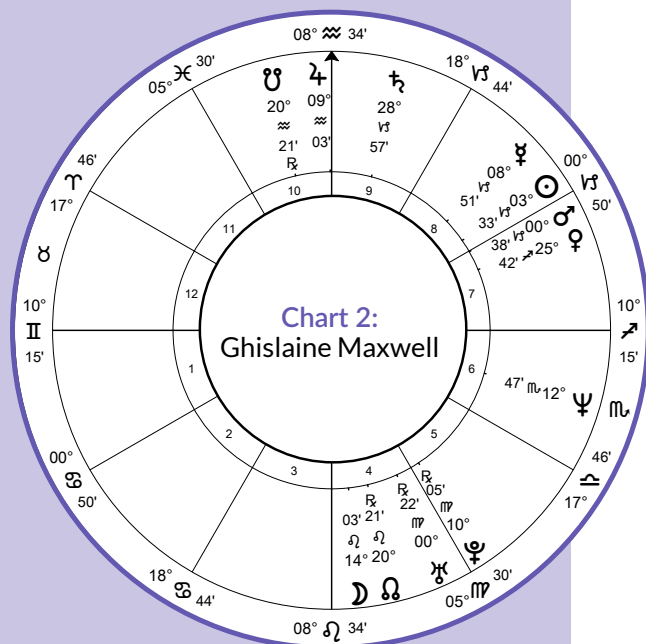
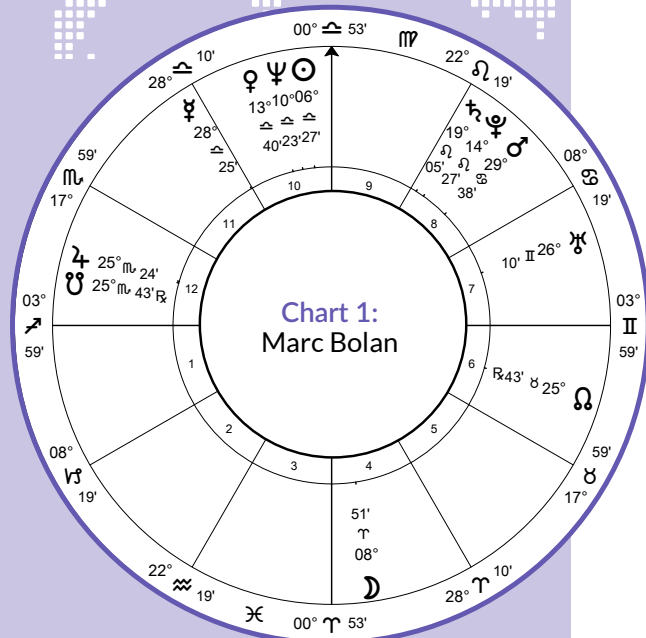


Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



All charts use Placidus houses and the Mean Node.

Marc Bolan, September 30, 1947; 12:30 p.m. BST; Hackney, England (51°N33', 00°W03'); A: from memory.

On June 22, I was scrolling through my Twitter feed looking for stories to include in my blog on the astonishing synchronicity of astrology and the news. A photo of a man with a mop of dark curls, reclining on a sofa in a faux-leopard print jacket caught my eye. He was gazing unabashedly at the camera. I didn't recognize him — or his name. A quote from a linked article about the reclining man was pasted above the photo: "How did this androgynous Tolkien elf with the rosebud mouth become the Lurex-clad, glitter-god pioneer of glam rock?"¹ The focus of the article was how the "rock star dandy [Marc Bolan] ... has been an enduring influence on fashion."²

Pay close attention to how a reporter describes someone. We will find their words reflected in that person's horoscope. Consider these phrases from a piece that also jumped out at me: "magical, otherworldly appearance ... sparked the movement ... the birth of glam ... conspicuously androgynous ... style he pioneered."³ We know what we are going to find in this horoscope, right? Think about this — and then, let's take a look.

