

HOW TO READ A

BIRTH CHART

MASTERING BIRTH CHART
INTERPRETATION WITH THIS
STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR
BEGINNERS

BY BORN UNDER SATURN

Deborah

BORNUNDERSATURN.COM

CONTENTS

Introduction to Birth Chart : let's dive in	01
Step I	
Gather precise informations to calculate your Birth Chart	02
Step II	
Understanding the basics: Birth Chart elements	03
Step III	
It's time to interpretate your Birth Chart	10
FAQS	13
Final Step	
Exploring further with book recommendations	14

INTRODUCTION TO BIRTH CHARTS: LET'S DIVE IN

The **Birth Chart**, or **Natal Chart**, in astrology is a celestial snapshot of the exact positions of the planets and other celestial bodies at the time of one's birth. This chart serves as a cosmic guide to an individual's personality, potential, preferences and challenges.

“YOUR BIRTH CHART IS LIKE YOUR UNIQUE CELESTIAL DNA. IT OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE – INCLUDING CAREER, RELATIONSHIPS, AND PERSONAL GROWTH.”

Each component of the Natal Chart – planets, zodiac signs, houses, and aspects – reveals a specific facet of your story. We will explore each of these in greater detail later in the guide; for now, let's provide an introduction.

The **planets** represent different energies and drives, such as Mars symbolizing assertiveness and Venus representing love and passion. The **zodiac signs**, in which the planets were positioned at your birth, color these energies, adding nuances and traits. The **houses**, each associated with different life areas, indicate where these energies play out in your life. Additionally, there are **aspects**, significant angles formed between planets or other positions in a birth chart, that influence the individual's personality and life experiences. These aspects are critical in understanding the dynamic interplay between the various energies represented by the planets and other celestial bodies in a chart.

“THE BIRTH CHART IS LIKE A COSMIC BLUEPRINT.”

The birth chart doesn't dictate your fate but rather outlines your innate tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses. By understanding these celestial influences, you can gain clarity on your life's purpose, your natural inclinations, and the areas where you might face challenges.

Now, let's explore together the steps to take the first strides in interpreting a Natal Chart, or at the very least, to understand what it entails and what insights it can offer us. It's important to remember that astrology is a complex subject, and studying it requires commitment, scholarship, and a lot of practice. This guide cannot train you to become an astrologer in just a few short lines, but it can be a foundation for starting your journey. Let's go!

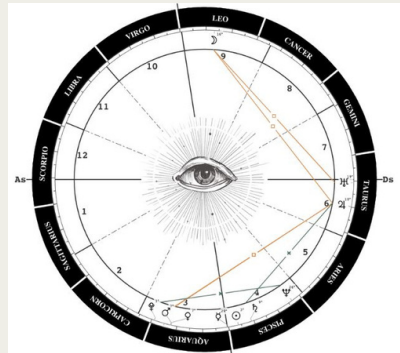
STEP I

GATHER PRECISE INFORMATION TO CALCULATE YOUR BIRTH CHART

The first step is to gather the information needed to calculate the Natal Chart. You need the birthdate, the exact birthtime, and the exact birthplace. Make sure these details are accurate; the birth chart is extremely sensitive. If in doubt, try to request the birth certificate.

Now that you have all the necessary information, you only need to calculate the Birth Chart. There are two ways to do so: the less suggested way is to manually draw up the Natal Chart with ephemerides and a bit of practice. However, we love technology when it saves us precious time, right? So, let's directly jump to the second option: use an online calculator.

I recommend visiting our website and using our **[Born Under Saturn's calculator by clicking here.](#)** I suggest you to calculate it even if you already have your Birth Chart. Why? Because our calculator has a super cool design! I've personally curated the illustration with a sprinkle of magic. Get ready for a visual treat!



