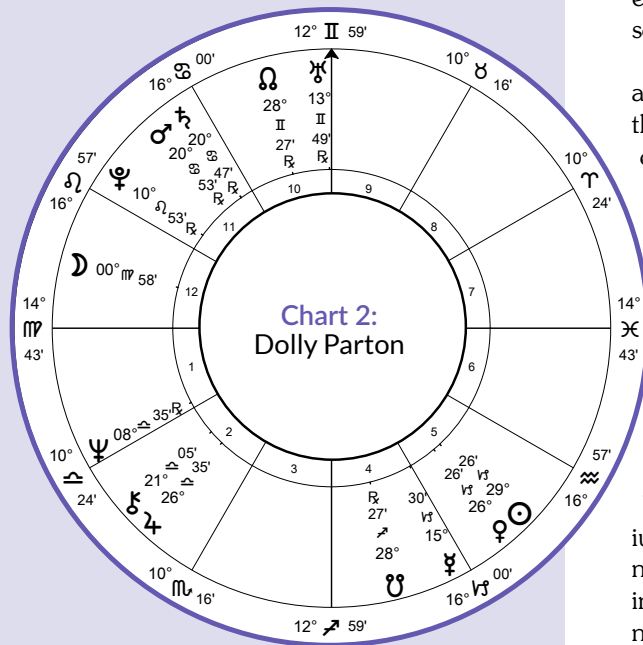
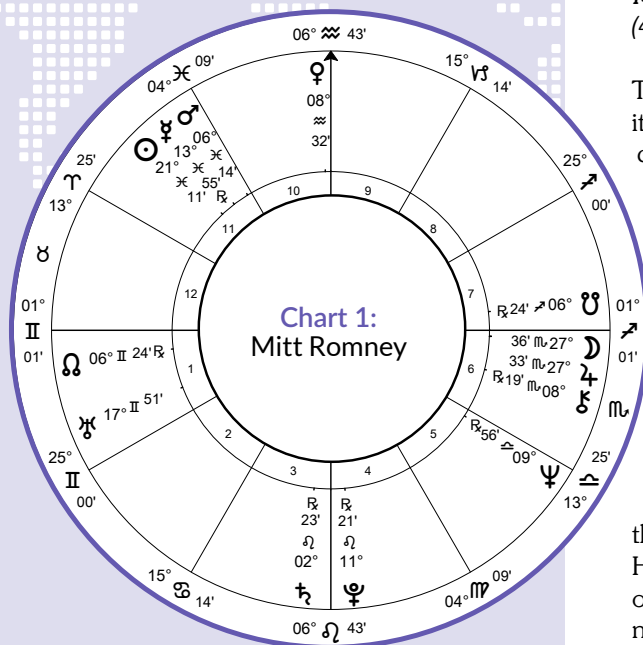


Charts in the News

with commentary by Elisabeth Grace



Charts use Placidus houses (except for the event charts, which use Regiomontanus houses) and the Mean Node.

Mitt Romney, March 12, 1947; 9:51 a.m. EST; Detroit, MI, USA (42°N20', 83°W03'); A: from memory.

As I write this paragraph on January 6, Mars has just left Aries for Taurus. A mob of domestic terrorists is wreaking havoc in the US Capitol Building, making it impossible for us to focus on anything else. We can see in the horoscope of Nancy Pelosi (*The Mountain Astrologer*, April/May 2019, p. 14) that transiting Mars is triggering her natal Saturn–Pluto square, alerting us that this week would be provocative, perhaps militantly so. In Senator Mitt Romney’s horoscope, the sparks generated by the hard aspects among Mars–Uranus and Jupiter–Saturn offer him powerful opportunities to shine.

A stellium of the Sun, Mercury, and Mars in Pisces in the 11th house suggests that he can best walk his talk in like-minded groups and/or administrative bodies. (See **Chart 1**, at left.) His “talk” is facilitated by a Gemini Ascendant, which needs to be seen as the smartest, most intensely informed kid in the room. Given his Sun and Mercury square Uranus, he may be a maverick, with a mindset that needs to be innovative, possibly eccentric, and definitely disruptive. His Mercury is retrograde, suggesting a need to turn things over and over in his mind before letting a pitch fly. Mars in Pisces suggests vulnerability when it comes to acting on his feelings and ideals. With Mars exactly square to the nodes, we wonder how often his need to assert himself feels squeezed, as if he were stuck between a rock and a hard place.

