



CHINESE ASTROLOGY PROFILE

by Suzanne White

for

MICKEY ROURKE

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INTRODUCTION

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WHAT IS CHINESE ASTROLOGY?

Like our own western astrology, Chinese astrology uses twelve different signs or symbols to define twelve basic categories of human being. Similarly to western astrology, the Chinese system uses a person's birth date as the basis for his sign, so in some ways the two systems are alike. Now, let's have a look at how they differ.

Our own astrological signs are monthly. Each of our signs has a different heaven-inspired mythological name and corresponds to a period equivalent to a single Sun cycle. If you were born in the Sun cycle period labeled Aquarius, then in western astrological terms you are an Aquarian. Chinese zodiacal signs are yearly. Each Chinese sign has a different animal name and corresponds to a period equivalent to an entire Chinese calendar year. If you were born in a yearlong period which the Chinese label the Dragon Year, then in Chinese astrological terms you are a Dragon. Simple? Yes.

Chinese astrology is so simple that you need only know the year of your birth to find out which of the twelve signs is yours. But there is one tricky aspect to consider. The Chinese New Year falls on a different date every year. This holiday can occur as early as mid-January or not until late February. If you were born in either January or February, that is, if you are either Capricorn or Aquarius in western astrology, you need to know whether you were born before or after the Chinese New Year. This interpretation has calculated that information for you.

The Chinese animal symbols are: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Cat, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. These animals always appear in the same order. Since the beginning of recorded Chinese time, 2637 B.C., the animal sequence has recurred faithfully every twelve years. It always begins with the Rat and ends with the Pig. And to make things even more convenient for us Twentieth-Century Westerners, 1900 was a Rat year. That means that the next Rat year was 1912 and 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984 were all Rat years. Anybody born in any of these years is a Rat.

Chinese astrology, in one form or another, was widely used all over the Orient from the fortieth century B.C. It became especially popular between 2953 and 2838 B.C. under the Emperor Fu Hsi and again under Shen Nung, who was born in the twenty-eighth century B.C. The zodiacal system and its philosophies as we know them today were codified by Ta Nao, an able minister of Emperor Huang Ti, born about 2704 B.C. It was made official in 2637 B.C. and was formally inaugurated, as were other historical events, at the sixtieth anniversary of the same popular Emperor Huang Ti's accession to the throne. For forty-six centuries thereafter, this system was used as the national standard and touched on all state affairs in China.

People born in Pig years are all somewhat naive and hate to say no; Rats are aggressive and

talkative; Dogs loyal and ardent, Snakes altruistic and attractive; Dragons healthy and noisy; Horses independent and pragmatic; Goats dependent and creative and have no sense of time; Oxen slow and eloquent; Tigers rash and magnetic; Cats flee conflict and love tradition; Monkeys are entertaining and give lots of presents; Roosters are resourceful and bossy and adore clothes.

YIN AND YANG

Yin and Yang are the two main opposite but equal Chinese philosophical forces. The power of Yin is sometimes interpreted as passive, female, docile, receptive and society-oriented. Conversely, the Yang energy is said to be aggressive, male and socially indifferent. To the Chinese, everything in life is either Yin or Yang, and the trick to achieving harmony is knowing how to balance Yin and Yang so they operate in synergy rather than clash.

According to Chinese thought, any circumstance in the universe - a rainstorm, a night of love, a child taking its first steps, a wobbly bedstead, a frantic phone call, a dish of steaming pasta, a traffic accident, a dancing bride and groom or a washing-line in the sunlight - is the direct result of an energy balance or imbalance between Yin and Yang.

THE FIVE ELEMENTS - WOOD, FIRE, EARTH, METAL, AND WATER

To allow for movement to occur and bring about change, Chinese philosophy calls upon the five elements as agents of change and reaction. Change, the Chinese think, derives from the influence of the five main elements - Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water - on the basic Yin or Yang energies. Like in the old rock, paper, scissors game, each of these five Chinese elements has the ability to control and/or destroy the previous element, and is capable of producing the element that directly follows it. In the regenerative cycle of the elements, Water engenders Wood. Wood begets Fire. Fire burns to Earth. Earth creates Metal and Metal gives way to Water.

Wood is characterized by the color green. Wood heralds the beginning of life, springtime and buds, sensuality and fecundity. Wood's influence affects the liver, the gallbladder and, by extension, the digestion. Wood needs moisture to thrive. Its two opposite yet equally emotional forces are rage and altruism. The Wood person will be expansive, outgoing and socially conscious.

Wood, in its turn, can create and nourish Fire. Fire's signatory color is red. Fire is hot weather, satisfaction of nature, aridity and dust. The tongue and the small intestine are the centers of attention in the Fire person's body. Fire makes heat, which either warms or burns. The Fire person must constantly seek to balance a tendency to explode and possibly destroy, against a desire to create coziness and warmth. Passionate by nature, this impatient, ebullient person must strive to keep his flame under control.

Earth is created from the ashes of the Fire. Now we are in the soothingly satisfying late summer cycle. Earth's favorite color is yellow, which represents the equanimity between beginnings and endings. The weather of Earth is mild or temperate. In the human body, Earth influences spleen, pancreas and mouth. Earth's two opposite but equal forces which need to be kept in constant balance are enhancing and smothering. On the one hand Earth gives care and allows for growth and

improvement. On the other, Earth buries roots and snuffs out breath. Earth people are gifted for fairness and have the ability to commit themselves to protracted projects and complete Herculean tasks with ease. They must struggle against a penchant for worry.

The Earth grows Metal in her veins. Metal says white and autumn. Metal is cool, crisp weather. Metal's effect on the body centers in the lungs and respiratory system. It only secondarily rules the large intestine and the nose. Metal people like to communicate. They need to keep discord and harmony in constant balance. Metal signifies the onset of winter. Its influence can sometimes add sadness or gloom to an astrological chart. Two of Metal's emotional forces are melancholy and romance. I see Metal as Wagnerian. Metal people must guard against a tendency to wallow in nostalgia.

