

PRAISE FOR BORN ON A ROTTEN DAY

"*Born On a Rotten Day* delivers the dirt on every sign and then some! A fun, fast-paced, and frantically funny read."

—Stuart Hazleton, author of *Sexscopes*

"A wry, clever look at the Darth Vader side of the zodiac."

—Trish McGregor, author of *Creative Stars: Using Astrology to Tap Your Muse*

"When you get to that place in your life when you're ready to hear the truth about yourself, read this book and laugh."

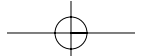
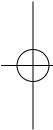
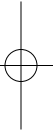
—Judith Turner, author of *The Hidden World of Birthdays*

"Hazel's insightful zingers perfectly describe every person who has ever pissed me off."

—Peter Bailey, webmaster/publisher of www.metamaze.com

"Hazel Dixon-Cooper has taken a perceptive, humorous look at the seamy underbelly of every sign. Her book is spot on for every sign . . . except for Sagittarius. We Sadges are perfect! Ha ha ha . . . [burp]!"

—Charlene Lichtenstein, author of *Herscopes*

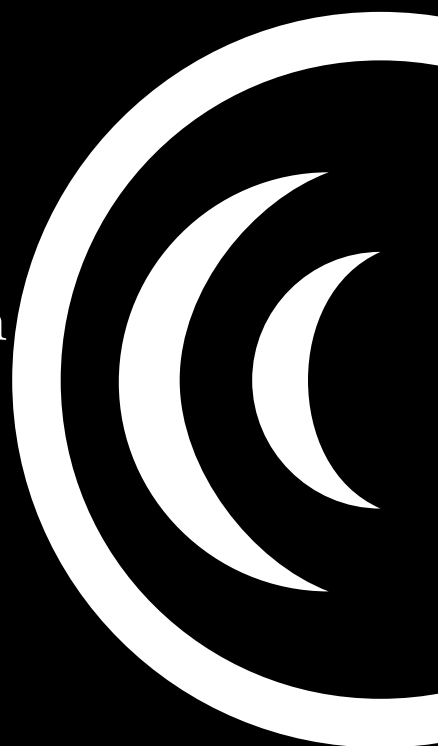


BORN

on a

ROTTEN
DAY

Illuminating
and Coping with
the Dark Side
of the Zodiac



BORN
on a
ROTTEN
DAY

Hazel Dixon-Cooper

ATRIA PAPERBACK

New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi



An Imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.
1230 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Copyright © 2003 by Hazel Dixon-Cooper
Previously published in 2003 by Touchstone, an imprint of
Simon & Schuster

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce this book or
portions thereof in any form whatsoever. For information, address Atria
Books Subsidiary Rights Department, 1230 Avenue of the Americas,
New York, NY 10020.

This Atria Paperback edition October 2019

ATRIA PAPERBACK and colophon are trademarks of Simon &
Schuster, Inc.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases,
please contact Simon & Schuster Special Sales at 1-866-506-1949 or
business@simonandschuster.com.

The Simon & Schuster Speakers Bureau can bring authors to your live
event. For more information, or to book an event, contact the Simon &
Schuster Speakers Bureau at 1-866-248-3049 or visit our website at
www.simonspeakers.com.

Manufactured in the United States of America

23 25 27 29 31 32 30 28 26 24

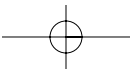
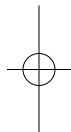
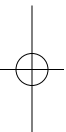
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

ISBN 978-0-7432-2562-5
ISBN 978-1-4391-8870-5 (ebook)

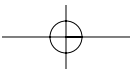
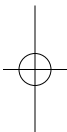
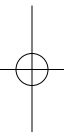
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people provided encouragement, expertise, and assistance during the process of writing this book. I gratefully thank them all, especially:

Margret McBride, my agent and bridge to the publishing world, for patiently answering all those first-time author questions; Marcela Landres, my remarkable and meticulous editor, whose friendly guidance and expert skill made the publishing experience painless; Larry Paquette, my dear friend, who helped burn the midnight oil and kept everything crossed; the Tuesdays, my writing family, who listened, critiqued, and supported me from first concept to finished product; Peter Bailey, my colleague, whose website, metamaze.com, saved me from hundreds of hours of research; my daughter, Wendy Cooper, who helped research this book; and my husband, Gary Cooper, who supported my dream.

