BEYOND THE MASK
THE RISING SIGN

PART II: LIBRA - PISCES

CREATIVITY AND SPIRITUALITY IN
THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

KATHLEEN BURT

AUTHOR OF
ARCHETYPES OF THE ZODIAC
Beyond the Mask: The Rising Sign

Part II: Libra - Pisces
Beyond the Mask: The Rising Sign

Creativity and Spirituality in the Second Half of Life

Part II: Libra - Pisces

by

Kathleen Burt
Table of Contents:

Introduction: Frequently Asked Questions xii

1) Libra Rising: A Happy Life is Like an Art Form 1

2) Scorpio Rising: The Passion for Life 45

3) Sagittarius Rising: Inspiration Comes from Helping Others 89

4) Capricorn Rising: Productive Poet, Scientist and Mentor 133

5) Aquarius Rising: Author, Visionary and Volunteer 193

6) Pisces Rising: Creativity, Spirituality, and Inner Peace 247
Acknowledgements

*Beyond the Mask* is now in print because the author had a great deal of help from her friends. I particularly want to thank Jungian analysts Monika Wikman and Ray Hillis of the Santa Fe Alchemical Society; my friend and former secretary Dagny San Miguel, my editor Anne Neighbors in Scott, AR, my poet friend Joyce Brady in San Francisco, astrologer Catalina O’Brien of Nevada City, my literary friend, Jeannette Scollard in Carlsbad, Ca, and multi-talented Vicki Gloor of Del Mar, CA, for their support, advice and encouragement.

I’m also very grateful for the helpful comments of the workshop participants.

I’d also like to thank my Jungian mentor for fairy tales and storytelling, Robert Johnson, now retired in India. His contribution to the Patterns in Health program in Del Mar and his weekends at Pacifica Institute in Montecito, CA. led to my inclusion of elder stories and other tales.

Special thanks are due to the late Lois Rodden and the staff at Astro-Databank.com for the celebrity horoscopes. I hope many readers will avail themselves of this useful information, now available on the internet through Astrodienst, www.astro.com.

The help of Kay Carlson and Susannah Garrett who transcribed my lectures is very much appreciated. This was a daunting task for two women without a background in either astrology or Jungian terminology.

But most of all, I’d like to thank my husband Michael Burt for his patience.
Preface by the Author

Almost twenty years ago I wrote a book on Sun Sign astrology called *Archetypes of the Zodiac.* The same year that *Archetypes* appeared in bookstores several of us, students, clients, friends and I, participated in a Mask-making workshop offered by Friends of Jung, San Diego. When we discussed the experience later, we were all curious about how the astrological Mask, the Rising Sign, differed from the Sun Sign archetype. Was there a distinct pattern for the Rising Signs? Synchronistically, a few months later I was asked to contribute a chapter to Joan Mc Evers’ anthology, *Spiritual, Metaphysical, & New Trends in Modern Astrology.*

The perfect opportunity to have a look at the Rising Signs through their spiritual (esoteric) rulers! When my chapter was finished, I knew I wanted to explore the topic more fully. But first I’d need enough accurate horoscopes to establish a pattern.

Years passed before I discovered Lois Rodden’s wonderful celebrity database, which includes famous writers. What a delight to spend time with the horoscopes of my favorite authors, both fiction and non-fiction; writers whose books have meant so much to me over the years! As I collected and read their memoirs, autobiographies, and biographies, twelve distinct Rising Sign patterns emerged.

However, there was now too much data, too many good stories for one book! I needed only a few examples for each Sign. Thinking about that mass of material, I felt like a village housewife in India sitting with her winnowing fan, sorting the best kernels of rice and removing the pebbles. Overwhelmed by my attempt at winnowing in isolation, my next step was to design a series of yoga/astrology retreats: weekend workshops featuring the Rising Sign, including myth, folk tales, poetry, the authors’ Rising Signs, and breaks for hatha yoga stretches. The students’ reactions to the storytelling--folk tales and stories from the authors’ lives-- helped in choosing the best examples, those that sparked enthusiasm and discussion.

Meanwhile we all grew older; friends, clients, workshop participants, myself. We discussed how, as our Solar ambitions and interest in our

---

past accomplishments waned, time and space opened to us. There was room in our lives for new beginnings. After my husband Michael and I moved to Florida, the Rising Sign workshops assumed a different shape: the Mask and the Second Half of Life. The stories in this book are Elder Tales.

The Mask after Fifty

In youth, the Mask protects our Solar dreams and goals until we’re prepared to go public with them. As children, we may have hidden behind a moody or introverted Mask or a chatty extraverted Mask. Perhaps we had a grumpy relative or teacher who, if he knew about those dreams, would discourage us. As adults, our Mask shielded us from the boss or project director who felt threatened. But now, we’re free!

One of the most interesting observations from my client work was the number of people who came for readings just as the progressed Ascendant was about to change Signs. They sensed that something was changing or, if they were not as self-aware, others close to them noticed that they were behaving differently--either way, they wondered what was happening and scheduled a reading as the Mask changed. Some called it “my first reading ever.” Though they’d been “curious about astrology for a long time,” now they actually came for a reading.

Watching the change in slow motion, from the time the Ascendant enters the new Sign until it makes its first major contact (aspect) to a natal planet is a lot like watching a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis. At first we feel vulnerable, unsteady and uncertain; then we grow a bit braver, and several years later when the Ascendant contacts a natal planet, we know we can fly. We’re ready to catch a breeze and soar.

Though our progressed Ascendant has already changed Signs once by midlife, this second change is more interesting, because the second progressed Ascendant has more in common with the Natal Mask by Element and Mode. So, it’s easier to work with than the first Progressed Rising Sign. It also opens new possibilities, new ways of being. Two constellations are coming into contact. Constellations are vast and expansive.
We all feel vulnerable at first. Our old cocoon feels desiccated; the energy behind our old Mask wanes; we're not yet aware of who it is that we're becoming. We need to be patient with ourselves.

When my second Mask, Cancer waned, the energy for one-on-one client consultations dropped away. I had less and less “nurturing” patience available to me every year. Client work that used to be energizing was now enervating! I retired, read biographies and wondered how to support myself! I enrolled in a teacher's training in hatha yoga. I'd loved yoga for twenty years and wanted to learn more about it. I told myself at the time. “I’d never actually teach yoga, of course! I have no sensate function!” Five years later, the progressed Ascendant contacted a Natal planet in five degrees, a planet in my career house: I was a fledgling yoga teacher.

When you’re a changeling, it’s good to ask yourself, “what would I like to do?” No expectations, no pressure, just “what would I enjoy?” The answer to this question is a direction, a starting point but not a destination. And it's important to avoid people who resemble that grumpy relative or negative teacher from younger days.