Lastly, Metal begets Water - groundwater trickling its way through layers of the Earth's core. Water's color is blue. Its season is full-blown winter. Water is always moving, fluid, and mutational. In our bodies, water's influence affects our plumbing systems, the kidneys and the bladder. The ear, too, comes under the spell of Water. Hence people born in Water-ruled years are frequently musical. They pick up on everything. Be it good or bad, they never miss a vibe. Water-ruled creatures are always very sensitive and sometimes even mentally fragile. The downside of Water's influence, then, is a stressful nervousness. To balance that fidgety, squeamish, overly sensitive side, Water endows its subjects with the noblest quality of all, kindness and sympathy. Sometimes too permeable, the Water-ruled must take precautions against drowning in the chagrin of those they see as less fortunate than themselves.

So, the five elements cause the commotion and are responsible for creating and maintaining both balance and imbalance - for moving things around and making life interesting. These purveyors of change can be controlled or not, depending on how one manages them.

Each animal year of the Chinese zodiac has been assigned one of the five elements. The elements each turn up twice in the cycle going away for another ten years. The five elements are always presented in the above order. Once we know this, we can understand how the elements directly affect us and pertain to individual characters.

The elements work by governing each animal sign once through the sixty-year "century" You will not come across a Water Horse more than once in sixty years. This fact alone accounts for sixty different basic character or destiny types. Further, when a learned Chinese astrologer draws up a chart for an individual person according to the Chinese astrological system, he takes into consideration the month and the season, the time of day and the type of weather on the day of birth as well as certain astral configurations at the moment of birth. In all, good Chinese astrologers deal with a base of no less than 512,640 different possible personality charts. This means that only two people in a million stand a chance of being born with identical destinies.

YOUR CHINESE SIGN

MAGNIFICENT DRAGON

Sure of yourself, dynamic and rarely inconspicuous, you are a born master of ceremonies. Be it fireworks, parties, festivals, holidays or rallies, you know how to get things started and keep them moving. You're feisty and gifted with power and luck. People look up to you. You can be flamboyant and a bit of a braggart. When you think you are right, you are inflexible. In business you appear tough. You are canny and not easily duped. But even you, dauntless Dragon, are not invincible. All those flames are mere camouflage. Underneath, you are a soft touch. A pushover. You faint at the sight of a weeping willow. Sentimentality resides right under the surface of that scaly green coat. You cannot resist its maudlin tug. Faithful to friends and loyal to family, you are sometimes less so in matters of the heart. You are devastatingly attractive and romantic too. You long to crawl into cave after cave with a series of passionate lovers who tickle and sting and thrill all at once. You dream of a lifelong moment of ecstasy.

Dally with a hard-driving Rat or a clever Monkey. But when you choose a mate, pick a solid citizen Rooster or a Tiger (your accomplice). Don't bother with taciturn Oxen. Outspoken Dogs will both attract and defy you. A regulated, disciplined family and school life in childhood may frustrate your need for applause and undeserved attention. But it may also set you on a more realistic path than one you would have chosen yourself. Your mid-life crisis will be a humdinger! But if you're still alive at age fifty, your hard work will begin to pay off. You know how to learn from your mistakes. Dare I give you advice? Don't let your ego get the jump on your brain. Practice laughing at yourself in the mirror. Lower your profile. Eat lots of humble pie.

THE DRAGON ID CARD

Lasting symbols have special powers. Enhance your self-image. Live surrounded with tangible signs of your own identity. Make these symbols known to your friends and loved ones. Use them often and they will bring you luck, security and a feeling of personal worth.

YOUR BEST

Your best color is gold, flower is rose, fragrance is Eau Verte, tree is sequoia, flavor is pungent, birthstone is ruby, and lucky number is 2.

YOUR FAVORITE

Your favorite food is steak au poivre, animal is the monkey, drink is bloody Mary, spice is cardamom, metal is hammered silver, herb is dill, and musical instrument is the clarinet.

THE DRAGON IS YANG. THE DRAGON'S MOTTO IS: "I REIGN."

Your awesome demeanor leaves no doubt as to how vibrant, magnanimous, charismatic, principled, self-sufficient, discriminating, compelling, thrilling, accomplished, good-hearted, healthy, and

prodigiously shrewd you can be.

But one tiny glimpse of the Dragon's scaly underbelly gives us a less enchanting image of our mythical hero. In your worst moments you can become bombastic, dissatisfied, ruthless, demanding, opinionated, mawkishly sentimental, egocentric, defensive, power mad, foolhardy, willful, and pompous.

When a Dragon enters a gathering, the room starts to simmer, heads turn, people frown or smile and sniff the air suspiciously. A whisper passes through the company: "Who is that mysterious looking woman in the shocking pink mini dress? She looks interesting . . ." Or "Who brought that guy over there in the white silk shirt? Why doesn't somebody tell him to button his lip?"

Nobody can tell a Dragon to button anything. You carry a self assurance so impressive, an ego so sure of itself, and a mouth so glib that it is useless to try to tell you anything. Even suggesting that you "cool it" or openly observing the temerity of your comments is apt to result in third-degree burns. Trying to talk sense to you when you're excited is like trying to douse a flaming oil refinery with a watering can.

There is no more grandiose sign in the Chinese zodiac than the dashing Dragon. You are a born monarch. As far as you can see, your power is indisputable, your charm absolute. Nothing dampens your tungsten spirit. Very little scares you. No whisper of doubt intrudes to cloud your crystal clear self-image. You are a giant whose magnificence defies life, challenges both good and evil, and carries off amazing feats of prestidigitation.

Naturally, you don't always live up to your impressive reputation. Yet, one can't help but admire your limitless ambition. You know instinctively how to engage the participation and willing complicity of partners and associates. When you feel the seed of a monumental idea bouncing around inside your head, you go forward with its execution. You get everybody into the act. Your excitement is contagious, your exuberance infectious. You want to achieve on a personal level, but you make an incomparable leader as well.

Dragons rarely hesitate or shilly-shally. You get a notion, pick up your tools and dig in. Going after what you want is second nature. You don't waver, get cold feet or waffle. You just do it. Happily, your charisma is not mere hot air. Your formidable projects and enterprises are often successful. Success is not just a dream. In fact, unreliable, vaporous schemes don't interest you. The goal is accomplishment. In pursuing your extravagant projects, you may encounter some preposterous adventures. You are forever dashing off to exotic places. You cannot resist a challenge and never back away from a breathtaking experience or brush off the prospect of some dramatic escapade.

