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How to order the book: *The Stellium Handbook* is over 250 pages and 115,000 words, separated into two ebook files for easier navigation. It is \$20 and can be ordered through PayPal. Go to your account there, give them Donna's email address (moonmave@spiritone.com), and they will notify her. The book will come to you by email, so let her know if you want it sent to a different email address. If you need to pay by check, write to Donna for details.

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Chapter One—Stelliums Are Not for Sissies

Welcome to the world of *stelliums* and *triple conjunctions*—a world of vast potentials and yet of complicated and seldom easy life paths. If you have either of these patterns in your astrological chart, then anywhere from three to seven of the solar system's ten bodies fall within about 30° of the zodiac's 360° circle. As one of my students exclaimed when we had a lesson about them, "That's a lotta watts in one small corner of the sky!"

Your birth chart is the owner's manual for your stellium. A stellium may virtually eclipse your Sun, Moon, or Ascendant in terms of its importance. Therefore, possibly the most important piece of astrological study you could do is analyzing your stellium, as we'll do, step by step in this book. It's a key to the greatest gifts you have to offer the world.

As explained in the introduction, the chart is a 360° circle divided into 12 sections called *houses*, each describing what we're like in important areas of life. For stellium holders, this group of planets is generally concentrated in a single zodiac sign and one or two of the 12 houses.

With so much energy centered in one place, there's a laser-like focus on the personality traits or areas of life it represents. It identifies something special about you — a complicated combination of issues, interests, and gifts that may be a major part of your life purpose. It's often a career indicator. It's certainly your passion!

Possibilities in a Stellium or Triple Conjunction



Overview of a Stellium: I create boxes like the one above to express certain chart features. This one isn't about any particular stellium, but rather about the ways people live out their stelliums. Many go for their goals with all their heart and soul; some overreach at times.

The only trouble with using one of these boxes as a teaching tool is: **stellium folks are more than likely to think outside the box!** We often bring a unique perspective to our field of interest.

Life can be exciting but hectic for people who have these chart features. It's like being the head of a household of lively teenagers, with all the tumultuous hormones of that stage. There's always someone demanding attention; somebody's feeling abused or put upon; at least one wants you to lay out money; and one is mad at you for not being parent of the year. Getting them all to work in tandem isn't just a tough job; it's practically a miracle!

The saving grace of a houseful of adolescents is that, if they're handled well, they eventually grow up and have a shot at reaching their potential. So can the diverse planetary energies in a stellium or triple conjunction. As you mature and work persistently on perfecting your gifts, you tend to grow into the good qualities and abilities more and more fully.

What Does a Stellium or Triple Conjunction Consist of?

There are **two kinds of stelliums**. One is a *stellium by sign*, made up of four or more planets in the same zodiac sign, but not necessarily in the same *house* of your astrology chart. The other is a *stellium by house*, in which there are four or more planets in the same house, but not necessarily the same sign. If the planets are in both the same sign and house, their impact is strengthened.

The classic rule is that two of the planets have to be something other than the Sun, Mercury, or Venus. Why not a Sun-Mercury-Venus combination? Mercury is at most 28° away from the Sun's zodiac position, while Venus is at most 47° away, so the three often wind up in the same sign and house. Surveying the ephemeris for 2009–11, the Sun, Mercury, and Venus fell in the same sign 40 days in 2009, 52 days in 2010, and 59 days in 2011.

In terms of how common that is, it's as though one day a week every child born on the planet had the Sun, Mercury, and Venus in the same sign. It's not unusual, even when they're standing within an 8-10° range. It might make you a player in your high school or local community—Mr. or Ms. Personality, a well-liked, sociable type with a great gift of gab—but not extraordinary.

The Power of Triple Conjunctions: A *conjunction* is a potent connection (called an *aspect*) between two planets in which planets stand close together and blend their energies. A *triple conjunction* consists of three planets standing together, regardless of the zodiac sign or house.

Modern interpretations lean toward accepting three planets as a stellium, but is that stretching the definition too far? I don't believe "three's a stellium," but we're especially tempted to view it as one when it involves a triple conjunction—three or more planets in range of one another.

The allowable *orb* (number of degrees apart) for a *conjunction* is usually 8° but can be extended in a triple conjunction if Planet A and Planet B are conjunct, while Planets B and C are conjunct, but Planets A and C are slightly too wide for a conjunction.

