

Chinese Astrology Profile

by Suzanne White

for

Bill Cosby

July 12, 1937

12:30 AM

Germantown, Philade., PA

Calculated for:

Daylight Savings Time, Time Zone 5 hours West

Latitude: 40 N 02 36

Longitude: 75 W 10 50

Positions of Sun at birth is 19 deg 24 min of Cancer

Provided by:

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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

HAIL, DILIGENT OX,

A veritable Gibraltar and indomitable fortress, your sign might have been called Bulldozer instead of Ox. You are an essentially temperate person who cares greatly for rigor, labor, strength of character and ... results!

You can stick to a task longer and go at it harder than anybody. You spare no elbow grease. You hate to be beaten, so you simply never give up. Some may call you slow; others complain that you are clumsy. In fact, you move at your own sweet pace and refuse to be pushed or prodded by a lot of hotheaded fly-by-nights. You believe in simplicity and achievement. Levity in business exasperates you.

You are capable of profound, enduring love, yet flowery romance leaves you cold. You prefer action to beds of roses and phials of exotic perfumes. You take life very seriously, but life doesn't always return the favor. You don't normally talk much, but you have a remarkable talent for storytelling.

If it's really results you're after, use that special flair. Chat up the conservative Rooster you've been longing to invite to dinner. Share some pink bubbly with a garrulous Rat or send dozens of white roses to a luxury-loving Snake. They are all well equipped to handle your peculiar brand of seduction. The first two eras of your life will be characterized by hard work. During the second adult phase, a misunderstanding between you and a neighbor or colleague may cause a deep, long-lasting rift.

Don't lose heart. Your old age will be both long and healthy with peace of mind taking over after fifty as priority number one.

Advice? Yes. Lighten up. And stop judging others by your own high standards. You'll only be disappointed. Nobody (except you, my dear Ox) is perfect.

THE OX 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 dark blue, flower is the chrysanthemum, fragrance is Shalimar, drink is strong tea, tree is pear, flavor is sweet, birthstone is lapis lazuli, and lucky number is 1.

YOUR FAVORITE

Your favorite food is beef stew, animal is the bear, spice is coriander, metal is copper, herb is sage, and musical instrument is the tuba.

THE OX IS YIN. THE OX MOTTO IS "I PERSEVERE."

On the self-contained exterior, you are patient, contemplative, skillful, dexterous, eloquent, confident, familiar, authoritative, industrious, sure of foot, and eloquent.

But... pierce your thick hide and you will find prejudice, chauvinism, blind faith, pride, tyranny, pettiness, criticism, eccentricity, bigotry, conservatism, grumpiness, and, on occasion, violence.

The Chinese animal after which this sign is named is the Water Buffalo. We don't have masses of Water Buffalo roaming around our highways over here in the occident, so for the benefit of western readers we call this sign the Ox. Water Buffalo is a more fitting image. But Ox is the name we all now know for this sign of stolid determination.

Others find that it is always best to stay on your good side. As an old-fashioned hardliner, you are without peer. You tend to classify almost everything into two basic categories, bad and good. If you are in an unusually jolly humor and willing to give nuance a chance, you might agree to see shades of meaning such as "light and dark." However, you won't go much beyond fundamentals. You are a steady, patient, long-suffering world-beater who inspires confidence and admiration. You are phenomenally strong.

Some neurotically meticulous people examine every detail of their lives under a microscope. You, Ox, are a neurotically meticulous person who observes all of life through the wrong end of a telescope, always opting to take the long view, to foresee every upcoming situation at a safe remove, and to calculate the likely risks and results way ahead of time.

You painstakingly pick over every detail. You watch every move. Not only are you a careful observer, but you study, pore over, dissect, take out the stitches and sew the whole thing back up a hundred times, if necessary, before calling any job done. You are proficient, competent, thorough and annoyingly accurate.

Perimeters and parameters are your best friends. Take away the confines and you are scared half to death. No

contract? No deal. You turn and walk away without a word. You would sooner die than be party to an unreliable arrangement. You want it all down on paper. It's tough to get you to go so much as to a picnic without having scheduled weeks ahead, registering your picnic with the Patent Office, and having it stamped by the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Although you will resist entering into any shared experience, be it marriage or a rumba class, once you have decided to trust another individual, once you believe in his or her goodwill and good faith, you will never ask for another signed document. Instead, you will generously and unselfishly give of yourself, your time, money, and blessings. Getting through your tough demeanor to the diligently guarded but gooey center is a long exercise in perseverance for any person you meet.

It is, however, unlikely that you take too many lifetime passengers on board because overbooking might diminish the quality of your services. Once committed, you feel obliged to perform faultlessly. You are a caretaker, protector, counselor, money, and hand-lender. Too many full-time friends would sink such a well-organized ship.

Oxen are like litmus paper. Showing you a potential lover or associate, asking your opinion of a potential traveling companion, or trying out an idea for a project on you is always a winning idea. You are strong, silent and observant. While the new person (or idea) is chatting away, trying to impress, you will sit back, cool as Moscow, watching, absorbing every detail and clicking off a mental checklist of pros and cons as long as a Russian novel. If you think the situation stinks, you will spare no feelings to let the other person know. If you may say nothing at all which usually means yes.

Winning you over may not be entirely a blessing because once admitted to your family circle, a person is obliged to live up to the honor. You hold to your high standards and severely judge those who do not aspire to your ideals.

If betrayed, you will speak even less than usual, paw the earth once or twice, and charge directly at the jugular. You are ponderous, but when angry, you can be impulsive, especially if you feel you have been made a fool of. You are capable of fearsome, seething rages. You are stodgy and proud, and loath to lose your self-control. Therefore you don't usually turn the furniture upside down. Instead, you will conjure up some long-lasting violence or mental torture to bedevil your adversary for life, or longer. Revenge, we all know, is a meal best served cold. But not yours! You are a hungry buckaroo who prefers to begin your revenge with a hot hors-d'oeuvre and continue eating heartily through all seven courses. The above performance is often accomplished behind the scenes. Then, when the deed is done, you send your enemies the bill.

Memories, traditions and customs are your security blankets. No one can accuse you of being a dreamer who wastes life concocting addle-brained schemes and blazing trails to nowhere. You are a thoroughgoing, down-to-the-ground, go ahead soul. You are not keen on such imprecise terms as "seem," "almost," "perhaps," and "we'll see." You usually stick to "exactly," "accurately," "authentic," and "never!"

