

Ivy M. Goldstein-Jacobson
1893-1990

IVY'S GEM OF THE WEEK

Realistic and Unrealistic Urges

PLANETS may be considered the children of the parental father-Sun and mother-Moon who are always Direct in motion. A planet direct is therefore moved to great extent by noblesse oblige.... doing what his position expects... and if retrograde will retire to the island within & carefully consider both sides, his parents' & his own, before committing himself. Never discount the importance of the retrograde condition: being mental in nature it is eventually conclusive, arriving at personal acceptance of precept.

A retrograde planet turning direct in time shows consolidation of personal attributes, achieved by a self-dedication to precept. But turning retrograde later on it means that the native stops to think of precept vs prohibition more than before, perhaps by seeing that "there is a matter too hard for thee in judgment" & seeking the teacher ready to help him. In either case the urge is definitely realistic now.

"None so blind as those who do not wish to see", describe those whose urges are unrealistic & not recognized because springing from fixed Signs under compulsion due to a combination of circumstances at birth. Sometimes unfavorable aspects to Neptune or Uranus & not saved by mutual reception elsewhere; Saturn-the-unbending in a fixed sign or conjunct an evil fixed star; or Saturn in the 10th house liable to a fall from grace under certain afflictions will make it very difficult for the native to understand how unrealistic he is. Some of us who know what is prohibited go blindly into situations due to ignorance of precept at the time: such learning is hard. — **Astrological Essays**, 1979. **Buy.**

Kim Novak

KIM NOVAK, four months older than my late mother, is TCM's **Star of the Month** for September. As a movie star she was just before my time, since I am nearly two decades younger. From my youth I can recall only the usual cheesecake pinups that all young starlets posed for. Which kids like me thought really sexy at the time. She was born February 13, 1933, at a recorded time of 6:13 am CST, in Chicago.

Using Carter's rules (**Encyclopaedia of Psychological Astrology**, Stage, Ability for), Novak was born to act. Aquarius, according to Carter, is the actor's sign. Novak has her ascendant, Venus, Saturn, Sun and Mercury all in the sign. A 12th house occupation, Novak has Venus there, according to her stated time of birth. In Pisces, another critical placement for actors, is her north node. Of specific degrees, Carter says 23° of Leo-Aquarius. Novak's Sun is at 24° Aquarius. Carter says the ability to impersonate others belongs to 13° Pisces. Novak has her north node at 8°. Hitting those points by opposition, we find Neptune, at 9° Virgo, Mars at 16° Virgo, and Jupiter at 21° Virgo.

So it would be no surprise that as soon as she showed up in Hollywood with a day job as an extra (which are easy to get, by the way) that the head of Columbia Pictures, **Harry Cohen**, snapped her up. The year seems to have been 1953, I regret I cannot find the day or month. She was 21.

During that year Saturn and Neptune were in Libra in her 8th, though far from her Moon, at 1° Libra. Pluto was in late Leo, though far from opposing her Sun in Aquarius. Uranus was in Cancer, which was her 6th, though not near her Pluto. In May, 1953, Jupiter hit her IC. A bigger house?

Her IC at 0° Gemini means we should look at Novak's chart to determine if she has Sagittarius or Scorpio on her MC (the other end of things), as a few minutes of time can produce great changes. Rulers of both signs, Mars and Jupiter, are retrograde in Virgo and in the 8th. You will get a public persona of cleanliness and fussiness (Virgo) with either planet, but with Jupiter and Sag the result will be expansive and cheerful and sexy (8th), while with Mars and Scorpio it will be sharp-edged and hard. On balance, my guess is that Novak has Scorpio on the MC

and Mars ruling it. Make her time of birth 6:05 am, eight minutes earlier.

Which tidies up her chart nicely. Dour, unfriendly – or quirky (Aquarius) – Saturn is no longer exactly on the ascendant. Venus is, accounting for her great beauty. The 12th house emphasis is gone, though Saturn, ruling her ascendant and very close to it, also rules the 12th. Before modern, hyper-driven timekeeping, five or ten minute errors in time were not unusual, and there are few daddies who time births with stopwatches. At the moment the clock in my car (2003 Rav4) is eight minutes fast, it will not keep time.

