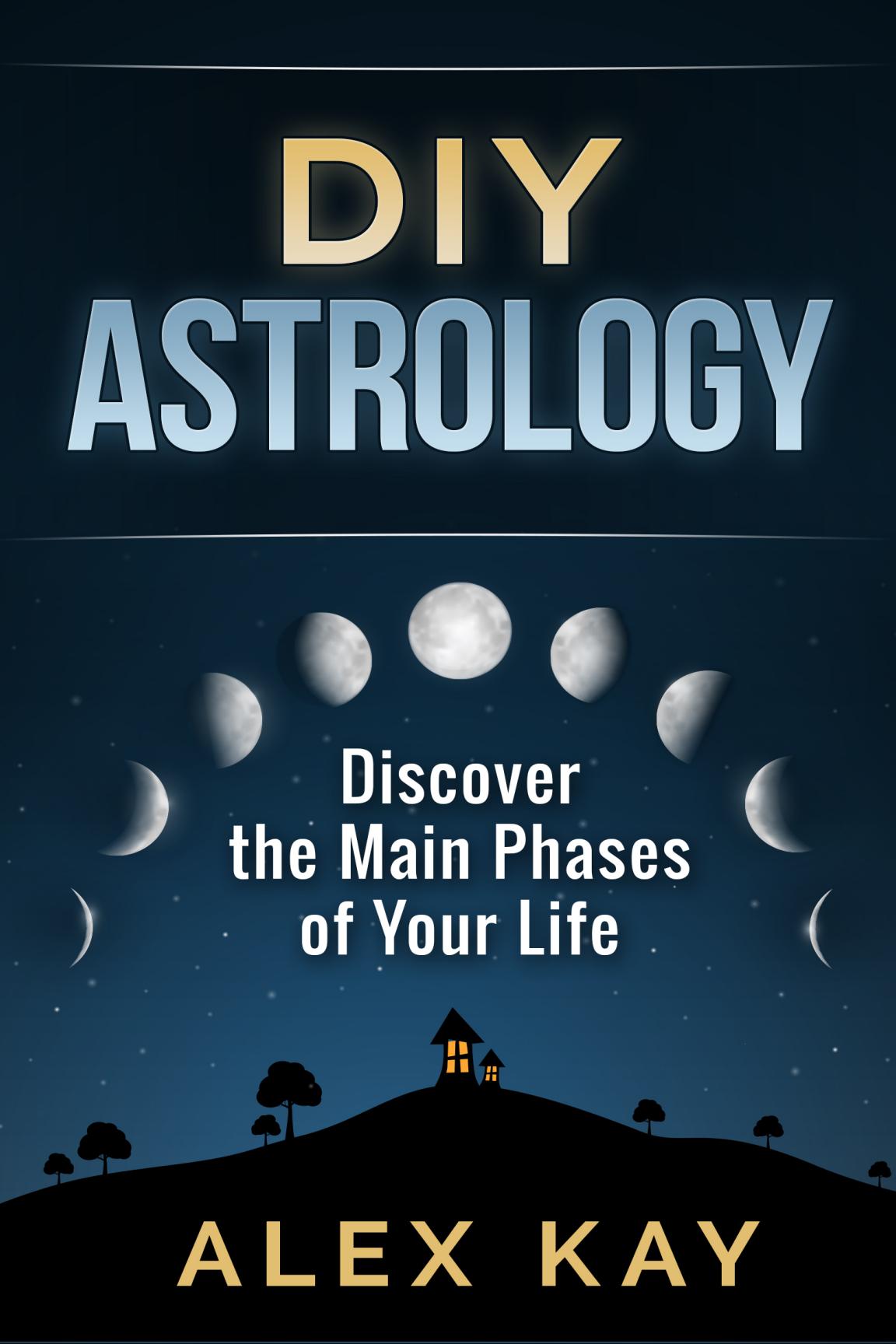


# DIY ASTROLOGY



Discover  
the Main Phases  
of Your Life

ALEX KAY

# DIY Astrology: Discover the Main Phases of Your Life

Alexander Kolesnikov

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# About Predictive Astrology

Astrology is all about predicting the future, isn't it? Well, not all contemporary schools of astrology would agree with that. Psychological astrologers, as an example, do not attempt to predict events in the lives of their clients. Instead, they deal with the hidden movements and developments of their souls. Traditionally though, astrology has been seen as predictive, and over the centuries, a substantial number of methods of prediction have been developed.

Some people say: if astrology is predictive, then it is fatalistic. We don't want to know our future, we are afraid of it. On the other hand, some people might say we have free will, we can shape our future however we want to. Do you believe that meteorology is fatalistic? Would you ignore a weather forecast because you were afraid there might be rain? Or would you rely on your free will and leave your umbrella at home no matter what? If you knew that July would be rainy, would you plan your holidays then? (Maybe meteorology can't make such a long range weather forecast... but astrometeorology can).

# What Astrology Means To Me?

I am an astrologer myself but occasionally I still order an astrological consultation from someone else, usually a prominent practitioner. One reason for that is that I want to see how they do their consultations, which methods they use, and maybe learn something from them. Not just that but other people can offer a fresh view of your life, they might notice something you couldn't see yourself, or explain something you couldn't figure out. So I want to give you a few examples of predictions I have had as a client of an astrologer.