You require order. At home, you equip shelves, cupboards, and closets with hooks and special racks for every different item. You may have jars for screws, bolts, nuts, nails, bits of wire, sugar, salt, rice, buttons, paper-clips, everything. Each jar is soaked to get rid of its label, then filled and relabeled, sprayed with a waterproof coating to keep its marking from fading or peeling. It is then stored in its cupboard, standing soldier-like alongside its sisters and brothers full of bolts and/or condiments, which are also labeled and tightly sealed against damp and vermin.

This methodical habit of filing and sorting is not your only pet pastime: you also switch off your lights, shut

your windows, and secure your doors, sighing noisily when you forget. The way that others choose to live does not always suit you, the serious, economical Ox householder.

Unlike the nervous Monkey, the belligerent Tiger or the skittish Horse, you are not easily undone. A yellow and green fire-spitting elephant could suddenly surge into your headlights but you would remain unswervingly steady at the wheel. You hang on with your fingernails to every challenge you accept, tugging firmly and regularly at the stubbornest knots of each complex situation until you work them loose. You are not a ready, set, go problem solver like the Monkey, nor do you dodge confrontation like the Cat/Rabbit. You respect public order. Even when a giant rock is rolling down the hill, you respectfully wait for the light to turn green before stepping off the curb and moving out of the way.

Your goal? To be completely finished with one thing and perfectly prepared to go on to the next gigantic undertaking. You avoid metaphysics. Most poetry bores you. Quixotic fancy, whining self-pity and vapid self-examination drive you bonkers.

You have a remarkable memory and are capable of in-depth reporting on absolutely everything you observe, except for the spiritual or non-material. You don't know where to look for signs of emotional distress. You are not cold-hearted or immune to sadness, but mostly you wouldn't recognize a sentiment if it sat in your lap.

Not that you are repelled by the intangible. Rather, you have difficulty understanding what the rest of us find so gripping about it. Fantasy sometimes throws you. You wonder what other people see in flaky subjects like astrology and psychology, and why we are so frequently lost in a daydream or transported by a new romance. Syrupy romance right under your nose is often met with a truckload of indifference. You prefer a drivel-free existence. If you are especially sensitive, you may try to learn to appreciate the metaphysical, relax a bit and sink into the hovering, nowhere pleasure that others know how to extract from life. But for the most part, your materialistic mind resists the abstract.

Because you are not keen on petty chitchat and abhor small talk, you cleave to mottoes, proverbs and aphorisms. You need to be certain of what you are saying and are terrified to appear ridiculous, so often you pepper your speech with clichés or maxims such as: "All professions are a conspiracy against the laity," or "Waste not. Want not." And/or "Such is the nature of the human animal."

Silly puns and tired jokes help you get over your timidity in public. Just as you can always be counted on to lend a hand in times of dire need, you also can be sure to tell and retell one of your tired, ancient stories.

Yet you are rarely boring. If you can keep talking about news and current affairs, you have an innate ability - not often used unless called upon officially - to recount experience and teach others. You are even eloquent, but don't often show it in private. You are not gifted at just hanging out and rapping over a bottle of wine. When you deign to speak, it's with good reason. To avoid speaking and still get to say what's on your mind, you may become a writer. On paper, you can express yourself privately without being face to face with your audience. Politics and trial law sometimes attract you: a public life affords you a forum without the discomfort of one on one contact. Government becomes your shield and office. It allows you to maintain a safe distance between yourself and the people you're addressing.

Stubborn refusal to budge is part of what gives you such extraordinary strength. But it is also your Achilles' heel.

You get along best with yourself and are most capable of living a solitary life. When you're alone, you find a thousand little jobs to keep you productively occupied. You are a good fix-it person and prefer working alone to

the demands of social interaction.

You adore eating and often have problems keeping your weight down. But, with your iron self-discipline, you control the excess poundage through rigid dieting. As you don't mind routine, you are happy to be served the same dishes every day at the same hours. You could enjoy soup on Monday, ribs on Tuesday, spaghetti on Wednesday, through to Friday's fish and Sunday's roast and start again with Monday's soup. Your food must be of good quality and well prepared, but variety is unnecessary.

People sometimes find you a bit dull. With your plain tastes and deliberate ways, you can seem something of a drudge. You're judgmental and easily annoyed. You're either too close-mouthed or too long-winded and repetitive. You're not very flexible; nor are you a happy-go-lucky person. Jollity doesn't come easy to you, so you are often accused of being a stodgy killjoy. This being said however, very few people do not respect you.

You are a dependable straight shooter and you deserve admiration. You carry through all your undertakings without complaining or sniveling. You always keep your word and rarely break the law (unless you made it yourself). You don't shirk responsibility, you try to hold your family together, and you pay your debts.

OX HEALTH

Of all the Chinese signs, this one is blessed with the greatest longevity. Providing you don't overindulge and learn to pace yourself, you will live longer. Not that you don't fall ill because you frequently do, and you can even be a hypochondriac. But the long-term resistance of the sturdily built, close to the ground, tight, muscular body is well known in China.

You are subject to stomach troubles, partly because you love to eat and are forever ordering or preparing food too heavy with fat or too acid for your fragile digestion. Bouts of gastroenteritis, cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting may plague you, interrupt your precious work and disrupt your private life.

Medically, of course these chronic tummy troubles are also due to your pent-up nature. Ulcers and gall-bladder problems, intestinal lesions, colitis and other nervous tummy ills might be the obvious wages of over-indulgence, but they are also the direct result of too much self-restraint. In your unshakeable determination to play the waiting game, you are patient, long-suffering, and capable of biding your time to wait out almost any conflict or upset. This approach may afford you a greater chance of winning, but your stomach pays the price. Your anxiety level is so hard to detect that you seem to be almost asleep half the time. But deep in the gut where it really hurts, you may be burning alive.

You tend to be overweight and may also be troubled by a reddish tinge on your face and upper body. Your cheeks go bright red as soon as you sit in the sun, eat strong foods, or drink wine. You may also have an unsightly reddish, peeling condition that is not psoriasis but is caused by over-indulgence in rich sauces or acid foods. You are also subject to hemorrhoids, and, from the age of fifty, ought to control your diet, eating little meat and concentrating on vegetables and fish. Otherwise, you may fall victim to strokes.

You are a nibbler. Although you prefer hearty meals to snacks, you do like to nosh. You should definitely avoid eating peanuts, chips, or pretzels. Nervous picking at snacks between meals can contribute to the breakdown of your basic good health. And yet, no matter how many ulcers you cultivate, how red your face may become, or how you behave, basically you have a strong constitution. You can be mortally ill, but through sheer single-mindedness will slowly work your way back from the brink of death and return to a full, active lifestyle.