Which, as Carter's Aquarius acting formula is now firmly on the ascendant, meant that Kim would eventually be "discovered" for the obvious actress that she always was. Acting was right there on her ascendant.

Move the time back eight minutes or so, from 6:13 am to 6:05 and the 4th house becomes Taurus and the land and growing things and accounts for her love of the country, rather than the city. (Gemini would be jangling telephones and people coming and going, etc.) Note that with a late degree of Scorpio/Taurus on the MC/IC, there will still be lots of Sagittarius and Gemini in those two houses, a lot of exciting buzz whenever she's in public, a lot of activity in her home, but these will be subordinate to the actual signs on the cusp.

One example of Scorpio on the 10th would have been the affair with **Sammy Davis Junior** in 1957, which, as it was a public affair, would relate to her 10th house, not her first. In the 10th we see both the excitement and novelty (Sagittarius) of an interracial affair (a big deal in America in the 1950's, for that matter, right up to the early 1970's), and the intense feelings it aroused: Scorpio. In desperately dragging her away from Sammy, Harry Cohen suffered a number of heart attacks.

LESS than two years after she was discovered, Kim Novak was the most popular star in the movies, despite having no prior experience nor training.

But even with a fabulous chart for acting, Kim's heart was not in it. Where does one's heart lie? It lies with the Moon, always and forever, and it will be as good or bad as the Moon's sign, house placements, and aspects. This is the same for you, for me, for men, for women. The Moon is our emotional center and always will be. Regrettably, Kim's Moon

(continued, page 4)

was not in a particularly good condition.

Kim's Moon is stranded in Libra, where it must look to others as to who she should be, how she should feel about things. In the 8th house of intensity this will not be a casual thing. Trine to Venus on her ascendant, she took her beauty for granted. Trine to Saturn, her outlook is serious. Venus-Saturn on the ascendant did not make for a love/hate of Kim, but rather, a love/dislike of her, as the trines from Venus and Saturn fed straight back to her Moon, isolated in Libra, stranded in the 8th house, where she could sense every thought in the room.

The thoughts she sensed coming towards her were invariably a mixture of adulation (Venus) and dislike (Saturn). The Novak page at [AstroDataBank](#) is one of its best bios and worth the read. It is a pity its author is uncredited, as there is a lot of work in it.

Saturn-Venus-Moon also fed her intense desire to please her father, as well as her failure to do so. The father is the 4th house cusp, which here is Taurus, ruled by Venus. Exposed on the ascendant, there is a great need for the father's love, but, conjunct Saturn, an inability to give or express it. Alternatively, if Gemini were here (the 6:13 am time), Daddy, ruled now by Mercury exalted in Aquarius, would have been a quirky jack-of-all-trades.

The connection back to the Moon is dual. Not only the trine from ascending degree, Venus and Saturn, but the Moon is also exalted in Taurus, the father's sign. Which, given the Moon's 8th house placement in Libra, meant she knew her father, probably better than he ever expected. Again and again, the chart will tell you these details, if you only dare to ask it.

The net result of these cross-currents was to isolate Novak in her own world, beginning as a small child. According to the ADB bio, Kim would lock herself in her room. Many years later she said she had been raped as a child, which gives a small taste of the extreme and utter isolation and fear she suffered, and perhaps still does.

It was her mother, Blanche, who dragged Kim out into the light, at the urging of a doctor. The mother is the 10th house. In my tweaked rectification there is a late degree of Scorpio on the cusp. It, which is to say, Blanche, her mother, is ruled by Mars, the forceful, as Mars rules Scorpio. Retrograde, the mother would be reacting to events, rather than initiating them herself. Drifting towards Neptune, itself far from its home in Pisces, the resulting Mars-Neptune-south node conjunction might, if it were lucky, stumble

