

Finding Your Perfect Match

Michelle Proctor, 2004



Do you ever find yourself secretly drawn to popular magazines for the latest on celebrity romances? What are we looking for? Perhaps we seek examples of the 'happy-ever-after' ending which has such a strong pull on our collective imagination.

Yet by studying those other stars, the stars of the night sky, we can consider a variety of ways to be satisfied by love and come up with our own versions of the happy ending.

When understood in the context of psychology, astrology offers tools to take us beyond hopes and wishes about love into its realities of light and dark. It takes us into an understanding of relationships as not only opportunities to share the riches of love and companionship, but also as healing, transformative processes on the road to self-discovery.

Personal Growth

At birth each of us is imprinted with a unique psychological design offering personal challenges in terms of balancing the light and dark within. Astrology offers insight into those challenges. In a person's chart we see not only the capacity for passion, joy, desire and abundance, but also the capacity for jealousy, possessiveness and fear.

When the charts of two people are compared, we can see how the dark and light might play out in the relationship. For instance, if someone is suppressing her shadow, her partner might be the one to live it out, and vice versa.

Astrologers use many means to assess the compatibility factors in two people's charts. Where there are a high number of compatibility factors, relating is generally easy. Where the number of compatibility factors is low, conflict and challenge are likely to be experienced.

Different types of compatibility offer different experiences, none intrinsically good or bad. Everything is relative to what a couple is soulfully unfolding in their relationship as well as what they consciously desire.

A low compatibility factor can offer positive opportunities for a couple to face inner demons and transform them, and a high compatibility factor might paradoxically result in a couple slipping into unhelpful patterns.

Everything can operate so smoothly in a situation of high compatibility that the partners may not notice, for instance, that they overvalue their time together and let other aspects of their lives slide.

Zodiac Sign Compatibility

Everyone's birth chart includes more than one zodiac sign. Popular Sun Sign astrology gives the impression that we each only have one zodiac sign, our Sun Sign (star sign). In actual fact, each of the planets in the solar system is in a particular zodiac sign when we are born. So in addition to the Sun Sign, a birth chart will also show the zodiac signs the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are in.

This makes compatibility complex because we need to take into account not only the compatibility between two people's Sun (star) Signs, but also the compatibility of the chart placement of their Moons, Venuses etc.

In a consultation, an astrologer would look at all of the planets in each person's chart when assessing compatibility. In this article, I'll only have space to look at the most influential masculine and feminine planets – the Sun, the Moon, Mars and Venus.

The Sun and Moon

The Sun symbolises your ability to create something valuable with your life and to shine from the pleasure and recognition of this achievement. It's a core masculine energy in that something within urges you to express this energy outwardly for others to see and celebrate. It's a daytime energy, encouraging action and assertion.

The Moon represents your ability to reflect, pause and allow the mystery of life's creative forces to nourish you. It's a core feminine principle in that it encourages you to receive inner wisdom through surrender, stillness and patience. It's an internal night energy.

Mars and Venus

The other masculine and feminine planets are Mars and Venus. Both of these planets help us to integrate the Moon and Sun. Venus attracts people to us in order to create relationships to nourish our Moons, while Mars helps us go out after what we desire so that we realise our Suns.

Interestingly, popular psychology has a lot to say about these two planets. In his book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, John Gray talks about men (whom he calls Martians) needing

space for independent pursuits (eg. disappearing into their 'caves') and women (Venusians) needing connection (eg. through talking about their problems). He goes on to encourage more Martian behaviour in women and more Venusian behaviour in men, in order for men and women to relate successfully.

This makes perfect sense in the astrological model. Given that we each have a Mars and a Venus, it is part of our life's journey to develop the qualities of both archetypes for ourselves. If a woman doesn't develop her own Mars qualities, she can be left feeling as if a part of herself (her Mars) has vanished if her mate leaves.

Similarly, if a man projects out his Venus, he loses access to emotional expression if his mate leaves. The challenge is for men and women to take back projections of their Mars and/or Venus so that their partners don't feel pressured to live out the Mars or Venus for them.

Case Study

At the time of their session with me, Grace and Nick were in their late thirties. Grace was aware that her biological clock was ticking louder, yet Nick wanted to be sure that Grace was the right woman for him before committing.

Grace was pushing for marriage while Nick was asking for more time. The following shows Grace's and Nick's Sun, Moon, Venus and Mars positions at birth:

Grace

Sun in Capricorn
Moon in Sagittarius
Mars in Gemini
Venus in Pisces

Nick

Sun in Gemini
Moon in Taurus
Mars in Aquarius
Venus in Aries

Comparing Sun & Moon

In her career, Grace is a marketing manager for a small environmental firm. Her high level of commitment to her career matches the kind of commitment she would like for both herself and Nick to put into marriage and family goals.