With Sun in Pisces and Moon in Scorpio, Romney needs to be appreciated for his depth and substance, consolidating knowledge for the sake of power and control. His Moon is exactly conjunct Jupiter, expanding those needs with missionary zeal. A Pisces Sun with a Scorpio Moon suggests a likely “preoccupation with the morbid, occult, mystical or religious,” says Noel Tyl.¹ A trine between Venus and Neptune echoes that idealism and denotes a sensitive aesthetic expression. With Venus in Aquarius, we see a friendly humanitarian. If only Venus wasn’t opposing Saturn and Pluto, perhaps his values would be seen by some as less rigid and extreme. Still, Venus on the Midheaven (MC) suggests popular appeal.

An especially intriguing midpoint picture is MC = Saturn/Pluto, a marker for “hard, hard work to rise from difficulty; major separation as a last resort.”² Why is it intriguing? Because transiting Uranus stationed direct on January 14, squaring Romney’s 6° Aquarius MC on January 12 and 15. Hard aspects to the MC from Uranus nearly always have the potential for change! Transiting Uranus squaring Romney’s Saturn/Pluto midpoint suggests “brutal efforts to start a new order; an attack, regardless of potential losses.”³

Meanwhile, transiting Jupiter and Saturn conjoined his MC on January 17 and February 13, respectively. This suggests recognition and authority in one’s profession — being at the top of one’s game. Finally,

Charts in the News

note that all through 2020 and 2021, Romney is having Pluto = Sun/Moon, i.e., “potential new perspective in relationship; critical time in life development; separation to start anew.”⁴ The third of five hits of this pattern was exact on January 7. *He will have the same pattern by solar arc* (SA Pluto = natal Sun/Moon) in effect all year, exact on November 23, 2021.

In 2020, Romney famously broke with Senate Republicans and voted to impeach President Donald John Trump. On the night of January 6, 2021, he implored his colleagues to withdraw their toothless demand for a Congressional audit of the November 3 election and to tell their voters the truth: that Joseph R. Biden had won.⁵

What other patterns in Romney’s horoscope suggest a fresh start in matters of values and social expression, perhaps as a visionary leader?

Dolly Rebecca Parton, January 19, 1946; 8:25 p.m. CST; Sevierville, TN, USA (35°N52', 83°W34'); AA: BC/BR in hand.

One bright spot in the last weeks of the exhausting year 2020 was the news that pharma companies had created not one but *two* effective COVID-19 vaccines. Even brighter — but somehow in keeping with 2020’s weirdness — was the revelation that Moderna’s vaccine was developed “ten times faster” thanks to a \$1 million gift to Vanderbilt University Medical Center from none other than Dolly Parton.⁶ It just wasn’t enough that she was making news about a new album, a new movie, a new Christmas special, and new fragrance and greeting card deals. Now President Barack Obama was expressing regret that he hadn’t given her the Presidential Medal of Freedom when he had the chance.⁷ What was going on in her horoscope to reflect this surge of activity at the youthful age of 74?

Parton has a predominance of placements in earth. (See **Chart 2**, previous page.) She’s a practical Capricorn driven by the Moon in perfection-seeking Virgo. With the Moon in the 12th house, the need to make things right — based on an insider’s perspective — reaches out to friends and groups, as we see by the Moon’s rulership of the 11th house. *Fun fact:* Parton gave to Vanderbilt because of a physician there who treated her after a car crash in 2013. They became friends.⁸

Parton’s Sun is at 29° Capricorn, intensifying ambition and the ability to deploy resources. The 29th degree is the anaretic (or karmic) degree, which “signifies an urgent need to correctly utilize the energy of that planet ... if the individual

wants to grow” in this lifetime.⁹ This need is amplified by Parton’s partile Venus–Jupiter square, which affects her Capricorn Sun. Venus–Jupiter patterns can reflect over-the-top indulgence. Isn’t life grand? It needs to be!

