

## 2004 Interpretation Exam – Relationship Astrology Written by Clementine Adkins

*Kay and Luke have become romantically involved and now have to make some important decisions. Are they headed for matrimony, family, etc? Or is their relationship a non-cohabitating one based primarily on friendship? Using only the technique of chart comparison (synastry), explain to them how they interact archetypally with each other. Which interactions are supportive and which are likely to cause problems? How may these problems be best handled? Use the following birth data:*

*Kay: 4:55 am, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1969. Sydney, Australia.*

*Luke: 2:45 pm, 9<sup>th</sup> July 1965. Sydney, Australia.*

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Almost every book, essay or article written on relationships seems to start with the reminder that we as humans are not about living alone. By our very nature we seek out others. Sometimes that is simply for survival needs. We need to be part of a “tribe” to be fed, housed and protected. A step further down the road of civilisation and people look to others to validate their existence or to have their needs of belonging met and most of us want that validation from one other person in particular. As it is in life in general – nothing operates without cause and effect. Our own astrology chart supports this theory. The chart is not just Sun, Moon etc but how that Sun is effected by the other planets and points. It is all about synastry, a blending of many energies to make one energy.

Linda Reid in her Winter 2000 Lecture series spent some time on relationships. Linda gave a very helpful analogy on this idea that we need another person in our life. She says:

*“The laws of attraction draw us to others because without others we have nothing to mirror our existence”.*<sup>1</sup>

and further on

*“We connect with others selfishly that we may take from them and so that they may reflect something of ourselves, our prowess, our gifts and talents.”*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Reid, Linda, *Astrology of Relationships*, Canopus Lecture Series, Winter 2000 p3

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So there is quite a bit of projection going on in relationships. The trick is now to know what is being projected in the charts of Kay and Luke and whether those projections are healthy or destructive either to themselves or to the possible relationship.

Before any real synastry analysis can begin, I believe we need to have some sort of understanding of the basic personalities of the two people wishing to form a relationship. In the case of Luke we see a predominance of water (although it is not the strongest element) with Sun and Moon in water signs and the water houses containing water signs. The mutable grand cross would certainly cause stress energies but the challenges would be handled in a far less stressful way than Kay who also has a grand cross but with the cardinal drive behind it. A quick look over Kay's chart would indicate a person with much more drive and passion. My guess would be that Kay would be the "front" for this relationship with Luke the support. She would meet the world head on, make the decisions, take action where needed. By element both Kay and Luke show themselves to be fiery, by mode Kay is cardinal and Luke is fixed, again giving rise to the idea that Kay maybe more upfront than Luke, more able to make decisions and action.

If we continue along the theme Linda Reid suggests in working with composite/synastry charts then our next step is to break up the synastry grid into three sections. The first section takes account of the inner planets and makes a block enclosing Mars to Mars. This section of the grid for Kay and Luke is highlighted by the fact that it contains mostly "soft" aspects, in fact we have only one hard aspect that being Luke's Mars square Kay's Moon. Whilst the soft aspects to the inner planets may well fare for harmony in the beginning of the relationship, it also augurs for a future in which the harmony can be replaced with habit and sameness and the relationship may fall into set routines or where role playing will become the daily custom.

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid* p3

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If we break this inner grid down one more step and confine the block to aspects only to Sun and Moon, it is interesting to find only one harmonious aspect in a grid of four possibilities (and this aspect is questionable as it refers to an out of sign trine). It concerns me that there is not more interaction between these two prime planets. With the Moon at least, that being the point indicating how we wish our emotional needs to be met, we find no interaction at all. Yes this could be a good thing. It could mean that in this relationship Kay and Luke nurture themselves – emotionally they are independent of the other. Then again we are looking at the possibility of a relationship in which the couple are questioning the possibility of bonding in the ultimate sense of marriage. One would think that emotional interplay of some description would come into the equation.

On closer analysis of the Moons involved in this reading we find Luke with a Moon in Scorpio and Kay with a Moon in Capricorn. We would now have a better understanding as to why this couple are emotionally independent. Moon Scorpio finds emotional satisfaction by taking the feeling state deep within and analysing the events, reactions and emotional outcomes to their own satisfaction before re surfacing and appearing to the outside world as nothing happened. It can be quite frustrating for the partner of a Moon Scorpio to know or understand at any given time where their partner is in terms of emotional response. So Kay will find she will need to develop a habit of checking in with Luke on regular basis to learn about his emotional world. Luke will not necessarily volunteer this information, after all Scorpio is about the secretive.

On the other hand we find Kay with her Moon in Capricorn. Here we have a person who channels her emotional energy into the pursuit of achieving success, of setting and reaching goals. Moon Capricorn is driven, action orientated, not usually focussed on others. They are more inclined to go it alone, the success awaiting them is for them alone. Moon Capricorn is all about

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taking responsibility, it indicates a serious nature and has been described by Bernadette Brady “emotional loneliness”.