City life is no picnic for you. You prefer to live in the country, eat fresh foods in season, avoid starches and

sugars, and be encouraged to follow the rhythms of nature. Exercise is a must. You may be naturally sluggish, but swimming, yoga and, although you may hate the very idea, meditation will help you learn to relax, which is the secret to a long, healthy life.

As I have already said, you work insanely hard. Work is to the Ox what playing is to Monkeys and activity to Rats. Work is the area in which you excel and feel most comfortable. People should never suggest that you take a break or sit down and rest. For you, work is health. Keep yourself busy and you may live forever. Cut yourself off from activity and you invite calamity.

OX COMPATIBILITIES

Ox with Rat

Union between these two signs guarantees matrimonial stability. You provide the rambunctious Rat with the grounding he or she lacks, and the Rat peeks through your wall of convention and resistance to change, pepping up a possibly dreary, plodding existence. This combination fits, each rounds out the other's sharper edges.

Your steadfastness provides the Rat with security. As the devoted half of the partnership, you will be happy to take on the role of provider, which allows the Rat to act as family protector. The gregarious Rat enjoys giving parties and attending social functions. All the better for you who, without the Rat's exuberant nature, would simply stay at home ruminating. Each is happy to fulfill the appropriate role. Alluring and meticulous, a Rat is a perfect helpmate for you in business, doing back flips and handstands to encourage your career.

Of course, you demand complete fidelity. Despite a gnawing desire to stray occasionally, the Rat will mostly remain faithful.

What about passion? Neither you nor the Rat is overly preoccupied with the fanciful notion of zany lovemaking practices. Your sex life with a rat will be lusty, if mildly routine.

Ox with Ox

The brute force of a double-Ox marriage could plough forty acres before breakfast. Dutiful and methodical, you mutually protect and provide. The household will be blessed with a rare harmony, so even-keeled that no outside influence will throw it far off balance. Expect a certain healthy monotony.

In your tidy kitchen, the two of you scheme to uphold your common need for order. Despite basic concord, you sometimes have trouble sharing power. You both like to dominate. Each of you expects the other to obey. Depending on your Western signs, planetary aspects etc, you can probably work things out amicably.

Ox couples are mutually stubborn and will not be prepared to expose petty disagreements, not even to each other. Rather than convey dissatisfaction, you both deny your differences, assume a facade of marital bliss, and suffer silently, plodding laboriously on, accepting the heavy cross you believe you have to bear. Stasis becomes you.

Your wholesome lovemaking with a fellow Ox brings steady sexual fulfillment to this marriage. Passionate exuberance and emotional outbursts are foreign. Your sex life will be healthy, but it probably won't wake the kids.

And kids you will have! Aplenty. And they will be raised to tow the line, study hard and "make something of

themselves". Slacking in not allowed in the double Ox household.

With both noses to the grindstone, you will not lack financial security. Plenty of money will be earned but rarely foolishly spent. You require no frivolity.

Ox with Tiger

Disastrous. No matter how you slice it, this combo is in for a rocky ride. Both possess an iron will, backed by the power to exert it. Equally self-possessed and determined, you and the temperamental Tiger are better known as rivals than accomplices. Frankly, this quarrelsome duo is best off entangled at the center of a boxing ring.

Often, the Tiger jump-starts your tranquil day by stirring up trouble. He (or she) needs a ride to the airport. You dreamed only of staying close to home and plodding on. "Take a taxi, dear." You suggest. "You have nothing better to do. You can take me." gripes the Tiger. The stolid Ox must exercise much patience with the rambunctious Tiger. You may hold your ground. The Tiger storms of too call a taxi. Then you don't speak to each other for a month. Exhausting? You bet.

The rebellious Tiger roars off to his or her trade union demonstration, complaining bitterly about your dreary personality, while you bully the Tiger, accusing him or her of everything from incurable restlessness to insanity.

If round three of this battle takes place under the covers, there is hope for reconciliation. The Tiger's raw sensuality thaws your glacial resistance. In bed with the Tiger, you feel free. Twenty-four-hour truces may result. Even so, the union is best-suited for friendship or business partnership, where dual iron wills can effect real progress. This combination is an emotional tug of war. It is not romantically promising.

Ox with Cat/Rabbit

Cozy. Nestled against a solid-as-a-rock Ox, the Cat/Rabbit will have plenty to purr about. You assure the anxious Cat/Rabbit security, allowing him or her to spend time on creative activities without having to fret over money. In return, the Cat/Rabbit, endowed with natural refinement, provides the coarser counterpart with much-needed class.

Your bossiness is handily managed by a Cat/Rabbit, who usually opts out of conflict. Quiet and submissive, the Cat/Rabbit is happy to take a back seat and let you bully, safe in the presence of a strong, forceful mate. To show gratitude, the Cat/Rabbit lavishes love on you. Of course, you find excessive displays of affection difficult to endure and may shun gestures of tenderness or even poke fun at the Cat/Rabbit. That is not kind of you. But then, you are not always kind.

This grumpy attitude could prove frustrating for the cuddly Cat/Rabbit, who adores snuggling. With luck, in time your feline friend will thaw your icy resistance and maybe even teach you a love trick or two.

What cements the Cat/Rabbit with the Ox is your similar views about finances. You are both earners and savers. Cat/Rabbit needs refinement and luxury. But he is not a spendthrift. The Cat/Rabbit's motto? "A few good things" He or she needs authenticity and class. Oxen don't mind indulging a lover in those few good things and will indeed be proud of the Cat/Rabbit's excellent taste.

Children? One or two very well-behaved (and decorative) kids (Snake, Rooster or Pig) would round out this ménage quite handsomely.

Ox with Dragon

Be prepared for plenty of late-night squabbles with this combo. Both of you believe you are righter than right. No. That's not true. The Ox knows he's right. The Dragon only "thinks" he's is right. The Dragon attempts to dictate his or her will over you, and you Ox, do not hesitate to bully Dragon right back.

You have little patience with Dragon vanity. Your indifference to the Dragon's fiery appearance is a perpetual disappointment to the Dragon's ego. The glamorous, extravagant Dragon loves to spend money but, with you counting pennies, feels hampered and ill at ease.

The Dragon's wandering eye unsettles you, as you are mostly a faithful type and rarely stray from a good sexual union. Why? Because you just don't have time. You are too busy working to philander.