Parton’s militantly disciplined Mars–Saturn conjunction is in Cancer. Her ambition and how she asserts it suggest a need to create emotional and family security. This partile conjunction widely squares Jupiter (big action and ambition!) and opposes her Mercury, Sun, and Venus. Hard aspects from Mars and Saturn can be combative and steely, but Parton’s Jupiter in Libra provides a balance. Peruse her website and see how much she has given to her hometown of Sevierville, Tennessee.¹⁰ Though she and her husband of over 50 years were unable to have children, they raised several of her younger siblings (she’s the fourth of twelve kids in her family).¹¹

Factor in Parton’s Virgo Ascendant (she needs to be seen as perfect, as any photo of her will prove), and we can appreciate her Mars–Saturn discipline about maintaining her idealized feminine physique. She unapologetically deploys the resources of cosmetic surgery.¹² And why should she apologize? With Uranus on her MC and square her Ascendant, how could she not make a uniquely unconventional impact on the world?

Parton’s Mars–Saturn conjunction was eclipsed on January 10, 2020, a few days before the Saturn–Pluto conjunction at 22° Capricorn. The eclipse was triggered by transiting Mars and Jupiter in March — and note that Mars rules her 8th house of joint ventures. She tweeted about her gift to Vanderbilt on April 1, as transiting Mercury opposed her Ascendant and squared her MC.

Another pattern suggesting increased publicity was SA Node = MC. By November, her cardinal planets had been hit three times by hard aspects from Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. Mars stationed direct within one degree of a square to her Mercury, ruler of her Ascendant and MC. We saw a flood of interviews, including one featuring her on the cover of the *New York Times Style Magazine*, published in early December.

Moral of the story: Hard aspects from heavy placements should not be feared! Look how much can be accomplished with all that driving tension. Just watch how Parton continues to expand her influence as Pluto makes hard aspects to her Venus and Jupiter by transit and solar arc in 2021.



Nashville bomb explosion, December 25, 2020; 6:29 a.m. CST; Nashville, TN, USA (36°N09', 86°W47'); multiple media sources; RV arrival in Nashville, December 25, 2020; 1:22 a.m. CST; multiple media sources. Petula Clark, November 15, 1932; 12:00 p.m. GMT; Epsom, UK (51°N20', 00°W16'); X: date without a time; noon GMT used.

Mars-Pluto squares often coincide with volatile headlines. With the third Mars-Pluto square of 2020 exact on December 23, astrologers were on alert. As we woke up on Christmas morning, it was therefore not surprising to learn that an RV apparently packed with explosives had blown up in downtown Nashville.¹³ The blast devastated multiple blocks, but thankfully few injuries were reported.

Remember the chart for the massive Beirut explosion that occurred last August 4? (See *TMA*, Dec. 2020/Jan. 2021, p. 10.) Jupiter, Saturn, and Pluto in Capricorn were square to Mars in Aries, with the partile Mars-Jupiter square within one degree of the 18° Capricorn Ascendant. In a chart for a heavy event, we expect to see heavy planets in close hard aspect to the angles; this is how astrology tends to work.

Looking at the chart for the time of *this* explosion, we see only Mars in close aspect to an angle — and it is in trine to the 26° Sagittarius Ascendant. (See **Chart 3**, below right, outer wheel.) Hmm. Not what we expected, is it? Then again, residents in the area had been warned loud and clear that a bomb was about to go off. They were able to evacuate to safety. But still ...

A second timed event was soon reported. The RV arrived at the scene of the crime at 1:22 a.m., and parked next to an AT&T service facility. In that chart, Mars in Aries (conjunct Eris!) is opposing the Libra Ascendant, and Pluto is squaring it. (See **Chart 3**, inner wheel.) This was the in-your-face explosive potential I expected to see.

The identity and the fate of the RV driver were as yet unknown. If we take the Ascendant ruler of the RV arrival chart to represent the driver, they are Venus at 12° Sagittarius. This made me wonder if the driver was female. They weren't, but a female voice was broadcast over a PA system from the RV, warning that a bomb would soon explode. After the warning, the PA broadcast the 1964 hit, "Downtown," sung by Petula Clark. Hmm.

I use 5° orbs in my chart analyses. Venus is more than 6° away from an exact square to Neptune. Thus, I considered Venus to be unaspected — that is, making a lot of noise, being a challenge to integrate, and essentially alone. I expected we would learn that the bombing was a "lone wolf" operation. Venus applying to a square to Neptune suggests idealism and/or delusion, as well as music (!). With Venus in Sagittarius, we could expect this driver to have boundary-pushing opinions. Note that Venus is applying to a conjunction with the South Node, a point of destruction or toxic release. Also note that Venus rules the RV arrival Ascendant *and* its 8th house — the house of death. I wondered if the driver had died in the explosion.