Mine would have said, “are you insane? You admit you'd never teach yoga! Why invest in a two-year training? At your age, you should hang on to your retirement money!” As time passes, the progressed Ascendant degree will eventually contact a natal planet whose nature: earnest or playful, active or reflective, creative or inspired, helps set the tone for our new thirty-year cycle.

The Second Half of Life can be a playful time. We experience the constellations differently. As our Mask changes, we gain a new understanding of the Natal Rising Sign through the perspective of the new Progressed Ascendant. Transits cycles of the outer planets add to the mix. We experience Jupiter Returns at age 48, 60, 72 and 84.

We create new rituals, we travel, we find new wellsprings of joy. On the Second Saturn Return, age 58-59, we simplify life, clean out our closets and leave behind old support structures. A chapter closes. Saturn is Chronus, Father Time. Uranus’ cycle brings insight and freedom. Neptune’s cycle offers inner peace (the River Lethe Experience: forgiving and forgetting) and creative inspiration. We release those Masks associated with our old responsibilities. The Second Half of Life is a time for imagination, for creativity and passion, for seeking and sharing inspiration. It’s an exciting time!
“Is life no more than a series of Masks?”
W.B. Yeats, from his astrology journal
*Vacillations, IV*

“my fiftieth year had come and gone,
I sat, a solitary man
In a crowded London shop,
An open book and empty cup
On the marble table-top.

While on the shop and street I gazed
My body of a sudden blazed;
And twenty minutes more or less
It seemed so great my happiness
That I was blessed and could bless.”

---

1 W.B. Yeats, *Memoir: Journal*. Denis Donoghue, ed, (NY: Macmillan), 1972. There are many entries about his progressions, his natal Mars/Moon opposition and his efforts to be more patient with others.

The Rising Sign and the First House

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Rising Sign?

It’s the astrological persona or Mask. Technically, it’s the constellation coming up over the horizon at the time of birth, in the location, the city or town where we were born. Because it’s rising overhead, this constellation is also called the Ascendant.

Located on the Cusp of the First House, (Identity) the degree of the Rising Sign is our personal, symbolic place in time and space. An accurate time of birth is very important.

How does my Rising Sign differ symbolically from my Sun Sign?

Here are some technical differences to ponder:

The Sun is a star around which planets revolve. The Rising Sign is an entire constellation.

The Ascendant Sign changed every two hours the day we were born, while the Sun Sign was shared with a greater number of people born within several weeks of us. The Twelve Rising constellations have different types of charisma and magnetism.

The Rising Sign is associated with dawn and new beginnings.

We experience this when transits of the faster-moving planets -- Mercury, Mars, Venus or the Luminaries (the Sun and Moon) cross the Ascendant and move through our First House. With transiting Mars on the Ascendant, we may decide to sign up at the gym or take karate. With Mercury transiting, our new endeavor may be a craft class or a letter to the editor. We can follow the motion of planets across our Ascendant in the ephemeris. Slower-moving planets may influence the Ascendant for several years. We adjust, then get used to them being around and they no longer feel new.
What does the Sun symbolize in the horoscope?

You may recall from *Archetypes of the Zodiac* that for every planet there are two levels of symbolism, esoteric (spiritual) and mundane (instinctual.)

At one level, the Sun symbolizes the Ego. Symbolically, the planets in the horoscope are to the Ego as the physical Sun is to the Solar System: the Sun is the source of light and heat and the planets play a subordinate role. They represent qualities or attributes of the Sun. (Mercury symbolizes the Ego’s curiosity, its ability to learn and communicate knowledge; Mars, the Ego’s flight-or-fight response; assertiveness, competitive spirit, agility, coordination, passion. Venus represents the Feeling Function and the way that the Ego relates to others (preferably harmoniously, non-competitively) as well as aesthetics and the individual’s taste.

But for those interested in spiritual symbolism, the Sun is a symbol of the Self. Its alchemical metal is gold. Poets and storytellers through the ages have made use of the metals associated with the planets to let us know that a poem or story has a deeper message. “The Golden Fleece” alluded to in the Aries Rising chapter is such a tale, a Search for the precious treasure, the Self. William Butler Yeats, who studied astrology with the Golden Dawn Society, ended his poem, “The Song of Wandering Aengus” with the lines “…and pluck till time and times are done/the Silver Apples of the Moon/the Golden Apples of the Sun.” There’s a sense of eternity: “till time and times are done.” Golden Apples are delicious, but actual silver ones are hard to find!

Modern seekers after “the Grail” or the “Golden Fleece” learn a great deal about themselves by hindsight after transits to the Sun by outer planets, (Saturn and beyond.) Others pass through the same transit cycles and only want to know “when will this finally end?” There are two distinct levels.

Are there different levels to the Rising Sign constellations too? Or is the Mask just a superficial face we present to the world? Just “putting our best face on things?”

Absolutely, there’s a deeper level. An astrological Mask represents an entire constellation of possibilities. It’s like owning a shelf of actor’s
Beyond the Mask

Masks. Or we may wear a series of Masks over the years. Let’s consider a constellation with a wide range of possibilities: Gemini Rising. We all know chatty, gossipy Gemini Rising people. We see Hermes-the-Trickster or Prankster in them. We’ve met Peter Pan and Tinkerbelle, Gemini Rising people who don’t want to grow up! Jung’s puer and puella. But there are also brilliant Gemini Rising people with a wry sense of humor, like Henry Kissinger; talented teachers like Marcel Marceau who opened his school of mime to preserve the Harlequin tradition. There are talented Gemini Rising craftspeople. There are Gemini Rising lecturers who seem to ramble but then surprise us by summing everything up beautifully with a power point presentation, bringing all the pieces together at the end.

Gemini Rising people can be highly intuitive, like Jeanne Dixon and Mira Alfassar Richard, The Mother of the Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, India. We see this when Gemini Rising attunes not only to Hermes/Mercury but also to its esoteric ruler.

Venus rules aesthetics and values. So many Masks are possible for Gemini: journalist, talk show host, Advisor to the King (Kissinger) Court Jester (juggler or mime), author, teacher, psychic and more. The more spiritual Geminis seem able to reconcile the pillars of Hercules (the glyph for the Twins) in a harmonious manner. They’re attuned to Venus, the principal of harmony.

Is it true that the Rising Sign, not the Sun Sign is what people usually come up with at parties when they try to guess your Sign? They see the Mask?

Yes, that happens fairly often. Most of us prepare our party-going-Mask carefully; we put thought and attention into it. Still, the Mask will reflect the planet close to the Rising Sign if we have one there. Uranus near the Ascendant, or contracting it, usually means a zany choice of apparel, Saturn near the Ascendant tends towards a businesslike, serious Mask. The look is “classic”—often black or the latest “new black.” The briefcase is left home but the wallet or purse contains business cards in case they’re needed. Mars near the Ascendant: elegant sportswear to show off a buff body. Venus near the Ascendant: style; a sense of color that accentuates the hair, the eyes, the complexion or hides flaws. Moon near the Ascendant may discuss an “ex” or a close family member they’re
concerned about, their pet, or, worst case-scenario, their dreadful “ex” at the party. Whether or not the person is a nurturer, they appear to be.

