

From  
**Dell Horoscope**

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Chris Lorenz's review of  
**Skeet Shooting**  
for Astrologers,  
by David R. Roell

**SKEET SHOOTING FOR ASTROLOGERS**  
by David Roelle; Astrology Classics, 207  
Victory Lane, Bel Air, MD 21014; 2011, pa-  
per, 227 pp., (6" x 9"), \$24.95, ISBN 978-  
1-933303-29-1.

If you love astrology books and handy insights into the complex workings of astrology, then you'll enjoy reading David Roelle's *Skeet Shooting for Astrologers*. The author is a bookseller by trade and specializes in astrology, which he has studied with a passion since the 1980s. He wrote a monthly online newsletter, which turned into a weekly newsletter, and rather than have all his essays disappear into cyberspace, he's collected them in this *Skeet Shooting* book. Just about every essay mentions an astrology book, from which he finds his inspiration to expand, speculate, and elaborate on various topics.

The essays were written between 2007 and 2010, and although they appear in chronological order, it's great fun just to open the book at random and dive into the subject at hand. During a coffee break, for example, you might find yourself reading the one page on Marc Robertson's book titled *The 8th House*. This house is about investment advice, which, according to Roelle, not one astrologer in a hundred knows. If you think the eighth house is about sex, you're right, but with this caveat: "Sex for the

sake of amusement is the 5th house. Sex as something that changes you forever, that's the 8th house."

The publication of Neil Michelsen's *Table of Planetary Phenomenon* got Roelle thinking about tropical versus sidereal zodiacs. In this two-page essay, he delves into the intricacies of measuring a day and how the length of a day changes from one season to the next if one is using the tropical zodiac. But in the sidereal zodiac, which is anchored to Aldebaran and not the equinox, every day is the same length all year 'round.

One of my favorite essays is the last one: "Towards a New Theory of Astrology." Here he describes how planets influence earth by resonance, and humans are especially responsive since they are the most sensitive instruments on earth. Within this essay he tackles the problem of identifying the Moon's location based on parallax. Some astrologers (notably Steven Forrest in his recent book about the Moon) suggest that the line of sight observation of the Moon will tell us its location and influence. For example, those who view the Moon in Alaska will see certain stars behind the Moon, while to an observer in South Africa those stars will be obscured by the Moon. If planets' influences were based on resonance, then there would be only one measurement for the Moon and no parallax effect.

As for the title, it's difficult to say what he means by *Skeet Shooting*, which he explains in a brief introduction. The way I read it, he's comparing the difficult art of shooting skeets (clay disks used for target practice) to the astrologer who must focus his mind, training, and skill to respond to rapidly changing conditions. In the same way, each of his essays is a response to a new book, current cultural or political trends, and developments within the astrological community.

Many of the essays offer practical advice on how to read a horoscope. The

two essays titled "Dancing Lessons" are about how the world sees you, and how to tell where a person's money comes from; the rulers of the first and second house by sign and house describe these qualities. Other relevant essays describe how to read intercepted signs, what to do about the thirteenth sign, how to predict the weather, what to do about midpoints, using Astro\*Carto\*Graphy and AstroLocality, when to operate according to astrological rules, how to calculate tertiary progressions, and how to make lots of money by giving mini-readings at a bar.

Some of the astrology tips are whimsical, some based on ancient texts, and some come from the author's own experience. Several essays explore alternative birthdates or birth times for some well-known politicians and musicians. Obama's birth time is generally accepted as 7:24 P.M., but a right-wing conspiracy places his birthplace in Kenya. Roelle dismisses the Kenya theory out of hand, but then proposes that Chicago is a more likely birth place for Obama. His birth time was rectified so that he

doesn't have so many planets in the seventh house, which "screams out its need for a partner to lead him." Similarly, Roelle speculates on George Washington's birth date, and gives Adolph Hitler Scorpio Rising instead of the more diplomatic Libra Rising.

He suggests that Mozart was not born in 1756, but in 1751, and that he didn't die in 1791 as the history books tell us, but 37 years later in 1826. The explanation for how this could be so is not included in *Skeet Shooting*. In the introduction, the author tells us that the corresponding essay, along with essays about Beethoven, were set aside because they deserve their own book. We'll just have to wait for that. In the meantime, you can enjoy the engaging, original, and provocative banter by plunging into *Skeet Shooting*. It'll have you scratching your head—and encouraging you to learn more.

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