STEP II

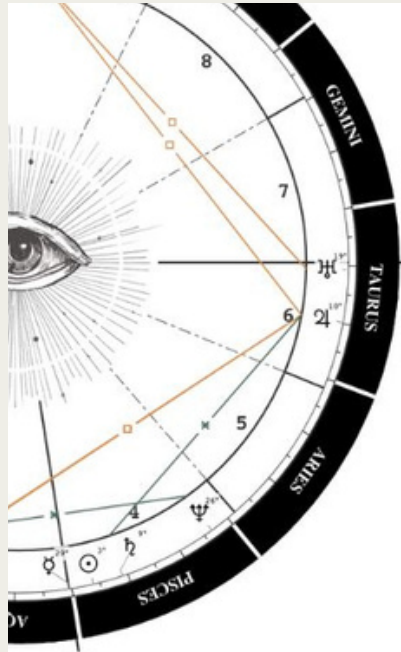
UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS: BIRTH CHART ELEMENTS

Now that you have the Natal Chart in front of you, you'll see a beautiful circle with numbers, symbols, and lines connecting these symbols.

“A BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE WITH NUMBERS, SYMBOLS AND LINES”

If you're a beginner, you might find everything quite complex, so I'll try to guide you through the reading.







Here are four very important elements in the chart that I introduced earlier: the **SIGNS**, the **PLANETS** (or celestial elements), the **HOUSES** and the **ASPECTS**. Now, let's delve deeper into each one.









SIGNS

The signs are the **foundational part** of the astrological circle. We typically identify ourselves with our Sun sign (which is our zodiac sign), but the truth is that the Natal Chart comprises all 12 signs, and each of them, in one way or another, contributes to the construction of the individual.

With this summary table, I hope to give you a general idea of the qualities of each sign.

 Aries	<p>The pioneer, characterized by assertiveness, enthusiasm, and a natural inclination for leadership. Aries embodies courage and a trailblazer's spirit.</p>
 Taurus	<p>The builder, known for its steadfastness, love for comfort, and sensual approach to life. Taurus represents stability, patience, and practicality.</p>
 Gemini	<p>The communicator, marked by adaptability, curiosity, and a love for intellectual stimulation. Gemini signifies versatility, sociability, and a quest for knowledge.</p>
 Cancer	<p>The nurturer, defined by emotional depth, intuition, and a strong connection to home and family. Cancer embodies caring, sensitivity, and protectiveness.</p>
 Leo	<p>The performer, characterized by creativity, confidence, and a flair for the dramatic. Leo represents self-expression, warmth, and generosity.</p>
 Virgo	<p>The analyst, known for meticulousness, practicality, and a detail-oriented approach. Virgo signifies service, analytical skills, and a desire for perfection.</p>

 Libra	<p>The mediator, defined by a love for balance, harmony, and aesthetics. Libra embodies diplomacy, fairness, and a desire for partnership.</p>
 Scorpio	<p>The transformer, marked by intensity, passion, and a deep understanding of life's mysteries. Scorpio represents transformation, depth, and resilience.</p>
 Sagittarius	<p>The explorer, characterized by a love for freedom, adventure, and philosophical pursuits. Sagittarius signifies optimism, exploration, and a quest for truth.</p>
 Capricorn	<p>The achiever, known for ambition, discipline, and a pragmatic approach to life. Capricorn embodies determination, responsibility, and structure.</p>
 Aquarius	<p>The innovator, defined by originality, humanitarianism, and a forward-thinking mindset. Aquarius represents innovation, individuality, and a concern for the collective.</p>
 Pisces	<p>The dreamer, marked by empathy, artistic inclinations, and a connection to the spiritual. Pisces embodies imagination, compassion, and emotional depth.</p>

PLANETS

Analyzing the planets in a Natal Chart is crucial for understanding an individual's unique characteristics and life path. Each planet represents different aspects of our psyche and experiences, and their positions in the chart reveal how these traits manifest in our lives.

It's important to keep a few things in mind as you set out to read the planets and understand what they say in your chart.