With so much conflict, how can this duo reconcile? Your mutual love of home and family could save you from total despair. You both enjoy sex, although the Ox's routine techniques may bore the Dragon, whose sentimental nature yearns for puffy clouds of pink cotton candy to enhance lovemaking. You aren't exactly world renowned for your sexual fireworks.

Also, you expect a regular living schedule. The Dragon, however, favors a more erratic timetable, such as extra stormy sex and non stop parties 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 the Dragon can be free to roam and hunt excitement elsewhere whilst the Ox can stodge along doing what he or she loves most - work!

Ox with Snake

A slithery Snake wraps him or herself around your yoke and goes along for the ride. You welcome your slippery passenger and chug merrily through life. A Snake feels cozy in your presence. This match is famously positive. There are many reasons for Oxen and Snakes to get on. But the harmony here is mostly about good vibes or what we routinely refer to as "chemistry".

The fickle Snake has a hearty appetite for flesh, especially flesh as yet unexplored. You are usually devoutly monogamous. Deep down, of course, the Snake is devoted to you, and your stability is vitally important for the Snake's survival. If you can learn to tame your suspicious nature and control a jealous temper, you can hold on to a fetching Snake partner better than anyone else. After all, you have all the money, power, and patience. Snakes adore all those attributes and require a hefty measure of security to be able to feel safe enough to work their own magic in the world.

Should you ever begin to fret over failed ventures or depleted reserves, the clever Snake can surreptitiously draw you off to the bedroom. You are happy to oblige with lusty quantity but, to keep the reptile's eye from wandering, must develop more imaginative foreplay. This union will be a good one if you can remain courageous and undaunted by a tricky (but fascinating) Snake mate.

Ox with Horse

Exhausting! You two might get along as business associates. But married? Living together? No way. The effort that would go into trying would hardly be worth the result. What a struggle!

You, the conventional Ox, want to tame the wild, independent Horse, whose only urge is to gallop far away from you. Horses like to make their own decisions and abhor meddlesome suggestions. You just never stop

bossing and advising. If you interfere too strongly and attempt to sway the Horse's single-mindedness, the haughty Horse will take every opportunity to mortify you in public.

Best thing about this marriage is the work ethic. It's very high. Both partners will labor and tote barges and bales without complaint. That's the plus side. And that is why you two are best off working together.

The headstrong Horse will simply not conform to Ox's ways. He or she drives you mad with hyper-fanciful ideas of painting the house pink, getting married in black pajamas or taking home a STOP sign from in front of the police station. You steam and pout. The Horse just laughs, convinced he or she is married to a dullard.

Sexually, this willful combo will already be dissatisfied on the honeymoon. The Horse, like a wild bronco let loose in a corral, makes mincemeat out of your reserve. You are still in a state of undress when the Horse is riding the great white way. No harmony will touch this union.

If you do get involved, be careful not to have children. Kids don't fancy their parents getting divorced.

Ox with Goat

In the beginning, the delicate Goat may seem like a great catch for you. But we must never judge a Goat by appearances! Although gentle, Goats are not easily bossed. I caution you against this union. First, you'll feel a surge of power next to this dainty mountain creature. But after several shared hikes, your puffed-up ego will flop like a tired soufflé. The Goat complains endlessly, is pessimistic and restive and you (slowly but surely) lose interest.

You put up with the Goat's casual attitude for a while, but you soon come to believe that the Goat is not only lazy, but directionless. You work hard and can't understand the Goat's inertia. Happy to be dependent on others, the Goat just doesn't feel the need to work himself to death. Don't you bring home more than enough bacon? Why should she put in extra hours at the office, when she might be lying under a tree writing poetry?

After a while, because you are so tame and responsible, the Goat finds you just plain dreary. The Goat likes to sleep on different sides of the bed every night just for the fun of it. This exasperates you because you can't bear the thought of breaking routine. Even in bed, you have trouble keeping up with all the different Goat positions and likes and dislikes.

You are a clumsy couple. Goat needs to depend on strength coming from the outside. You have that power. But Goat's neediness exasperates you. Each will be better off without the other.

Ox with Monkey

If you can relinquish stubborn conformism and trust your beloved Monkey, the Monkey can greatly improve the quality of your life. In return for the Monkey's gift of freedom, you will lend security to the relationship.

Much to everyone's surprise, you are fascinated by the tricky Monkey. You admire his or her ability to solve problems that you find too labyrinthine or abstract to crack. Monkey appreciates your appreciation of his talents and tries harder to astound and enchant you.

Both of you are basically practical and project-oriented. Moreover, the Monkey can teach you to step outside yourself, be willingly kind to others, and help out the less fortunate. Charity gives you a special thrill. You are grateful to the Monkey for opening your eyes to the needs of the poor.

Under the covers, expect the imaginative Monkey to spice up your humdrum technique. With the Monkey's agile tutelage, you can expect to learn much more than a few dancing techniques. You may even learn how to fly!

If you do marry and have 3 kids, remember that your Monkey will always be the 4th child. Monkeys simply never grow up.

Ox with Rooster

Should you be lucky enough to have found each other, stay put. People always notice you when you are with a Rooster. Astrologers in China recommend it as one of the best unions ever! Together, your lives will be enhanced by a mixture of easy conviviality and hard-line security. You two have that certain something - the magic - which glues people together for life.

Independently, you and the Rooster can be equally fussy, nervous and perfectionist. One might expect this match to come together and self-destruct. But, for some cosmic reason, you each find peace.

The two of you live by the book. You do everything right and the Rooster follows along. You buy your first house at the right time of life, have children when expected, and retire to your beautiful country home when you get rich, which is often very quickly. Both of you are keen, able workers.

You are not much for social outings, preferring to stay close to home. Children will be more than welcome here. The two of you are steady and provide great security for a family. Not known for passion or folly, your sex reflects your down-to-earth lifestyle. No frills, just basic normal lovemaking. Two naturally harmonious signs ought to make this happy marriage long-lived and successful.

Ox with Dog

Don't expect the loyal Dog to bay at the moon out of blind love for you. You have polarized goals. The Dog's job, which is frequently a cause or a mission is bound to take priority. And you? You will be going to bat for a major corporation and grossing 50 per cent of the winnings. You two are so different in your philosophies that spats form craters in your living room carpet.

Despite an often gentle, loving nature, a Dog knows that this is a Dog-eat-Dog world, yet believes only in justice and equality. The Dog wants no part of your haughty domineering and answers only to the call of the wounded. You believe that charity begins at home and will beg Doggy to leave the world's problems alone. Both of you are devout moralizers, but you don't see eye to eye: the Dog argues about starving children in India, trying to sway you to contribute to the noble cause; you fight for justice at home, complaining that the money spent to create a shelter for the homeless last month was really meant to pay for your own children's private school.

