



Predictive Astrology – The Eagle and the Lark

Bernadette Brady

(San Francisco, CA: Red Wheel/Weiser, 1999)

In *Predictive Astrology - The Eagle and the Lark*, Bernadette Brady uses the fable to illustrate the essential elements of predictive astrology, how and when to use them, and methods to avoid potential pitfalls as one navigates the path of casting light on the future.

As a practicing astrologer, there are two essential elements I look for with any astrology book. First, the material must be immediately useful and either compliment current understanding, expand my scope of understanding, or introduce new technique(s). Second, the text must be well-written, and interesting enough to hold my attention without struggling to interpret what the author (or astrologer) is attempting to communicate. Brady more than hits the mark on both counts!

The first chapter of the book, 'The Alphabet,' could be considered a somewhat 'cookbook-like' approach. However, each segment is brief and packed with meaningful detail. A summary of the planets, aspects, angles and houses, this section frames the structure of each within the context of predictive work and provides the foundation for what follows.

From a practical perspective, chapters two and four, 'Working with Transits' and 'Time Maps' respectively, are the real meat of the book. Using the techniques outlined herein have become the cornerstone for my own approach to prediction. These are the elements that Brady identifies with the *Eagle*...the techniques and methodology of the craft. She likens an astrologer's intuition to the tiny *Lark* in the fable which, she suggests, is something one applies after the groundwork and logic have been done. Employing the concept of *eagle and lark*, it becomes clear that together they can achieve results which might not otherwise be attainable.

Additional chapters include valuable perspective on Secondary Progressions, Eclipses and the Saros Cycles, as well as information and tips on Older Systems. Brady's take on each topic is valuable, particularly in the case of eclipses which she explains in detail. Rounding out each chapter are practical examples and case studies which bring the elements of discussion into clear focus. Of particular note, is an example Brady shares from her own files and personal experience, giving us insight into Brady's high standards and ethical approach to practice. Read the segment on Solar Returns and you may find that this is a technique you will more frequently put to use.

Overall, Bernadette Brady does not disappoint with this, her first, astrology book. Originally published in 1992, it not only remains relevant and fresh but it is packed with value. Well-written, easy to understand, relatable, and immediately beneficial, though not for the beginner. As Brady points out, you must first "do your apprenticeship" and learn the basis of the craft.' This book, she says, 'is about the eagle, its strength and weakness, and where he can go wrong. It is about the lark and when to let her sing.' It should be considered a staple for any astrologer using, or considering the use of, prediction in their work. [JL]