Here’s where the confusion occurs: a person might guess “Libra Rising” when Venus is on the Ascendant in some other Rising Sign. Or guess “Cancer Rising” when the Moon is on the Ascendant, regardless of Rising Sign. The businesslike person would seem like Capricorn Rising because Saturn’s on the Ascendant. If any of these planets were in the middle of the First House, they’d still affect the magnetism but to a lesser degree.

**Are First House Planets part of the Mask, or just the Rising Sign Degree and the planet closest to it?**

The entire First House is part of the Mask, including all its planets. Twelfth House planets within five degrees of the Rising Sign influence the Mask, too.

Each planet in the First House contributes something of its own nature to our magnetism. With Saturn-in-the-First House, others probably see you as a responsible, well-organized person, disciplined, and focused. This will draw you a lot of work! By the age of 30, you’d most likely be hard on yourself as a result of your perceptions about others unfulfilled expectations of you. (Perhaps parents and mentors never really expected that of you! It’s your First House Saturn, after all, not theirs!) At work, you’ve come to believe, “the buck stops here” on your desk. Or, with Mars in your First, you see yourself as an active person, (you were probably athletic in youth) but by now, at 55, your may feel frustrated because you no longer have the physical stamina or agility you had at 35. Or you may forget this on occasion, overexert yourself and pull a muscle or develop a hernia.

So, the Mask not only symbolizes how others see us; it also colors how we perceive ourselves. It’s possible to over-identify with First House planets after Midlife. Our First House Saturn keeps overachieving but we may no longer enjoy our jobs. Or, our First House Moon still wears an outdated Supermom Mask. Wearing a Mask that no longer serves often interferes with drawing new friends or participating in activities that we would now enjoy. Our days are filled with people who wear old Masks, like ours.
The Venus-in-the-First House sorority girl or Adonis-the-handsome-salesman particularly feel a sense of loss as beauty fades after Midlife. For Mercury-in the-First House, multi-tasking becomes more difficult. (With aging they’re more forgetful.) The Masks that worked for us in youth become difficult to maintain; we invest more and more energy in keeping their veneer fresh and shiny as the decades pass.

**How can I find my Rising Sign? And how can I find out if I have any First House planets?**

The information you need for calculating your horoscope, including the Rising Sign and the houses is on your birth certificate. If you don’t have a copy, it’s available from the Department of Vital Statistics in the capitol of the state where you were born.

A word of caution, though. Some states have two-page certificates with the time of birth on the second page. So, it’s a good idea to ask, “is there is a second page?” when you call to order it. If so, do request both pages. Otherwise, they may send only the first page. If the time of birth is missing, you’ll have only half the information. (If you know your latitude and longitude, you’ll know your symbolic place in space but not in time.) Once you have the information, you can proceed to an internet site and fill in the data or see an astrologer for a private session. If you have a serious interest in calculating many horoscopes, software is available for purchase through Solar Fire, Matrix or Astrolabe.

**What if I don’t have any First House Planets?**

Don’t worry about it. Not everyone has a planet sitting right on his Ascendant or in the First House. Planets in other houses will likely make contacts (aspects) to the Ascendant degree. Novelist Simone de Beauvoir and psychologist Sigmund Freud didn't have any.

First look for the planet or planets that rule your Rising Sign. Simone de Beauvoir had Scorpio Rising. Scorpio has two ruling planets. One of them, Mars, trined the Ascendant from the Fifth House; she was passionate about Life.

The other ruler of Scorpio, Pluto was in her Seventh, long-term relationships, in an unstable aspect (inconjunct) to the Ascendant.

John Paul Sartre, the love of her life for fifty years, put her through a great deal with his many love affairs, about which he wrote her in great...
detail (in spite of her objections that she didn’t care to be in the bedroom as a voyeur.) Also painful were his doubts about Existentialism, the philosophy of personal freedom by which they’d both lived their lives, in his later years. But his adopting a young woman as his “literary heir” and advisor, a position that she’d previously held herself, was probably the greatest shock.

The major theme of the Mask and the obstacles it faces; the adjustments that must be made are described.

Next, look for any planet that contacts the Ascendant degree to learn about your Mask. Beauvoir’s Moon and Saturn in Pisces were conjunct her Fifth House Mars. They were in a nice free-flowing trine to the Ascendant; she was Sartre’s anchor (when he tired of a lover or the woman became too demanding, Simone got rid of her for him, because she said “we had spoiled Sartre; he didn’t like unpleasantness and I was tough.” As editor, she helped structure his work Structuring is a Saturn function. Her Pisces Moon was very sacrificial around the “creative genius.” If she wanted to go to New York and Sartre was invited to Yugoslavia, she went with him instead.

As the years pass, transiting and progressed planets will cross the Ascendant and move through your Identify House. It isn’t really empty. By the time Simone was at the Sorbonne, her progressed Ascendant had entered Sagittarius. When it reached (conjuncted) Sartre’s Natal Sagittarian Ascendant degree, he invited her to join his group of friends (she had excelled on the exam that Sartre had failed.) He nicknamed her “Castro” (Beaver) because she studied so hard. After she joined the group, he studied and passed the exam the next time with high marks.

If no planets contact the Ascendant degree, it’s also possible that your mother remembered your birth time incorrectly (especially when you’re part of a large family.) If you haven’t a copy of your birth certificate, it’s a good idea to obtain one and check the time. If you cannot easily obtain yours (adopted children sometimes have difficulty) it’s also a good idea to look for an astrologer who does rectification.

What else influences the astrological Mask besides First House Planets and the spiritual and instinctual planets that rule the Ascendant?

The Elements and the Modes. Let’s visualize meeting someone for the first time. A person who might become important to you. Let’s say you’re at Starbucks to meet an Internet e-mail pal in person; someone
from your forum. How do you seem to them? Grounded/Earthy? Imaginative/Watery? Enthusiastic/excited/Firey? Or Aloof, objective/Airy. Air is usually reserved at the first meeting, Though the Airy Mask is friendly, Air is wondering whether they really want to get involved. Air is thinking, “He or she might be okay at a distance, I enjoy those e-mails, but do I really want this person any closer than my inbox?”

The Modes (also called Qualities) are influential too: Cardinality (Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn) seems authoritative; “together,” well organized. The Mask projects: “I have the entire project under control. Let me run through it for you from beginning to end.” You’d feel very comfortable having your child or grandchild in his classroom or carpool. Cardinal Masks work well for us when it comes to competition for promotion.

