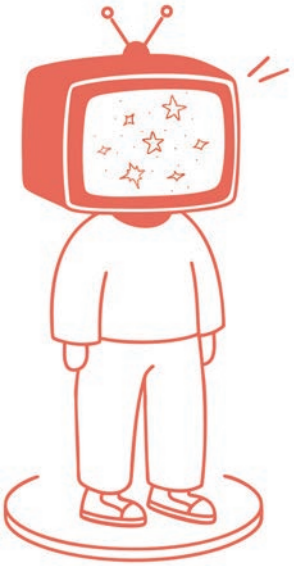
Jaafar Jackson © CC Artistosteles

potent Martian characteristics, which demonstrate individualistic personas, but these are perhaps often driven by frustration and impatience at times. They will indeed have a lot more

synastry, but without Jaafar's birth time, our analysis of this is limited (another sigh).

Looking ahead to the awards season, the cosmos looks favourable for Jaafar (and his late uncle), and it will be interesting to see what is in store for them both. What is exciting is that for the Oscars on 14 March 2027, amongst other transits, Jupiter will be nicely conjunct Jaafar's Mercury at 18 Leo (and Michael's Venus), which will also make a nice trine to Michael's MC and Saturn: this speaks loudly about recognition, popularity, and legacy. So, watch this space!

Wendy Stacey is the President of the Astrological Association.



Your TV Guide to Astrology-Themed Shows for July-August 2026

Summer 2026 TV slates emphasise big fantasy returns (*House of the Dragon*, season3), sci-fi, comedies, and reboots but there's still plenty of astrology-specific shows to binge on. In development:

The Astrology House (Peacock): Drama series adaptation of Carinn Jade's novel. Christina Ricci stars and executive produces. It's in early development as of early 2026, with themes of mystery, astrology, and interpersonal drama. No confirmed production timeline or 2026 release date — likely 2027 or later.

Available astro repeats and evergreen astrology shows are your best bets for astrology vibes during July–September 2026:

Cosmic Love (Prime Video, 2022, 1 season, 10 episodes). Reality dating experiment where four singles (one per zodiac element) are matched purely by astrological compatibility via the Astro Chamber and astrologers the AstroTwins. Binge-friendly, mystical retreat setting with *Love Is Blind* energy. Still available for streaming — perfect light escapism.

Written in the Stars (Hulu/Discovery+/ HBO Max in some regions, 2023, 1 season). Singles representing all 12 zodiac signs are paired by professional astrologers using birth charts. Social experiment format focused on whether "love is written in the stars". Available as a repeat watch.

An Astrological Guide for Broken Hearts (Netflix, 2021–2022, 2 seasons) Italian rom-com series (original title: *Guida astrologica per cuori infranti*). Follows a heartbroken woman using astrology to navigate love and life. Light, funny, and chart-heavy — great for summer viewing. Both seasons are complete and streamable.

Bonus astrology shows on Platforms:

Netflix's 'Your Zodiac Watchlist Hub' (ongoing feature – see below for more). Personalised recommendations of movies and shows curated by your zodiac sign. Launched in 2025 and still active — an easy way to find astrology-adjacent content (fate-themed stories, personality-driven dramas, etc.) without needing new releases.

Netflix guide

Netflix 'Your Zodiac Watchlist' highlights for July–August 2026 is an ongoing, rotating feature that curates Netflix shows and movies tailored to each zodiac sign's stereotypical traits.

It updates throughout the year to align with the zodiac calendar, so July (Cancer season) and August (Leo season) emphasise emotional, heartfelt picks for Cancers and glamorous, main-character-energy content for Leos, while all 12 signs have dedicated rows available year-round. Here are the 12 sign-highlights based on Netflix's established style (drawn from the Hub's

launch patterns and seasonal updates). Expect heart-tugging family dramas in July and regal/dramatic flair in August, with fresh titles mixed in from summer 2026 releases.

Aries – Bold, competitive, chaotic energy. Highlights: reality competitions like *Squid Game: The Challenge*, *Physical 100*, action thrillers, survival series. Riveting and fiery.

