

your attention – after all, you don't mind the cleaning up that comes with them, so why not?

Libra on the Fourth House Cusp

Yours is an immaculate home, full of tasteful objects and classy furniture. It's also a hub for your social life, and there's nothing you like more than entertaining others in your home – much preferable to you than going out elsewhere. It's important that your partner understands this, and tolerates the ever changing cycle of friends coming through the door for this reason and that reason. As a parent you are fair but gentle, and probably something of a soft touch. A stricter partner will despair of your parenting skills, but nobody could deny that your children adore you. You strive hard to make your home a place of comfort and beauty at the same time, and you'll be perfectly happy for, for example, your kids' rooms to be messy so long as the "public" rooms are well kept. Maintaining a balance like this helps your happy home to thrive.

Scorpio on the Fourth House Cusp

With Scorpio on the cusp of the fourth house, we see a deep and very potent attachment to the home and to family life. Your relationship with your partner at home, and with your children too, will be intense and volatile, but underpinned by a steadfast loyalty which is hard to beat. Home then, is a place of drama, where emotional security can be hard to come by. Concentrate on making your lover and your kids know that, no matter the ups and downs, you will always be there for them. Your home is a place of passion, both in terms of anger and in terms of sexuality, and it's vital that you and your partner have plenty of private time together once kids come along. If you have a more easygoing partner, there could be conflict over your need to create and live dramas on a regular basis.

Sagittarius on the Fourth House Cusp

For you, home isn't a building, it's a state of mind. The emotional security you crave comes through your interests, hobbies, friendships and love relationship, much more than from having a place to call your own. It's simply somewhere convenient to store your stuff and to have a base. Disinterested as you are in making it beautiful or comfy, your home may well be chaotic, untidy and constantly in need of work, but it's a place filled with laughter and with learning too. As a parent, you are tremendously encouraging of your children, and you place very few rules or boundaries upon them. Sometimes, though, your loved ones might wish for a little more structure and a little less freedom – not everyone suits the peripatetic lifestyle you prefer. Try to learn to compromise with your partner on matters of settling down and staying put.

Capricorn on the Fourth House Cusp

When you have Capricorn on the fourth house cusp, you run a tight ship at home. Everything has its place and its function, and you don't do fripperies at home. Your home is well structured, neat and tidy, and functional. As a parent, you expect a great deal from your children, but you do provide them with wise counsel and a solid, dependable base – they will never want for emotional security while you are around. You care very much about how your home appears to others, as you want it to be respectable, so you probably have a leave-your-shoes-at-the-door policy. If your partner is more gregarious than you are, conflict can arise over his or her “unsuitable” friends coming round to your house – you're prepared to tolerate them elsewhere, but in your own home you draw a line in the sand.

Aquarius on the Fourth House Cusp

If you're not living on a commune, you probably should be! Your idealistic view of your home life extends to making sure that your home is as green and eco-friendly as it can be, and you bring your children up to be humanitarians and respectful of the earth. With no rules whatsoever, your home is the place where everyone likes to hang out, which is fine by you – when you're there. You're more than likely pursuing your interests elsewhere anyway, and you tend to leave your family to fend for themselves a great deal. Your children will grow up highly independent, which is a great gift to give them, but make sure that you and your partner are on the same wavelength over this – if he or she expects a traditional homemaker, they're with the wrong person.

Pisces on the Fourth House Cusp

Your home is an ethereal, magical place, filled with exotic beauty and mystical elements which reflect your other-worldly interests. A nurturing and compassionate base for your family, it's also your personal retreat and your hidey-hole away from the world. As such, you react very strongly when your safe and secure environment is threatened, which can be a source of much conflict with a partner who doesn't understand how much your surroundings mean to you. As a parent, your children are loved beyond measure, but you can be a little over-indulgent with them. If you have a partner who wants to offer constructive criticism to your children, you may fall out over him or her hurting the children's feelings, even with the best of intentions.

Key 4 ~ Eighth House Cusp

All of the pieces of the jigsaw we've looked at so far – who you are, what you need from a relationship, what you can offer a relationship and how your family life is likely to pan out – are vital pieces of information. However, this final key it perhaps even more important.

In astrology, the eighth house represents dark points in our lives, and in relationship astrology this refers specifically to where relationships have damaged us in the past, or where they might hurt us in the future. The sign on the cusp of the eighth house helps you to understand what you must learn in order to transform positively your love life, rather than negatively.

Look back at your list of the twelve houses, and remind yourself which sign is on the cusp of your eighth house, then read on.

Aries on the Cusp of the Eighth House

If you have Aries on the cusp of the eighth house, you no doubt have a very active sex life, which has perhaps even bordered on the promiscuous in the past. You have learnt many lessons from casual sexual partners, but your challenge is to learn to apply those lessons to a permanent relationship. This placement also indicates that you must learn to initiate transformation in the relationship, rather than being the passive partner. You need to learn to be the assertive one rather than the reactive one in the partnership. Only then can you learn to stand up for what you need and deserve in love, rather than just taking what you can get.

Taurus on the Cusp of the Eighth House

With this placing, one of your life lessons is to learn to separate money from love, and also to separate sex from love, in as much as realising that there's more to a great relationship than great sex. Many of your relationships have been ones where your partner has been able to spoil you financially, and this has attracted you, if you're honest, more than the partner themselves. Your challenge here is to accept that emotional security doesn't only come from being comfortably well off, and that a relationship which seems to be going nowhere financially can have just as much to offer you when you're truly in love.