Sex between you can be fun! This is the only place where your "Roll over" command has clout. The Dog is tickled by your relentless and brutally frank style in bed. This is just an okay marriage. Sexual fireworks or undying passion will not be what holds the two of you together.

Ox with Pig

You two get on famously. The good-natured Pig is so malleable that you will end up thinking you really are the

boss.(Don't be fooled)

Let's say that at the summit of a beautiful hill in the mountains of some exquisite location, you and the Pig own a home. This home is so well cared for that it sparkles. Pig loves to cook and doesn't mind cleaning up after dinner. Before bedtime, you carefully turn off all the lights and put out the garbage and the cat. Then the two of you spring into bed. It's ideal. You are well matched: responsible, hard working and nature-loving.

You both enjoy waking to the sound of the birds who set a harmonious tone for the day. Of course, You, Ox that you are, feed the birds daily. But it's the Pig who buys the birdseed. Piggies love animals, adore country life and are lavishly generous.

The Pig attracts wealth. He or she will not be afraid of hard labor. But when they work (or even sometimes when they just breathe in and out) Pigs make quite a lot of money. You always have to slave harder than the others to make a decent living so the addition of the lucky Pig to your life of duress is a blessing. Pigs also know how to create beautiful surroundings. You can be proud of your home when you make it with a Pig.

Sex between you is lusty and satisfying. You may be a bit square at first, but the Pig's rich sensuality soon takes over, and you enjoy making a lovely, languorous lifetime of love.

OX FUTURES

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

2006, 2018 The Dog Year

The best way to avoid the hurly-burly of longhaired, bleeding-heart revolutionary idealism (your favorite pet peeve) is to travel. The coast is clear now. It's a good time for you to take that long-hoped for trip. This is a perfect time for seeking out new territories in which to ply your trade. Don't let the Dog's critical yappings about charitable handouts interfere with your plodding. Don't pay any mind to his supplications for your contributions and active participation. Continue to be charitable at your own speed, privately and generously, as only you know how. Downshift to low profile mode and stay there for twelve months.

2007, 2019 The Pig Year

The Pig and you are allies. His generosity to you may be self-interested, but it does open a million doors that you hadn't even thought of. Moreover, the Pig admires your work ethic and encourages you to make headway in your career.

Despite your natural reluctance to hurry, Pig years will see you speeding up activities. When you move quickly, your associates, family and friends might not understand the sudden change. So be prepared to take some flak from them. They may attempt to hold up certain of your projects, just to show you they can. Never lose sight of your goal, but ease up on the throttle once in a while, if only for your health's sake.

2008, 2020 The Rat Year

Rats adore Oxen, and the feeling is often mutual. You power people understand each other. Yours is the slow, dense power of a bull while the Rat's is more nervous, shifty and extremely people-oriented. The Rat seeks the power in order to exercise it over others. You simply have power. This year provides an opportunity to move ahead at your new, faster speed. Not only will opportunities drive up to your doorstep and present themselves to

you, but you are sure to have brought good fortune along for the ride. Whatever resistance you have been feeling from loved ones or uncertain partners will dissipate this year. Take a holiday, or if the idea of inactivity horrifies you, why not mix some business with pleasure? Take your mate along on a luxurious business trip. You've earned a break and so has your significant other who has probably been sitting around doing a lot of nothing lately while you bulldozed boldly ahead.

2009, 2021 The Ox Year

All of a sudden you're home! No more pressures from the outside, no more dull stares of incomprehension from others. You'll fare beautifully this year, but concentrate on the home front. Because you are in such a good mood, you may feel expansive and even want to involve yourself in some uncharacteristic risk-taking. If love swims into your life in a charming bikini bottom, don't shoo it away like some annoying sand crab.

The Ox year is the watershed for the next twelve years of your life. Make some serious decisions now. Plan ahead for yourself, for family members, and for your business. Buy that chateau in Austria you've been longing for. Make up your mind to plant some exotic new grape stock and make your own wine. Go back to school or change jobs. Get married or divorced. As you are naturally resistant to change, all of the above may strike you as repellent options. Take my advice: modify whatever parts of your life need changing now. You'll be too tied up with problems, and much too stubborn, to do it later on.

2010, 2022 The Tiger Year

Sorry to announce that you'll have to be extra careful this year. The Tiger's influence causes turbulence, unrest and insane activity. This is just the sort of ambience that drives you to distraction. So much is going on at once, so many choices popping up, that your head feels as though all the cell phones on Earth are ringing in your living room and nobody is bothering to answer them. It's exasperating for a staunchly rigorous planner like yourself to have to stand by and witness the Tigerish frenzy in full tilt. There is nothing you can do about it, though. The Tiger will not heed your cries for order this year. He's too caught up in his own mad momentum to listen to anybody. Your survival will depend on your ability to take a royal back seat and wait out the delirium. Learn how to knit or take up lacework. Garden your brains out: dig, sow, grow and reap. When winter comes, catch up on those stacks of unfinished crossword puzzles.

2011, 2023 The Cat/Rabbit Year

Refinement, the watchword of Cat/Rabbits, is not too important to you. This year's general atmosphere of calm elegance doesn't inspire you to new heights of ambition or give you brighter hopes. But the Cat/Rabbit is never hostile to you. Cat/Rabbits respect your laborious work ethic and may even try to steal some of your methods and copy your style. Cat/Rabbits are devilishly imitative and have an enormous appetite for wealth and acquisition. Collaboration might be just the ticket.

Try not to sign many documents this year. Let things move along at their own speed. Watch out for hasty deals made overnight. This is a good year for redecorating, renewing a wardrobe, or improving one's appearance by plastic surgery. I know you aren't much of a fashion buff, but just in case you feel like spiffing up your wrinkles, this is the perfect time. Little things will get on your nerves this year. The grass won't grow as green as you like it. Nor will the stock market quiver when it's supposed to quaver. Don't panic. This too shall pass away. There's comfort down the road. Your innate patience and endurance will save you.

2012, 2024 The Dragon Year

I know you hate noise, but fireworks are the rule this year. You'll need once again to renew your lease on patience. Dragons are not against your progress. Far from it! They simply don't have time to worry about competition. But Dragons need to occupy center stage, take up all the air space, and fly every mission themselves. You will feel elbowed out of the way, and you don't take kindly to being jostled. You might just become angry and vicious about it, too. This reaction, of course, does not bode well for the Dragon. Let's just say there's bound to be a power struggle. If I were you, I wouldn't rain on the Dragon's parade. Keep to yourself, go about your routine at your own speed and make coherent plans for a saner next year.