About ten years ago I was studying medieval astrology with Robert Zoller. One particular month, I was going to travel but Bob warned me that I would be ill then. I still had to go on that trip, but I did spend a major part of it in bed, sick, just as he said. In that same period, I had a lot of job-related uncertainty in my life. Most of the time I didn't like what I was doing, and when I did like a particular occupation, my income was too low. Bob, using the medieval method of Firdaria (which divides human life into periods, firdars, each of them from seven to thirteen years long; you can find out about this method at my [Firdaria website](http://firdaria.com)<sup>1</sup>), predicted that several years later, when the period of the Sun would start in my life, it would all change: I would have a satisfying job, and I would be well paid for it. I didn't know how or why that would happen but I remembered Zoller's prediction while struggling through the uncertainties of the next few years. It was like a ray of hope for me. Two months before the promised firdar of the Sun commenced, I became a student of a Scottish university. I then got my MSc in

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<sup>1</sup><http://firdaria.com>

Computing with Distinction, and have had an interesting and well-paid job ever since then. Such an outcome would have been totally unbelievable from that point in my life when I first got Zoller's prediction. It took a long and difficult journey, with a few leaps of hope in it, to arrive at this destination.

A few years ago, I had a predictive astrology consultation with Bernadette Brady. At that time, I was earning my money as an IT consultant on short-term contracts. I used to come to a company, usually for a period of three to six months, solve a problem and then move on to some other company. This meant a higher than average income, but I had to look for a job every now and then, have numerous job interviews and stay very competitive. Bernadette forewarned me that in about a year, my attitude to life would change for a couple of years or so. She told me that I would become much less competitive and prefer to stay quietly at home, as if hiding from the outside world. What happened in reality was that I got a contract that allowed me to work from home most of the time, and that contract went on and on. After a year in that contract, I felt so strongly that I would always want to work from home, and so much abhorred the idea of looking for another job that I agreed to work on a more permanent basis with that employer, even though that meant having substantially less money. At times I thought: What's going on with me? Am I getting old? However, I did keep Bernadette's prediction in the back of my mind, and believed that it was simply a natural period of rest, a preparation for a new phase in my life. Here is how it worked out: I managed to stay "permanent" for just over half a year before my energy and my usual self-confidence began to return. Now I am back to contracting. I am leaving home early and coming back late. It does feel though like I am at a different level now, in some sense, as I am using four hours of commuting time each day to write books on my iPad, whereas before I would have had an idea for a book but left it before even starting.

These were just a few of my experiences as an astrologer's client. In

all these cases, I felt that I received some support or reassurance. I knew, thanks to the predictions, that what was happening to me was a part of my journey. It wasn't something random, uncontrollable, but rather a necessary and essential part of the whole. Those astrologers who consulted me simply helped me to see that perspective, and it felt like they helped me to see the map of my journey.

This is exactly what astrology is for me: it is the light that helps to see the map of my journey. I believe many people will agree with me, in principle, even if they will express their idea of astrology in different words, and that is why astrology is so popular. However, the form in which it is most popular differs substantially from the individual predictions that I just described.

# Different Approaches to Astrology

Astrological columns in newspapers and magazines are written for *all* representatives of a specific sign of the zodiac. If it is a prediction for, say, Gemini, it is assumed to be true for everyone who was born when the Sun was in Gemini, which is about 1/12 of the Earth's population. It is like a weather forecast for the whole Earth. Such a global weather forecast might still work, more or less, sometimes even for many countries as there are days that are predominantly sunny, or windy, but most people won't find it very useful, they will prefer something more specific.

So far we have looked at two ways to use astrology. The first one is the popular astrology and horoscopes found in newspapers and magazines, these are very easily accessible but very much diluted. The other option of consulting a professional is potentially a lot more powerful and helpful, but finding an astrologer you can trust can be a difficult task. A good astrological consultation can be quite expensive too.

What are some other options? Well, you can study astrology yourself. After several months of intense study, you will probably be able to figure out the general idea of a birth chart, but years of regular practice, and further study, will be necessary for any degree of confidence in your interpretations. Proper astrology is quite a complex subject, not everyone has an affinity to it.

Another option is computer-generated reports offered by various companies and astrologers. These are prepared individually, and they are based on genuine astrological rules. They also usually cost a fraction of the price of an individual astrological consultation. However, I have read many of those reports, and I believe that

even the best of them cannot be compared to even the simplest of astrological consultations. I tried to generate such reports for my friends, using state-of-the-art astrological software packages, and I noticed that they usually don't read further than the first few pages even though the report might have 50 pages or more. Many of them found their report incomprehensible. That's because the essence of astrology is not in providing as much information as possible. It is about finding the most essential information, and making sense of it in the context of an individual life — something that computers will never do for you.

The purpose of this book is to show you an alternative approach to astrology: not as diluted as astrological columns in the media, not as difficult to access as an individual astrological consultation, and a lot more sensible than a computer-generated astrological report. I call it DIY Astrology.

# DIY Astrology

If you wanted to improve your house, there are a number of ways you could. For some improvements, you would need a professional builder with substantial experience, or maybe even an architect. There are, however, numerous things that you can do yourself. You would only need to learn a few simple skills, and use some widely available resources.

Something similar can be done with astrology. There are traditional astrological methods used by consulting astrologers which usually require a significant amount of study but these can be simplified very substantially, and still make a lot of sense. They will allow you to see various cycles, rhythms or patterns in action in your life. Once you recognize a pattern, you will be able to follow it through into the future, and that will allow you to make an assumption of what can be expected from the future. In other words, you will be able to predict the future — but not in a fatalistic way. You will simply follow the individual cycles and patterns of your life, using the Moon and its phases.