Taurus – Sensual, luxurious, comfort-focused. Highlights: foodie dramas, fashion-forward stories, romances like *Heeramandi*, *Nonnas*, affectionate comedies.

Gemini – Social, witty, talkative. Highlights: stand-up specials (*Ali Wong*), animated banter (*Big Mouth*), chatty ensemble shows like *Nobody Wants This*. Verbal-friendly.

Cancer – Emotional, sensitive, heartfelt. Focus: family bonds, nostalgia, tear-jerkers and protective love stories. Highlights: *Heartstopper*, *Ginny & Georgia*, *Gilmore Girls*, *The Life List*, emotional seasons of returning dramas. Perfect for comfy binges during Cancer season.

Leo – Confident, dramatic, main character energy. Focus: royalty, glamour, leadership, bold self-expression. Highlights: *The Crown*, *Bridgerton*/*Queen Charlotte*, *Emily in Paris*, *The Greatest Showman*-style spectacle.

Virgo – Precise, hustling, analytical. Focus: Strategy, perfectionism, clever heists/mind games. Highlights: *The Queen's Gambit*, *Money Heist*, *Beef*, *Oppenheimer*, *Animal Kingdom*. Late August segues into this meticulous energy.

Libra – Balanced, romantic, justice-oriented. Highlights: legal/political dramas (*Peaky Blinders*, *Ozark*), heart-warming romances, glam conflicts.

Scorpio – Mysterious, intense, transformative. Highlights: *Wednesday*, psychological thrillers, *You*, dark mysteries. Deep and enthralling.

Sagittarius – Adventurous, philosophical, expansive. Highlights: epic quests like *The Witcher*, *Lost*, *Jurassic Park*-style adventures.

Capricorn – Ambitious, structured, boss mode. Highlights: *Suits*, corporate/power dramas, strategic thrillers.

Aquarius – Innovative, eccentric, humanitarian. Highlights: sci-fi like *Stranger Things*, *Resident Alien*, quirky futurism.

Pisces – Dreamy, imaginative, compassionate. Highlights: fantasy worlds, emotional escapism, artistic or spiritual stories.

Log into Netflix and head to the Astrology Hub (or search 'Zodiac Watchlist') for your personalised sign shows — it rotates with new summer 2026 drops (e.g., returning seasons of popular titles). The Hub blends favourites with timely releases.

Astrology Board Games

Several astrology-themed board games (and closely related party/card games) are available on the market, ranging from mass-market party games to more thematic indie/strategic titles. These draw on zodiac signs, planets, tarot elements, horoscopes, and astrological personalities. Availability fluctuates, especially for indie titles, and many are sold online via Amazon, official sites, Etsy, or specialty retailers. Here are the main ones currently or recently on the market (focusing on readily findable physical games as of 2026).

Zodiac War (Most Thematic/Strategic Option)

Maker/Designer: Paul Starr (independent designer; Kickstarter-funded around 2021).

Description: A fast-paced game for 1–5 players featuring a unique rotating multi-ring board. Players choose a zodiac sign, use its 'powers', align planets/elements with tarot cards, and draw on authentic astrology and tarot principles (personalities of signs, planetary alignments). It emphasises strategy and replayability without requiring deep prior astrology knowledge.

Where to buy: Limited physical copies on Etsy (search 'Zodiac War' via ZodiacGames shop – often only a handful left). Check the creator's BackerKit preorder/store page (or Instagram @zodiacwargame) for stock updates or future runs. Also discussed on BoardGameGeek.

Zodiac Clash

Maker/Publisher: Spin Master.

Description: A light strategy game for 2–4 players (ages 8+). Choose a zodiac sign with unique "Astral Powers", move markers on a 3D solar system-style board, and compete to align night stars from the outer ring to the centre. It has a cosmic, competitive feel with holographic cards and zodiac movers.

Where to buy: Amazon, Walmart, eBay (new/sealed or gently used copies often available). Search "Spin Master Zodiac Clash".

Sun Moon Rising

Maker/Publisher: Hasbro.