Fixity (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius) has real presence but is quite stubborn. Fixity knows who she is; she’s sure of herself and quite comfortable in her body. Fixity has the courage of his convictions. He won’t be easily persuaded to change his opinions; in fact, he might try to convert you to his religion, philosophy, cause (Aquarius) or political affiliation. (Any Mask, of course, may hide a fragile ego.)

Mutability (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces) is impressionable, reasonable and maybe even too accommodating (can seem wishy-washy.) They’re nice, helpful, impressionable, and suggestible. Like young Professor Mutable. On the first day of class a student wanted to do a term paper on an obscure hobby-topic. The student was very excited about it and Professor Mutable’s Mask absorbed the enthusiasm. But the small college library lacked books on the subject, so Professor Mutable brought the student a stack of books he had checked out from a large university library. When the books went missing from the student’s locker, Professor Mutable was left with an enormous bill.

It helps if Mutables are in touch with a boundary-setting planet (usually Saturn or Pluto) elsewhere in the chart. Mutable Rising Signs absorb others’ energy more than the other Modes, with the exception of Cardinal Water. (Cancer is the psychic-sponge.)

Someone said I have an Intercept. What is that? How do I work with it?

An entire workshop could be devoted to intercepts! They come up when we use the Tropical Placidus or Tropical Koch formula to
calculate horoscopes. By definition, an intercepted Sign is wholly contained within a House but does not appear on a Cusp. People born in the Northern Latitudes are more likely to have them than others.

I don’t know whether or not you have planets in your intercept. Intercepted planets usually develop in a solitary way, taking longer to express themselves. There’s an excellent book by Joanne Wicklenburg: *Your Hidden Powers, Retrograde Planets and Intercepted Signs.* (American Federation of Astrologers, 1992.) Some people who have intercepted planets are original thinkers; quite imaginative. They seem to have a different perspective on the intercepted House than the rest of us.

As I understand it, I have my Natal Rising Sign for life, though I can also absorb the positive attributes of the Progressed Ascendant as well?

You’re right. We came to earth at a certain time and place. That doesn’t change as we progress through the next two or three signs. Let’s take an example: Scorpio is a very stubborn (Fixed) Rising Sign. As a child, Scorpio Rising Simone de Beauvoir threw tantrums, or held her breath until she fainted in order to get her own way. It worked for her; her father was absent, her mother at a loss about how to discipline Simone.

As a teenager, she came up against a situation that she couldn’t control, even with the Pluto-Ascendant aspect. She wanted to marry her cousin Jacques, who visited often and seemed interested. When she learned that his marriage was already arranged to a wealthy young woman, Simone, who had no dowry, was devastated. She decided never to marry.

Once she progressed into Sagittarius, she found it easier to compromise. With her Fixed Scorpio discipline, she threw herself into her studies at the Sorbonne. She saw philosophy as the key to a “passionate life,” the only kind worth living. Influenced by Jean Paul Sartre, whose mind she fell in love with, she renounced the bourgeois values of her upper middle class, conservative Catholic parents for Existentialism and free love. But the mental stimulation was not enough. Her Scorpio libido wanted more.

During the Capricorn progression Beuvoir wrote two novels and her most famous book, *The Second Sex,* without any input from Sartre. Capricorn is the zenith of fame, (symbolically, the Tenth House, the
apex house) and she soon had as many fans as Sartre. She was sought as a feminist speaker across America. (The Progressed Ascendant sextiled her Natal Sun and Mercury during this cycle.)

By the time she progressed into Aquarius, Simone lived the “authentic life” she’d longed for as a child. With Chicago author Nelson Algren, she satisfied her Scorpio physical passion and experienced far more than a “marriage of minds!” Though Algren tried to convince her to move to Chicago, she knew Paris was where she belonged. And Algren couldn’t accept her relationship with Sartre, with whom she travelled and spent several hours a day.

Her unusual relationship with Sartre included an adult child they had each legally adopted. The two young adopted women sometimes travelled with them; they were an unusual joint family! On Ascendant-square-Ascendant Sartre died; she had a falling-out with his “literary heir.”

According to Carl Jung the persona is like an actor’s Mask, but the Mask adapts over time. In astrology, the progressed 30-year-cycles describe the adaptation.
**Chapter One**

**Libra Rising**

*A Happy Life is Like an Art Form*

“Follow your bliss,” Joseph Campbell

“You are the music while the music lasts.” T.S. Eliot

“I just want to live happily ever after, every now and then.” Jimmy Buffet

—— “Whatever you think, be sure it’s what *you* think; whatever you want, be sure that is what *you* want, whatever you feel, be sure that is what *you* feel.”

“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time….
And all shall be well and
All manner of things shall be well.” T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*, “Little Gidding”

“The true traveler is he who goes on foot, and even then, he sits down a lot of the time.” Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette

—— “I am going away with him to an unknown country where I shall have no past and no name, and where I shall be born again with a new face and an untried heart.”

—— “We only do well the things we like doing.”

“Age does not protect you from love. But love, to some extent, protects you from age.” Anais Nin

—— “How wrong it is for a woman to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than to create it herself.”

—— “My self is like the self of Proust, an instrument to connect life and myth.”

—— “Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go
through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death.”

—- “There is no separation between my life and my craft…my life is the form of my art.”

—- “When you make a world tolerable for yourself, you make a world tolerable for others.”

“The awareness that we are all human beings together has become lost in war and through politics.” Albert Schweitzer

—- “From naïve simplicity we arrive at more profound simplicity.”

—- “There are two main refuges from the misery of life—music and cats.”

—- “Constant kindness accomplishes much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.”

—- “Humanitarianism consists in never sacrificing a human being to a purpose.”

“I don’t know why, but you like some music and you don’t like others. There’s something about it that you like. Ultimately I don’t find it’s in my best interests to try and analyze it, since it’s fundamentally emotional.” Jerry Garcia
The Libra Rising Mask

I’m the Libran Mask. With my attractive appearance, charm and friendly smile, I make the best first impression of all the Masks! Decades later, my husband or wife is still telling people about the day we met, “I opened the door, there he (or she) stood, and I knew at once I’d met my future spouse!” How I love that romantic story!

I also love beautiful objects, so, like Paloma Picasso, I may be a jewelry or fashion designer, or interior decorator. Three Libra Rising women have perfumes named for them: Colette, Anais and Paloma. Cary Grant did advertisements for Fabrege. My taste is usually quite refined and very expensive.

However, I’m not just a pretty face; I’m also a good conversationalist. I’m popular partly because of my gift for finding a silver lining behind every storm cloud. As Colette once said, “hope costs nothing.” I keep my sense of humor while those around me are losing theirs.

Like Sally Struthers and Sally Field, I often have comedic talent. Humor also comes through my art. When Yoko Ono met John Lennon at her exhibit, she was delighted that he shared her unusual (Venus-in-Aquarius) sense of humor.