Kim Novak

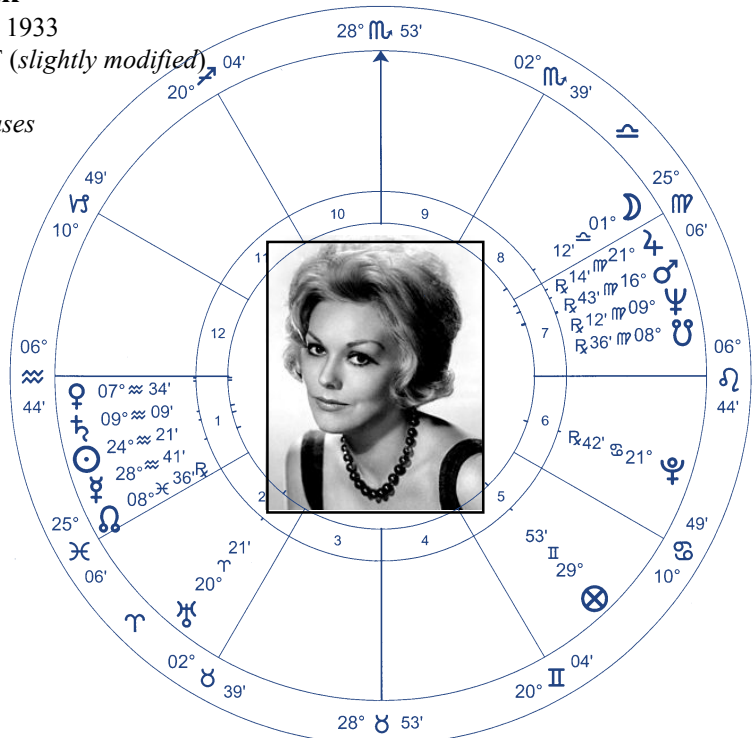
February 13, 1933

6.05 am CST (*slightly modified*)

Chicago, IL

Placidus houses

Mean Node



through and do the right thing, but only by accident. By all accounts, her mother's insistence that she join a youth group, age 11, very likely saved her daughter from a life as a recluse. Carter gives notes on suicidal tendencies, some of which Novak has.

I have assigned all of Virgo and all of Libra to the 8th house for a reason. An early degree of Leo is on the cusp of the 7th, of the partner, which is ruled by the Sun, debilitated in Aquarius, in the first. There is no trace of Virgo in the 7th, while a late degree of Virgo turns up on the 8th itself. Therefore all the Virgo planets, while technically in the 7th, are actually in the 8th. They all have an affinity to the sign on the cusp, which the cusp itself brings forward and stamps with its unique 8th house quality.

So count the houses with me. The mother's house, the 10th, counts as the 1st. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven and here we find Virgo and the mother's ruling planet, Mars. Kim's mother's ruling planet fell in the 11th, according to a reckoning based on the mother's 10th house. This is not how Blanche Novak viewed her older daughter, but it was how she viewed Kim, her second. To Blanche, her daughter needed friends, because Blanche's ruling planet fell in Blanche's house of friends, so far as Kim's chart was concerned. The mother's ruling planet did not fall in the mother's 6th (Kim's 3rd) of diet and health, nor in the mother's first

(Kim's 10th) of identifying her daughter as herself, nor in any other of the houses, but in the 11th, of friends. So she went out and got some for her. That's what a mother's love will do.

Though the stellium on her ascendant made Kim an actress, we have seen that it is her complex 8th house stellium that defines her as a person.

WITH 6° of Leo on the cusp of the 7th and the ruling planet, the Sun, debilitated in Aquarius in the 1st, Kim wants an authoritative leader, a ruler, for a partner, but, Sun debilitated, that's precisely the man she will never get. Since this is another case of ruler of the 7th debilitated in the first, Kim would drag that man around with her, the way that Bill dragged Hilary, or that Lennon dragged around Paul and then Yoko, except that, the Sun trailing after Venus and Saturn and followed by a much stronger Mercury, she can drag them around all she wants but with one exception (Davis) we are too distracted by Venus and Saturn, both smack on the ascendant, to notice.

What Kim had was a lot of the "wrong" man: Sammy Davis Jr., for example, in 1957, followed in 1965, age 32, by a one-year marriage, followed at last by the right one, to veterinarian Robert Malloy, in 1976, at age 43. It is said that the Moon, Venus and the ruler of the 7th determine the women that a man will marry, while the Sun, Mars and the ruler of the 7th determine the men that a

woman will marry. In Kim's case, the Sun, being debilitated, would give her the wrong man, while Mars, retrograde in fussy Virgo, would make him, well, a Sammy Davis Jr. type, for those who remember him. Neat and trim and Virgo and fussy and not very "masculine" at all. The south node in Virgo as part of her expanded 8th, marriage would be unlucky. Having come to marriage late in life myself, I am of the opinion that a first marriage over the age of 40 is a very different thing than a marriage in one's late teens or 20's. All the critical factors that go into a marriage are different when it is delayed. The sexual-emotional elements in a late marriage are far less intense, for better or worse.

