



## FEBRUARY 2014

### ♈ ARIES (21 Mar - 20 Apr)

Although you are feeling the fair winds of inspiration, problems in finding a smooth course through the turbulent waters of your love life and a lack of sense of humor about the situation could make life in the main cabin uncomfortable.

### ♉ TAURUS (21 Apr - 21 May)

Concentrate on sailing to your romantic landfall and don't let outside negative influences and occasional squalls slow you down.

### ♊ GEMINI (22 May - 21 Jun)

This month holds great possibilities in creative progress, and if you stick to your set waypoints you should see positive results before its end.

### ♋ CANCER (22 Jun - 23 Jul)

While your life this month is generally spent tacking in shifting winds, you will reach a profitable port in business in the third week.

### ♌ LEO (24 Jul - 23 Aug)

February starts out with negative vibes in the captain's cabin but that aspect will wane while positive aspects in commerce will pick up a breeze and give you something to feel good about.

### ♍ VIRGO (24 Aug - 23 Sep)

Steer a romantic course and focus on your love life before mid-month, as your verbal skills could ebb after that and take your creativity along with it.

### ♎ LIBRA (24 Sep - 23 Oct)

The Sea of Love could get choppy in the third week and this will be, in part, due to your lack of humor the week before. The balance of the month will see fair winds in ingenuity and communication skills, so don't take yourself too seriously and you will sail through to clear weather.

### ♏ SCORPIO (24 Oct - 22 Nov)

The ability to take a joke will serve you well in boat business during the second week, so steer towards new financial prospects and don't worry about counter-currents in your creativity and communications.

### ♐ SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov - 21 Dec)

This month is relatively aspect free, so you are free to sit on the hook, hang the hammock, and just recharge your batteries.

### ♑ CAPRICORN (22 Dec - 20 Jan)

The potential for headwinds along the course of love will occupy your attention for the next few weeks. Failure of your sense of humor could be the tiny tear that ultimately rips your mainsail. Ease your mainsheet and try not to be so serious about minor issues.

### ♒ AQUARIUS (21 Jan - 19 Feb)

Your inventive breezes will be blowing, so hoist the sails of imagination and let the winds of inspiration propel you towards success. Your verbal acuity will be a great help.

### ♓ PISCES (20 Feb - 20 Mar)

Give your humor free sheets and it will be of great assistance on your economic heading. The Sun moves into Pisces in the last week and so your creative potential will be high.

## Distant Cry of a Cruising Grandmother

Island Poets

Missing a grandson is a terrible thing,  
not replaced by bobble, treasure or bling.  
This *probleme*, it is new. It is real. It is tough,  
more so than reef, riptide or magnificent puff!

Born in a far away land,  
our Caribbean community still withstands.  
Life aboard is home for us.  
Now planes, phones and Facebook are a must.

Since Blake came along, there is something amiss.  
What can be done to ameliorate this?  
A child of my blood has been born miles away.  
There's got to be action to take. Send me into the fray!

The laughter of West Indian children lessens the blow,  
so does affectionate mate and endorphins that flow.  
These hormones bring calm when I hike, noodle and row.  
So, turn the winch handle and bosun the mast,  
dinghy sail, dive on the anchor, swim very fast.

What else can be done the *Long Distance Blues* to stun?  
Let me count all the ways melancholy waylaid.

Dominoes, friends, laughter and brew,  
teaching sailing and swimming, lime with a few.  
Caripes and blue fin, then ceviche, seared steaks,  
delectable distraction always makes.  
Picking produce, prepping pico de gallo, roasting granola will help,  
but they're brief and they're passing — a fleeting yelp.

Blake's parents are great. They shower love and skilled care.  
He's got uncles and aunts and other grandparents there.  
These things I know in my head but the heart,  
it tugs and tugs, pulling logic apart.

Reduce the *probleme* of missing Blake?  
I nuzzle screen-saver of his life-sized face.  
We do Skype. We do postcards. We imagine embrace.  
What else can be done short of leaving this place?

The Caribbean is home. It's where the boat is.  
I chose this. I want this. It's where I fit in.

Loving and living, we really can't choose  
who will be born, who will die. We must await the news.  
Acquiescent, we hope that our loved ones feel in their heart  
our love though many miles cast us apart.

Cooing for him with stinging heartache,  
it is part of Cruising Grandma missing Blake.

— Ellen Birrell

## seaweed



KEN DYER

Feb  
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