A happy, love-filled life is my most important creation, my greatest ambition. Ideally, work is also play. Designing a comfortable lifestyle is itself an artistic process! Like Albert Schweitzer, George Harrison, Jerry Garcia and Jimmy Buffet, I may find music as essential as food and drink.

Several Venus-in-Pisces (Exalted) poets wear my Mask including T.S Eliot and Carl Sandburg, as well poets with Venus elsewhere, like Ralph W. Emerson. Some people consider me naïve and innocent, but others call me “the iron hand in the velvet glove” because my sweet appearance and tactful nature hide my strong competitive spirit. As Albert Schweitzer once said, “I see no reason to be unkind.”

Unless I have a strong aspect from Saturn or Pluto to Venus, or several planets in Scorpio or the Eighth House, I believe, like Jimmy Carter, that more flies are caught with honey than vinegar.

I’m usually a peacemaker. However, if Mars is in my First House, I have no trouble whatsoever expressing my anger. Reporters who’ve interviewed Bill Clinton will confirm this! Anais Nin, Barbara Walters, Bill Clinton and Sonny Bono all have Mars-in-Libra (Detriment) in their First House.

Mars provides a competitive edge; Detriment Mars is often
an asset in cutting through gullibility. Fairness and justice are vitally important to me. CNN television host Anderson Cooper, with Mars on his Ascendant, has a segment called, “Keeping Them Honest.” Gracious and charming Barbara Walters asks her guests difficult personal questions, then passes them Kleenex tissues. The Dalai Lama, too, has a First House Mars. An apostle of peace, he’s also adamant about Tibetan civil rights.

I know I seem indecisive. Sometimes I do fluctuate like a grocery store scales but I prefer to keep my options open until the last moment. A better offer might come along! However, once my decision is made, I’m adamant.

Astrologers are right, I want very much to be liked, so don’t be too hard on me. And please don’t share bad news with me unless it’s absolutely necessary!

Remember, I’m not lazy, I’m simply lying fallow between projects. Colette was right, “we only do well the things we like doing.”

How To Recognize Libra Rising

Librans are The Beautiful People—a great deal of time and effort goes into this Mask—but idealistic Libra is also about The Good and The True. Librans are, by nature, flirts; the Zodiac’s romantics. The famous Libra Rising smile comes in many varieties from Stevie Wonder’s to Suzanne Somers; from Gary Cooper’s to former president Jimmy Carter’s (double Libran) toothy smile and John F. Kennedy’s charming boyish grin.¹

Unless Venus is afflicted to Saturn, Libra has a smooth, even complexion. They appear as Max Heindel said, “elegant.”² Most Librans have a gift for choosing harmonious colors; whether their eyes are dark, hazel or blue, they’ll instinctively choose the right colors to accentuate them. Their eyes usually have a soft, gentle expression. Their other

¹ Kennedy also had Libra Rising with Mars-in-Detriment, but his was in Taurus. As it was not part of his Mask it wasn’t as visible. Detriment planets usually work harder than others.

² Max and Augusta Heindel, The Message of the Stars, (Oceanside: Rosicrucian Fellowship,) 1980, 101-03. Many of his Libra Rising clients had blue eyes, but my clients’ were as likely to be hazel or brown. Heindel found Libra Rising “proud of their well-shaped heads and feet.”
features, too, seem soft and blend well with each other, rather than standing out in a unique way. Libra’s face is usually symmetrical, like Anderson Cooper’s (CNN) or Barbara Walters (20/20 and “The View.”) Libra Rising is an attractive, photogenic Mask.

Libra Rising men will pull an unusual ensemble together with a colorful tie, and Libra Rising women with a shawl or scarf in ways that don’t seem to work for the rest of us. The same necklace or watch that seems garish or ostentatious on someone else will look perfect on Libra Rising. Of course since most Librans have impeccable taste, they wouldn’t own anything really gaudy.

Most of my Libra Rising clients are tall and slender in youth though a few are under 5’6.” Ethnicity, of course, has an influence on height.

Many Librans instinctively rub their lower backs when standing after sitting a long time. The lower back, especially the kidney area, is problematic for Libra. In astrology we associate this with Saturn’s Exaltation in the Sign. Libra needs plenty of fluids, especially water, for electrolyte balance.

The Libran body type is on the whole, symmetrical. I’ve encountered very few that are either long or short-waisted. Because Libra really enjoys life’s Good Things, including food and drink, by midlife most Librans have round abdomens. But even paunchiness doesn’t seem as unattractive on Libra Rising as on the other Signs!

Apart from these physical characteristics, another important clue to recognizing Libra Rising, is their tendency to change the subject as soon as something unpleasant comes up in conversation. Even if they’ve had a bad day which left their Water planets sad or worried, Libra will “make nice” and attempt to keep social interaction on an even keel. Not only are they still well-groomed after a harrowing day,

3 The smile alone is not enough to identify Libra. Before Barack Obama’s mother provided his birth data, some astrologers expected to find Libra Rising because of his big smile. His ears however, are a stand-out feature, appreciated by political cartoonists! Those astrologers who guessed “Aquarius Rising” from his brilliant speeches and his cool demeanor were proven correct: “No Drama Obama” has Aquarius Rising.

4 Saturn is associated with the sacral area; the coccyx and tailbone. Yoga poses, particularly forward bends and Downward Facing Dog, are good to practice, especially after long airplane trips.
they’re also gracious!

I once asked a client how she managed to keep her feelings hidden so well behind her Mask in spite of her pain. She replied, “Why would I want to dwell on a situation that I’m powerless to change? I only wish others would let me enjoy my evening out without venting!”

Unless there are strong adverse Saturn or Pluto aspects to Venus, or several planets in Scorpio or House Eight, the Libran Mask conveys optimism and positive expectations. Libra will remark at a party that “the economy will surely turn around in a few months” and “Susie (who has stage four cancer) will of course recover very soon.”

However, if Libra has Scorpio or Eighth House planets, as soon as they leave the group they’ll tell their spouse or close friend what they really think. This may contradict most of what they said earlier! (“Poor Susie looks dreadful” and “the economy will take at least a year to rebound.”) With several First House Scorpio planets, Libra Rising may really be “a Scorpio with a smile,” sardonic, sarcastic or even cynical.

With Gemini planets in trine to the Ascendant, Libra may later mimic other guests or gossip about them. So if you meet someone new who tells you he or she has Libra Rising, someone who seems calm, gentle, peaceful and easygoing, remember that the entire horoscope must be considered, especially any First House planets and any other planets contacting the Ascendant.

There are other tendencies that enable us to recognize Libra Rising: they attempt to fashion a comfortable lifestyle around their talents and interests. Jimmy Buffet, George Harrison, Jerry Garcia, poets T. S. Eliot and Carl Sandburg as well as many elegant, beautiful socialites, attractive TV journalists and handsome politicians have succeeded at this.

