

HOROSCOPE - FEBRUARY 2012

This Months feature star sign is : Pisces

From 3rd February, for the first time in 164 years, your ruling planet Neptune will come home to roost and will remain in your sign until January 2026. How peaceful as you will start to feel as your spiritual intuition, creativity, charm, glamour, charisma and inner talent begin to shine. You will experience tremendous changes within as you become more loving, caring, influential and helpful towards others.

ARIES: BIRTHDAYS FROM 21 MARCH to 20 APRIL

General Highlights: Mercury and stable Saturn from a wonderful energy combination on the 14th and this will give you all the energy you need to successfully accomplish anything to make your life more fruitful and successful. **Relationships:** With Venus in Pisces during this month, do not postpone making important decisions in your emotional world; the longer you hesitate to make decisions, the more difficult this month will be. **Opportunities and Luck:** With an array of favourable planetary aspects around you this month, luck and good fortune will attract to you without much effort on your part especially around the 9th to 11th.



TAURUS: FROM 21 APRIL to 21 MAY

General Highlights: Mercury, planet of news and important events, will transit Aquarius until the 14th, opening new doors that have been shut for some time. Be prepared to make many positive changes in your daily routine. **Relationships:** With a powerful Venus, Mars, Uranus and Pluto pattern in your horoscope this month, you will experience the height of emotional fulfilment, with tingles in your toes, or goose pimples up your spine, especially on the 9th, 10th, 15th and 17th. **Opportunities and Luck:** Mercury forms a super relationship with Saturn on the 14th and luck attracts through new stable friendship and job opportunities. Your financial affairs may be in for a boost and luck attends you when you least expect it.



GEMINI: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 MAY to 21 JUNE

General Highlights: With the Sun in your sector of literature and studies, anything that broadens your mind will certainly take your interest. Travel is also favoured throughout February and contact with faraway places may interest you. **Relationships:** With Venus in Pisces from the 1st to the 8th, you will be clever in exploiting your best emotional qualities and with it you will win admirers. Just make sure that, when you can't get what you want, you don't become aggressive and demanding, as your opposition could be strong. **Opportunities and Luck:** You may unexpectedly gain financial when Venus connects with Uranus from the 10th or you may be given power over someone else's finances. Luck and good fortune come through contacts, agreements, meetings and travel; but watch out for the unexpected around the 16th.



CANCER: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 JUNE to 23 JULY

General Highlights: With the Sun and Mercury in Aquarius this month, expect a friendly month, full of organising and re-organising. Things in the background of your life, or matters that are private, will bring opportunities and temptations from the 10th and you may even decide to shock your family and friends by being bold and forthright about an important issue. **Relationships:** Venus in Aries from the 8th will cause you to make certain impulsive emotional plants this month. Confidence and insight is needed if you wish to maintain harmony on the 15th. You may escape to some very exciting and unusual places with your loved one on the 18th. **Opportunities and Luck:** This is a good month to buy, sell, trade or exchange goods or services. Good fortune through travel, business, friends and associates will certainly boost your coffers, especially on the 14th, 18th, 20th and 21st.



LEO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 JULY to 23 AUGUST

General Highlights: Mercury in Aquarius and Pisces this month will create positive opportunities to improve your ambitions and future security. You will become stronger as new opportunities open up all around you. This is an excellent month for health, fitness and body improvements but avoid any overindulgence. **Relationships:** With lovable Venus whipping up a sexual storm with desperate Uranus from the 10th of this month, your love life will be full steam ahead, especially from the 15th to the 26th. You'll be seeking more freedom of expression in your relationships in order to pursue your objectives unhindered. **Opportunities and Luck:** Financial success is yours for the taking and many exciting new opportunities will come your way this month.



VIRGO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 AUGUST to 23 SEPTEMBER

General Highlights: The Sun will influence the sector that deals with service roles, financial security, job offers and anything in connection with your daily occupational duties. From the 8th personal doubts, and unexpected delay or expense or outside pressures and responsibilities can undermine your hopes and your confidences for the weeks ahead if you are not careful. **Relationships:** Venus and Uranus from the 10th will bring out some of the emotional and possessive side of your personality. You may have to sacrifice part of your emotional self or temporarily change your attitude in regard to your current relationships, otherwise trouble may brew. **Opportunities and Luck:** A few lucky breaks can be expected, especially with travel, study and contracts, buying, selling and trading. During this month Mercury and Saturn will connect and you can expect some interesting situations to arise with long-term projects, joint affairs and agreements.