2013, 2025 The Snake Year

Here's a year where you can really rock! Snakes and Oxen have lots in common: you are both slow-moving; both, albeit for different reasons, adore money; and both of you know how to respect the other's power. Snakes are wily and attractive. They're languid and they sometimes prevaricate. But they don't feel threatened by your ponderous power. The Snake is comforted and made more secure by your presence in the lifeboat. So the Snake's year, sensuous and politically incendiary, doesn't hinder your progress. The general atmosphere is one of enlightened self-interest. Nobody understands that position better than you, except, perhaps, the Snake. So keep on moving at your own sweet speed, grabbing and hoarding and sopping up wealth and success in your inimitably stolid manner. The Snake is the last person who will stand in your way. Medical check-ups and diets are in order this year. The accent, however, is on attraction.

2014, 2026 The Horse Year

Put your thinking cap on! The Horse year is salutary for you. If you haven't been watching your health, this could be the year when medical problems set in. Horses love people who work hard. They have enormous compassion for those who take the trouble to go places in life. But they are demanding, passionate people who are unwilling to concede an iota of their own power. Obstacity is a word invented for you and for the Horse. There could be push-me-pull-you struggles over who got to the finish line first. As you cannot be faster than the racy Horse, you will have to be smarter. Best news is that both you and the Horse are the hardest workers of the Chinese zodiac. You won't be obliged to give up your cherished labors this year. Instead, your work will be encouraged and richly rewarded.

2015, 2027 The Goat Year

Oh, glory! You've just entered Ox Hell. The Goat's uncertain wishy-washiness drives you right around the bend. Try to wait it out in some semblance of peace and quiet. Move to the country where you can be calm and out of the way. Your tendency to want to live by a fixed plan will be foiled at least twice a day this year. Frustration is not good for the digestion, and your frustration is at a new, all-time high. You hate capricious folk and eschew their wanton, wasteful ways. This year can however be providential for you. Rather than going crazy, sip Alka Seltzer cocktails on the deck of your yacht and plan revenge. Or take this opportunity to isolate and write that huge book you have been wanting to put together for so long.

2016, 2028 The Monkey Year

This will be a so-so year for you, Oxy. The vibes are propitious, but they are not easily handled by one as clumsy as yourself. Monkeys like you. They respect your diligence. They even fear you a bit. So you are in friendly territory. However, agility is not a skill you can develop overnight. Monkeys, for all their humor and legerdemain, require certain talents of us all. Flexibility comes first with Monkeys, and yours is buried under mountains of stubborn steadfastness. This year you should stay abreast of what's going on in the world and accept any tangy business offers that come your way. Force yourself to be especially open and supple of mind.

Listen (for once) to your heart. Rumors of new romance will flutter by your ears. The proffered love could be for you, or it might be for a family member who doesn't dare let you in on his or her romantic plans. Watch for signs of Cupid having momentarily perched on your garden wall. There's plenty of love there for the taking in Monkey years.

2005, 2017 The Rooster Year

This year claps a lid on the fun and games of the past couple of years. New tension and concentration are in the air in Rooster years. You will find it a relief to be understood everywhere you go. Watch out for nasty surprises in business and property dealings. There is an off chance that your partner is double-dealing. Be discreet, but find out exactly what's going on behind the scenes. Most of all, don that yoke again and buckle down. The Rooster understands you. You'll make progress this year.

But that progress won't really show up until two years from now when the Pig helps you get richer. Mainly, in Rooster years, you Oxen need to know that you are in good hands. Roosters love your style and admire your grit. Show your strength in Rooster years. You will not regret it.

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 FIRE OX

1877 Hermann Hesse, Alice B. Toklas, Carl

Sandburg

1937 Bill Cosby, Dustin Hoffman, Warren Beatty, Billy Dee Williams, Anthony Hopkins, Robert Redford, Erich Segal, Jane Fonda, Jack Nicholson, Trini Lopez, Tom Courtenay, Ursula Andress, Merle Haggard, Sally Kellerman, Sandy Dennis, Tom Stoppard, David Hockney, Gary Hart, Mary Tyler Moore, Saddam Hussein, Colin Powell, Madeleine Albright, Claude Lelouch, Ridley Scott

The most pleasant way to open a description of the complex Fire Ox is to say that Fire affects you in precisely the same way it affects dynamite, jet planes and helium-filled dirigible balloons. Where there is already a surfeit of latent power, the Fire element leads to excess and sometimes even to disaster.

Unlike other Oxen, you are given to impatience. You want to move ahead and get places. Yet you still take the long view. You don't often risk making a fool of yourself. You are a born planner. You like to look through the wide end of the telescope and watch how things develop from a distance before entering the fray. But sometimes your long view is on backwards. Then you leap before you look.

Like most Oxen, you assume that you are intrinsically superior. You are better and more deserving of success, money and whatever else you see, want, and take. You add an endearing new characteristic: moral self righteousness.

Fire Oxen fear nothing - even ridicule. You will forge ahead, brandishing slogans as though married to your moral exhortations, proselytizing speeches and "enlightened" schemes. It can be a terrible bore. It can even be self-destructive. But you will carry on, firebrands waving, wearing your moral indignation on your sleeve and often losing the respect of your peers. The flipside of this apparent handicap is that you may be a genius, mightily successful and frequently accurate in choosing your targets.

Your Ox strength, when coupled with Fire's pizzazz and verve, can indeed make for a fabulously effective human being. Also, work is no object: you have extraordinary powers of endurance. Because you are lucky enough to believe so fervently that you are always right, you can seem to be inconsiderate and overbearing. Your excuse? You are genuinely idealistic and a true fighter for your cause. This blameless approach sometimes leads to real glory.

You are frequently bolder than you are intelligent, more willful than you are tuned in to what's really going on. You would also be pleased with a little applause. You are not really after making one big splash or winning a huge victory. For you, the battle is the best part of the war, and you are often at war. You are more than willing to defend your ideals for the duration.

Sadly, you are more often respected than you are loved. You lack subtlety and don't always know best how to relate to others. You're ruthless too. You may, for example, glorify everything to do with tradition until rebellion doesn't suit you any more. Then you may well glorify something new and call it traditional. This inconsistency can be your undoing.