Gemini on the Cusp of the Eighth House

If you have Gemini on the cusp of the eighth house, it's likely that your failed relationships have had communication issues. You don't communicate very openly with a partner, which frustrates him or her. It's as if you don't trust enough to be open about your feelings, but that drives people away from you. Your challenge is to start talking, and to keep talking, no matter what. Learn to talk things through, learn to talk just for the pure enjoyment of it. Learn to reach out to your partner intellectually as

well as physically, and you'll open up a whole new area in a relationship which is right for you.

Cancer on the Cusp of the Eighth House

With this placement, one of the lessons you have to learn in life is to not be afraid of your feelings. Your failed relationships have taught you that life isn't all one big joyful adventure, and that sometimes you have to settle down to the nitty gritty of how you feel and why you feel that way. Sexually, you find it hard to relax with a partner, and this can lead to emotional and physical distance between the two of you. The solution is simple – spend more time sharing how you really feel, and the intimacy will grow between you both. The more you can relax, the greater and deeper your bond will become, but if you're not prepared to go there, it won't happen.

Leo on the Cusp of the Eighth House

People with Leo on the cusp of the eighth house tend to be very showy in love, over-compensating for a lack of emotional warmth by buying extravagant gifts or being overly affectionate in public. The challenge, however, is to replicate all that drama and warmth in private. Your failed relationships have most likely ended with your partner feeling that you're only putting on a show of love rather than feeling the real thing. Your challenge is to show your lover that you are sincere all the time, not just when someone's looking. Spend less time trying to impress others and more time just being you, with your lover, without an audience.

Virgo on the Cusp of the Eighth House

If you have Virgo on the eighth house cusp, you probably take a very critical approach to your love life, which is enough to cause problems in even the most loving relationship. You're slightly detached when it comes to sex, treating it almost as a clinical experience, which troubles a partner who is earthy or passionate. It's not a problem if you don't have a high sex drive, but what could be a problem is when you're not honest about that. Communication is the key, as is ensuring that you find other ways to make your partner feel loved and special. Sex isn't the be all and end all of a good relationship, so don't let it be the undoing of yours.

Libra on the Cusp of the Eighth House

The lesson of Libra on the cusp of the eighth house is all about maintaining a sense of identity. In your failed relationships, you've probably spent far too much time trying to please your lover, and not enough time pleasing yourself – as a result you set up an unsustainable chain of expectations which eventually exhausts both of you. The challenge here is to assert yourself gently, and to be just who you are, rather than so-and-so's partner. Try to develop some interests away from the relationship in order to keep your self esteem healthy. Besides, you know what they say – absence makes the

heart grow fonder. Some time apart every now and then will do wonders for your relationship.

Scorpio on the Cusp of the Eighth House

When you have Scorpio on the cusp of the eighth house, it indicates an extremely high sex drive and a deep understanding of the role of sex and intimacy in a relationship. However, it also indicates a love of power games and a manipulative streak which may well have been the downfall of previous relationships, especially when you resort to using sex as a weapon to get your own way. The challenge for you is to learn to keep your wonderfully passionate nature while at the same time losing the need to win and the need to control your partner's behaviour. Focus more on your behaviour and less on his or hers.

Sagittarius on the Cusp of the Eighth House

You take a very philosophical approach to love if you have Sagittarius on the cusp of the eighth house. You're almost fatalistic in your "what will be, will be" mindset, and while this makes you a fun and laid back lover, it does also lead to a certain amount of laziness or even neglect in a relationship. Your lesson to learn is that all successful relationships take effort. Learn to put time into your partnership on a deep level, not just a fun level. Learn more about what makes your partner tick and try to avoid glossing over deeper issues in favour of superficialities.

Capricorn on the Cusp of the Eighth House

People with Capricorn on the cusp of the eighth house tend to be weighted down with feelings of responsibility in relationships. You have so much to worry about – paying the bills, bringing up the kids, keeping your lover happy – and since you're not a natural worrier, these responsibilities scare you. Outwardly, you don't come across as a particularly dutiful or responsible person, but inwardly you're terrified of letting anyone down. The key to overcoming this issue is own up to how you feel. Communicate with your partner, and share the responsibilities of your relationship equally. It's not all your job, and nor should it be. With some creative thinking, you can both shoulder the weight, leaving you freer to enjoy the bliss.

Aquarius on the Cusp of the Eighth House

If you have Aquarius on the cusp of the eighth house, you've probably suffered with "commitment issues" in the past. It's not that you don't want to settle down, because you really, badly, truly do want to. It's just that you're not quite sure if anyone measures up to your standards, so you prefer to maintain your freedom, just in case it all goes horribly wrong. Your challenge is to find a way to trust your partner so that you can make the lifelong commitment you really do want to make, without the accompanying sense of fear and dread. Alternatively, you need to learn to be strong enough to end the partnership if that trust simply isn't there.

Pisces on the Cusp of the Eighth House

People with Pisces on the cusp of the eighth house tend to be in denial about their relationship problems. What problems, you might wonder – surely everything's fine? You kid yourself and kid yourself, until one day you wake up and it's all over; only then do you realise that you had umpteen opportunities to mend the situation before it got to be too late. Your challenge with this placing is to be more honest with yourself about how a relationship is going, and to take steps early on to resolve any problems. Hiding your head in the sand is simply a recipe to repeat what has gone before.

Conclusion

Armed with the knowledge now of who you are, what you need from a relationship, what you offer in return, how your long term home life may pan out, and what lessons you need to learn about love, you're in a much better position to assess your existing relationship or to prepare for a new one.

The advice given in this ebook holds true for most people, but by necessity there are generalisations, because the advice is not based on your full birth chart, only on your ascendant sign or sun sign.

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