1 - The planets that characterize you the most are the **faster ones**: the Sun, the Moon, Mercury, Venus, and Mars. The others are semi-slow and slow (this depends on their orbits, or how long they take to complete a full cycle). They still characterize you, but are also called **generational** because, being slow, they stay in a sign for a long time (years).

2 - The planets we read about are the ten planets of our solar system. Astrology, an ancient discipline developed and studied by many cultures, doesn't only count these ten planets but also includes other so-called positions or asteroids, such as the Black Moon Lilith, Chiron or the Lunar Nodes. In this brief guide, however, we will focus only on the planets and the main elements, which are more than sufficient to get a complete picture of the Birth Chart and delve into the essence of the person.



Below is a table of the planets and what they can tell us, along with their symbols. Use this table when you set out to read the natal chart!

PLANETS

Sun	☉	Your core identity, ego, and the essence of your being. It influences your basic personality traits and life purpose.
Moon	☾	Governs your emotional nature, instincts, and subconscious desires. It reflects how you process feelings and your inherent needs.
Mercury	☿	Rules communication, intellect, and how you process and exchange information. It's key to understanding your thought patterns and communication style.
Venus	♀	Represents love, beauty, and values. It influences your approach to relationships, pleasure, and what you find attractive.
Mars	♂	The planet of action and desire, governing your energy, assertiveness, and how you assert yourself in pursuit of goals.
Jupiter	♃	Symbolizes growth, expansion, and optimism. It affects your aspirations, how you seek knowledge, and your capacity for joy.
Saturn	♄	Represents discipline, responsibility, and limitations. It shapes your approach to challenges, structure, and long-term planning.
Uranus	♅	Associated with innovation, rebellion, and change. It influences where and how you seek freedom and express your individuality.
Neptune	♆	Governs dreams, intuition, and spiritual realms. It reflects your imagination, artistic inclinations, and potential for escapism.
Pluto	♇	Represents transformation, power, and regeneration. It's involved in deep-seated changes and the subconscious forces driving them.



HOUSES

In a Natal Chart, houses are calculated based on a person's birthtime and location. These details determine the Ascendant or **Rising Sign**, which is the zodiac sign that was rising on the eastern horizon at the exact moment and location of birth. The Ascendant marks the beginning of the First House in the zodiac circle.

The house system in a Birth Chart divides the sky into 12 segments, each corresponding to different areas of life. Each house covers a 30-degree arc of the sky and is calculated starting from the Ascendant. After the First House, the others follow in sequential order along the ecliptic.

In simpler words, the houses are those slices you see numbered, and each section indicates a sector of our existence.

Fun fact: there are various systems for calculating houses in astrology, including the Placidus system, Koch system, Equal House system, and Whole Sign system.

Here is the third table of this guide, which will be extremely valuable for deciphering your Birth Chart!

1st	<i>The House of Self</i>	Represents your identity, appearance, and how you present yourself to the world. It's about personal beginnings and self-discovery.
2nd	<i>The House of Value</i>	Governs possessions, finances, and personal values. It's related to material resources and self-worth.
3rd	<i>The House of Communication</i>	Involves communication, early education, siblings, and immediate environment. It's about everyday interactions and mental processes.
4th	<i>The House of Home and Family</i>	Deals with family, home life, and roots. It represents your foundation, private life, and emotional security.
5th	<i>The House of Pleasure</i>	Covers creativity, romance, leisure, and children. It's related to joy, self-expression, and what you create.
6th	<i>The House of Health and Service</i>	Associated with work, health, and daily routines. It involves service to others and personal health - both physical and mental.
7th	<i>The House of Partnership</i>	Focuses on close partnerships, both in business and marriage, and any form of one-to-one relationships.
8th	The House of Transformation	Concerns transformation, sexuality, death, rebirth, and shared resources. It's about deep connections and changes.
9th	The House of Philosophy	Encompasses higher education, long-distance travel, philosophy, and expansive ideas. It's the house of broadening one's horizons.
10th	The House of Career and Reputation	Relates to career, public image, and achievements. It's about your role in the outside world and professional life.
11th	The House of Friendships	Governs friendships, group activities, and aspirations. It's linked to social circles and future goals.
12th	The House of the Subconscious	Represents the subconscious mind, hidden strengths, secrets, and karmic debts. It's about introspection and solitude.