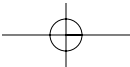
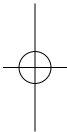
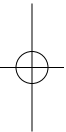


*For Bonnie Hearn Hill,
who taught me the value of Gemini time*

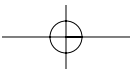
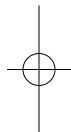
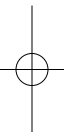


CONTENTS

Chapter 1	Malice in Wonderland	1
Chapter 2	Aries (March 21–April 19)	7
Chapter 3	Taurus (April 20–May 20)	23
Chapter 4	Gemini (May 21–June 20)	39
Chapter 5	Cancer (June 21–July 22)	53
Chapter 6	Leo (July 23–August 22)	67
Chapter 7	Virgo (August 23–September 22)	81
Chapter 8	Libra (September 23–October 22)	97
Chapter 9	Scorpio (October 23–November 21)	113
Chapter 10	Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)	129
Chapter 11	Capricorn (December 22–January 19)	145
Chapter 12	Aquarius (January 20–February 18)	161
Chapter 13	Pisces (February 19–March 20)	179



BORN
on a
ROTTEN
DAY



Chapter One

MALICE IN WONDERLAND

"I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat. "We're all mad here."

LEWIS CARROLL

Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign

Your Sagittarius boyfriend acts more like a loudmouthed circus clown than a happy-go-lucky charmer. Your Capricorn brother is a social-climbing snob. His Libra lover is shallow, fickle, and spends hours in front of the mirror.

You're confused or skeptical because none of the glowing descriptions in that \$1.98 *Guide to the Zodiac* you thumbed through at the checkout counter match the neurotic bunch you live and work with in the real world.

The ancients believed that each of us contains a Universe. We are the center around which the vast threads and everyday minutiae of our life spins. Aries Rodney King asked, "Why can't we all just get along?" The honest question is, "Why can't you guys all get along with me?" Forget feel-good astrology and take a trip to the maladjusted side of the Universe. Outwardly, each of us may profess to live for others. Secretly, we all want what we want, right now.

Everyone is mad here, just as the Cheshire Cat said; and egotistical, obsessed, controlling, and moody. Knowing how each sign manifests those disagreeable qualities and learning how to control, aim, and fire the force of your own wicked twin

within are the keys to staying ahead of that pack of monsters snapping at your heels.

The Basics

In astrology, there are four elements (Fire, Earth, Air, and Water), three qualities (Cardinal, Fixed, and Mutable), and two polarities (Masculine and Feminine).

FIRE signs are **selfish**. Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius are egotistical and demanding. This holier-than-thou bunch thinks the sun rises and sets on them. They attempt to control the rest of the world by force, intimidation, and temper tantrums. These human volcanoes erupt on a regular basis.

EARTH signs are **hardheaded**. Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn are calculating, critical, and callous. They are preoccupied with work and penny-pinching and they point out everyone else's faults. Boring and churlish, they subscribe to the do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do philosophy of control. They dole out their affections as carefully as their money.

AIR signs are **flighty**. Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius are fickle, glib, and long-winded. They change lovers, jobs, and their minds as often as the rest of us change underwear. And with just as little thought. Rationalization and justification are Air's tools of control. They want us to think they are logical. In reality we usually give in just to shut them up.

WATER signs are **moody**. Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces are the drama kings and queens. Self-destructive and manipulative, this awful bunch tries to control the rest of us through emotional blackmail. Water seeks not only its lowest level but yours as well. These characters will stop at nothing to find your weak spot and pick at it until you crack.

As for the qualities and polarities, the following comparisons will give you enough to get started.

Traditional astrology defines **Cardinal** as the initiator and leader. Rotten-truth translation: a bossy, pot-stirring meddler. Aries, Cancer, Capricorn, and Libra are the Cardinal signs.