Note the stellium in the 10th house: Venus, Neptune, and the Sun in Libra. (See **Chart 1**, top left.) That's a public statement of a potentially dazzling, glittering, fantastic aesthetic ideal. His Midheaven (MC) demands prominence at 0° Libra: i.e., at the Aries Point (within a degree or two of 0° cardinal). Uranus in dualistic Gemini is in the 7th house, squaring the MC — and is also out of bounds.⁴ This is another suggestion that Bolan's status quo-disrupting innovations are going to get noticed ... by something *he* started. Note that the aesthetic ideal suggested by his Libra stellium is opposed by an Aries Moon, which *needs* to be a pioneer!

Bolan's Moon rules the 8th house, which contains Saturn, Pluto, and Mars. These 8th-house placements can be magnetic, potent, and aptly reflect late *BBC 1 Radio* DJ John Peel's observation that Bolan was "a flower child with a knife up his sleeve."⁵

Marc Bolan died in a car crash on September 16, 1977 just weeks after his first Saturn return. Transiting Mars was on the cusp of the 8th house, closely squaring the opposition between the Sun-Neptune conjunction and the Moon. It is fascinating to learn that Bolan feared he would die young; thus, he refused to learn to drive.⁶

Even more fascinating are the patterns in his horoscope that prompted me to stop and focus on *this* particular article out of scores of articles that stream by me on Twitter. Why was I so drawn to click on an article about someone I'd never heard of and why was I so excited about his horoscope? For one, his Aries Moon sits right on my Aries Sun. Second, his Descendant is conjunct my Gemini Moon! These are instant personal connections, and it doesn't matter that Bolan, the man, is no longer among the living. His horoscope never dies — and the laws of synastry still apply. Astrology is amazing.

Charts in the News

Ghislaine Noelle Marion Maxwell, December 25, 1961; 3:20 p.m. CET; Maisons Laffitte, France (48°N57', 02°E09'); AA: BC/BR in hand.

The notorious accused accomplice of convicted sex-offender, Jeffrey Epstein, was arrested on July 2, 2020, at age 58, right in the middle of her second Saturn return. A Saturn return can be a heavy reckoning, as inappropriate choices made over the past 28 to 29 years now come to be weighed, with what some might call karmic consequences. Limitations and losses are not uncommon; responsibility must be accepted. If handled with maturity, a Saturn return can offer a new lease on life.

Maxwell's Capricorn Sun would be a natural at organizing, strategizing, and deploying resources, supercharged by conjunction with a high-functioning Mars. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) She spent many years after her first Saturn return in 1991 organizing much of Epstein's life: managing his staff, schedules, and households, when not allegedly procuring and grooming underage girls for abuse by herself, Epstein, and other powerful and wealthy men.⁷

The preponderance of planets in the western hemisphere of Maxwell's horoscope suggests an imbalance: giving herself away to others at the expense of developing her own skills. The southern hemisphere emphasis suggests she may have difficulty finding an anchor in life, and that she may be more vulnerable to exploitation by others. Planets in earth signs dominate Maxwell's chart, suggesting she is more comfortable with mundane and practical concerns. Her lone planet in water — Neptune in Scorpio — suggests that finding meaning in *personal* emotional and spiritual concerns may be elusive.