Although you may be a sometime intellectual, you are not a hermit. In fact, your true place is in society. There is no such thing as an unprepossessing Dragon. You are noticed. You don't hang about looking miserable in soup kitchens or languishing on street corners with nothing to do. You are a born winner. You are tough, and you love to take risks. You may even dare to walk over a few dead bodies to get where you need to go.

In dealing with other people however, you sometimes use an inordinate amount of abrasive bravado. Your sharp remarks and acid comments sometimes cut people to the quick. You are rarely aware of the devastating effect you create.

`Nuff said. You don't see yourself as others do. You may deport yourself arrogantly, pompously and aggressively, then complain that you cannot understand how you lost that important account, didn't get tenure at the university, or were summarily jilted by a lover. Although you may be devastated by your loss or failure and cannot sleep for weeks afterwards, you have no idea what an obnoxious consequence your boastful, superior attitudes and noisy habits can engender.

The Dragon must always be right. No matter what shenanigans you get up to, people have to forgive you because you always forgive yourself. Dragons are worse than arrogant. You cannot accept your own fiascos because you don't think you ever experience any. You categorically blame everybody else alive for your every folly and go on blithely believing you are correct in your assessment of the situation. Your lack of humility will rarely permit you to revise perceptions.

Despite your sometimes reprehensible social behavior, you are fabulously generous. You are supremely wise when the road is rockiest. You make an excellent adviser and can cut through useless emotional underbrush in a flash.

You are a mite tyrannical. You hate orders except when you are giving them. Unlike the Tiger (who imposes his will seriously and firmly), the Ox (whose authority is implied in his very demeanor), or the Rat (who hypnotizes subjects), you know innately how to exert authority. You have no problem taking over, fearlessly grabbing the reins from any competitor. Yet you are a kindly despot. You never forget to call your servants by pet names, send your slaves a birthday gift, or hand out hefty bonuses at holiday time.

Dragons are also snobs. If you are not to the manor born, you will the manor storm. You were born plotting means of climbing the social ladder. Although money is not always the object, you are unduly impressed by wealth, prestige, rank and splendor. This unhappy trait may lead you to marry someone more educated or of a higher social caliber, just to gain position. In your rush to acquire superior social rank and assume more power, you often meet with emotional ruin. You may marry the wrong princess (or prince) and subsequently be turned back into a toad.

An outgrowth of your snobbery is a dreadful habit of namedropping and socialite hobnobbing. Hanging out with big shots makes you feel secure. You really get off on the "who do you know?" game. You forever blow a vicarious trumpet. Perhaps you naively imagine that some of the luster of other people's notoriety will rub off on you.

You can of course act up all you want. Everyone forgives you. Whatever you get up to, no matter how much pain or embarrassment you cause, you are unerringly helpful in crucial friendship and family matters. You are a born crisis intervener. You may behave in a bumptious or brash fashion, you may be a snob and social climb your way to hell; but when life's voyage is at its roughest, you can always be counted on to see a friend safely home.

Sometimes you can be a show-off and a fire-breather, but most of the show is just hot air. Underneath, you are tenderhearted. You are endowed with the highest of moral standards. However, unlike some people, your flamboyant appearance, boastful noisiness, and vocal snobbery are not designed to cover up a basic shyness. You are not in the least timid: you are straightforwardly pushy, proud and overbearing.

You are intelligent, curious and analytical to a fault. You carry a prodigious memory between your ears and know instinctively how to glean lessons from past events. A powerful ability to synthesize information and translate it into action gives you an edge in politics and bumps you straight into leadership. You are also sharp and witty. You make a very amusing and informative conversationalist. Also you don't usually feel the need to parade your knowledge and are neither pedantic nor didactic.

Petty people drive you crazy. You doesn't mind being confronted head-on by outspoken tough guys who tell you exactly what they think of you. If they are honest with you, you will return the compliment. But you hate mean-spirited folk.

Although you are not above committing a mini crime or two before you die, you are basically sincere and try to be honorable. Privately, you may be a bit roguish, but your public style is noble and magnanimous. Even when strategizing, you employ high-minded tactics and attempt to steer clear of the unethical.

You are not pleased about growing old. Though you are usually in high spirits for most of your life, laughing off major setbacks and maintaining equilibrium in toughest times, you do not handle the aging process with grace. The prospect of losing power and feeling youthful strength ebbing away is unbearable for you. Also, the possibility of dependency on others, whom you have always deemed weaker than yourself, is patently unacceptable. You would prefer to end it all than to endure the final insult of creeping decrepitude.

DRAGON HEALTH

Dragons are notoriously healthy. You are famous for your vitality and renowned for your physical strength and longevity. As history has proven, it is not all that easy to kill one of you.

You are mostly lucky and live in good health to a ripe old age in fine fettle. Even at ninety-five you are still bossing your children and grandchildren around, commanding both attention and respect. Dragons just about never give up.

Almost everybody finds you sexy. You find yourself irresistible, so there's no use advising you to curb your enthusiasm or your forays into excessive dalliance. Vitality and pep are two of life's most attractive qualities, especially when we find these qualities in a person to whom we are attracted. Your robust physical vigor and basic liveliness of spirit are your main seduction weapons. When you blend your vitality with that warm sentimentality of yours, the result is sheer enchantment.

But you must curb indulgence and excess. You enjoy fine food and the best in wines and spirits.

You adore a good cigar and may smoke cigarettes to excess. You often enjoy heavily sauced or spicy cooking too. Besides sex, the activity that you like best is entertaining. No anniversary or birthday goes by without you concocting a special dish or exotic new drink to celebrate it. The result of all this carousing is a tendency to gain weight. In later life overweight begins to compete against your driving ambition to maintain good looks and still operate at full energy.

Your terminal excessiveness could have a disastrous effect on your longevity. Yet you are such a strong-minded soul that you are able to discipline yourself and correct bad habits. From time to time, you abruptly goes on a crash diet and end the frenzied intake for a while. You may undertake a program of exercise as well. In a few weeks you will be thin, but rather than adopting your regimen permanently, you often go back to overindulging and soon find yourself fat and breathless again. Keep on trying. It will pay off in the long run.