Suppose you have Mars at 5° Scorpio, Jupiter at 11° Scorpio, and Pluto at 15° Scorpio. Mars and Pluto would ordinarily be considered too far apart for a *conjunction*, but Jupiter pulls them together. Another reason for extending the orb is if the Sun or Moon—the two most powerful features of a horoscope—are involved. (You'll learn to interpret conjunctions in Chapter 11.)

In surveying the charts of notables like movie stars, musicians, and politicians, they were more likely to have triple conjunctions than stelliums. Perhaps it's because extra planets beyond three

introduce many more complications to manage and difficulties to overcome. A trio of conjoined planets may even confer a bit of star quality.

Here are examples of actors born in the 1960s with slow-moving Pluto and Uranus in Virgo conjunct one of the faster-moving inner planets. (Find their birth data and charts online at [Astro-Databank](#).)

- **Pluto-Uranus-Mars:** Johnny Depp, Robert Downey Jr., and Brooke Shields
- **Pluto-Uranus-Mercury:** Whitney Houston
- **Pluto-Uranus-Venus:** Julia Roberts, J.K. Rowling
- **Pluto-Uranus-Sun:** Charlie Sheen

Throughout this book, in describing the qualities and effects of triple conjunctions and stelliums, I may just say *stelliums*¹ and not mention *triple conjunctions*. It's a bit of shorthand and doesn't mean that triple conjunctions lack the qualities described.

Their impact is especially obvious and powerful during periods when the current (*transiting*) positions of Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto affect the series of planets in the natal conjunctions. *Transits* like these often herald major turning points in the lives of people with triple conjunctions or stelliums.

There's one special type of triple conjunction I call a superconjunction. It happens in rare intervals lasting several years when three of the four slower-moving planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—are within about an 8-10 range° of one another.

The only one in our lifetime occurred in 1988-89, a superconjunction of Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune in Capricorn. Chapter 13 explores the exceptional generation born with it. The previous superconjunction, in the 1850s, was of Pluto, Uranus, and Saturn in Taurus.

Why this Book is Needed Now

To the best of my knowledge, no one has ever written a book about stelliums, and, as a result, they've remained something of a mystery. It's crucial to understand them now because we're in an era when an uncommon number of people have stelliums or triple conjunctions. (Last year, to meet the urgent need for more information, I published a short version of this book, *The Stellium Tool Kit*, which I've taken off the market now that this book is available.)

The most potent stelliums occur under conjunctions of the slower-moving planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—because they correspond to major social, economic, and political changes that leave an impact on those born under them. The slow-moving planets stand conjunct in the sky infrequently because of their long orbits around the Sun, but for the past 50 years, there have been an unusual series of them.

¹ Academics, hold the emails. Having taken four years of Latin in high school and earned *As* all the way through, I'm fully aware that the proper plural of *stellium* is *stellia*. But English is an ever-evolving, conversational language, and we'd no longer call more than one fish tank our *aquaria*, nor would we call a plethora of pendulums our *pendulia*. In this book, stelliums will not be called *stellia*, except in the unlikely event that there's a Latin translation.

Because of this series, there are possibly more people alive today with stelliums than ever before. The world population has continually increased over the past few centuries and is estimated to have reached 8 billion by the end of 2012².

The intervals between conjunctions of the slower-moving planets are long. Conjunctions between Saturn and Uranus are 45 years apart, while conjunctions between Uranus and Neptune are 172 years apart. When they form, they last several years. The Uranus-Pluto conjunction was in range nearly the whole decade of the 1960s. The one before that was in the 1850s.

A series of slow-moving conjunctions formed cores of stelliums in the signs Virgo through Aquarius between 1960 and 2010. It's unusual for so many such conjunctions to occur in a 50-year span, as well as for them to be concentrated in consecutive signs.

The table below shows the series of outer planet conjunctions that are the core of stelliums starting in the 1960s³. Chapter 12 of this book is devoted to exploring the lives of people who have stelliums based on these pairs.