Description: An astrology-themed adult party card game for 3–6 players (ages 13+). Features 300 double-sided cards with 50 statements personalised to each zodiac sign. Players read or react to trait-based prompts in a fun, social format.

Where to buy:
Amazon, Hasbro's site or retailers, toy/game sections.

Talking Tables Zodiac Sign Party Board Game

(aka Star Signs Zodiac Board Game or Host Your Own Zodiac)

Maker/Publisher: Talking Tables (UK-based party game specialist).

Description: A fun, accessible party/board game for groups. Roll the 'dice of destiny', move around a zodiac-themed board incorporating tarot cards and planetary alignment elements. It mixes learning about star signs/personality traits with light gameplay and fate-based mechanics. Good for astrology enthusiasts and casual players.

Where to buy: Official Talking Tables website (talkingtables.co.uk or regional sites, around £25), Amazon (various regions), Kmart, Sears, and other retailers. Some discounted or clearance versions appear on smaller shops.

What's Your Sign? The Horoscope Game

Maker/Publisher: What Do You Meme?

Description: A humorous card game where players create funny or personalized horoscopes. Aimed at astrology lovers for party play (mature content in some versions; 3–20+ players).

Where to buy: Amazon and similar retailers.

Other Games

Vintage/Out-of-Print or Resale: Games like Challenge the Zodiac or older editions occasionally appear on eBay. Some BGG-listed titles (e.g., The Stars Are Right, Moonstar) are older or niche.

Indie/Print-on-Demand: Check The Game Crafter for items like the Vedic Astrology Oracle (card/oracle deck with planets, signs, houses). Roll-and-write "Dice and Divination" series has appeared on Kickstarter.

Broader Resources: BoardGameGeek has a geeklist of "Astrology-related games" for more obscure or prototype titles. No major new mainstream astrology board game releases stood out in recent 2025–2026 searches – most activity is in party/card formats or reissues/resales.

Tips for buying

Search Amazon, Etsy, or official brand sites for current stock and shipping (availability varies by country—e.g., Talking Tables is stronger in the UK/EU).

For indie titles like Zodiac War, follow creators on social media for restocks. Prices range from budget to mid-range.

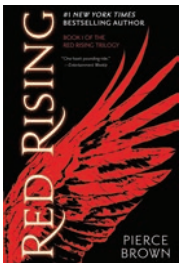
Many are family/party-friendly but check age ratings and content (some adult-oriented).

Enjoy!

Your Mercury Guide to the Best Books for Your Sign

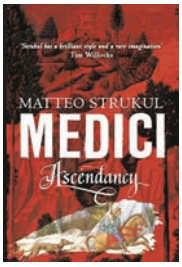
Karla Miranovic

Mercury indicates the stories we gravitate towards, the themes and styles of expression that draw us in. Find your own Mercury story....



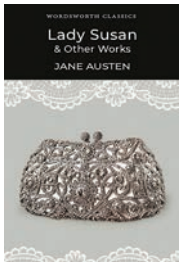
Mercury in Aries: Fast-paced narratives with an engaging plot. Elements of combat and self-assertion. Biographies of pioneers and leaders. Characters who initiate action and take charge.

Suggestions: *Enzo Ferrari: The Man and the Machine* by Brock Yates (the excitement of speed and entrepreneurial spirit through the biography of Ferrari's founder); *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir (page-turner; urgency and rapid problem-solving). *Red Rising* by Pierce Brown, pacy sci-fi, full of battle and betrayals.



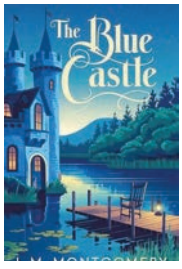
Mercury in Taurus: Stories of resilience and earned success. Slower build-up. Descriptions of sensory experiences. Interest in financial matters. Narratives featuring classical beauty and pastoral nature.

Suggestions: *Medici Chronicles* by Matteo Strukul (Italian Renaissance; focused on the House of Medici, powerful Florentine dynasty of bankers and cultural patrons); *I, Mona Lisa* by Natasha Solomons (story of resilience through centuries and lasting value, narrated from the perspective of the painting). *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel, food and sensuous delights.