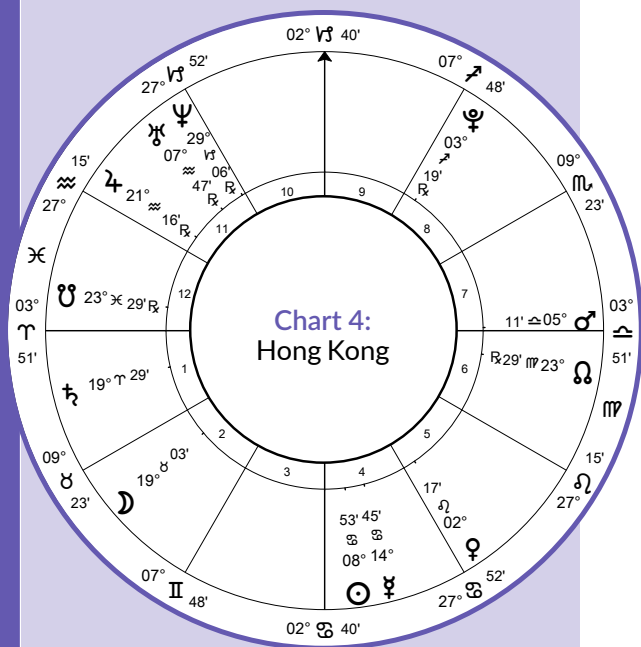
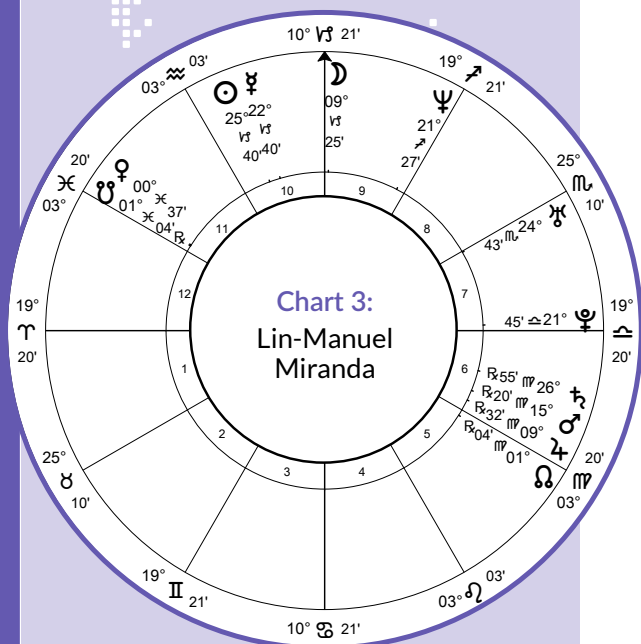
What drives her Capricorn Sun's ambition? Her Leo Moon's need to be loved, loved, loved — with drama and flair — possibly to excess, given the Moon's opposition to her Jupiter–MC conjunction. Neptune squaring the opposition adds impressionability, suppression, fog, and fantasy to the mix. Born into a family of wealth and privilege, she's known for being the life of the party⁸ and a consummate hostess, surrounded by the multitude of friends her Jupiter and South Node in Aquarius represent.

A focus on significant others is also seen in her Capricorn stellium of Mercury, Sun, and Mars — with a wide conjunction to Venus in Sagittarius — straddling the 8th and 7th houses. A planet's conjunction with the Sun is a marker of idealism, as the planet in touch with the Sun is blinded by the light and thus more subjective and less objective in its archetypal expression. Maxwell's social expression needs to push boundaries (Venus in Sagittarius); thought and action need to accomplish goals (Mercury and Mars in Capricorn).⁹

But who is she *really* behind the mask of an intensely clever and engaging Gemini Ascendant, empowered by its partile square to Pluto? Ascendant-ruler Mercury is locked away in the 8th house, the domain of sex, death, and other people's money. Her Mercury also rules the 5th house, the realm of creative expression, including sexual expression. Mercury is trine Pluto, adding depth and power. Hmmm.

Meanwhile, her current Saturn return is clearly visible at her July 14 bail hearing, two days before its second exact hit. "Her party-picture smile was replaced with a grimace ... hard and emotionless."¹⁰ Bail was denied. A trial date has been set for July 12, 2021. What could happen between now and then?