ANGLES

In astrology, the angles in a Natal Chart – comprising the Ascendant (ASC), Midheaven (MC), Descendant (DS), and Imum Coeli (IC) – are pivotal in shaping an individual's core identity and life path.

The **Ascendant** or Rising Sign represents the self's *façade*, the initial impression we make on others, and our approach to new experiences. It's a crucial point that sets the tone for the entire chart. Directly opposite, the **Descendant** relates to one-on-one relationships, highlighting how we balance our identity with the needs of partners.

The **Midheaven**, at the chart's zenith, is our public face, symbolizing career aspirations, reputation, and our goals in the wider world. Conversely, the **Imum Coeli**, at the chart's base, relates to our innermost self, family roots, and private life.

These angles form a cross, representing the fundamental axes of personal experience – self, others, public, and private. Understanding them offers profound insights into one's personality and life trajectory.

Here is another small table that will be extremely useful in reading the Natal Chart.

Ascendant	Rising Sign	Represents your personal identity, self-presentation, and the initial impression you make on others. It reflects your approach to life and personal experiences.
Imum Coeli	IC, Nadir	Symbolizes your inner world, including your roots, family, and home life. It's connected to your emotional foundation, private self, and where you find security.
Descendant	DC	Governs close relationships and partnerships. It shows how you relate to others, the qualities you seek in partners, and your approach to one-on-one relationships.
Midheaven	MC	Represents your public life, including career, ambitions, and reputation. It reflects your aspirations, achievements, and how you are recognized in the world.



ASPECTS

The last very important thing you need to know about are the aspects. There are major and minor aspects. The **major aspects** are those that more significantly characterize the chart, and these are the ones we will consider in this guide, keeping in mind that they are more than sufficient for delving into the essence of a Birth Chart.

Planets or positions can either interact or not with other elements. For example, if two planets are 180 degrees apart, they are said to be in opposition. To form this aspect, they don't need to be at the exact degree (i.e., exactly 180 degrees) but there is a degree of tolerance (about 6, 7 degrees depending on the planet). Any software will calculate these aspects with the tolerances, and for the more advanced users, you can also set your preferred tolerances to consider.

And what if a planet forms no aspect, meaning it's **isolated**? In that case, we speak of a 'singleton planet'. It's important to remember that when a planet or position is in dialogue with another (even in a less harmonious manner), it's always a positive sign because there are forces at play that can compensate each other, sometimes clash, but most importantly, find expression.

When a planet is alone (thus not even conjunct with another planet) it signifies that its energies and influences stand alone and are more pronounced or focused in the individual's life. This isolation can lead to a heightened expression of the planet's traits, as its energies are undiluted and unblended with those of other planets. This can be negative or positive or both, but it also all depends on the other aspects of the Birth Chart.

Conjunction (0 degrees)	This aspect occurs when two planets are in the same sign, close to each other. It signifies integration and blending of energies, often intensifying their influences.
Sextile (60 degrees)	A positive aspect indicating opportunities and harmonious interactions. It brings supportive and complementary energies, facilitating cooperation and understanding.
Square (90 degrees)	Represents tension, challenge, and conflict. This aspect pushes for growth and development, often through overcoming obstacles or internal struggles.
Trine (120 degrees)	A harmonious aspect known for bringing ease, flow, and natural talent in the areas represented by the planets involved. It often indicates areas of life where things come together smoothly.
Opposition (180 degrees)	This aspect occurs when planets are directly across from each other on the zodiac wheel. It symbolizes tension, balance, and the need for compromise between opposing forces or energies.