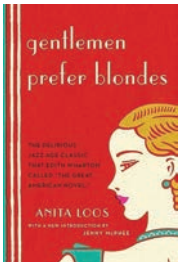
Mercury in Gemini: Versatility, both in form and content. Short stories, essay collections, letters and journals. Witty and youthful elements in storytelling. Exploring friendship and sibling relationships.

Suggestions: *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith (journal entry form; teenage narrator; romance and sibling dynamics); *Lady Susan* by Jane Austen (epistolary novella; satirical comedy; social intrigue).



Mercury in Cancer: Emotional memory and the past, both personal and collective. Multi-generational narratives and family dynamics. Deeply subjective experience and perception. Introspective, emotionally attuned characters.

Suggestions: *Arturo's Island* by Elsa Morante (poetic, first-person reflection on childhood and adolescence; complex relationship with place of origin and family); *The Blue Castle* by L.M. Montgomery (sensitive and cautious protagonist steps out of her comfort zone in search of independence)

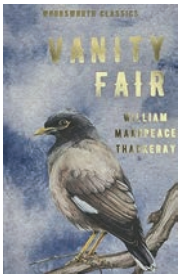


Mercury in Leo: Stories with a prominent hero/heroine. An appreciation for the dramatic and epic. "More is more" approach. Explorations of personal identity. Memoirs and biographies of public figures and royalty.

Suggestions: *Blood and Beauty* by Sarah Dunnant (dramatic and flamboyant; set in 15th century Italy, around the notorious Borgia pope and his family); *Gentlemen Prefer Blonds* by Anita Loos (fun and glamorous).

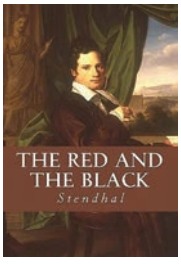
Mercury in Virgo: Purposeful reading, for gaining specialised knowledge or developing a skill. Realistic stories centered around the 'average' person's experience. Well-structured and detail-conscious narratives.

Suggestions: *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier (focused on the servant girl modelling for Vermeer's painting; elegant, attentive to detail and the day-to-day experience); *Atomic Habits* by James Clear (self-help book on building productive habits).



Mercury in Libra: Relationship dynamics and social relations. The theme of inner dilemmas and choice-making. Explorations of romance and friendship. Lighter atmosphere and refined language.

Suggestions: *The Ladies' Paradise* by Emile Zola (social commentary and love story, set around an affluent Parisian department store); *Vanity Fair* by W.M. Thackeray (satire; social ambition and superficiality contrasted with moral values).



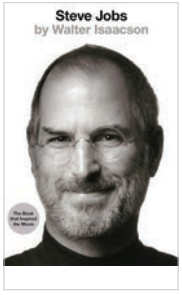
Mercury in Scorpio: Thematically and emotionally intense. An element of crisis and coming to terms with loss of control. The idea of transforming and re-building on all levels. In-depth exploration of the human psyche.

Suggestions: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (questioning social norms around sin, guilt and revenge;

occult and supernatural imagery); *The Red and the Black* by Stendhal (one of the first modern psychological novels; deep exploration of motivation and hypocrisy).

Mercury in Sagittarius: Adventure, exploration and action. Mythology and an element of the heroic. Search for higher meaning and fulfilment, often through philosophy or religion. Narratives focusing on the journey, rather than a concrete end-goal.

Suggestions: *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas (adventure; personal transformation; questioning justice and revenge); *Norse Mythology* by Neil Gaiman (novelistic retelling of the Norse myths).

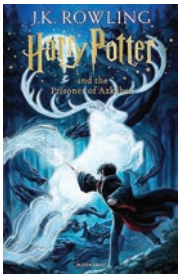


Mercury in Capricorn: Realistic stories of success and hardship. Coming of age narratives. Classics. Biographies and memoirs of professionally successful people. Clear structure and purposeful conclusions.