It was **Alfred Hitchcock** who took best advantage of Kim Novak's complex character as an actress. In the movie **Vertigo**, he made her wear clothing which deliberately made her uncomfortable. Her Moon in Libra, Kim wants to follow someone's lead, but as her Moon is intercepted there is never anyone to guide her, hence her discomfort. The result was seen in **Vertigo**, where she played a helpless pawn upon which two men projected their fantasies.

Expanding on this, we can judge Novak's entire acting career as Harry Cohen's personal fantasy. In her recent **interview** with **Robert Osborne** and TCM, she said about as much, that after Cohen died her career ended. There are very few, if any, major acting talents who were limited in this fashion. Other actors had a need and were compelled to continue (remember **Norma Desmond** in **Sunset Boulevard?**), or found themselves other things to do. Remember **Eddie Haskell**? He became a cop.

Novak's career started abruptly and after a brief initial success, went downhill rapidly. To be a star you've got to be someone (Kate Hepburn comes to mind), or simply not care what others make of you, if there ever was such a creature. Those who do not know and cannot find out are ground up by the system.

Which was true of Kim, as Hollywood is

ruthlessly aggressive towards its female stars. All the more so when, as in Kim's case, the south node, Neptune, Mars and Jupiter are in the sexy 8th house. Mars/Neptune/South node in virginal Virgo, there is an aspect of "dirty whore" about her. Which, Moon in Libra, Sun in Aquarius, ruling planet Saturn in Aquarius in the 1st, was not in any way part of her makeup.

The longer this imbalance went on, the worse it got. Novak fled Hollywood after little more than a decade. If my slight adjustment of her birth time is right, her four fixed angles likely kept her there longer than she wanted. Once she had broken free, that same fixity keep her away.

As for children, it is said she has none of her own. The astrology is straightforward. Gemini on the cusp of 5 is infertile. Ruled by Mercury in Aquarius, which is infertile. Sun in Aquarius is not fertile, nor is Venus in Aquarius, nor Mars in Virgo. The Moon in Libra can be, in a pinch, but only if it has some association with the 5th or its ruler, which is here lacking. So no children. These same factors delayed marriage, as fertile charts invariably marry early. Infertile ones marry late, if at all.

Instead of children, Novak took up **painting**. Note the 5th house, of creativity, is empty except for the Part of Fortune. (Note that in my tweaking, the Part has changed signs, from Cancer to Gemini.) Gemini on the cusp of the 5th, ruled by Mercury exalted in Aquarius, she makes good use of her hands and fingers. Her creative drive and sense of color, which is very good (another reason she did not like her costume in **Vertigo**), comes from her Moon in Libra. It would be interesting to compare her work to that of **Red Skelton**, as he was another actor who turned to paint, in his case, clowns.

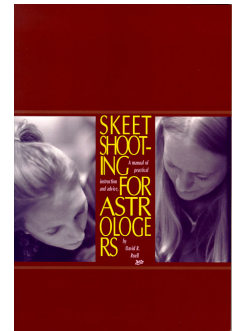
So, like George Harrison, who said he was only briefly a Beatle but was mostly someone else, Kim Novak was briefly a movie star but has mostly been her own woman. I salute her.

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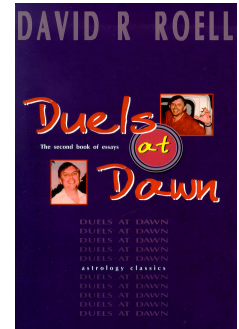
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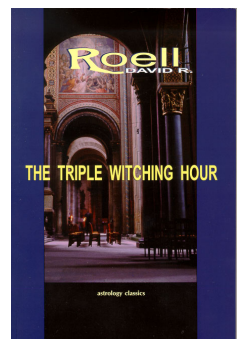
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