This foolish cycle of dieting and fasting can be damaging to your heart and arterial system. Too much pressure exerted first by over-indulgence and then crash dieting will weaken you and a downward spiral may set in. Take up yoga, study meditation, find a way to relax, and moderate your favorite pastime of eating and drinking in celebration of every holiday that ever hit town.

Hypertension is another of your weak points. Because you are naturally short-tempered and preoccupied with achieving the impossible NOW, you are impatient. You can often be heard to snap and carp at colleagues because you perceive them to be slow or lacking in spirit. Because of your hot temper, you may also be subject to tachycardia, cardiac spasms, and even mild symptoms of angina pectoris, which are not necessarily dangerous on their own, but may herald other more serious complaints. Again, the remedy is found in relaxation, exercise and a diet composed mainly of vegetables, fish and grains. Vitamin B complexes can help you to lower high blood pressure and improve circulation, which, in your case, is sometimes sluggish.

After the age of thirty, you may suffer from a "bad back." Although you doesn't enjoy physical labor, You are always eager to shine and may attempt to prove yourself by lifting and carting heavy loads for effect. Repeated abuse of the backbone's flexible good nature can cause slipped discs or at least a nagging sciatica attack. The remedy? Restraint and moderation. If you are lucky enough to find a good chiropractor, you should take a lifetime subscription and listen to the practitioner's advice.

To maintain your strength and powers at your zenith, you must take care to survey the state of your health, have check-ups regularly, and listen to the wisdom of your own body. If you're tired, you must rest. When you're nervous you should do breathing exercises or meditate. The cure for anxiety or frustration is not found in a medicine (or other) bottle. "Cooling off" by going fishing or taking a long walk is by far the best way for you to handle stress.

The best foods to encourage your sluggish circulatory system are shellfish, algae, citrus fruits and pineapple juice. If you suffer from anxiety or depression, stimulants such as alcohol, coffee, cola, tobacco and tea should be rigorously avoided in favor of fruit juice, especially apple or grape. You can eat all you want of dried fruits such as dates, raisins, bananas, plums and figs. Appetite-stimulating spices are all right so long as they are not used in excessive amounts. Garlic pills or

garlic cooked with food will ease your chronic hypertension.

Finally, your most delicate health problems often stem from the difficulty your mind has in coping with reality. Frustrations crop up and cause you great anxiety. Either you cannot get this or that accomplished your way fast enough, or else you're not getting the cooperation you need from associates. Or perhaps you cannot choose only one project to pursue. The best therapy for you is one-to-one exchange of information where you feel you are being taken seriously. You can use self-help methods to effect an improvement or cure. You must never be made to feel helpless or powerless: such feelings only drive you deeper into your illness.

DRAGON COMPATIBILITIES

Dragon with Rat

This is an absolutely delicious marriage: the Chinese claim it as one of your best-arranged unions. The restless Rat will be warmed by your heat, and you will bask in the Rat's generous applause. You two will complement each other beautifully. Guaranteed bliss!

With you around, the Rat will be happy to give up total control: anxieties slowly subside, bringing peace and comfort. You are so emotionally effusive that the burden of worry will be taken off the poor little Rat's shoulders. Bigger and bolder, you will carry the weight of the loving Rat's turmoil. The Rat will not feel competitive about your position of strength. The Rat is happy to stand in the shadows of a fervent friend/mate.

You and the Rat team up like king and queen. In the Rat's eyes, you do no wrong. All the better for you because you love to shine. You are so bright and exciting that even the Rat's usual hearty appetite for sex may be overwhelmed and suddenly wane. Despite your innate wisdom, you may fail to see the problem. Try not to place blame on the Rat. A relaxed, rational discussion will clear the air in no time, and your conversational fireworks will re-ignite the Rat's temporarily diminished sensuality.

Dragon with Ox

Be prepared for plenty of late-night squabbles with the Ox. Both of you believe you are righter than right. You try to dictate your will over the opinionated Ox, and the Bull bullies back. The Ox has little patience with vanity. The Ox's indifference to your fiery appearance is a perpetual disappointment to your ego. You love to spend money but, with the Ox counting pennies, you feel hampered and ill at ease.

Your wandering eye unsettles the faithful Ox who rarely strays from a good sexual union because he or she just doesn't have time - too busy working.

With so much conflict, how can the two of you reconcile? Your mutual love of home and family could save you from total despair. Both enjoy sex, although the Ox's routine techniques may bore you. Your sentimental nature yearns for puffy clouds of pink cotton candy to enhance lovemaking. You won't often feel the earth move with the Ox.

Also, the methodical Ox expects a regular living schedule. You, however, favor a more erratic time table, such as exorbitant stormy sex for a week followed by peace and quiet for three. An excellent business partnership, this union is not recommended for either marriage or romance, unless you, Dragon, can be free to roam and hunt excitement elsewhere.

Dragon with Tiger

Sexed! The Tiger/Dragon love relationship bears serious consideration. Combined, your strength is almost excessive. And energy! Enough to fuel several large power plants. There is EGO flashing in red neon all over the two of you. Overbearing and self-propelled, you are both a bit too much. But as a pair, you can succeed.

Despite an excess of commando muscle, this combo lives peaceably together. Mutual respect and admiration offset the expected clashes. You beg for constant flattery and applause. However, the strong-minded Tiger deems you tiresome and steals the spotlight away. The Tiger is undaunted by your fire-breathing antics. In fact, the intrepid Tiger loves a good shouting match and respects a worthy opponent. You are amused by and tolerate the Tiger's love of danger and precipitous behavior. In short, you two get along.

Your relationship with the Dragon is not only a sensual match. You both carry yourselves with bravado and flair. An air of madness colors everything you do. People flock to your home to bask in your aura and share in the high of your hazardous love. Not afraid to share power, you take turns sitting on the throne instead of focusing on your individual roles.

This relationship is good for marriage. Battles will be waged, but at the end of the day the force of your attraction ensures you will be lovers for life. Entwined in your own whirlwind of passion and steamy sex, the two of you know the road to heaven. You set the tawny Tiger alight and the rapacious Tiger devours your scalding hot fire. Enjoy!