Planets in the Conjunction:	Zodiac Signs involved:	Years in an 8-10° Range:	Years Between:	Previous Exact Conjunctions:
Uranus-Pluto	Virgo	1962-9	111-143	1710, 1850-51
Saturn-Pluto	Libra-Scorpio	1981-83	33	1914-5, 1947-8
Saturn-Uranus	Sagittarius-Capricorn	1987-89	45	1897, 1941-3
Uranus-Neptune	Capricorn-Aquarius	1989-97	172-3	1650, 1823
Saturn-Neptune	Capricorn	1989-90	35-37	1917, 1952-3

Chapter 13 is about the superconjunction mentioned earlier of Uranus, Saturn, and Neptune. These three slow-moving planets were standing together within 10° of the zodiac's 360° during half of 1988 and the entire year of 1989. It's been centuries since the last time. **Every single person born on the planet during that 18-month period had this powerful trio in capable Capricorn.**

We're talking millions of people worldwide! In the late 1980s, the world birth rate was the highest ever recorded, at about 138 million a year⁴. Many of them born in the winter months had the Sun, Mercury, or Venus in Capricorn as well—a total of as many as seven planets.

This group's special abilities are bound to make a huge difference in our vast global problems and may alter the course of world history. And, yet, because the energies of the planets involved are so difficult to combine, many of them are struggling. It was for these exceptional young adults, in particular, that I was impelled to create this guidebook.

² Found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_population.

³ This table of outer planet conjunctions was compiled using the invaluable reference work, *Tables of Planetary Phenomena, Second Edition*, by Neil F. Michelsen, revised by Rique Pottenger (ACS Publishing, San Diego, 1993). Information on intervals between outer planet conjunctions came from an exceptional website, which is only intermittently available: www.auxmailliesgodefroy.com/outer_planet_cycles. Any errors or inexactitudes are strictly my own!

What You'll Learn from this Book

If you found a stellium or triple conjunction in your own chart or that of a loved one or astrology client, you're doubtlessly wondering what it means. This handbook gives greater understanding of its strengths and pitfalls and provides tools to channel the immense potential it represents. **This is the only reference work in our field for stelliums and triple conjunctions.**

It's my goal to write in a style that can reach readers of all levels of knowledge. Hopefully, newcomers will find out a great deal about themselves. Astrology students can come to a better mastery of interpreting chart features like these. Professional astrologers can come away with new insights and tools to empower clients to make better use of their stelliums.

(Beginners, if you skipped the introduction, do go back and read it, as it will give you a much-needed orientation to the stellium pieces we'll be talking about.)

With each chapter, you'll put together another piece of the complex puzzle these chart features represent—first the stellium's sign, then the house placement, next the individual planets in the group, and then how they work together.

Conscious awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of each piece of the configuration is the primary tool for mastering a stellium or triple conjunction. The aim of this owner's manual is to help you bring out its best potentials with less trial and error. You can shorten your learning curve by understanding the sign, house, and planets involved, because you'll be able to use them more effectively and make better-informed choices.

Because the book is so long, it's divided into two parts—two separate PDF files. Here are some features you'll find in this book:

1) **You'll be guided, step by step, in creating stellium worksheets to help you understand the pieces of your stellium** so you can make the best use of them and avoid the pitfalls. You'll work with self-tests that list the positive and the difficult potentials of the stellium's sign, house, and the planets in the combination. If you're a professional astrologer, you can do the same for clients or students. (You'll learn how to create these worksheets in Chapter 9.)

A sample worksheet appears on the next page. It's for Nick Vujicic, a minister and motivational speaker born with all four arms and legs missing. With his five Sagittarius planets in the 12th house, he's an inspiring example of the extraordinary things people with stelliums are capable of achieving. His chart appears in the Introduction.

2) **With the PDF format, you can print out sections that pertain specifically to you** or your loved ones, creating a permanent reference tool. Another PDF perk is a series of printable summary tables about the qualities associated with the signs, house, and planets.

3) **The PDF format also allows for clickable links** to blog articles and internet sites, a resource often used in this book to provide more in-depth information than we have space for here.

4) As with most of my books, this one isn't just about astrology, because **throughout the book I'll suggest self-help tools that will help you tackle the difficulties described by your chart.**

Used regularly, these tools can speed your progress in developing your gifts and abilities. Growing into a stellium or triple conjunction is a lifelong process with considerable rewards, but techniques like these can smooth out the learning curve.

This isn't just a self-help book, though; it's a help-us-all book, because the more we stellium folks develop our special gifts and abilities, the better a world it will be. We are needed.

Sample Stellium Worksheet for minister and motivational speaker, Nick Vujicic, born December 4, 1982 at 6:35 AM in Brisbane, Australia, data from his mother, on one of his TV shows. (Read about him here: [Nick Vujicic - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.](#))

Date of inventory: __ / __ /20 __. (Repeat periodically to measure your progress.)

