



Star Crossed

Astrology, Personality Theory and the Meeting of Opposites

Clare Martin

(Swanage, England; The Wessex Astrologer, 2022)

Clare Martin does not disappoint! To describe this book as ‘intriguing’ is almost understating its value and potential impact. The Introduction quickly drew me in, referencing commonly held views of *Psychology* while highlighting potential challenges in relationship to astrology and soul purpose. The essential queries that quickly began swirling in my mind were summarized by Martin’s question: ‘whether astrology [...] needs to be carefully protected from the materialistic reductionism to modern psychological thinking. Or is there a way in which these two very different approaches to the human condition can be usefully and creatively integrated?’¹ Frankly, how could any Astrologer resist diving in?!

In the early chapters, Martin discusses various elements of *systems theories*, quintessential to the entire volume, in such a way that complex ideas become accessible. One can easily understand their potential for practical application within an astrological context. This effectively sets the foundation for the balance of the material.

In the chapter entitled, *The Healing Power of Stories*, Martin imparts the idea that stories ‘awaken the imagination and feed the soul, and a nourished soul gains a sense of meaning, perspective and coherence.’² As the author notes, the art of storytelling in modern times is shared through film, theatre, and books. How we individually resonate with certain stories says something about us, or our lives. Learning to identify the relevance and translate that into practical benefit, or healing, is where astrology (and astrologers) can help - by drawing themes from a birth chart to bring stories to life.

Martin illustrates this idea beautifully as she expertly examines the six axes of the horoscope within the context of relationships and psychological patterns. Each axis has a dedicated chapter that includes stories of relationship themes using examples of well-known people, literary works, film, and other areas of creative expression. These chapters are interesting, well-researched, well-written, and appropriately detailed. As a result, one cannot help but consider the significance of these axes in chart analysis, from both a personal and consultative standpoint.

In my view, Clare Martin has done a great deal of work here and effectively demonstrated common ground between the disciplines - modern psychological thinking and astrology can be usefully and creatively integrated. I enjoyed this highly readable, fascinating, and useful resource. *Star Crossed* has given me a great deal to ponder, and my skills as a divinatory storyteller will directly benefit. Thank you, Clare! [JL]

¹ Pages x-xi.

² Page 22.