The **Fixed** quality is defined as stable and persistent. Translation: a stubborn, exasperating bore. The Fixed signs are Aquarius, Leo, Scorpio, and Taurus. **Mutable** signs are described as flexible and adaptable. Translation: an inconsistent, self-delusional escapist. Gemini, Sagittarius, Pisces, and Virgo are the Mutable signs.

Finally, each sign is assigned a **Masculine** (outgoing) or **Feminine** (receptive) polarity. The rotten truth about this facet of the sun-sign personality is that masculine is an aggressor and feminine is an emotional manipulator.

Use the following tables as quick guides to the basic nature of each sign.

TRADITIONAL

Sign	Element	Quality	Polarity
Aries	Fire	Cardinal	Masculine
Taurus	Earth	Fixed	Feminine
Gemini	Air	Mutable	Masculine
Cancer	Water	Cardinal	Feminine
Leo	Fire	Fixed	Masculine
Virgo	Earth	Mutable	Feminine
Libra	Air	Cardinal	Masculine
Scorpio	Water	Fixed	Feminine
Sagittarius	Fire	Mutable	Masculine
Capricorn	Earth	Cardinal	Feminine
Aquarius	Air	Fixed	Masculine
Pisces	Water	Mutable	Feminine

ROTTEN TRUTH

Sign	Element	Quality	Polarity
Aries	Selfish	Bossy	Aggressive
Taurus	Hardheaded	Stubborn	Emotional Manipulator
Gemini	Flighty	Inconsistent	Aggressive
Cancer	Moody	Bossy	Emotional Manipulator
Leo	Selfish	Stubborn	Aggressive
Virgo	Hardheaded	Inconsistent	Emotional Manipulator
Libra	Flighty	Bossy	Aggressive
Scorpio	Moody	Stubborn	Emotional Manipulator
Sagittarius	Selfish	Inconsistent	Aggressive
Capricorn	Hardheaded	Bossy	Emotional Manipulator
Aquarius	Flighty	Stubborn	Aggressive
Pisces	Moody	Inconsistent	Emotional Manipulator

How does it work? Let's look at Aquarius. How can a person be flighty, stubborn, and aggressive? Water Bearers can change horses midstream. Question their decision, and you'll suffer a tiresome, in-your-face dissertation aimed at forcing your agreement. That's aggressive. They can have twenty lovers in a year. That's flighty. The fact that they are determined to keep going until they find true love and dumb enough to think it exists—that's stubborn.

Down the Rabbit-Hole

Now that you have the basics, it's time to take an in-depth look at the sun signs. Each sign has its own chapter, and each chapter is divided into the following subsections:

- **Approach with Caution.** Regardless of gender, age, or sexual preference, natives of the individual sun signs share some common bad behaviors.

- **If You Love One, Man or Woman.** Everyone's on their best behavior at the beginning of the love game. But before you decide to make it permanent, be warned. You could go to sleep with Betty Crocker and wake up with Lizzie Borden. Or fall for a character who color-codes your closet and tapes a lovemaking schedule on the bedroom door.
 - **If You Are One-Born Rotten.** Yes, this is all about *you*. But, it's not all bad. Anyone reading it will soon discover that you are a force of nature not to be trifled with, in or out of the sack.
 - **It's All Relative—The Family.** Ever wonder why your parents were so weird and your siblings so selfish, whiny, and mean? Find out here and also how to deal with that nutty bunch into which you did not ask to be born.
 - **Office Party-Bitches, Snitches, and the Chronically Inert.** Life at the office. Who's the worst boss (none of them are good). Who's most likely to stab you in the back, or the front, on the scramble up the corporate ladder. How to handle churlish coworkers, cover your ass, and save your job.
 - **Can't We All Get Along?** Tips for surviving the four worst behaviors of each sign (e.g., throw food to calm a Taurus and a brick to shut up an Aries).
 - **Quick Tips for Emergencies.** A 911 list that may save your sanity, or at least buy you enough time to leave town.
 - **A List of the Infamous and Ridiculous.** There's a little bit of each of them in each of us.
- Enjoy your tour and remember, bad behavior isn't only in our genes—it's in our stars.