LIBRA: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 SEPTEMBER to 23 OCTOBER

General Highlights: Mercury, planet of communication, will dominate your sector of personal relationships, entertainment, outdoor interests and social matters until the 15th and you may find yourself extremely busy with a number of projects that you may keep hidden from the outside world. **Relationships:** With lovable Venus connecting with Mars, Uranus and Pluto this month, expect lots of changes and some disruptions with your emotional life. Trust and love work hand in hand, but for the first two weeks of this month this theory may be blown away quite unexpectedly, due to Mercury and Jupiter overreacting to matters and influencing impulsiveness around you. **Opportunities and Luck:** With lucky Jupiter hovering in the incomes and outgoing sector of your horoscope, you may be inundated by offers of employment, business changes, travel opportunities, or higher education and training.



SCORPIO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 OCTOBER to 22 NOVEMBER

General Highlights: If you intend looking for a new job or career, or perhaps want to goof on your own exploring the world around you, then this is the month to drive a hard bargain at interviews or with family. **Relationships:** Other than the 16th when it will clash with Pluto, Venus will have a spectacular and mostly uninterrupted cycle through this month and relationship should basically run smoothly for you. **Opportunities and Luck:** With Venus and Uranus forming a compatible relationship on the 10th, a financial windfall may be in the offing, you are entering a lucky month, full of surprise and happiness. Social events are now full steam ahead; you may meet some interesting people with different lifestyles to your own.



SAGITTARIUS: BIRTHDAYS FROM 23 NOVEMBER to 23 DECEMBER

General Highlights: Mercury and Saturn will continue to form a dynamic energy combination on the 13th in your sectors of communications, new beginnings, friendships and social activities. Expect the tempo of your everyday activities to increase at a rapid rate and with the Sun and Mercury in Aquarius you could not pick a better month for socialising, playing sport and getting active with family and friends. **Relationships:** Venus bump into Neptune, planet of romance and fantasy, on the 14th and you will just adore the moments you will have with your partner around this time. Don't be at all surprised if you express your love in ways you have never experienced before. **Opportunities and Luck:** Mercury and Jupiter will certainly bring some form of good fortune to you this month, whether financial or through achievements in academia or sport.



CAPRICORN: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 DECEMBER to 20 JANUARY

General Highlights: The Sun and Mars will continue to influence your sectors of travel, higher education, money, loans, incomes, business activities, career promotions, ambitions, achievements and worldly goals. From the 10th, recognition is assured; you will be mentally sharp and able to take a more objective look at yourself. **Relationships:** Venus will give you bucket loads of happiness this month especially on the 15th, 17th and 22nd. This month does not have lots of adverse planetary aspects forming in your horoscope; on the contrary an exciting combination with Mercury, Jupiter, Neptune and Pluto, will cause your emotional life to be full of happy surprises. **Opportunities and Luck:** With Mercury and Jupiter forming a positive combination this month, you may have a variety of pleasant social gatherings happening around you.



AQUARIUS: BIRTHDAYS 21 JANUARY to 19 FEBRUARY

General Highlights: Mercury, planet of communication, will transit your own sign from the 4th and Mars will also be giving you a boost at the same time. Expect a busy month and you will be buzzing with ideas and creative chores that will push your dreams and goals ahead. This is a positive time when you express your deepest feelings openly and intensely. **Relationships:** Venus, Mars, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto will dominate the emotional and romantic scene this month, especially on the 2nd, 15th, 17th and 22nd and you can expect plenty of social friendships, romance, emotional security and stability in love. **Opportunities and Luck:** The Sun forms a dynamic relationship with Saturn during the first two weeks of this month and many luck moments will come your way.



PISCES: BIRTHDAYS: 20 FEBRUARY to 20 MARCH

General Highlights: Mercury and Saturn form a dynamic relationship on the 13th and this will be a great time to attend interviews, meetings, conferences or push ahead with your career, worldly ambitions, finances, incomes, loans and benefits. From the 14th Mercury and Neptune will combine and rest assured hard mental work and discipline is all you need to get you to the top of any creative endeavour you find attractive. **Relationships:** Watch for the unusual and a happy surprise full of fantasy on the 10th as Venus powers up an incredible combination with Uranus. You may consider having a clandestine with a work acquaintance or neighbour, or make contact with a past lover on the 12th. **Opportunities and Luck:** Happy news may attract to you from the 17th, with Mercury and Jupiter forming a great partnership from this date.