STEP III

IT'S TIME TO INTERPRET YOUR BIRTH CHART

And now? Where do we start?

The truth is that every element in the Natal Chart can be a door to open to start the reading, but this is a practical guide for beginners, so let's proceed with order and structure.

THE BIG 3

An essential aspect to consider when starting to interpret a Natal Chart is the so-called 'Big 3'. But who are these Big 3, and why are they considered so important?

The Big 3 consists of the **Sun**, the **Ascendant**, and the **Moon**. These are regarded as the three most characterizing positions in the Natal Chart because:

- the Sun relates to your being;
- the Ascendant is about how you appear and relate to the world;
- the Moon represents your inner feelings and emotions.



STARTING THE READING

But what should we read first? The houses? The signs? The planets? Everything?

When you are practiced in astrology, it's not necessary to follow a specific order. With study, experience, and practice, the Natal Chart speaks for itself. But if we want to follow an order that helps, let's start with this simple but very effective rule:

THE PLANETS TELL US WHAT, THE SIGNS TELL US HOW, AND THE HOUSES TELL US WHERE.

Start by analyzing the Big 3 (Sun, Ascendant, and Moon). Look at where they are, in which sign? What is the symbolism of that sign? Let's take an example.

EXAMPLE



Moon (♁) in the third house in Sagittarius (♏). The Moon, as we know, represents our emotions, our subconscious, our feminine side. In Sagittarius, it's a fiery Moon, telling us that our emotions are fiery, fast, intense. It's in the third house, so it tells us that this intense, fiery, and sometimes insecure emotionality, expresses itself more intensely in the realm of communication (third house). Let the symbol guide you, and try to think: such strong and intense emotionality expressed in the third house could indicate a great inclination towards writing (communication).

But now let's move on to the aspects. This Moon forms an opposition with Mars (♂), which, at 180 degrees, is located in the opposite house and sign – thus in Gemini (♊), in the ninth house. When it comes to an opposition, we know that there is tension between the two elements. The Moon, as emotionality, is in tension with Mars, the planet symbolizing assertiveness, strength, and also our capacity for reaction. This opposition might manifest as a tension between wanting to express one's deepest emotions and thoughts freely and feeling the need to fight or defend those ideas. It can lead to situations where communication becomes a battleground, where the struggle is not just about being heard but also about whose ideas prevail.

Remember that when two planets communicate with each other, the houses they occupy and the signs they are in are also in communication. In the example we just analyzed, we talked about the Moon and Mars, but the third house and the ninth house, as well as Sagittarius and Gemini, are also in play.

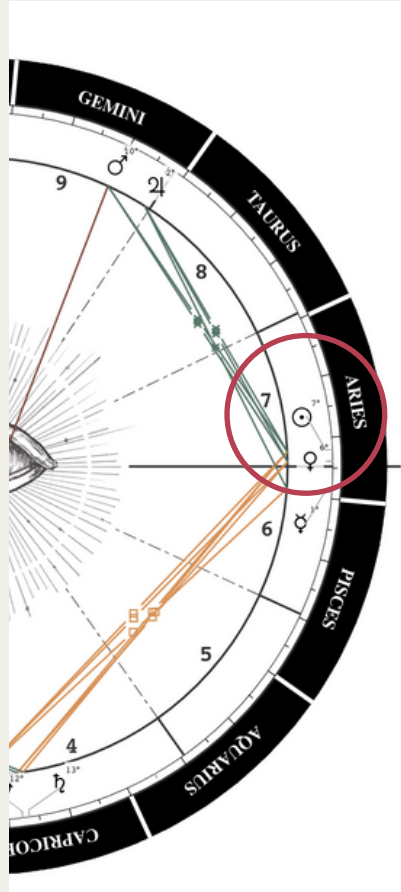
The same planets could also form other aspects and communicate with other planets or positions. Analyze them one at a time, using the tables in this guide. Then move on to other planets and so forth.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER: CRAFTING THE BIRTH CHART PUZZLE

The last and most challenging step is to bring together all these elements and understand the essence of the Natal Chart. This is very difficult and complex because each of us is a complex system of similarities, oppositions, inconsistencies, and harmonies.