You can be a family person. If you decide to breed, you are deeply responsible and committed to the well-being of your spouse and offspring. You rule your domain too and refuse to take any back talk or flak. You can be kindly and make a generous parent. You may not be very receptive to kids who complain or tell you their troubles because feelings are not your strong suit. But if anyone should attack a member of your clan, even your good-for-nothing brother-in-law, you will rise up and protect your own.

Chinese Signs for Men and Women

Males and Females behave differently. Below are the gender specific descriptions of this Chinese sign:

MALE OX

Most Ox men are a curious combination of Saddam Hussein and Santa Claus. Of course, not all of you are bad guys. Some more agreeable Ox-born Taureans are Gary Cooper, Jack Nicholson and Billy Joel. Your brute force, if used positively, can be gigantically benign. But you are a born hardhead. You're strong to a fault, obtuse and unbudgeable. Your sign is a clue to your potential greatness. But that power must be used to do good things or demon tyranny may set in.

Even at rest you think about work. First, you always endeavor to succeed with almost mindless resolve and have no time for frivolity unless it helps you achieve your objective. You will attend a party if you think you'll meet someone you need to know for professional reasons. You might even go to a gym or on a shopping spree, providing you have a sound reason for doing something you normally consider a waste of time.

Secondly, when you are pulling a wagon load of bricks and laboring to gain ground, you are also working at

improving your property. You adore acquiring land, buying houses, and purchasing buildings. You have an almost holy regard for the earth and are especially pious if it belongs to you. You may carry photographs of your home so that you can distribute them to folk you meet.

You are not merely trying to impress. But because you are somewhat reserved and are not an able one-to-one communicator, you may use other methods to reach people. Of a retiring nature, you do not improvise well and are clumsy about thinking on your feet. The photo handouts are props to serve as tangible proof of your situation in life. You are not a hustler or much of a salesman. But you are proud of what you own and like to show it off.

Cornering you is worse than cornering any Rat. Confrontation only makes you even more tongue-tied. Even if you feel like a Latin lover, you'll act more like a Hun. If you do love someone - and you are perfectly capable of great, undying, long-suffering love - you will demonstrate your love in the only ways you know how: you supply enough wood for a year for the fireplace, piled up outside the door of your loved one, or order a leather bankbook with your lover's name in gold with several thousand dollars deposited therein, or you may hand over the keys to a shiny new Range Rover. Intimacy scares you. So you seem almost timid. But you are enormously generous with those you love. You just cannot be counted on for frills: you will never, like the spendthrift Monkey male, buy your lover a \$1,000 set of pajamas or expensive lacey lingerie.

You are forever repairing, gardening, hammering, tinkering or puttering. You love to take things apart and put them back together, and you get a charge out of making broken things work again. The end result may not be esthetically pleasing, but whatever was broken is guaranteed to run smoothly again: even the most intellectual Ox man is gifted in manual work.

You do not take risks. You like to be sure of what the prize is before leaping with all four hooves into any project. You are cautious, prudent and get no pleasure from the uncertainty of being routed off the beaten path. Impermanence makes you uncomfortable. You would be happy in a world where the ephemeral doesn't exist. You are neither a guesser nor a hazarder of opinion. You'd rather be right than happy, and you deplore philosophical conjecturing and vain speculation. You are a man of almanacs and atlases, road maps and compasses, dictionaries, thesauruses and encyclopedias. Your home and/or office shelves will be heavy with reference books and you will refer to them often while planning your next move.

Like your female counterpart, you never give up your attachment to your origins. If you were born in Yugoslavia in the mountains and subsequently moved to Iowa, you will always hanker after the mountains and may even insist on going back there to die. You're more interested in the past than in the future. You won't keep many pets and if you live alone, your furnishings will be sparse and no-nonsense. If you marry, you usually put comfort before attraction, as you believe that your sexual habits have little or nothing to do with those of your wife.

You are constant in love, yet sometimes physically unfaithful. You will however love profoundly and support and stick firmly by your family commitments. You will always be there when your partner needs you. But the Ox man does not consider sexual love to be in the same league as married love and devotion. To you, love and sex are separate. You are sensual and love the good life. You are addicted to comfort, fine food, and wine, and are fairly easy to please so long as those needs are met.

The sex act is so far removed from what you think of as love that you are capable of having sex with almost anyone, but you can only love very few people. Your emotions are intricately connected to your unyielding heart. Your public image has little or nothing to do with your inner feelings, and your secret self is unavailable for viewing by even your most intimate friends or lovers.

You don't mean to be obtuse, but you are a master of opacity, and you're a stick in the mud to boot. Yet you are loyal, capable of great personal sacrifice for those you love, and are deeply wounded when true love goes wrong. You are not the type to freak out if your wife cheats on you sexually, but if she falls in love with someone else, leaves you and/or deserts the kids, you can become dangerously depressed. You cannot show tenderness without feeling embarrassed. You keep your emotions in and turn them around a hundred ways in your head, but never seek outside aid or even consult with friends. Eventually something gives, and it is very often your nerves. You disdain nervous or psychosomatic illnesses. If you start to crack up, you begin not to like your self. Then, you can be horribly cranky and, if pushed or constrained by people or surroundings, may become downright nasty.

You are likely to be stocky and massive like your female counterparts, but you are not tall. Your muscles are powerful and, even if you are thin, you can carry heavy weight. You are graceful yet awkwardly so and have an easy walking style. But because you are rigid of mind, if you are cross or embarrassed, you can be physically clumsy, especially in public.

There is never much change of expression on your face. If you can get away with it, you may wear a beard to hide your expression. Conventional though you are, you really don't give a fig what others think of you. If you don't feel like wearing a tuxedo to a formal party, you may show up in corduroy trousers and a bush jacket.

Generally, you are a conservative dresser and may wear the same brand or style of shoe all your life, buying new ones only when the old pair can no longer be repaired. Although your eyes may twinkle, hinting at some hidden joviality, your truly jolly side is perceptible only when you are in an exceptionally good humor, feeling confident and well fed or even slightly tipsy. Mainly, you maintain a serious demeanor.

Your hands are small and your feet turn slightly outward. Your complexion is often swarthy and your hair abundant. You have a naturally thickish neck and heavy shoulders. Your mouth is handsome, rounded and full lipped. You're more interested in touching things than in talking about them and if you have an artistic bent, it may be as a musician, sculptor, or non-abstract painter.

You also make a fine actor or public personality. Not really an innovator, you prefer to have your dialogues or routine written for you. Your strength is in expert delivery. Despite your natural shyness, you are a born raconteur. If you have time to get your script down pat and can launch into it cold in front of an audience, you can be spellbinding.