From Horoscopes 2012. By Milton Black

"My View" (A film review) By Ruth Klaase

Fighting – some recent classics

The first time I watched it I fell asleep. Maybe the idea of grown men fighting each other to the death, wearing a metal shirt and a little bit of cloth covering their youknowwhats did not seem very appealing at the time, or it was too far back in history to give a toss about, who knows. But, eleven years after Gladiator won five Oscars it was time to give it another chance. And this time staying awake was no problem at all. On the contrary, going to sleep seemed rather pointless after all the excitement.

Sir Ridley Scott, director of Alien, Blade Runner and Thelma & Louise, knows how to mix action and grimness with just the right amount of depth and reflection. In Gladiator a Roman general and his loyalty to the emperor, who is dying, are main ingredients for a heroic story.

Romantic versus Realistic

Emperor Marcus Aurelius (Richard Harris) does not like his own son (played brilliantly by Joaquin Phoenix), a wimpy anti-hero who has never won a battle, for the task of following in his footsteps. He therefore decides to appoint general Decimus Maximus (Russell Crowe) instead. Maximus, who is looking forward to going home to his family after winning yet another battle, obeys reluctantly. But then jealousy brings the wimpy son to kill his father and seize power. Maximus manages to escape death, only to find his family murdered. He ends up becoming a fighting slave in Rome, instead of its emperor.



If you overlook the fact that the story is far from historically accurate, and very 'smooth' in order to please a great audience, Gladiator is very enjoyable to watch. Phoenix is very horrible and cowardly villainous, but the movie shows his human side as well. And Crowe is not bad at all as the man who has lost it all, although his character lacks some depth. If this had not been an 'epic' production, aimed at a mainstream public, we could have seen more sides of this general's life, his struggle with going from leading an army to becoming entertainment to the man who took everything from him.

If you like fighting, then both the battle in the opening scene and the fights in the arena will be to your heart's content. The choreography is excellent, and although blood is shed and the film is gritty at times, it is romanticised enough to allow you to sleep soundly in the end.

A bit more realistic, truer to history and not at all sleep-inducing is Spielberg's famous rendition of the slaughter that is otherwise known as 'war'. The trenches reduce a soldier's world to his team and himself, and this is something Saving Private Ryan reflects perfectly. It is the story of a group of soldiers who, during the Second World War, go in search of one man, Private Ryan. They are following orders, but what seemed like a straightforward search soon becomes a full-on quest, costing energy, morale, sanity and lives. And is one life worth more than another?

Private Ryan (Matt Damon)'s three brothers have been killed in action, and because he is the only son left, the army decides to ensure he returns to his mother safely. The problem is that no one knows where he is, except that he is 'somewhere in Normandy.' His whereabouts remain unknown until the last part of the movie, which until then concentrates on the eight soldiers thrown together for an unusual reason.

First Scene

The leader of this group of soldiers and Gladiator's Maximus have a lot in common; both have just fought a big battle, suffer from fatigue, and just want to go home. They have a family waiting for them. But both men, when they receive orders from their superiors, simply obey, even though they know it may kill them. In Saving Private Ryan Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) takes six soldiers he knows and one he does not, and starts searching. Their struggle with the enemy, themselves and each other to find one man (who may not even want to be found), only because they were told to, is beautifully depicted.

But it is not for the faint-hearted. The first 27 minutes of Saving Private Ryan became instantly famous in 1998. Spielberg decided to make the landing of American soldiers on Omaha Beach, Normandy as realistic as possible, so he used special techniques to make it seem as if you were part of it: the real sound of a bullet hitting a person, the suffering, the blood, and many more aspects of battle you will not find in army recruitment ads.

If you get a chance to see this film on a big (and I mean cinema-big) screen with surround sound, especially when (like me) you have never been at war, watch this life and history lesson; it is one of the most intense scenes in the history of cinema.

From 'The Comedian's Quote Book

When you study philosophy in school, you remember just enough to screw you up for the rest of your life.

Steve Martin

From 'The Comedian's Quote Book

All modern humans are descended from a wormlike creature, but it shows more on some people.

Will Cuppy

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