5 Fire Signs often become impatient with Libra’s ‘pleaser nature’, finding them deceitful. Many Sagittarians, whose high standards for Truth sometimes preclude little white lies told to “make nice” and who demand the literal truth, are especially put off when they later hear what Libra Rising really thought.
Libran procrastination, that waiting “until it feels right” to proceed, seems to annoy others more than it rebounds on Libra Rising. Libra calmly meets deadlines at the last minute, usually looking well-rested; not one hair out of place.

Libra Rising will probably be discussing romance—if not theirs, someone else’s—as they’re the zodiac’s matchmakers. Constantly weighing and evaluating options, Libra often asks others’ advice, but like Alice in Wonderland, Libra Rising seldom ever follows it. 6

There’s also a Libran mannerism which I associate with Saturn’s Exaltation in their Sign, an unconscious attempt to establish Cosmic Order around them. Libra Rising, and occasionally the Sun Sign too, may instinctively straighten the pens, notebooks, and other items on their desk. Sometimes they’ll lean over and straighten yours, too. It’s a unique ritual.

The Mundane Ruler: Venus

She was a child and I was a child in a kingdom by the sea
But we loved with a love that was more than a love,
I and my Annabel Lee…
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven
coveted her and me…
Yes! that was the reason (as all men know,
in this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of the cloud by night,
Chilling and killing myAnnabel Lee…
But our love it was stronger by far than the love

---

6 This tendency aggravates Earth Signs, especially Virgos, who’ll spend hours on the phone advising them and helping research their various options.
Of those who were older than we
Of many far wiser than we.
And neither the angels in heaven above,
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee.

Though his Ascendant Sign is unknown,7 Edgar Allen Poe really captured Aphrodite-ruled Libra in his poem, “Annabel Lee” about young love that will surely last forever, love so strong that even the angels covet it. And, of course, the poem also captures the pain of loss, the Eros and Thanatos polarity of love and death, of Venus and Pluto. We’re mortals, after all, and eventually everything comes to an end here on earth.

Mundane rulers are associated with survival needs. What does Libra Rising require for survival? Love. Libra Rising men and women both use the words “love” and “intimacy.” However for the women, love means romance, which includes tenderness, affection and attention. In the words of a Libra Rising client, “I need him to listen to me; to look at me and not look around at other women! I don't like feeling neglected. And I certainly don’t want him looking at pornography; I'm his Aphrodite! I’m beautiful and sexy enough for any man!” For the women, love means expressing appreciation: Aphrodite wants to hear, “you look beautiful tonight. Is that a new outfit?” She seeks kindness, loyalty, mutual support. She wants to establish a happy, lasting relationship.8

Libra Rising men are romantic in youth—finding their mate seems quite important to them as well—but soon after marriage they tend

---

7 It's possibly Scorpio; he lived a tumultuous life. He also wrote many macabre short stories. When he married his cousin she was only 13, but they waited two years to consummate the marriage.

8 A student once asked, “but don’t all women want these things, not just Libra Rising women?” It’s true that everyone has Aphrodite (Venus) somewhere in their horoscope but a good relationship is as necessary as food, sunlight and shelter to Libra. When they’re unhappy, they tend to look outside the marriage for romance.
to delegate “all that relationship stuff” to their wives and devote themselves to music, their art form or their career. This comes as a surprise, and often a shock to their wives because during courtship many of them, especially the men with Venus-in-Pisces, wrote songs or poetry and arranged candlelight dinners. The spouse will remark, “I thought he was so different, so romantic, but now he’s behaving just like my first husband!” Romance wanes after marriage for Libra Rising as for the other Signs. Their fantasy life seems to be channeled elsewhere, according to the Sign and Houses where Venus and the other imaginative planets are located.

As ruler of Libra Rising, Aphrodite attempts to create a lifestyle where her desires and fantasies are likely to be fulfilled. Like Joseph Campbell (Venus-in-Pisces) she follows her bliss, usually in a graceful and dignified manner, with her sweet, sometimes enigmatic “Mona Lisa” smile.

Helen of Troy’s smile launched a thousand ships filled with warriors setting out to defend her honor and bring her home. She, no doubt, had Libra Rising! Aphrodite herself was said to envy Helen’s beauty.

The Femme Fatal Archetype, personified by movie stars, looms large in our culture today. Aphrodite seems to share her Femme Fatale allure (she was the married lover of Hermes, Ares and Poseidon) with many Libra Rising women. When men first see her across a crowded room, they’re seduced by her radiant beauty, her dazzling smile. Bored with the role of wife and mother, (just as young Adonis is often bored with the role of husband and father,) the Femme Fatale casts her romantic spell, causing a yearning, a longing for Beauty. Men of all ages, smitten by her, have told me, “I was certain my luck would change once we were married!” It did, but not in the way they expected. They often lost their house, their savings and the custody of their children over her. Older men were usually devastated when she left them, though one remarked

9 The Moon and Neptune.
10 There are a few exceptions now in the film industry; young women with Libra Rising who are rather coarse and dress almost like prostitutes. When we discussed this modern trend during a Santa Fe workshop, psychologist and playwright Marcie Teleander reminded me that they’re “sacred skanks” in the ancient tradition of temple prostitutes dedicated to the Goddesses.
philosophically, “(it was) better to have loved and lost than never loved at all.”

As mundane ruler, Aphrodite is consistent in her own way. She always promotes romance! Libra Rising has an instinct for matchmaking, which sometimes works for her friends.

In folklore, the Muses and the Graces accompany Aphrodite; three of the Muses are associated with poetry alone. Many poets have Exalted Venus-in-Pisces ruling their Libra Ascendant. Exalted Venus signifies talent, and seems to draw success in the arts.

In music, the Exalted Venus short list includes Andrei Segovia, Sergei Prokofiev, Jon Bon Jovi, George Harrison, Rod Stewart and Seventies’ idol Alice Cooper. Authors Colette, Anais Nin, Carl Sandburg and Joseph Campbell have Venus-in-Pisces. Sardonic comedian Bill Maher of the TV show, “Politically Correct” has Venus-in-Pisces trine his Neptune-in-Scorpio in the middle of the First House.

Poets Arthur Rimbaud and T.S. Eliot had Venus-in-Libra (Rulership.) Libra. Eliot’s Venus was on his Libran Ascendant; Rimbaud’s was loosely conjunct his Libran Moon in the Twelfth House. Rimbaud needed solitude so badly that he moved to North Africa to escape his older lover, Paul Verlaine. Rimbaud, known for his beautiful imagery, died young.

One of T.S. Eliot’s favorite authors, Ralph Waldo Emerson had Libra Rising, with Venus-in-Detriment. (Aries.)

American author T.S. Eliot (quoted above, “you are the music while the music lasts”) created a life for himself in London. In fact, he became so comfortable, he became a British citizen. Hearing his accent was shocking to visiting American readers; they’d thought him a British author.