As of January 8, it is believed that the driver of the RV built the bomb on his own. It was an unusually innovative creation — and where do we see that potential in the 1:22 a.m. chart? Here's a hint: Look at the Moon and where it's just been (conjunct Uranus). That tells us what happened in the recent past. Meanwhile, it has been reported that our Venus in Sagittarius driver/bomber *did* believe in conspiracy theories (involving aliens and lizard people)¹⁴ — and may have been involved with drugs.¹⁵ He did in fact perish in the RV.

continued on p. 44

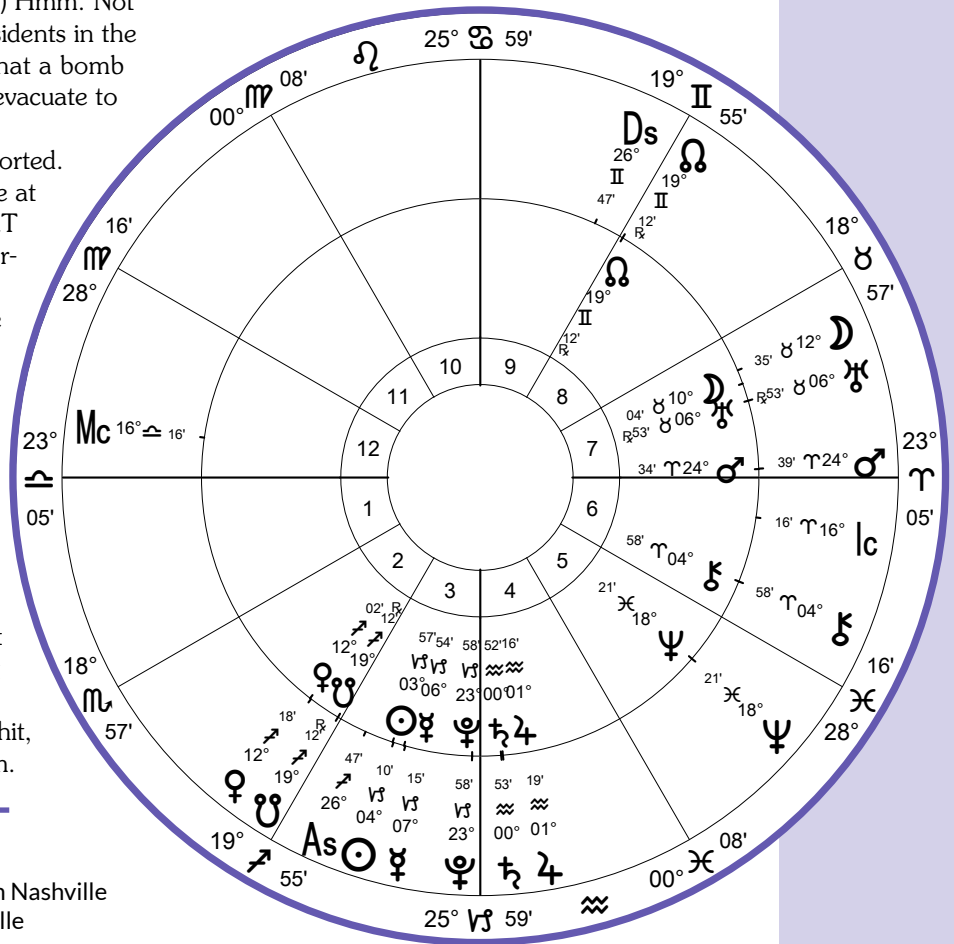


Chart 3: Bi-wheel

Inner wheel and house cusps: RV arrives in Nashville
Outer wheel: Bomb is detonated in Nashville

you may have experienced major endings and beginnings at that time. In 2023–24, you may feel that you’ve come to the end of an era, in terms of both how you think about things and your sense of where you belong in the world. Saturn crossing the IC stimulates people to think about how they create security in their living situation as well as their relationships to family members.

Additionally, during the same time, Saturn will transit your Pisces North Node, a symbol for the evolutionary journey of your soul. Pisces is creative and emotionally expressive, willing to make decisions based on intuition and emotion. Pisces is attracted to the arts and the life of spirit. Seeing that you’ve been in academics for so many years, it’s unlikely that you’ve had a chance to explore this part of your personality, and this transit may open you up to different ways of experiencing the world. By early 2024, I imagine that you will be retired, or at least focusing on different goals than in the past.