FEMALE OX

All Oxen are stalwart and tenacious. As a female of this species, you are devoted to basics. You have grounded your belief in the importance of family and tried and true methods. Although you are sometimes marked by solitude, you probably will eventually get married. Often, you start your professional life thinking that you will leave marriage and children up to less ambitious women. But your early choice is foiled by the impending Big Ben of a biological clock ticking away the fertile seconds. Even if you have been the most reluctant Ox female, you are likely to surrender to your innermost need to foster and head up a family.

You are a nature devotee and, when you finally acquire your home in the country (you're not mad about city life), you will grow your own herbs, vegetables, roses and fruit trees with a rigorous respect for Mother Nature's simplest laws. You also adhere effortlessly to the strict routines imposed by caring for others. You're the sort of organized householder who pops a pie into the oven before taxiing your immaculately dressed, perfectly

behaved kids to and from school. Then you trudge home to take the pie out, replace it with a roast, and leave again to meet your husband's train. Later, when the whole crew gets home, you serve hubby drinks and the kids dinner, you oversee homework and listen to dad's trials of the day without exhibiting so much as a yawn of boredom.

You cleave to duty. However, your family obligations need not prevent you from having an important career.

Despite your great reserves of energy, you resist exercise. You are not lazy, weak or embarrassed about doing gymnastics, aerobics or running, but you don't like to move quickly and hate to sweat. You more frequently sign up for classical dance courses and may enjoy taking the family on long hikes. Challenge sports, such as mountain climbing and long-distance cross-country skiing, may also appeal and, interestingly, you like tennis. It must be the endurance factor. The win or lose aspect of all your involvements is important to you, so if you're bitten by the winner bug, you go all the way. You don't mind fighting in a hand-to-hand combat of skill, but you don't see the point in vapid jumping about gymnastics for health.

Without challenge, the perilous temptation for you is to allow your family's needs to overcome your sense of self. Unfortunately, after a few years as a housewife, you can become dowdy and decide to dismiss physical appearance as frivolous. If you find your husband losing interest sexually or beginning to stray, you will often turn a blind eye and dutifully apply even more energy to making home and raising the children.

Of course you are jealous, but you will not let it show. You tend to take things solemnly in your stride. At first, you make no effort to alter your habits or to improve your appearance. You're sure of your position as wife and you will wait it out, hardly changing your attitude, smiling sweetly as though nothing untoward were happening beyond the perimeters of your skirts. But behind the scenes, watch your style! Slowly, you will somehow find the time and exert the energy to change your silhouette and spiff up your mode of dress until one day, when your husband returns from a business trip, you look fabulously sexy again. Poor chap will never know what hit him.

You nearly always triumph in the end. What you want from marriage is not only romance and passion, but a solid citizen husband, a family and a life after passion: a marriage which outlasts accidents and supersedes men's clandestine affairs.

It is said that you look at sex as a sort of healthy indoor sport. You would feel ridiculous slinking around in clinging dresses and teeteringly high heels, playing the seductress.

As virtue and righteousness are so important to you, you are not guileful and rarely, if ever, malicious or gossipy. You will not stoop to chicanery or cheating to win favor or earn money. You will bear up in times of poverty but are not good at being without funds or comforts for a long stretch. You require at least a modicum of affluence to be happy. You're happiest when there is enough money for everybody to have the right shoes, go to the right schools and get the best piano lessons. When there is not enough, you will not shrink from scrubbing a few floors to get more.

You make a wonderful parent. The only hitch is that if your kids don't live up to the strict standards to which you yourself adhere, there will be trouble. You're intolerant of laziness and judgmental about sloth. You will give hell to a kid who leaves school in the midst of his studies to "find himself." You've worked and made sacrifices for him and cannot understand why he won't do the same for you. Although you are usually not rancorous and would not take out your anger on him in petty ways, you're tough and may stop his allowance, pack his things and ask him not to darken your door again until he has come to his senses.

Your physical appearance is modest and unassuming. You are at least of middling height and may be quite tall, with shortish legs and longer arms. You are sturdy-looking with fleshy lips, a thick neck, and large shoulders. Your bosom is probably ample and your thighs are not skinny. You carry yourself well and stride along, graceful, attractive and sure-footed. Your eyes are your best feature, lovely, deep and liquid, expressing the tender sensitivity that you rarely put into words.

Your pleasant company is soothing and reassuring. Although you are slow and deliberate like your male counterpart, you are not quite so taciturn and hold forth openly on subjects that directly concern you. You won't do much conjecturing, though, or try to solve the problems of the world. Even in conversation you stick to basics. You have an excellent sense of humor and are able to laugh at your own foibles, which makes you fun to be around. Your ability to satirize is as well developed as that of the Ox male, and you can be very funny and cutting when you need to be.

You are easily swayed by the smell of money and success, yet because of your seriousness, you can be naive about the rotting underbelly of the real world. As you are never deceitful, you cannot understand why anyone would cheat or lie to you. As you grow older, you become more sophisticated, but in youth you often have the wool pulled over your eyes by those less honest than yourself.

You cling to your family background as well as to the family you have created in adult life. You're forever taking the kids to your aunt's or looking after your cousin's kids during the school vacation. You call your mother every week, take your dad to the doctor, and cheerfully visit your husband's aging granny. All family festivities are held at your home. How do you find time to shop and prepare with such aplomb, goodwill and never seem flustered? You're an Ox. The thing you do best is maintain traditions and keep the home fires burning.

Your faults? You are stubborn and not easily swayed. When determined about something, you won't give a millimeter; you must make your own decisions in your own time. You can be testy and will not be criticized. If you are feeling sensitive about yourself or shaky about your position, you can become downright paranoid. Petty details will suddenly annoy you. You will rankle at the slightest comment on your dress or your hair. You so desperately want to be at the head of the herd and you feel so responsible for everything and everyone around you. If you lose face or confidence, you are afraid the world will crumble beneath your feet.

Another little female Ox secret - you don't care for cosmetics or perfumes and refuse to wear ruffles and furbelows. This is not a form of reverse snobbery or scorn for beautiful things - you simply adore the authentic. You buy real leather, fine china and elegant furnishings. You disdain fashion and feel it is too easy-come, easy-go. Therefore it is not to be considered part of your lifestyle. If you want to attract a man, you rely almost entirely on your natural, sturdy good looks, classical clothing, obvious strength of character, and a velvety voice. Your goal, remember, is not a raucous roll in the hay. It is marriage and the works - or forget it.