Transiting Uranus — the agent of change — squared her Jupiter–MC conjunction for the first of three passes in June; the next hits happen in October and November, and the final in March and April



2021. Jupiter rules Maxwell's 7th house of partnerships. At her bail hearing, she mentioned that she is now married — but would not name her spouse. Really? Surprise!¹¹

Solar Arc (SA) Mars opposes natal Uranus, in effect now and exact on October 17, suggesting “intense self-awareness; a test of nerves.”¹² Mars rules her 12th house: self-undoing; hidden enemies. SA Jupiter squares natal Mercury, exact on November 10, portending “legal affairs, thoughts of the spirit, travel.”¹³ The final Saturn conjunction happens on December 6. Will she go with the flow of her southwestern hemisphere emphasis and sacrifice herself for others? Or will she push for balance and take responsibility, telling the world what she knows in order to save herself? Whatever happens, planetary patterns suggest a disruption of the status quo between now and the end of 2020.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, January 16, 1980; 11:00 a.m. EST; Manhattan, NY, USA (40°N46', 073°W59'); A: from memory.

The multi-award-winning Broadway composer/actor/writer/producer grabbed headlines this month, thanks to the July 4th premiere of the film adaptation of *Hamilton* on Disney+. The movie generated big buzz and big bucks for Disney, consistent with every creative project Miranda has done since high school, it seems. Where do we see the story of such success in the horoscope?

Miranda is a Capricorn driven by the Moon in Capricorn. (See **Chart 3**, previous page.) Already we see a need for high achievement, order, and precision. Enduring ambition is supported by a trine between MC-ruler Saturn and Sun-Mercury, with an easy flow of innovation seen in a sextile to all three planets by Uranus. The Capricorn Moon is boosted by trines from Mars and Jupiter in the 6th house; here we have an influx of earthy Virgo perfection in action, especially with Mars in the 6th house, a marker of physical stamina. Plus, Mars is stationary retrograde, giving its need for perfect execution an extra dose of power and focus — and Mars rules his Ascendant. Aries rising suggests a need to be seen as an inspiring and pioneering crusader. It says, “Nothing is impossible; never give up the fight!”

What's striking about Miranda's chart is how many planets are in touch with the angles. Pluto is on the Descendant (and squaring the Sun and Mercury); this is a statement of power (compare this with Pluto's square to Ghislaine Maxwell's ASC). The Moon is on the MC (for all to see); Mars and Jupiter trine both, channeling the energy of perfectly grand action into career and public status. Neptune in the 9th (publishing, broadcasting, internationalism) trines the ASC; it's easy for him to be seen as a visionary. His Sun-Mercury are square the ASC. His high-functioning Venus in Pisces may not directly connect with the angles, but it does connect with the ASC/MC midpoint, serving as a channel for aesthetics that the unsuspected Venus otherwise lacks.

Another midpoint picture echoing further patterns of awesome resources is Jupiter/Pluto = AP, the Aries Point. As we have seen in other horoscopes, e.g., Jeffrey Epstein's,¹⁴ this configuration is often a marker in the charts

of those who are known for their association with power, money, and status.

What's next for Miranda, the man who's done almost everything? Well ... what he really wants to do is direct! In 2018, with transiting Pluto squaring his Ascendant, it was announced that he would make his directorial debut with the film adaptation of Jonathan Larson's Broadway play, *Tick, Tick ... Boom!* Filming commenced in March, then was halted thanks to COVID-19¹⁵ — and arguably transiting Saturn, ruler of the 10th, putting the stops on his Sun, ruler of the 5th. Hopefully, filming will resume by 2021 when transiting Pluto follows Saturn's footsteps, suggesting an apt pattern for Miranda's further transformation and empowerment.

Hong Kong, July 1, 1997; 00:00 a.m. AWST; Hong Kong, China (22°N17', 114°E09'); AA: timed official source.

The transfer of Hong Kong to China after 156 years of British rule is represented by a homeland security-building Cancer Sun, driven by a material comfort-seeking Moon in Taurus. One look at Mars opposing a me-me-me Aries Ascendant, squaring the Cancer Sun, and we may suspect that adapting to the new “boss” wouldn't be without conflict. (See **Chart 4**, previous page.) Another need for independence — or at the very least, social expression and values that are different from the rest — is seen in the opposition of Venus to Uranus.