Dragon with Cat/Rabbit

Your flamboyant, exaggerated pizzazz does not suit the Cat/Rabbit's need for discretion. You go around wowing crowds with your pyrotechnic displays while the Cat/Rabbit sits by disdainfully, deeming your antics vulgar. The classy Cat finds all grandiose public exhibits absurd. He or she would much rather stay at home and polish the silver coffee urn.

Although marriage to a Cat/Rabbit usually proves unfulfilling for you, there can be a positive aspect to this duo: if you are wise, you may choose a gentle, sensible Cat/Rabbit as savior. With much patience and forbearing on Kitty's part, your marriage might work.

Unfortunately, the gentle consideration the Cat/Rabbit lends you can never really be reciprocated. You need to be in the limelight, lead a gregarious life, rush around, and curry ovation. The domesticated Cat/Rabbit is often left at home, tending the household where, overly sensitive to your indifference, poor Kitty sits alone by the fire, doing a slow burn.

Dragon with Dragon

This relationship is almost too volatile for any long-term good to come of it. What we have here is a lifetime battle royal for supremacy. In competitive situations, neither Dragon can allow the other's gigantic ego to prevail, so whether it's a pitched combat over who gets to manage the TV remote or

a tussle about who drives the car on the next trip to the supermarket, the air will always be full of strife.

At first, all this emotional power play may seem to the two of you like a love storm of glorious emotion. You are not ill suited sexually so even when you are furious with each other, you may share some of the most exciting sex of your lives. However, day-to-day living threatens to be so highly charged, so noisy, and so fraught with shouting and name-calling, that one wonders if a few moments of occasional earth-shaking sex are worth it.

Unless it's inevitable, I advise against this marriage. Two giant, uncompromising, fire-breathing beasts may well be doomed to set each other's hearts ablaze, but you are patently unsuited to keeping the home fires burning.

Dragon with Snake

In Chinese astrological parlance, these two are considered kissin' cousins. You adore sporting a gorgeous, attractive, sexy Snake partner and the quiet, subtle Snake admires your world-beating flamboyance and style. In turn, you protect the Snake. Snake coddles your ego and lets you blab away without so much as a hint of criticism.

Of course, no relationship with any Dragon can ever be calm, but the Snake comes close to making your union a levelheaded, harmonious one. Wisely, the Snake never confronts your ego head-on. Snakes deal subtly with clashes, examining all sides before striking at just the right spot to get results.

With the Snake's huge capacity for erotic activity and your giant sexual appetite and innate talent for same, you can just imagine ... the chemistry is sublime. You agree on living luxuriously, too. You buy endless accessories for the Snake's pleasure, and the Snake allows you, within reason, to indulge in filling the house with gadgetry. Your home life is peachy. You make a handsome couple. It's truly a match made in heaven.

Dragon with Horse

The two of you will, no doubt, boast vociferously of having fallen in love at first sight. Both of you are firm believers in falling in love as a way of life. The sex meter will be permanently set to hot and heavy mode. You won't be able to keep your hands off each other. Fact is, sex is about the only thing that distracts you two from a full-time war of wills which inevitably besets your relationship.

The Horse is authoritarian and doesn't like to be told what to do. You like to dominate and hate to be bossed around. Each of you is proud, touchy, irritable, self-centered and headstrong. Neither is acquiescent. You are at least sentimental, but the Horse is hard-nosed and tough-minded and knows how to make you cry. You are the less conventional of the pair and will not hesitate to embarrass the socially correct Horse in public for revenge.

I also see money conflicts here. Both you and the Horse like to spend. If you clash over who gets to

buy what, you may go on competitive spending sprees and your household will be broke and in debt all the time. This ill-suited couple is only happy during the initial, sexy infatuation stage. From there on it's all downhill. No marriage plans? Keep it that way.

Dragon with Goat

In Chinese astrological circles, this is said to be a sound marriage. Goats are essentially dependent. They are easily swayed and don't mind being bamboozled and manipulated by their loved ones. You, dear Dragon, need to command, direct operations, and dominate. The acquiescent Goat inspires you to protect and be chivalrous. The Goat thrives in the security provided by your authority.

Your sexual life together will be as near to an erotic dream as you can get. You like to take charge and Goats like to lie there and be loved. Being two very sentimental as well as sensual beings, both of you will know instinctively how to blend sex with affection. Your intimacies should be satisfying and frequent.

Dragon with Monkey

Despite the obvious differences in your characters, there is a lot of potential for a relationship between you. You are bombastic and need to be adored, yet you revere the Monkey's keen intelligence and ability to see around corners. Monkeys adore spectacle and invariably enjoy the non stop show you provide.

There is plenty of room for personal evolution in this couple. Impressed by the efficiency of the Monkey's exceptional mind, you will be almost in awe. When in the company of a gifted Monkey partner, you let up on the accelerator from time to time and even take an occasional back seat to Monkey's brilliance. Monkeys enjoy being appreciated for their skilful talents, are not particularly interested in the number one position, and let you bask in the footlights. As a result of this clever balance, the Dragon/Monkey match becomes a strong bond, built on compromise and mutual respect.

Sex, however, may not be the strongest element that binds the two of you. The Monkey's normally healthy appetite seems moderate by comparison to your voracious and conspicuous need for consumption of your mate's intimate favors.

Dragon with Rooster

Both passion and glamour are missing from this otherwise well-balanced relationship. Yet, with some effort, it is workable. You protect with gusto and Rooster obeys with serious intent to do the right thing. Neither of you is ecstatic in this arrangement but, then, neither is blatantly unhappy.

The Rooster recognizes and respects your need to shine, to assert superiority over others, and to go out and beat the world at its game. Despite sometimes flamboyant outward appearances, the Rooster is a rank conservative. Roosters do want to voice their truths and implement their ideals, but they

don't much need to show off. With you, the brave and daring Dragon as partner, the Rooster can carry on being quietly cocky while you play the conspicuous role.

I'm afraid your exorbitant sexual needs may prove overwhelming to the less sensual Rooster. The Rooster's rebuffs may destroy your ego. The solution will only be found in frank discussion with an objective third party. A therapist? A clergyman? A family friend?