Sign qualities: Highlight Colors: Often Sometimes Seldom Never Depends Who You Ask
Sagittarius: ruled by Jupiter, similar to the 9th house, Mutable Fire Sign.
Interests: higher learning, synthesis of knowledge, philosophy, travel, adventure, sports.
Roles: teacher, sage, philosopher, preacher, wise elder, citizen of the world, gambler, adventurer.
Constructive traits: upbeat, joyful, aspiring, wisdom, philosophical, optimistic, lucky, generous, studious, able to synthesize diverse sources of information, lifetime student, buoyant, gregarious.
Difficult Traits: overindulging, pushing their luck, preachy, exaggerating, tactless, opinionated, judgmental, fanatical, over-confident, pompous, dogmatic, greedy, hypocritical, know-it-all.

House Matters: Highlight Colors: Often Sometimes Seldom Never Maybe Another Time

Twelfth: Secrets we keep from ourselves and others; self-defeating behavior; service; retreats from the world like ashrams; spiritual practices and the spiritual path; chronic or psychosomatic illness. **Issues to Work on:** retreat from the world—the unconscious, dreams, spiritual pursuits, service. Repressed - material that comes out in psychosomatic or chronic disease or self-defeating actions. (Places where you are your own worst enemy.) **People Represented:** Secret connections, such as extramarital affairs. Members of A.A. and other 12-step programs. Secret enemies, drinking buddies, and those who undermine us—ourselves when we're our own worst enemy. Patients and staff of chronic care facilities like hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. Members of ashrams and spiritual groups. Selfless servers like nuns, monks, and volunteers.

Planets' Traits: Highlight Colors: Often Sometimes Seldom Never Depends Who You Ask

URANUS: Sign: Sagittarius Degree: 5 House: 12 th	Uranus's roles: inventor, scientist, tech support, trendsetter, maverick, activist, adolescent. Constructive traits: avant-garde, futuristic, state-of-the-art, leading edge, genius, quirky, humanitarian, thinking out-of-the-box, idealistic, innovative, brilliant, detached, free. Difficult Traits: willfulness, knee-jerk rebel, saboteur, agitator, maverick, provocative, eccentric, cold, contrary, elitist, erratic, undependable, distractible, explosive, stubborn.
SUN: Sign: Sagittarius Degree: 11 House: 12 th	The Sun's roles: shining star, King or Queen, golden girl or boy, center of action. Constructive traits: confidence, high visibility, charismatic, regal, dramatic, personable, sunny, generous, encouraging, positive, focused on self-expression and self-development. Difficult Traits: egotistical, conceited, vain, pretentious, grandiose, false pride, demanding, high maintenance, self-centered, self-absorbed, stubborn, selfish, narcissistic, melodramatic.
VENUS: Sign: Sagittarius Degree: 18 House: 12 th	Venus's roles: mediator, peacemaker, beautifier, networker, social coordinator, love-addict. Constructive traits: sociable, charming, attractive, warm, adaptable, harmonious, refined, conciliatory, affectionate, agreeable, people skills, team player, likable, able to compromise. Difficult Traits: people pleaser, vain, over-concerned with appearances, coasting on charm rather than effort, insincere, indolent, hedonistic, greedy, superficial, wishy-washy.
MERCURY: Sign: Sagittarius Degree: 19 House: 12 th	Mercury's roles: messenger, information specialist, networker, speaker, writer, trendsetter. Constructive traits: communicative, fast learner, full of ideas, articulate, bright, adaptable, versatile, clever, imaginative, humorous, trendy, well informed, curious, persuasive. Difficult Traits: distractible, fidgety, changeable, restless, overly cerebral, faddish, fickle, superficial, glib, nosy, gossipy, knows all/tells all, internet addict, Peter Pan, untruthful.
NEPTUNE: Sign: Sagittarius Degree: 26 House: 12 th	Neptune's roles: spiritual seeker, dreamer, visionary, poet, artist, dedicated helper, martyr. Constructive traits: creative, compassionate, intuitive, imaginative, empathetic, idealistic, spiritual seeker, willing to serve, forgiving, accepting, devoted, meditative, non-materialistic. Difficult Traits: hazy, daydreamer, lives in fantasy or denial, easily fooled, codependent, unstable, chaotic, unrealistic, impractical, addiction-prone, deceitful, escapist, doormat.