It is of particular note that Kay’s Capricorn Moon is in detriment and Luke’s Scorpio Moon is in fall. We are faced here with difficult Moon positions, Moons that need some working on to be able to not only work for the positive for the individual concerned but for the sake of the relationship.

If we then look at the Sun positions and note again that in the synastry grid there is no aspect connection and look to the individual charts to gain an understanding of how these two persons may wish to develop their uniqueness we find Luke with a Sun in cancer which may indicate a sensitive, caring, nurturing type who may find his identity in giving to others. Kay has her Sun in Leo (where it is in rulership). This Sun type, in the best case scenario, would indicate a warm, loving and generous soul. Worst case scenario would find a person quite arrogant, self centred and egotistical. One Sun is about others (cancer) and one Sun is about self (Leo).

Returning to the Mars/Mars aspectarian section of the synastry grid, of significant interest are the conjunctions between Mercury/Sun and Mercury/Mercury. Mercury becomes a key player in this relationship. These conjunctions may be one of the strongest indicators of a lasting relationship between Kay and Luke. Mercury conjunctions indicate an ease of conversation, a sharing of thoughts and opinions and an ability to understand and feel at ease with each other. It may be said that Kay and Luke are of like minds and their conversations would become a free flow of words. It further indicates that arguments should be few and far between as Kay and Luke have the ability to creatively work through their differences. The downfall of conjunctions in a synastry grid is that the energies involved tend to merge and lose their uniqueness and so *issues*

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*may tend to be absorbed and not addressed.....then along comes a transit that creates an overload of pressure. Invisible cracks from unaddressed issues begin to give under intense pressure*<sup>3</sup>. My concern here would be that Kay and Luke, finding conversation a relatively easy phenomenon in the earlier part of their relationship may very well find the going tough when the larger issues arise.

The Venus/Mercury and Venus/Sun aspects add a sense of harmony and cooperation to the union. The Venus aspects bring a creative side to the relationship. It brings with it a sense of abundance which can manifest in the monetary sense or simply a feeling of all things working well when Kay and Luke are together.

Before leaving the inner planets section of the synastry grid it needs to be noted that although Kay's Mars is conjunct Luke's Moon (hence more of the harmonious energies spoken about before), Luke's Mars squares Kay's Moon. Here at least we have one aspect that would cause stress or friction in the relationship. It may indicate passion in the relationship but it may also cause Kay to feel overpowered emotionally by Luke. This particular aspect will need some working on if it is not to become a stumbling block in the relationship. Kay's Moon is not the only personal planet hit by Luke's Mars. There are also sextiles to Sun, Mercury and Mars. According to Linda Reid, generally the sextile plays a supportive role in the relationship but only if the planet involved is strong itself. Luke's Mars is unaspected in his natal chart and positioned in Libra, hence in fall, so I am guessing that the Mars aspects may be weakened by his natal Mars placement.

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<sup>3</sup> Reid, Linda, *Astrology of Relationships*, Canopus Lecture Series, Winter 2000 p9

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Arriving at this point mostly all would seem well for Kay and Luke – there is independence and individuality but there is plenty to indicate that those factors can be talked about and harmoniously incorporated into the relationship. But when we open up the synastry grid to allow the interpersonal planets of Jupiter and Saturn to influence the story we find a new development taking place. Both Kay and Luke's Saturn square each other's Venus. Saturn is the indicator of commitment and can bring with it a sense of security to the relationship. It also indicates that the couple are prepared to put in the hard work to make this relationship work. But it then also indicates that there is hard work to be done. Saturn squaring Venus may well mean that both partners feel stifled either by each other or stifled in their relationship. Remembering what was said earlier in discussing the lack of aspects to Moon and Sun and the suggestion that these two people may prefer to remain independent, this independence may well be supported here. Saturn can also mean that the union lacks a sense of fun, that the relationship is too rigid or too serious. Whilst the Venus/Sun aspects may override this possibility, an interpersonal or outer planet certainly has more influence on the relationship than the personal to personal planets which simply indicate the uniqueness of the individual and what they bring to the partnership as their own person. Here we have the unconscious influences on the liaison. Whilst the square aspects bring the challenges they can also become tensions that have no solutions. The squares may be an energy that has to be accepted as part of the union. My guess is that, with it being Saturn, the challenges will be hard felt and a wanting to remain independent will win out.