Suggestions: *The Forsyte Saga* by John Galsworthy (questioning the value of financial success and social status; clash between material and non-material values; multi-generational); *The Snowball: Warren Buffet and the Business of Life* by Alice Schroeder (life story of one of the world's most successful investors). Apple co-creator bio *Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson.

Mercury in Aquarius: Interest in the wider collective through political topics and ideology. Class dynamics. Explorations of the evolution of humanity, with a future-oriented outlook.

Suggestions: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and *1984* by George Orwell (dystopian classics); *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (power, class inequality and media propaganda).



Mercury in Pisces: Fantasy, elements of fairytale, surrealism and escapism. Narratives involving a spiritual thread. Bending genres and conventional rules of literary form and style.

Suggestions: *The Neverending Story* by Michael Ende (epic fantasy, "story within a story", philosophical and spiritual reflections); *Never* by Jessa Hastings (modern re-telling of the Peter Pan in fantasy romance genre). JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* series.

Your Lucky Moon Calendar for July, August and September 2026

July 2026

Date	Lucky Sign	Best Used For	Notes
July 9 – 11	Taurus	Money, investments, physical comfort	Grounded, stable energy.
July 13 – 15	Cancer	Emotional healing, home, family	**Peak Day (July 14):** New Moon in Cancer. Perfect for major fresh starts.
July 25 – 27	Sagittarius	Travel, learning, big risks	

August 2026

Date	Lucky Sign	Best Used For	Notes
August 5 – 7	Taurus	Budgeting, contracts, property	**Peak Day (August 6):** Last Quarter Moon. Great for cutting expenses.
August 10 – 12	Cancer	Real estate, family gatherings, intuition	Warm, nurturing, and highly protective energy.
August 21 – 23	Sagittarius	Publishing, launching apps, long trips	Excellent window for self-promotion and expansion.

September 2026

Date	Lucky Sign	Best Used For	Notes
September 1 – 3	Taurus	Luxury purchases, business strategy	Strong, enduring building blocks for projects.
September 6 – 8	Cancer	Interior design, cooking, self-care	Excellent for deep intuitive work and family matters.
September 17 – 19	Sagittarius	Public speaking, legal matters, exploring	**Peak Day (September 18):** First Quarter Moon. High momentum for actions.
September 29 – 30	Taurus	Savings accounts, physical rest	Month-end financial reviews and grounding.

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What Chinese Astrologers Forecast for 2026

Chinese astrologers identify 2026 as the rare Year of the Yang Fire Horse (Bing Wu), an energetic and highly volatile cycle that occurs once every 60 years. On the world stage, experts forecast a period of intense transformation, economic risk-taking, and shifting global dynamics. To find out which Chinese astrology zodiac animals you are visit chinahighlights.com/travelguide/chinese-zodiac/. Or other sites.

Macro World Stage Forecasts

Economic Volatility and Growth: The Fire element dominates, which heavily favours sectors like technology, renewable energy, and investments. Astrologers predict bold moves in global markets, where investors are driven by inspiration and a desire for rapid progress rather than playing it safe.

Global Momentum vs. Chaos: The Fire Horse archetype is progressive and dynamic but prone to sudden instability. Experts like *Lowe* and practitioners at the *Feng Shui Store* note that the year brings unstoppable momentum alongside a "touch of chaos", requiring world leaders to carefully balance rapid development with cautious risk management.

Geopolitical and Ideological Clashes: With the extreme contrast between the Fire Horse and the year's governing pillars, astrologers anticipate accelerated shifts in international relations, with a strong emphasis on freedom, courage, and bold decision-making in foreign affairs.

General Zodiac Outlook

The Protagonists (Horses): Individuals born in the Year of the Horse are navigating their *Ben Ming Nian* (zodiac year). Astrologers suggest they will face major life overhauls across career and relationships. Grounding practices and leaning into happy life milestones will be crucial to harnessing their luck.

Signs Benefiting from Momentum: Tigers, Dragons, Dogs, and Goats are predicted to experience smooth progress and highly supportive cosmic energy this year.