To provide you with an insight into the intricacies of reading a Birth Chart and the multitude of elements intertwined, let's consider a personal example.

I am an Aries (meaning my Sun is in Aries), a sign known for being individualistic, pioneering, and also quite stubborn. But my Ascendant is Libra, the sign opposite to Aries, symbolizing the collective, generosity, justice, and also a certain reluctance to take risks. Am I one or the other? Am I Fire (Aries) or Air (Libra)? Am I courageous or reflective? The truth is that I am both, perhaps in different areas or at different times in my life. This apparent opposition allow me to compensate for my internal conflicts.



FAQ

To assist you in navigating the complex forest of reading a Birth Chart, here are some FAQs that might be useful to you.

1 - How do I read empty houses, which have no planets or aspects?

Empty houses are not less important than those occupied by planets or aspects. To understand them, you need to interpret the symbols of the signs that occupy them. The sign (or signs) that occupies the house has a lot to tell us even in the absence of a planet. The characteristics of the sign (and the ruling planets) tell us how we experience that sector of our life. It's also incorrect to think that a house without planets is weaker; on the contrary, remember that if there are no planets, there will also be no difficult transits, and therefore the energies flow more smoothly.

2 - What if a planet or position is conjunct or close to one of the angles?

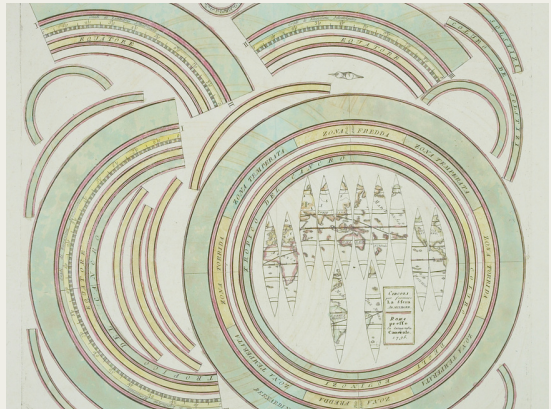
It will certainly have a significant meaning in the sphere represented by that angle. For example, Mars in the MC (Midheaven) is important because it tells of a person who has a strong drive to achieve career and social goals.

3 - What if I have more than three planets conjunct each other in the same house or sign?

That is a Stellium, which is a cluster of planets occupying the same space. It's an important point in the Chart because it's obviously laden with meaning.

4 - I often hear about planetary dominance, how do I find it?

Planetary dominance in a chart is a very complex and advanced topic. I haven't covered it in this guide, but I invite you to keep reading and check out the books I suggest later on – especially the first one I'll suggest – if you want to discover more about it.



5 - I see many oppositions or squares and few positive aspects in this Chart, does that mean it's unlucky or negative?

NO! In Astrology, there is no absolute positive or negative, and especially there is no concept of a predetermined fate. Certainly, there are innate abilities or tendencies that can predict directions to some extent, but nothing that our awareness and growth cannot change. An opposition or a square can be incredibly effective for growth and development.

FINAL STEP

EXPLORING FURTHER WITH BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Understanding a Birth Chart in its entirety is as complex as understanding the essence of a personality. I hope this step-by-step guide opens you up to some topics you didn't know before. But I'm also quite certain that it will have raised more questions than answers, and if so, I'm glad. Your questions surely have one or more answers, and study and practice can guide you in your discovery.

The goal of this mini-guide was to open a small window into the beautiful practice of astrology, but now it's up to you to open the doors. If you want to delve further, there are many ways to do so.