Dragon with Dog

With you and the Dog, happiness is very unlikely. According to Chinese astrologers, few relationships are less likely to withstand the test of time. Bickering and barking prevail.

Both you and the Dog are full of enthusiasm, energy and vigor. But your styles are so different as to make you near enemies. Dogs hate making a fuss over nothing. You intentionally create daily scenes complete with flames, smoke and noise. You think the moralizing, pessimistic, stern Dog is a downright bore. You live primarily for yourself and your loved ones. Dogs live solely for the love and companionship of others. You will wish the Dog were a more obedient mate. But the freethinking Dog will never buckle under to oppression. While you boast of successes, the Dog gloats over your resounding failures.

I have to agree with the Chinese soothsayers, dissonance reigns. No marriage here please.

Dragon with Pig

Most Dragon/Pig marriages last forever. The two of you have just enough in common and are just different enough to keep you both interested. The Pig is compliant and easygoing, always gives the benefit of the doubt to the other fellow, and admires gutsiness and audacity in a mate. You need an ally, a helpmate, a shoulder to cry on, and someone nice to boss around, preferably someone who forgives easily. The Pig amply fills the bill.

Both characters adore opulence. The more gilt sconces you can stick on the walls of your home, the happier you will be. The Pig applauds your successes and turns a blind eye to your tricks. In turn, you protect and admire the Pig's scruples. In short, Pig helps you maintain the shine on an overactive ego. You adore being put on a permanent pedestal, and you make it clear that Pig's homemaking talents are all you have ever dreamed. The sex is good. The Pig adores wallowing in sensuality and you just plain love sex. Piggy wants romance, so you must temper and rough edges and learn a thing or two about the value of hearts and flowers.

DRAGON FUTURES

What the Dragon should expect from the twelve Chinese animal years:

2006, 2018 The Dog Year

Dog years benefit you. The multitude of causes and crusades that are jammed into one twelve-month spans appeals to your sense of do-goodism. You are now ready to leave your personal problems behind and strike out on your own. This year may mean extensive travel for you or, at least a great deal of agitation and movement. You're not terribly pleased by developments in your private life. Give it time. Your family woes will settle down soon. Devote yourself to improving the well-being of outsiders for a while.

2007, 2019 The Pig Year

Triumphant! You'll be having a whale of a time this year. The Pig is your natural partner. The Pig understands your vigor and tolerates your passionate ways because he or she thinks you're just plain wonderful. And you are . . . when you are being appreciated. Your most divine dreams will start to come true this year. Harmony reenters the picture too. Your private life smoothes out. The Pig would like you to behave more modestly: it wouldn't hurt to tone down your act, be gentler, lower your voice, take an occasional back seat in arguments. Be more humble, if only for the purpose of gaining the goodwill of those who previously found you far too fiery.

2008, 2020 The Rat Year

Life has now taken a definite turn for the better. Your finances should be in good fettle. Your home life wrinkles have been ironed out. Perhaps it's time for a big love affair. You already know that Rats adore the very ground you stride upon. They think you utterly grand and admire your style. They also respect your ability to seduce, enchant and gain power without trying. The year of the Rat serves you well. But beware, nonetheless, of a tendency to overspend. You'll be needing that extra capital in the very near future.

2009, 2021 The Ox Year

Structure is the name of the game in Ox years, structure and established order. You will make no headway this year unless you manage to maintain your cool. You don't mind dishing out commands, but you hate to receive them. The Ox can be a bully. You don't approve of Ox's rustic manners and countrified ways. You wish the Ox would stop trying to make everything so stable and traditional. You wonder why this year is devoid of imagination and you may (folly!) try to change it. The best thing you can do is stay out of the limelight and wait your turn. Oxen hate showoffs.

2010, 2022 The Tiger Year

Here's your old pal the Tiger! You can again shine, shout and make merry. The last thing the Tiger

wants you to do is sulk. Be enterprising this year. Open a business or find a new job. Take that trip you've been promising yourself. Money ought to be plentiful. You may also be publicly recognized for a valorous or heroic act. Don't try to take over the limelight, though. Tigers are jealous of their own fame and do not share willingly. Work claw in paw with the Tiger and you will both profit. Keep the lid on your obnoxious pride. Don't name-drop. Cease your naughty snobbism and you will be invited back again and again. Enjoy this activity-packed year.

2011, 2023 The Cat/Rabbit Year

Quiet time. You will find it hard to make yourself heard in this climate of utter refinement and tippy-toe diplomacy. As soon as you try to pipe up, someone will shush you with a loud hissing sound. Keep out of the way. Do your thing in private. Spend time perfecting some talent. Polish your tap-dancing skills or brush up on your art appreciation. Above all, don't let the silence weigh on your soul. Soon the horns will be blowing up a storm again and this time for you alone. Next year is all yours.

2012, 2024 The Dragon Year

Perfect! The very definition of this year pleases you to death! Imagine, your very own kingdom for a year. A twelve-month long stage on which you may cavort and dance and govern and dominate all at once. Music, maestro, please! This year will bring you certain success. You'll find yourself at the height of some very personal and important part of your career. While fending off the journalists, please remember that this is the year when you need to rethink the last twelve and plan the next dozen. When the brouhaha dies down, take a moment to reflect on where you want to go next. You have two years to effect change or make modifications. Don't tarry in your glory. Act now.

2013, 2025 The Snake Year

Luck is still very much on your side. Be careful not to slack off, however, because even though this year favors Dragons, your destiny is not wholly in your hands. The Snake doesn't mind your stormy vigor but he does want all the control and does not easily relinquish it. Don't get involved in power struggles. Concentrate on staying close to the grindstone. Work the soil you already own and don't go sprawling your assets all over creation. Speaking of creation, this is your year to invent, perform or innovate. Apply your artistic gifts in a concentrated way. Do some much-needed reading up on areas of life you have been neglecting. The Snake year is best for philosophy, metaphysics and art history.

2014, 2026 The Horse Year

The Dragon's chances are still very good for success in this year of the headstrong Horse. But, due to a tiny slip-up or a lost document, the very walls of your palace may collapse. Much depends on fate this year. The Horse is a difficult chap to please, changing his tune every two minutes and never fully knowing what he wants. The atmosphere of enthusiasm and ebullience that surrounds the Horse will spur you to great heights, providing destiny wants it that way. The best strategy for Dragons then is to lie low. but Try assuming a low profile. Pretend to be working extra hard this

year in some far away venue. The Horse will feel less threatened if you stay out of his way.