Signs Requiring Caution: Snakes, Monkeys, Roosters, Oxen, and Pigs are advised to stay exceptionally grounded and delegate tasks to avoid burnout. Meanwhile, Horses and Rats will experience fluctuating energy, making vigilance necessary.

Meet a Few of Our Conference Speakers

The Astrological Association Conference 2026 is an annual event. This year it is scheduled to take place in Nottingham 17-20 September. Speakers' details can be found via this link. astrologicalassociation.com/conference-speakers/. All have contact details available through search boxes. Speakers include:

Faye Blake: founder of the Amsterdam School of Astrology, and also a therapist and business consultant.

Lynn Bell: a consulting astrologer for over four decades, looking deeply into the enfolding cosmos, and the way it emerges in the lives of each person she works with.

Alan Clay: is a New Zealand astrologer who has been researching the new consciousness that is coming available through the astrology of the dwarf planets for 10 years.

Öner Döşer: is an instructor, publisher, author of 40 books, founder of AstroArt School of Astrology, AstroArt Astrology Television, AstroArt Publications.

Dr Travis Elliott: a naturopathic physician blending intuition, alchemical plant medicine, astrology and deep emotional work, using symptoms as tools for transformation.

Dr Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum: ancient historian and scholar of astrology of 40 years. She received her PhD from the Warburg Institute, University of London, in 2009, under the supervision of Charles Burnett.

Steve Judd: has studied astrology since 1977, is self-taught and was awarded the MA in Cultural Astronomy and Astrology in 2005. In 49 years, he has recorded over 35,000 horoscope readings. With over 150,000 subscribers on YouTube, he has a loyal following.

Berna Lee: is a doctoral researcher and astrologer, and a 45th-generation descendant of the Tang royal and metaphysical lineage.

ASTRO-X-RAY

T. J. Narula

T.J. is an astrologer, clairvoyant medium and psychic based in Australia. He specialises in horary, sometimes used in conjunction with his other spiritual gifts. He writes on his website: "I use Ancient Astrology as a way of looking at the map of one's life to come and use its advanced timing techniques to identify highs, lows, peaks and plateaus in specific areas of one's life. A reading with me is a three-way process involving the spirit world, the medium and you".

Q: When did you first realise that astrology had completely taken possession of you – if indeed it has?

TJ: Astrology took hold slowly, then all at once. My ex-boyfriend of all people introduced me to the horoscopes on Astro.com, and I remember being struck by how they made sense. Eventually, I booked a reading with the person writing them: the one and only Rob Hand. He blew my mind, but that reading wasn't cheap haha. So I remember thinking, "I'm going to learn this myself". And that was the beginning!

Q: Where do you live and work? Which country? Briefly describe your office and the view from the principal window, if any.

TJ: I live in Surry Hills in Sydney, and my office is basically my home. I'm very lucky, the view is fantastic. I can see the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House from where I work, and I can also see the rainbow crossing when I look out. As I write this, it's one of those bright, sunny, beautiful autumn days. I must say, sometimes you just want to be outside drinking Kylie Minogue's Rose. But it's a beautiful place to live and work, and I do feel very grateful for that.

Q: Name one feature of your birth chart that stands out as a major trait – and is known to loved ones, less so to acquaintances.

TJ: I have a Libra stellium in my chart, so I can be both friendly as well as intense. I can be funny and diplomatic but also deep and astute enough that people know not to underestimate me (hint: that's Pluto.)

Q: How did you learn the astro art/ trade? Who/what inspired your interest?

TJ: After my break-up years ago, I went on dating apps and casually put in my profile that I was learning astrology, tarot and mediumship. And then people started messaging me saying, "Would you give me a reading?". I remember being genuinely astonished. I thought, "Wait, you want a reading from me?". Of course, you'd get the odd cheeky message from men saying things like, "Will you give me a reading in your underwear?", because, you know, dating apps. But then it actually became serious. People genuinely wanted readings. I started doing them, and then I started making a little bit of money from it.