In taking the outer most planets of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto into the story now, we come to an understanding of how the relationship will unfold in the long term. These planets and their connection to the inners indicate how the relationship will develop, what issues will surface as time goes on. Of note is whether one or other of the partners has a stronger outer aspectarian than the other. Looking at Kay and Luke we find future issues will arise, for Kay may very well push

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a few buttons in Luke, Kay having two aspects from the outer planets to Luke's inner planets, whereas Luke's outer three planets do not make contact with Kay's inner planets at all (giving rise to the idea that this relationship has nowhere to go). Kay's two connections are Neptune conjunct Moon and Uranus conjunct Mars. Both in themselves would give argument that here at least we have romance and passion. But again I can't help but consider the notion of conjunctions bringing about a sense of osmosis. These energies may very well work for a time but when transits to these points come along there will come a need to go deeper than just the acceptance that things work well here. This especially may be the case with Neptune conjunct the Moon. In the early stages of the relationships there may well be sense that this relationship was "made in heaven" but the possibility is there that illusions created by Neptune may well turn into disillusionment when Kay's natal Neptune is hit by transits.

Overall the outer most section of the synastry grid is almost devoid of aspects pointing to the possibility that this relationship is not a social one, in the sense that Kay and Luke will not so much socialise as a couple as they will individually.

No relationship interpretation could be complete, or for that matter do justice to the client, without a close look at the nodal journey and in particular the south node as our instinctual behavioural pattern. The south node is almost imprinted into the psyche, much as the Moon's imprint is stamped on us in the womb. We cannot so much rid ourselves of the imprinted patterns but rather come to understand the challenges this habitual force presents us. The south node gives us an understanding of how each of the persons in this relationship will act in times of stress, whether that stress is because of troubled times or because of the need for change or because of the need to face life's challenges (not necessarily difficult scenarios but simply, for instance, the arrival of children). In the case of Kay and Luke even though there are no direct aspects nodes to nodes, I

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still believe we need to take time out to consider the nodal story of each of the players in this relationship.

If we look at Kay first, we see the south node in Virgo. Jan Spiller says of these folk:

*“They need to turn away from rigid physical and material planning and refocus on the larger, spiritual vision”<sup>4</sup>*

We have already considered how Kay might well be the driving force behind this relationship, the more upfront of the two (cardinal grand cross, cardinal angles, Moon in Capricorn, and indeed will raise more unconscious issues in the relationship). Here again is further evidence of her wanting to take charge, to plan, to manipulate, to order things – it is quite difficult for south node Virgo to let go and allow others to do things their way.

With Luke we have the south node in Sagittarius. Jan Spiller says of these folk:

*“they must stop focussing on “their truth” and begin to focus on the people around them. They need to listen to – and understand – the information that others share about their lives.”<sup>5</sup>*

Here we have a similar story in that, whilst Kay is “fixed” about her need for order, Luke is “fixed” in his sense of HIS truth. These are two rather strong south node positions from the point of view that neither is compromising, both have to learn to lighten up as it were. Should there have been a situation where either of the parties in this relationship had a more conciliatory south node it may have enticed the other partner to consider the merits of seeing the bigger picture, but for Luke and Kay both are rigid and unrelenting in their sense of what is right.

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<sup>4</sup> Spiller, Jan “Astrology of the Soul”, Bantam Books, 1997, p489

<sup>5</sup> ibid p112

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Of further significance is Luke's Pluto conjunct Kay's south node. Believing that the outer planets of one partner can "push the buttons" of the other's inner world, forcing a situation where the one being effected by the other's outer planets must react/change, then here we have a fairly volatile situation in which Kay could undergo a powerful transformation at the hands of Luke's Pluto. Kay will be the one who may be forced to reconsider her need for order, her need to have everything planned well ahead of time and quite possibly this transformation will come through much pain. Pluto is the strongest of the influences Luke has on Kay's nodal story. Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Chiron also have the opportunity to play out their energies on Kay's nodes.

In returning now to the initial question posed by Kay and Luke as to whether they are headed for marriage or whether they should see their involvement as friendship, I would need to state upfront that I would never like to "advise" a couple as to the possibility of a potentially long term committed relationship. Without understanding exactly what each of the persons involved understands a relationship to be (each couple writes their own contract on relationship) it would be impossible to "forecast" a future. Besides astrological synastry, the background of these two persons, their culture, their religion or belief systems and to what extent they are willing to take responsibility for themselves and their actions, would also need to be taken into consideration. My concern for Kay and Luke is the dominance of conjunctions in the grid. It is as if this relationship will possibly be tested at a future time. How will Kay and Luke fare when transits/events occur that will test the nodal story, or when the Chiron wounds are exposed (Pluto plays quite a significant role in both stories) or when the Mercury conjunctions are activated by transits? Having said that there are also indications that this relationship has the ability to go the distance. The Mercury Venus conjunctions give the greatest evidence of that, Neptune conjunct Moon as well. As an astrologer the best I can do is point out what energies I see in the composite chart, what the possible strengths and weaknesses are and then allow the couple (armed with this information) to go away and live out the energies they are working with now and develop both as individuals and as a couple in such a way that they can face future challenges.

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Bibliography:

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Spiller, Jan “*Astrology of the Soul*”, Bantam Books, 1997

Software used: Solar Fire v5, Graham Dawson & Stephanie Johnson, Esoteric Technologies and in particular Stephanie Johnson’s synastry interpretations.