Nick is a physiotherapist. He has the flexibility of a busy practice with many different clients, plus a dynamic academic career lecturing in the treatment of various sports injuries.

Astrologically, the couple's Suns don't get on particularly well. Capricorn likes responsibility, goals and commitment, whereas Gemini likes to remain unfettered. Grace's need for commitment clashes with Nick's need for options and constant variety.

Their Moons are also in conflict. Ironically Grace's Moon in Sagittarius shows a need for freedom in her home life; whereas Nick's Moon in Taurus shows a need for stability and security in his home life. Yet Nick is reluctant to settle down to family life and Grace believes she wants a traditional marriage and children scenario.

Here we see a common projection dynamic that plays out between couples. Grace is projecting her Moon in Sagittarius onto Nick. She argues with him about wanting freedom when really her astrology shows that she wants it. And Nick is projecting his Moon in Taurus onto Grace by arguing with her about wanting security when his astrology shows he wants to settle down.

Interestingly, Grace's Sun in Capricorn gets on well with Nick's Moon in Taurus, and Nick's Sun in Gemini gets on well with Grace's Moon in Sagittarius. So they both understand each other's desires for a good balance between freedom and commitment but they can't agree about it in their home life (their

clashing Moons – ie the Moon in astrology offers insight into the kind of home life we want).

Sun & Moon Solutions

Nick was intrigued to hear about his Moon in Taurus and how it thrives on stability. He realised that knowing he has permanent tenure in his academic career enables him to feel supported to have variety in the way he practises physiotherapy. He began to wonder whether a firm relationship commitment could also provide him with stability to find creative ways to parent flexibly.

By the same token, Grace was excited to give voice to her Moon in Sagittarius. She admitted she was worried she might not be able to manage bringing up a child without the commitment of a partner to help free up space for her other interests.

Comparing Venus & Mars

Grace's Mars and Nick's Mars are highly compatible. Both Gemini and Aquarius are very sociable and optimistic, which means that Nick and Grace enjoy doing all kinds of things together. In addition, their compatible Mars's ensure a thriving sex life.

However, their Venuses are not in sync. Grace's Venus in Pisces likes to feel a merging of heart and soul and wants Nick to intuit her needs, whereas Nick's Venus in Aries wants his partner to be assertive and directly state her needs. He wants to be with an independent woman who will be off doing her own thing and free up space for him to have time to himself.

Nick complained that it feels like Grace is always inside his head. Her Venus in Pisces naturally picks up on his moods and wants to support him. Grace was

unknowingly invading Nick's private space with her intuitive Venus in Pisces. And it turned out that when Nick's moody, he'd rather go for a run (Venus in Aries) than be cuddled.

Venus & Mars Solutions

On questioning Grace about other relationships in her life, it became clear that her Mars in Gemini, combined with her Moon in Sagittarius, has developed many interesting friendships and networks that she has no intention of giving up for Nick. Furthermore Grace's Piscean Venus desires a continual feeling of oneness that leads her to want lots of independent time for meditating, creative stillness and spiritual practice.

When Nick understood more about Grace's firm commitment to other relationships and time alone for spirituality, he felt reassured that she might very well be an independent enough woman for him.

Grace, however, wanted evidence that Nick can be soft and connected. When we looked at Nick's chart, we saw that his Sun in Gemini, Mars in Aquarius and Venus in Aries were likely to want to keep having adventures away from the relationship. They're not at all soft and connected.

However, Grace was relieved to be reminded that Nick's Moon in Taurus craves the stability, comfort and pleasure that a committed connection brings.

Finding Mutual Needs

In the astrology session, both Grace and Nick were able to use the language of astrology to discuss parts of themselves they previously didn't quite know how to voice. In particular, Nick was able to honour his need for a stable relationship more fully and Grace was able to honour

her need for more space. They were both pleased to see that in owning those aspects of themselves their relationship could indeed grow into one that included marriage and children if they chose.

As we've seen with Nick and Grace, it's important to look at an individual's horoscope in conjunction with the partner's chart. This method is called *synastry*.

If you're not in a relationship, you can look at your own chart to learn more about what kind of relationship is right for you.

Somewhere inside, we already know what we want, but this can get buried in a mountain of social expectations that includes 'happy-ever-after' projections.

Relationships are complicated yet magical things. Perhaps fairytale happy endings really can happen when we take projections off others and internally balance our own inner dance of light and dark in love.

About the Author

Michelle's astrology writing has appeared in *LivingNOW*, *AstroLog*, *theLounge.com* and *Portmans.com* since 2002. She has published the *Radiant Living Monthly Forecast* since 2006.

Since 2007, Michelle has contributed to the *FAA Journal* (Federation of Australian Astrologers) and the *APA Newsletter* (Association of Professional Astrologers).

Michelle welcomes feedback and can be contacted at:

<http://www.radiantliving.com.au>

0411 264 753

mproctor@radiantliving.com.au