Q: You are a psychic and medium and were trained at the Arthur Findlay College (London), the world's foremost college of mediumship. Would you say that you are in communion with the spirits of 'dead' people? How did you become aware of these gifts as you grew up?

TJ: I became aware of spirit after my father passed away in 2008. I started seeing and talking to him in my dreams,

specifically around birthdays. After one of those dreams, I remember asking him, "You're really here, aren't you? This isn't a coincidence". And I heard him say, "Yes, I am really here." ...that's what started it for me.

Q: You're also a highly skilled horarist. Can you say what is the most bizarre or challenging question you have been asked – and how did you go about it?

TJ: There have been quite a few challenging ones over the years. Questions like, "Will I ever get married?", "Will I ever have a child?" or "Will I survive this illness?". You're dealing with something deeply personal and sensitive.

My approach is always to be kind and honest. I never want to give false hope, but I also believe in compassion. That is why I combine horary with mediumship.

Horary can be very precise. It can show whether or not something is likely to happen, what the timing looks like, and/or what the practical reality of the situation is.

Mediumship can bring guidance, comfort, and maybe another pathway that the one may not have considered. It can help understand what they are being asked to do, what they need to focus on, or where hope still exists. Because ultimately, our job as readers is to empower someone.

Q: Do you think astrology has a divinatory component? And if so, how will this work as astro-AI gets more sophisticated?

TJ: To me, astrology is definitely divination. People can try to make astrology sound purely logical, but the truth is, there is no completely rational explanation for why Saturn going through the 4th house might coincide with moving house, issues with parents or family responsibilities. What we have is an ancient pattern language.

With astro-AI or artificial intelligence becoming more sophisticated, I think it will have a place, but I don't believe it can replace a real reader. AI can process information. It can list meanings. It can summarise techniques. But it does not have intuition. It does not have lived emotional understanding. It does not know a client's personality, their history, their fears, their patterns, or the guidance they want on their sister-in-law. And it certainly cannot talk to their loved ones on the other side. That is where the human and spiritual element matters.

Q: Which astrological software program do you use? Ever hand-draw charts?

TJ: Astro Gold. Sadly, no, I haven't hand-drawn charts thus far. Never say never though.

Q: Do you have a long-term plan or ambition, either in astrology or in any other line of work?

TJ: Of course, I have the ambition to be successful. I'd love to work with people across the world, whether that's one-on-one readings, group sessions, writing, online work, podcasts etc. But at the core of it, my main ambition is to make this work real, practical, supportive and useful.

The work should add value to someone's life. Help one live in a more informed way and make better decisions, understand their timing, trust themselves more, and feel less alone in moments of uncertainty.

One example that really stayed with me was a client I read for through mediumship. At the end of the session, I said to him, "I need you to get checked for the upper front of your body connected to your father's side of the family health-wise".

At the time, he felt completely well and had no symptoms. But thankfully, he took the advice seriously and got checked. He ended up needing double bypass surgery. That, to me, is the value of this work.

Q: This is a standard question I ask: Have you ever seen a ghost? If so, please tell all. As a medium is there a standout experience that proved to you that there is life after death?

TJ: When it comes to mediumship, I deal with mums, dads, grandma Michelles, granddad Bills, Auntie Brendas, and Uncle Pauls. People who lived, loved, had families and had stories.

I don't deal with ghosts, and I've very consciously made a deal with the other side that I don't want to come across them, and I make a point not to invite it into my auric field.

Q: TJ, would you say you are powerful?

TJ: Oh dear, I would not describe myself as powerful. I just feel like I have a talent. Some people have a talent for singing. Some people have a talent for writing. Some people have a talent for playing football. For me, this is my talent.

Q: And finally, how do people get hold of you?

TJ: All my info such as my website, socials and Google reviews are listed here for your reference:

My Website:
https://www.spiritguidancewithtj.com/

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/tjconsultation

Instagram:
https://www.instagram.com/tj.consultations/

Stellar ASTRO

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Stellar will grow as an online publication and remain free. If you'd like to join the AA, see our membership options at www.astrologicalassociation.com (various levels of membership, one being free).

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New Moon Update

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