The first option is to stay updated about astrology by visiting bornundersaturn.com, where there is always new, free content to explore the world of astrology. Another option is to read books about astrology. Books are excellent for learning more because they guide you through specific topics. Sometimes, online sources present advanced topics that can be challenging to fully grasp, and books can bridge those gaps.



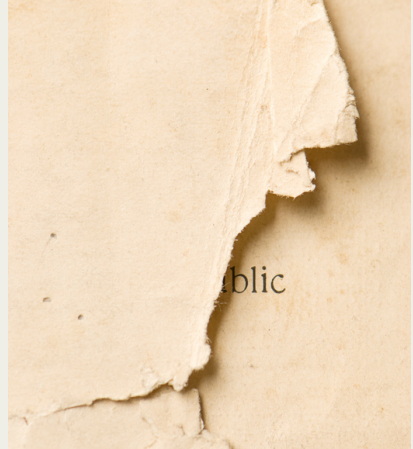
Below, I'll provide a list of suggested books that I have personally read. For each book, I'll include the title, a link, and a brief overview to help you dive into the content. This way, you can choose the ones that interest you the most at the moment.

“THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO ASTROLOGY: UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF, YOUR SIGNS, AND YOUR BIRTH CHART” BY LOUISE EDINGTON

This book is a definite must-have and the perfect continuation of this mini-guide. It begins by laying the foundations of astrology, delving into its historical origins and its significance in modern society. But that's just the beginning! It covers basic elements like signs, modalities, and houses, going far beyond just Suns.

It also delves deeper into more complex astrological associations, exploring nodes, moon signs, planetary influences, and much more. Additionally, it guides you in discovering how to structure, interpret, and gain a deeper understanding of your birth chart. Detailed charts provide further insight, empowering you to maximize your potential in both work and relationships.

This book isn't just for beginners; it's so comprehensive that even advanced practitioners can find valuable insights and clarify confusing concepts. In short, it's a must-have for anyone looking to unlock the mysteries of astrology and enhance their self-awareness.



“THE VALUE OF ASTROLOGY” BY ANDRÉ BARBAULT

I recommend this book if you're eager to delve deeper into the profound roots and evolution of astrology. As the first book available in English by the esteemed French master astrologer, it offers incisive and captivating insights into the origins, classical traditions, and modern applications of astrology. Barbault's work encompasses a rigorous understanding of mundane astrology, providing an incisive outline of its historical and philosophical significance.

“TETRABIBLOS” BY CLAUDIUS PTOLEMY

“Tetrabiblos” by Claudius Ptolemy, the ancient Egyptian astrologer, mathematician, and geographer, is often referred to as the ‘four-part book’. This ancient text stands as one of the most crucial surviving works on astrology, providing valuable insights into its historical roots. This is an ancient text that predates our current astronomical knowledge. Understanding the origins of astrological meanings can help us trace our journey from the past to the present and beyond.

“ASTROLOGY” BY ANDREA RICHARDS

I suggest this book if you appreciate illustrations and images as much as words, or if you prefer visuals over text. This vibrant book is delightful for its illustrations, exploring the symbolic meaning behind more than 400 images, ranging from Egyptian temples and illuminated manuscripts to contemporary art from across the globe. ‘Astrology’ celebrates the stars and their mysterious influence on our everyday lives.

Here is my short list of suggested books to continue immersing yourself in astrology. With this, I've concluded this step-by-step guide. Whether you appreciated or disliked it, please let me know! I'm open to different opinions and value feedback to ensure I'm creating valuable content.

*Don't hesitate to **contact me through the website** or via **Instagram DM** with any questions – literally any question that pops up into your mind.*

*Speaking of Instagram, if you haven't already, hit that follow button on my **Born Under Saturn's Instagram page**.*

Looking forward to hearing from you soon!

– Deborah

@Born_under_saturn

THE END