His sad, unstable wife was institutionalized several times. Emily Hale,
his muse and mistress of many years, had expected to marry him after his wife died. But Eliot surprised her by marrying a secretary he'd only known a short time. Friends said, “poor Emily was never the same.”

Several Libra Rising men have requested that we spend the entire astrology session on the problem of finding a mate: “When will she appear? What will she be like? Because I’ll know I’ll be happy after I meet my soul mate. My life will take off as soon she comes; I’m (intuitively) certain of it! I need my anchor, my life partner, before I can do anything else.”

Like Eliot, they’re looking for a muse to inspire them. I used to think they were waiting to “delegate their Venus”—their ability to create a happy relationship—to the Soul Mate so they could move on to learning a skill or profession. Meanwhile, they ushered at the church, “checking out” the newly-arrived women, worked part time and attended talks on spirituality or lethargically strummed their guitars.

But one day after a sad session with a Libra Rising man—he’d once again thought he’d met “the one” but hadn’t—I left the disappointed, enervated fellow to attend a talk by Jungian analyst, Robert Johnson.

Robert’s topic was the romance of Tristan and Isolde, the central theme of his new book, *We*, on the topic of Relationship. He mentioned that the name of the knight, the protagonist in the tale, was Tristan. And that Tristan comes from the French word *triste*, or sad. And I thought, “that’s amazing.” A knight who’s *sad about his love life*; I’ve just left someone like that!

Will Tristan, the sad knight in the tale, find his soul mate, get his energy back and begin to enjoy life? If he does find her, will he then try to delegate his Venus—the full responsibility of “relating”—to her? Will she stay with him? Or will they separate, as happens with so many “modern knights.” Each time they’re sure she’s “the right one,” yet the

14 Biographer Lyndall Gordon says Eliot believed a muse necessary to a poet. He also believed that the wife and the muse couldn’t be the same woman. With Saturn in his Tenth House, Eliot attempted to create the perfect lifestyle for a writer; he was frustrated at falling short of his goal. (It’s impossible to keep The Scales in perfect balance!) Gordon’s title, *T. S. Eliot, An Imperfect Life*, comes from Eliot’s attempts at perfection. See *An Imperfect Life*, (NY: WW Norton & Co) 1998, ix; on the muse, pp 71 and 82. Eliot’s efforts, (except for the muse,) are similar to those of many Libra Rising clients in the arts and music to create “a lifestyle that works.”
fair maiden will disappears or, after a short time, the knight becomes disappointed in her and becomes entranced by someone new.

So I sat on the edge of my hard folding chair and listened intently to the story. As Robert’s talk progressed, I realized I’d been using the wrong language; that the “Tristans” I knew weren’t consciously delegating their inner Aphrodite, but unconsciously projecting her on prospective partners. Regardless of vocabulary, though, the situation is the same. Like Tristan, the Libra Rising men were seeking completion; they’d correctly intuited that Love (Aphrodite) would make them Whole.

They were confusing a spiritual quest for Divine Love with their romantic search for a wife. They expected a human woman to fulfill them, to confer Wholeness, when only the Divine can accomplish that. They sought something in the outer world which can only be found within. No wonder they were sad, disappointed and lethargic.

This is a beautiful but complicated story in the Celtic tradition. There are often two of something in Celtic tales—two Grail cups or two disappearing castles. In this story, there are two Isoldes: Isolde the Fair, and Isolde of the White Hands.

Isolde the Fair was a healer. The daughter of a sorceress, Isolde herself was quite talented at casting spells. When the story began, her marriage had already been arranged to Tristan’s uncle, the King of Cornwall. Tristan knew that. He had, in fact, been dispatched to escort Isolde across the sea from Ireland to marry King Mark. Bringing the future bride safely to his uncle was his first diplomatic mission.

It was challenging, too, because he had a history with Isolde. The last time Tristan saw her, Isolde said she hated him and raised her dagger against him! This happened after he had washed up on shore near her castle, wounded from battle. While cleansing his wound and applying healing herbs to it, she discovered a sword shard, which she matched to the missing piece in her brother Morholt’s sword. She had just saved her brother’s murderer! Would she agree to sail with him? His mission would require finesse.

Meanwhile the second Isolde, was sitting calmly in Normandy, sewing her trousseau in hopes of a normal marriage. Unlike Isolde the Fair, Isolde of the White Hands was an ordinary, available young noblewoman. She had no mysterious powers and no past history with Tristan. They had yet to meet.
When Tristan arrived at the Irish castle, he was again struck by the unusual beauty of Isolde the Fair. He thought, “this is no ordinary human woman!” And he was right. He convinced her to sail with him, in spite of her grievance about Morholt.

Then, the night before they left for Cornwall, Isolde’s sorceress-mother gave her a vial, a potion, to drink with Tristan on the ship. “Guard this carefully,” she told her daughter, “for it contains both Life and Death.” Eros and Thanatos, the unavailable love and death mix together in the potion.

Isolde’s mother may have thought, “one day handsome young Tristan will inherit the throne; Isolde should be with him, not the old uncle.” Or she may have hated the man who killed her son in battle. Whatever she thought, she mixed love with death.

The two young people were soon “at sea” and drinking from the vial. As they drank, they immediately fell in love in the charmed Neptunian atmosphere. They embraced and sated their passion. Before the ship docked, Tristan vowed that Isolde was henceforth his only love, that he would never make love to another woman. And she vowed that in spite of her future wedding to King Mark, she would never be sexually intimate with anyone but Tristan.

They arrived in Cornwall; Isolde quickly married King Mark and became his Queen. She was now even more unattainable! But on her wedding night she cast a spell on her maid, Branigan which sent her to King Mark’s bed and caused him to mistake Branigan for Isolde. The two young lovers enjoyed their nightly trysts for awhile, but were finally observed by a jealous baron. And the baron told the King about them.

The next evening, King Mark looked out his balcony window and saw Isolde pacing in the courtyard below. But she felt his eyes on her. As soon as her lover arrived, she quickly gave Tristan a signal to leave. Instead, he dropped to his knees and said, “I am truly sorry, my lady, that an evil baron has started malicious rumors about us.” When the
king observed Tristan humbly kneeling before his wife, he decided to have the baron arrested.

After several such narrow escapes, Isolde convinced Tristan to run away with her. One night, after three years in the woods, they fell asleep fully clothed with Tristan’s sword between them. On that night, the King finally found them. However, He did not wake them, preferring to believe that they lay together as brother and sister.

During their fourth year in the woods— the number four symbolizes Completion— they decided to return to the castle. They approached a wise hermit and told him of their plight. Tristan blamed it entirely on the potion. “Love just happens,” he explained, “we didn’t plan it that way.”

That much was true, nobody plans to fall in love, it’s one of the few things in modern society that we don’t plan!