2015, 2027 The Goat Year

Cultivate your creative bent this year. If you want to succeed in theatre, cinema, dance or other show-biz careers, this is definitely the time to let it all hang out. Find yourself that super agent who will propel your career to the heights you so believe you deserve. Stop listening to those detractors who cause you to doubt and hesitate before making big decisions. The Goat will never stand in your way. But he will applaud, throw flowers, and beam proudly while you gloat your head off. For you, the Goat is a willing ally. He can inspire you, show you how to improve your performance and point out where the flaws are.

2016, 2028 The Monkey Year

Monkey years overflow with unpredictability. You, Dragon, will be tempted to take an unprecedented gamble that could prove to be sink or swim crucial. Remember to give all your projects a long time to simmer on the back burner before bringing them to the front and finishing them off with one of your flaming flourishes. You may want to rethink a few errors in judgment before they turn into full-fledged mistakes. The message of wisdom for Dragons in the wacky Monkey year is: think ahead. Your love life is favored, as the Monkey admires you and showers you with adulation, just the way you feel he should. The person you're currently involved with is the marrying kind.

2005, 2017 the Rooster Year

The romantic sector does not look brilliant this coming year. Perhaps you've been too hasty, wanting to tie knots before considering how your various lovers' personalities might stand up to the silence of those long winter evenings around the fire. Now, if you're stuck with a stick-in-the-mud spouse whose sense of humor seems to have been born dead, it's nobody's fault but your own. You are always tempted by the person who listens obediently while you blow your own horn. Then you claim to be bored. Next year things will smooth out. Don't despair. This Rooster year is an excellent time for you to reap benefits from your financial investments.

YOUR CHINESE SIGN AND ELEMENTS

In Chinese Astrology, there are five elements: Wood Fire, Earth, Metal, and Water. Each governs an animal sign once throughout the sixty-year Chinese "century". There are therefore sixty different basic character types in Chinese Astrology. You were born in the year of ...

THE WATER DRAGON

1892 Oliver Hardy, Eddie Cantor, Marcel Dassault, Hailie Selassie, Margaret Rutherford, Iphigene Sulzberger, Cole Porter

1952 Dan Aykroyd, Gelsey Kirkland, Jimmy Connors, Robin Williams, Sylvia Kristel, Christopher Reeve, Daniel Balavoine, Roseanne Barr, Carol Kane, David Byrne, Jeff Goldblum, Mandy Patinkin, Chrissie Hynde, Paul "Pee-Wee Herman" Reubens, Jenny Agutter, Steven Seagal, David Byrne, Grace Jones, Mr. T., Liam Neeson, Isabella Rossellini, Phoebe Snow, Robin Williams, Patrick Swayze, Vladimir Putin

Are Water Dragons contradictory and contrary? Yes, you are! And... though water might seem to dampen a Dragon's passions, your kind of Dragon is extra sensual and sexual. In fact, your Dragon-esque verve is only slightly tempered by the influence of Water.

You don't present noisily like other feisty, sometimes bumptious or bombastic Dragons. Instead, you give the impression of high-born gentility. You appear well-mannered, well-bred, scholarly and informed. Nonetheless, deep down, you are still an inveterate show-off.

Friendship is your strongest suit. When you take a liking to someone, and the feeling is mutual, you vow to involve yourself forever in that person's welfare and well-being. You're thoughtful. You call your friends weekly, cheer them when they're down, and give them a boost or even a loan in a tight spot. You are home-loving and you adore having a big house, a helpful mate and lots of progeny, pets and other trappings. You revel in inviting cronies round for drinks and dinner, games of cards, a round of badminton, or simply a long pleasant chat. You are proprietary, too, showing off your property, boasting about the exotic trees you have planted and displaying the flaming yellow lilies' only you know how to grow.

You are a curious person, too - like all Dragons, but worse. You are so nosy that you cannot glimpse a slip of paper lying on a table or desk without aching to know what's on it. "Where'd you get this letter? Who wrote it? Are you going to answer? What will you say?" are only a few of the questions that you can think up to insinuate yourself into every cranny of peoples' private lives.

The Water Dragon's contradictory nature often makes you unsure of your ambition. On the surface you seem directed with clear aims for success, but, underneath, you are not so energetically involved in "getting there". If having money and achieving success demand conformity, you count yourself out. If being a star depends on kowtowing to a bunch of witless cigar-smoking producers, you will back out before you begin. Either success comes because of your talent, your unusual gifts and your

remarkable brilliance, or you simply cannot be bothered. You'd rather go live in the country and raise goats.

You are intuitive and can advise people on almost anything. If you don't know an answer to a direct question, you will say so. But you will always have an opinion and will probably know where to look for any facts you are missing. You have the capacity to be a psychic or a soothsayer. If you become aware of how to use this special talent, you can even sense events that will occur in the future for others.

Love is also a major objective. Even though you have affairs and seduce lovers far into your old age, what really counts for you is true love. Family, children and long friendships are the mainstay of your emotional stability. You live for improving the structure of your family and thrive on the approval gratitude and admiration that you receive from them.

You are hugely creative. Your ideas are innovative. You know how to blend the new with the established and come up with plans which are improvisational yet solid. You're economical too, even penny-pinching. You like to be careful with money so you don't have to work at an office where conformity would threaten to spoil your fun.

The greatest quandary facing you is caused by your multitude of talents: you find it difficult to curb any of them in favor of one single pursuit. Most Water Dragons can paint, write, invent, dance and even sing. You are amusing, attractive and easy to like. Early on, when it becomes obvious that you will be forced to choose one discipline over another, you may balk. You want to imagine, because of your vast stores of energy, that some day you can do it all, have it all, and be everything to every man.

If you don't make some definite career choice before the age of twenty and undertake a course of study that offers you a solid future or profession, you had better inherit a lot of money from your rich uncle Harry. You can happily while away the oats sowing years as a professional creative genius or even as a bum. But when age thirty arrives, bringing with it responsibility, children and the desire for security, an under-educated or unemployed Water Dragon may end up dissatisfied and a little bonkers. Structure. Discipline. Focus.