You may wonder what credentials qualify me to write this book. I have a Master's degree in Social Work and nearly 45 years of experience as a professional astrologer.

More to the point are my four planets in Gemini—Uranus, Saturn, Venus, and Mercury. Since I was born in 1942, that's over 70 years of hands-on experience in juggling a complex mixture of energies. Despite that, I learned a great deal about managing a stellium—and grew as a writer—while writing this book. Mastering a combination like this one is a never-ending challenge!

I'll mention several of my books as we go along, but please understand that I don't do it for self-promotion. I'm retired from working with clients and no longer appear at conferences. It's just that I've written a number of books on the outermost planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—and their considerable effect on people's lives, careers, and relationships.

When they're part of a stellium or triple conjunction, their impact is far too complicated to explain fully here. I refer to my other books so you can learn more about how those planets affect your stellium. I'll also mention important books by other authors.

Plusses and Minuses of Stelliums—How They Make you Vulnerable

Planets in a stellium can show great promise, depending on how you use them. The abilities can be misused or wasted, depending on the character of the individual. **Here are some plusses and minuses to keep in mind.**

Some reasons stelliums and triple conjunctions can be a great asset:

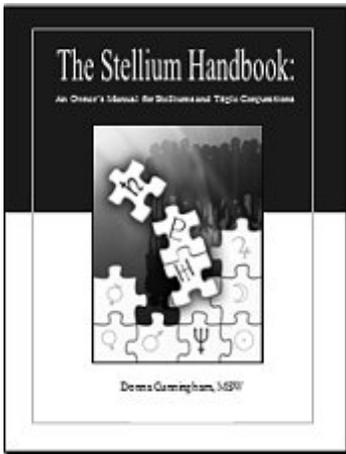
- You probably have a strong sense of a mission, purpose, or a dream that fuels your efforts.
- Having a passion like this one can make life quite an adventure, a meaningful journey.
- With an intense focus on one house and sign of your chart, you can grow a great deal through your experiences in those areas over the years.
- Over the course of a lifetime, you can accumulate a considerable body of work in areas related to your mission.
- Several different kinds of energy are brought to bear on the matters of that house. Thus, you develop a unique range of useful skills.

Some reasons they can make you vulnerable:

- They can be too much of a good thing—too many eggs in one basket.
- You may be so focused on one area that you lack a healthy mental, emotional, and physical balance.
- There's too much riding on one project, mission, or area of life, so **TEMPTATIONS ARISE**, and you may conclude that the ends justify the means.
- When things go wrong, the sense of loss can be devastating.
- Current astrological conditions (*transits*) that affect the series of planets in the group can have a domino effect if not managed well and thus may be hard to come back from.
- The *outer planets*—Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto—show your connection with the Collective. With one or more outer planets included, you may be more personally affected by world events and global changes. At the same time, your skills and experience can give you the ability to make a difference in the outcome of intense periods of social change.

Fact Sheet about the 1988-89 Capricorn Stellium

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NOTE: You may distribute this fact sheet to astrologers, astrology students, and people with Capricorn Stelliums and their families, as long as you retain my copyright and the source. It's drawn from my reference work, The Stellium Handbook, an ebook available at <http://skywriter.wordpress.com/stellium-information/>.

The only full-length book on stelliums, *The Stellium Handbook* is an e-book with self-help tools designed to help make the best use of the pieces of the combination. It's written in language a beginner can understand. Find out more or order at <http://skywriter.wordpress.com/stellium-information/>

Every single child born on the planet in 1989 and in five months of 1988 had an extraordinary conjunction of Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune standing within 8-10° of one another in Capricorn.

These rare triple conjunctions can be as much as 680 years apart. The two previous ones were in Virgo in 1307 and in Scorpio in 625 AD.

Many people born in winter months of 1988-89 had the Sun, Mercury, or Venus in Capricorn as well—forming powerful stelliums of as many as seven planets. (Capricorn stelliums continued for several years of the 1990s without the triple conjunction.)

There was a huge spike in the birth rate in 1989, with more children born in the U.S. than at any time since 1964. Therefore, the peak of the Uranus-Neptune-Saturn conjunction was also a peak in births. In the late 1980s, the world birth rate was the highest ever recorded, at about 138 million a year.