In June 2019, with transiting Uranus squaring Hong Kong's natal Venus opposition to Uranus (and Neptune), massive demonstrations erupted protesting China's attempted imposition of greater control. The threat of loss was huge, requiring enormous effort — suggested by transiting Pluto and Saturn squaring Hong Kong's natal Saturn. Hundreds of thousands marched in the streets off and on throughout 2019. Millions around the world were inspired, and demonstrators won concessions from Beijing. At the end of November, there was an “unprecedented landslide victory” for pro-democracy candidates running for the District Council. Amazingly, Hong Kong protestors coordinated their efforts in a collective spirit, without any specific leader.¹⁶ What transits in Hong Kong's horoscope might reflect that?

After December 26, 2019, things began to change. Hong Kong's early cardinal angles and Mars were affected by the solar eclipse at 4° Capricorn. On January 10, 2020, the lunar eclipse at 20° Cancer-Capricorn squared Hong Kong's Saturn, ruler of its MC. When those eclipses were triggered by transiting Mars and Jupiter in February and March, protests dwindled as COVID-19 surged.¹⁷ The June 21, 2020 eclipse at 0° Cancer also affected the angles of Hong Kong's chart, occurring close to the IC.

Days later, as Mars entered Aries and triggered the June eclipse, the December 26, 2019 eclipse, and crossed Hong Kong's Ascendant, China announced the imposition of new security protocols, “tightening its grip” on Hong Kong.¹⁸

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On July 14, the Trump Administration followed through on prior threats to retaliate against China by stripping Hong Kong of its special trading status with the United States. In other words, the US no longer recognizes Hong Kong as an autonomous entity, separate from mainland China. Steve Tsang, director of the University of London's SOAS China Institute, said last year that this move would mark "the beginning of the death of Hong Kong as we know it."¹⁹ Eclipsed?

References and Notes

(All URLs were accessed in July 2020.)

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2. <https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2020/jun/22/glitter-and-curls-marc-bolan-and-the-birth-of-glam-rock-style>
3. *Ibid.*
4. "Planets that are out of bounds have been documented to behave in an outstanding manner, such that the characteristics of the planet are especially well developed, extreme in functioning or in some cases contribute to abnormal behavior in the domain of the planet. By definition, an OOB planet is one that exceeds 23 degrees 27 minutes either North or South of the equator." See <https://www.astronumerologywisdom.com/out-of-bounds-planets.html>
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/music/articles/e059d91d-1141-47e9-8c67-c779db4190b6>
6. *Ibid.* — and if you really want to blow your mind, consider that the Sabian Symbol for 9° Aries (Bolan's Moon/8th-house ruler) is "a seer gazes with concentration into a crystal sphere."
7. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghislaine_Maxwell
8. <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2020/07/inside-ghislaine-maxwells-life-on-the-lam>
9. As an example of boundary-pushing social expression combined with practical earthy action and mindset, we find in the above article the mention of "a dinner she gave for East Side socialites on the fine art of giving a blow job, with dildos at each place setting."
10. <https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2020/07/after-a-year-in-hiding-ghislaine-maxwell-faces-justice>
11. *Ibid.*
12. Noel Tyl, *Synthesis & Counseling in Astrology*, Llewellyn, 1994, p. 827.
13. *Ibid.*, p. 808.
14. Elisabeth Grace, "Charts in the News," in *The Mountain Astrologer*, Oct./Nov. 2019, p. 14.
15. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tick,_Tick...Boom!
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17. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_Hong_Kong_protests
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19. *Ibid.*

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A Missive from Mercury!

**It is an age-old truth that
laughter is the best medicine.
Thus, we appeal to YOU, dear reader.**

*Are you (or your sibling, neighbor, or
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Do you have a zesty cartoon, sassy meme, or other
chortle to lighten the pages of our fair magazine?
If so, we want to hear from you!*

**Please send your original humor pieces to
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We give enthusiastic thanks to the ever-friendly God of Communication for delivering much-needed humor and assisting us in traversing 2020's personal and collective heavens and hells!