CHINESE SIGNS FOR WOMEN

Males and Females behave differently. Below is the gender specific description of your Chinese sign:

MALE DRAGON

You are hedonistic, volatile, dramatic and persuasive. You're selfish, too. Yet, you are dreamboat sexy, hilariously funny, and a delightfully entertaining partner. With you around the house, there is never a dull moment.

You want to be thought to have class. You often demonstrate your so-called good breeding by affecting a haughty, aristocratic bearing. To observers, it's obvious that you are putting on an act. But on you strut, oblivious.

You are likely to be tall, erect and/or slender. Your body is muscular, taut and topped with powerful shoulders. Your gait is lithe and steady. You are never in a hurry. Nonchalance becomes you. Your own self-assuredness inspires confidence in your prey. Until middle age when it thins slightly on top and goes salt and peppery, your hair is abundant, thick and of a frank color, blond, brown or black, depending on ethnicity.

You are positive. You always know where you are going and how you want to get there. Interference from outside is not welcome. You hate taking advice but never stop giving it. You are independent to a fault and forever striving to arrive at the goal you have set for yourself. You demand to be acknowledged as the leader of every game, the inventor of every scheme, and the planner of every event. Being of a generous spirit, you invite everyone and his brother to come to the game, take part in the party, and enjoy the event. However, you need to know that these guests are there at your behest, and you want them to express just how appreciative they are of your hospitable generosity.

Your narcissism can prove tiresome. You cannot resist making a spectacle of yourself. You seem to have no sense of the ridiculous. Your primary goals often appear dead simple: make noise, be seen, and get attention.

Deep down though, you are truly sensitive and honestly emotional. You are the one who suffers most when your puffed-up behavior loses you friends and costs you loyalties. You take a long time to trust others and to understand that sharing feelings will not harm you or mar your macho image.

Goals inspire you: the achievement of even the smallest objective can make your day. You deplore mediocrity and will not tolerate laziness. Your energy level is higher than that of almost any other sign. You are at your best when you are moving through life at your own speed, accomplishing what you set out to do and not meeting with too much resistance. You are determined without being stubborn. You are thoughtful and make up your mind which road to take, long before embarking on any new venture.

You need your successes to be admired and looked up to. You have no time for selfless struggle or

endless years of useless sacrifice. People who choose to remain anonymous and cultivate their gardens in the country both baffle and annoy you. You must be seen and admired, approved of and adored.

You should take care to choose a career which allows you visibility. You are often brilliant at performing in both theater and cinema. Your charm captivates audiences. You are a person of grand scope with universal appeal. Politics suit you and satisfy your desire for success, public life and applause. Votes fly towards you like moths to a flame. However, politics pose a grave danger for you. You are so eager for success that you may be tempted to transgress the boundaries of morality. Nowhere is shady activity more prevalent than in political life. If you have a strong backbone and solid principles, you can serve your constituents admirably. If not, you will be setting yourself up for a Humpty Dumpty scenario in which you could lose everything you have worked for.

You have a strong, creative appetite and a great sense of taste. Literature will make you a fine profession. You might write anything from novels to songs or short stories. You can do well as a gallery owner, art book publisher, or even as an auctioneer of fine objects or property. A career that offers power and authority over people who need convincing will suit you down to the ground. Menial tasks, however, repel you.

Your sexual prowess is epic. You have a preconceived notion of the mate who will grace your life. He or she must be breathtakingly beautiful, with a perfect figure and a compliant, easygoing nature. You also want your life partner to be stunningly (but privately) intelligent. You want to be kept amused. But in public your love must play the clam. A significant other for you must also be modest and, most importantly, should admire and revere the very ground you tread. As you are never half-hearted, when you find your dream mate, you pursue and seduce shamelessly and obstinately.

With you for a lover, rows and arguments are part of one's daily bread. You make scenes over everything from what time the news comes on TV to who gets to read the color section of the newspaper first. You are attentive, forever bringing presents and cooking up surprises, but you are also jealous. Yet you do consider fooling around a bit yourself. It's disconcerting. You sometimes flaunt your peccadilloes and court marital disaster. But male Dragons find it almost impossible to keep their mouths shut.

You aspire to being a good mate and a caring father. You frequently succeed because underneath all the fire-spewing and tom-tom beating, you are smart. You instinctively know whom to marry up with so that your kids will be sanely brought up. To stay married to you, your mate needs a sense of humor, perseverance, and devotion to the idea of living in the shadow of a great (or pseudo great) man for a lifetime.

As mentioned above, your sex drive is powerful. You make love the way other men paint pictures or write music or poetry. To you, the act of love is an important creative expression. Not only is your sexuality hardy, you are able to prolong lovemaking for hours. You are tenderly passionate and deeply involved in capturing the essence of your partner's pleasure. You take great joy in pleasing your lover. Your virile self-image must remain intact, so your tendency to stray grows more intense as you age and begin to fear the loss of your sexual power.

As a father, you are a kindly despot. You want your kids to conform to your ideals, behave in a prescribed manner, and to want for themselves what you so generously (and condescendingly) want for them. The drama and theatrics you create at home don't always make for a particularly peaceful environment in which to nurture kids. But your heart is in the right place. You dearly love your children and would kill for their welfare and survival. But you are egocentric and often bossy, especially with boys, of whom you are envious because they are younger and sexier than you. You are likely to disapprove of a teenage daughter dating people you don't choose for her.

Your strongest suit lies in your boundless energy and goodwill. You suffer from excessive vanity and occasionally allow your ego to block the way to your brain. But you are not unwilling to hear criticism or try to modify your often pompous behavior. You can be vituperative and will often rave when you could speak normally. You like parties and cannot live without festivity and gaiety. You're finicky about how you want things done and you have the necessary authority to ensure that they are done your way. People take to you upon meeting because you are sympathetic and kindly, reacting ebulliently to each newcomer and treating each with favor. You give the impression of being fearless and even a mite dangerous. But you have a very good heart, are easily moved to tears and hugely loving when you feel your emotions reciprocated.