From August 2023 until April 2025, Uranus, the change agent, will be transiting your Descendant — your relationship with the public — and making a square to your natal Mars–Pluto conjunction. You are likely to feel that change is overdue in your daily routines, starting in early 2023 as this aspect begins to apply. During the two following years, you will go through a process of discovery about what it is you really want outside of academia.

Having Mars conjunct Pluto in Leo in your birth chart shows that you have a strong will and are fierce and determined in setting and meeting your goals. Those planets in the 9th house indicate that you love learning, and it makes sense that you found a career in higher education. As Uranus, the awakener, activates this part of your chart, you may find yourself suddenly excited about new and different activities — things that you haven’t been interested in before. This same part of your chart was activated by Uranus in 1979–80 and again in 2000–01. Your life most likely changed direction during those years, and thinking back, you can extrapolate a bit about what’s to come. It looks like you will retire in 2024, but it will take until the spring of 2025 to feel settled in the new life you’ve created.

Chart Data are confidential, but the sources of both charts are birth certificates.

© 2021 Moon Zlotnick — all rights reserved

Moon Zlotnick began practicing astrology in 1975 and received formal training in 1979 with Zipporah Dobyns through her Los Angeles school CCRS. Since then, Moon has worked with clients full-time, taught astrology to beginners and seasoned students alike, and participated on the boards of ProSig, OPA, and STARS. She has been certified through OPA and currently leads Peer Group Trainings. Her book, *Star Sisters: An Astrologer’s Memoir of Twin Loss*, is now available on Amazon Books. Website: <https://astrologybymoonrabbit.com>

continued from p. 11

Before the RV exploded, a resident reported hearing a round of gunfire before 5:30 a.m. Investigators think that it may have been part of the recorded warning. Astrology affirms the theory that it was intended as a wake-up call. At about that time, Venus was rising to conjoin the Ascendant (chart not shown). The MC was changing to 0° Libra, demanding attention at the Aries Point. When the RV blew up at 6:29 a.m., Venus was fully in the 12th house — on the other side of the veil? This chart has two notable midpoint pictures: MC = Sun/Jupiter (success) and MC = Sun/Saturn (“a lone wolf,” according to Noel Tyl).¹⁶

As for why Petula Clark would be included in this drama, let’s consider her horoscope (not shown) and its connections to the explosion. Note that her t-square among Saturn, Uranus, and Pluto is in hard aspect to the angles of the RV arrival chart. What other connections do you see? Also notice that the MC at the time the bomb went off was at 16° Libra, closely conjunct Clark’s Venus. Coincidence or conspiracy?

References

(All URLs were accessed in January 2021.)

1. Noel Tyl, *Synthesis and Counseling in Astrology*, Llewellyn, 1994, p. 101.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 842.
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*, p. 783.
5. <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/senator-mitt-romney-congress-tell-voters-the-truth/#>
6. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/11/21/fact-check-dolly-parton-donated-modernas-covid-19-vaccine-studies/6373339002/>
7. <https://www.tennessean.com/story/entertainment/2020/12/01/dolly-parton-deserves-presidential-medal-freedom-barack-obama/3784974001/>
8. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/11/21/fact-check-dolly-parton-donated-modernas-covid-19-vaccine-studies/6373339002/>
9. <https://www.astrology.com.tr/articles.asp?artID=75>
10. <https://dollyparton.com/>
11. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolly_Parton#Personal_life
12. *Ibid.*
13. <https://www.thedailybeast.com/nashvilles-big-bomb-was-a-very-rare-device-experts-think>
14. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-tennessee-blast-packages-idUSKBN2980KA>
15. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/nashville-bombing-metro-council-briefed-on-investigation/ar-BB1cnxVi>
16. Tyl, *Synthesis and Counseling in Astrology*, p. 788.

© 2021 Elisabeth Grace — all rights reserved

Elisabeth Grace, ISAR-CAP, earned her BA in Philosophy from Wellesley College. She is a consulting (modern psychological) astrologer and a highest-honors graduate of Noel Tyl’s Master’s Course for Professional Astrologers. She is also an STA-certified horary practitioner. Her work in TV news inspired her must-read forecast on the astonishing synchronicity of the headlines and planetary patterns — get it delivered via email, book a consultation or invite her to speak to your favorite group at: <https://elisabethgrace.com>