The triple conjunction doesn't affect all areas of life equally. It's focused on the areas of life described by the house of the astrology chart where it is placed.

To understand the triple conjunction, first analyze the three conjunctions separately: Saturn-Uranus, Saturn-Neptune, and Uranus-Neptune.

Each of these conjunctions, made up of slow-moving planets, occurs many years apart. Saturn-Uranus conjunctions are 45 years apart. Saturn-Neptune conjunctions are 35-37 years apart. Uranus-Neptune conjunctions are 172-3 years.

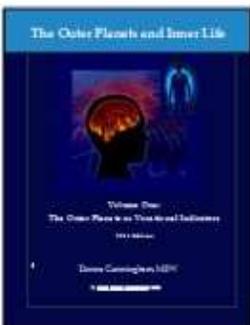
The Uranus-Neptune conjunction is long-lasting. From 1988-1997, the two planets were conjunct within 8°—first in Sagittarius, then in Capricorn, and then in Aquarius.

The previous Uranus-Neptune conjunction in the 1820s—also in Sagittarius and Capricorn—produced geniuses, pioneers, and leaders whose contributions changed life as people knew it then. This recent conjunction could also produce geniuses and leaders who bring about much-needed breakthroughs for us.

Donna Cunningham's Books on the Outer Planets

If you're dealing with a stellium that contains one or more outer planets, these ebooks will help you understand their role in your chart and explore ways to change difficult patterns they represent. Since *The Stellium Handbook* can't cover them in the depth they deserve, you'll gain a greater perspective through these ebooks that devote entire chapters to the meanings of Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto in a variety of contexts.

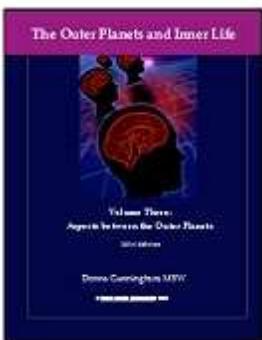
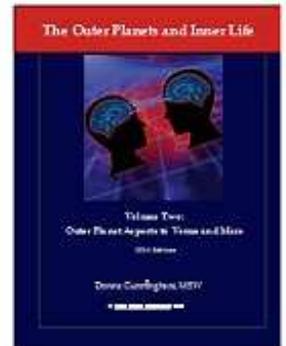
The Outer Planets and Inner Life volumes are \$15 each if purchased separately, or \$35 for all three—a \$10 savings. To order, go to PayPal.com and tell them which books you want, Donna's email address (moonmave@spiritone.com), and the amount. They will send her a notice, and then she sends them to you. The ebooks arrive on separate emails. If you want them sent to an email address other than the one you used, let her know.



The Outer Planets and Inner Life, V.1: The Outer Planets as Vocational Indicators. (Newly-released 2014 edition) If your stellium has outer planets in the career houses (2nd, 6th, or 10th), or if it relates to your chosen career, this book can give you helpful insights. There's an otherworldly element when the outer planets are career markers, a sense of serving a greater purpose in human history.

Each chapter of this e-book explores one of these planets in depth. See an [excerpt](#) here.

The Outer Planets and Inner Life, v.2: Outer Planet Aspects to Venus and Mars. (Newly-released 2014 edition) Learn about the love lives of people who have the outer planets woven in with the primary relationship planets, Venus and Mars, or in the relationship houses—the 7th, 8th, and 5th. We'll identify persistent relationship patterns for each outer planet influence. Explore the ways people with these chart factors try to satisfy their need for intimacy while still fulfilling an equally strong urge to participate in the evolution of our world. See the table of contents [here](#).



The Outer Planets and Inner Life, v.3: Aspects between the Outer Planets. (Newly-released 2014 edition) Some of the most eventful and memorable historical eras happen when two or more of the outermost planets—Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, or Pluto—form aspects to one another. We'll look at distinct 20th Century eras like the 1960s, the astrological patterns of that time, and the life-long impact of these combinations on people born with them strongly featured in their charts.

The book includes chapters on people born with the Pluto-Uranus conjunction, those with Pluto and Saturn in aspect, those with Uranus and Saturn in aspect, those with Neptune and Saturn in aspect, and those with Uranus and Neptune in aspect. See the table of contents [here](#).

For Donna's classic self-help book on Pluto, go to [Healing Pluto Problems](#). Published by RedWheel/ Weiser, it's available in hard copy and Kindle format.