However, the hermit was not impressed with his argument. It had been a long time since they drank that potion. He pointed out that its effects had worn off; and they now had their free will back, and with it their responsibilities. Never mind romance; Tristan was guilty of treason to his feudal lord, and Isolde was an adulteress. So he sent them back to the King, though he promised to write a letter on their behalf.

Tristan sought and expected reinstatement as a knight of the realm. However, the hermit’s letter suggested that if King Mark chose to take Isolde back, he should also deport Tristan. Clearly the two could not resist each other, the knight should not remain in Cornwall!

King Mark agreed with the hermit, Tristan would have to leave.

But Isolde gave him a jade ring and told him, if ever you need me, send it as a sign.”

Tristan traveled to Normandy where he met Isolde of the White Hands, who was innocent, loving and very human. She had no potions or spells. She didn’t lead him into an enchanted forest. He grew fond of Isolde of the White Hands, and after some time had passed, he agreed to marry her.

However, on his wedding night he remembered his vow to Isolde the Fair, his “once and forever love.” He didn’t tell his new wife the real reason for not consummating the marriage, only that he had made a solemn vow which he could not break.
Eventually, the young bride told her brother the situation. And he convinced Tristan to tell him the entire story of the vow.

“You need to journey back to Cornwall,” he said, “you’ll find Queen Isolde quite happy by now. She’s forgotten you, Tristan. When you see that, you’ll return to Normandy and all will be well between you and my sister.”

So Tristan returned to Cornwall in disguise. As soon as he sent the jade ring to Isolde; she appeared and rushed into his arms. It was as if he’d never left her! Still, they could not be together.

In a short time, Tristan’s vitality began to wane. He felt as if he’d made a pact with death when he drank the potion and made his vow! He knew he’d have to leave her again. His energy would return once he was back with Isolde of the White Hands.16

But Queen Isolde the Fair told him, “if you ever need me, send me the jade ring.”

Many years passed, Tristan was again wounded in battle, this time fatally. He sent the ring to Isolde the Fair and asked her to come to him. She sent back word that she would try. She would sail for France; if he saw white sails she could dock; black sails would mean it was impossible for her.

Tristan sat at his window every day and watched for Isolde. Finally, a ship came into view; its sails were white. By then Tristan was too weak to sit; he asked his wife if she could see the color of the sails on the ship. “Why yes,” said Isolde of the White Hands, (she who was only human,) “I see a ship passing, its sails are black as night.” When Isolde reached him, Tristan was dead; she collapsed on his body and they were reunited in death.

Over the years I’ve encountered Tristan’s naivety, sadness and lethargy (loss of vitality) in several Libra Rising clients, more men than women, although women with aspects from Neptune-in-Libra to their Venus or their Moon have also suffered from addiction to the Unattainable Love.

16 In the Leo chapter of Beyond the Mask, Part I, there’s a similar story about a Princess who must, of her own volition, give up the illusion of happiness in the Troll’s castle if she wants a human husband. As soon as she does, her vitality returns and she’s healed.
Like Tristan, they suffered disappointment each time they passed through the drama of separation and reunion, “we tried again and failed; somehow it never happens.” With Aries Fire on the Seventh House cusp (the House of Marriage and other long-term relationships) Libra Rising seems temporarily stimulated by their heroic efforts to “make it work” with the Unattainable love, but cumulatively the situation is draining; enervating.

Often there’s even an “Isolde of the White Hands” waiting in the wings, an ordinary, available woman who really loves them; a mortal with no other agenda, no life as Queen of Cornwall to defend. Most of Libra’s friends and relatives wonder why they don’t see the beauty of the “ordinary mortal.”

Part of the addiction, though, is not to the person but to the drama, the intrigue of secret assignations; the risk of being caught, the larger-than life mystery of the Unattainable Love. Like Tristan, they feel caught up in a situation like the one Poe described in “Annabel Lee;” “we loved with a love that was more than a love...” a love that made other, powerful people envious: barons, the King; in Poe’s poem, even the angels.

When like Tristan, Libra Rising falls in love with his boss’s wife, this can cause a serious strain on his health, perhaps even open the door to Thanatos. Though today’s bosses lack the power that King Mark had to disinherit and deport their vassals, they do have the power to fire Libra and/or like the barons in the story, spread rumors about his lack of loyalty throughout the land. Even today, he may find it easier to leave the area and start over.

And there are also cases where one of the lovers did become ill, like Tristan; lost his vitality and will to live.

**Venus, the Feeling Function, Aesthetics, and Individual Taste**

When it comes to taste, especially color and decorating, unless Venus is afflicted to Saturn, the partner is often better off letting Libra make the choices. In this Aphrodite area, Libra is usually quite talented.

While on the subject of music, Jerry Garcia of the *Grateful Dead*


---Till We Meet Again, New York, Bantam, 1989.


McEvers, Joan, 12 x 12: 144 Sun/Ascendant Combinations, San Diego, ACS, 1983.


---The Seven Story Mountain, New York, Harcourt, 978. (Autobiography.)

---The Vision of Thomas Merton, Patrick F. O’Connell, ed, South Bend, Notre Dame, Ave Maria Press, 2003. (From his journals and letters.)


Beyond the Mask: The Rising Sign Part II: Libra - Pisces includes archetypal elder stories and examples taken from the lives of writers, artists, psychologists and several stories from Kathleen’s client work.

Well known and respected internationally for her ground breaking work in Archetypes of the Zodiac, Kathleen Burt now offers us a phenomenal distillation of her life work in: Beyond the Mask: The Rising Sign - Part II: Libra - Pisces. Beyond the Mask Part II illustrates how midlife urgings bring forth cycles of death and rebirth. Antiquated identities and roles must die, old ‘masks’ must be peeled away before we can discover a new path in life. Kathleen Burt addresses specifically how the Libra - Pisces rising sign patterns guide us into new life and fresh experiences. With the keen eye of an astrologer examining the biography of creative writers and inspired people, Kathleen Burt brings a depth of understanding to the Rising Signs: Libra - Pisces. This unique volume of wisdom offers decades of scholarly study and practical experience in esoteric astrology, psychology, mythology, and biography and examines the underlying archetypal patterns inherent in our lives.

An astrologer in private practice for 30 years, Kathleen Burt is the author of Archetypes of the Zodiac, a book about Sun Signs from the perspectives of mythology, psychology, and esoteric astrology.

A Fulbright scholar to India, Kathleen completed her graduate work in South Asian history at the University of Chicago. She has taught at Roosevelt University, Chicago and Mira Costa College in CA. “Patterns in Health,” a two-year program on archetypes, dreams, ritual and Active Imagination led by Jungian analysts has influenced her life and client work. She currently teaches Viniyoga classes (sequencing and breathwork) in the tradition of T.K.V. Desikachar.