



## Read the Sun Signs

by Stacy M. Nuñez

A Taurus is supposed to be stubborn, a bit materialistic, and a sucker for stability. Whenever Sobeyda feels the urge to online shop, she thinks “that’s so very *taurus* of me.” But when what was supposed to be an impulse buy turns into three weeks of her weighing the options, comparing other similar items, and visiting the same page day after day (always around 12-2a), is that still very *taurus* of her?

She was born two months early. That must be it, she says to herself as she tries to reason away her anxiety. Maybe whatever sun sign she was supposed to be wouldn’t impulse buy this computer monitor. She wasn’t thinking of her moon or rising signs, though. That made things more complicated than she wanted to get. Sobeyda rummages through the bags hung precariously on her closet knob. “The *taurus* in me, however, would impulse buy twelve books because hey they’re on sale!” Her hand finally finds her wallet deep in the folds of her now-empty book bag. “Not much logic there,” she murmurs entering her card information on the checkout page displayed on her computer screen.

Two months means she would have been born sometime in June. But June has two signs. Early June is Gemini, late June is Cancer. Air seems very different from water, yet they probably have more similarities. They both flow, both have currents that dictate their paths. Both are intense in their own ways, both can whirl and create bigger, often scarier things like tornadoes and whirlpools or vortexes. But the zodiac signs don’t look at those kinds of things. It isn’t about nature, it’s about what the planets decided you would be like on the particular day and time you happened to be born.

Four new tabs joined the fleet of already opened tabs waiting for Sobeyda to peruse them. Some contained half-scrolled articles on the current state of the country (tl;rd it’s bad), while others housed cute knit sweaters in pastel colors that Sobeyda didn’t want to lose but also didn’t want to save and close because “out of sight, out of mind” might as well be her middle name. Now she scrolled astrology pages with detailed descriptions of both Gemini and Cancer. No, she did not complete that twelve-book purchase yet. Yes, she did stop mid-purchase on purpose.

Astrology had always seemed interesting to Sobeyda, but never interesting enough to learn past the zodiac signs and look up her birth chart once or twice. She unfortunately knew her time of birth because her mother made sure to wake her up to say *feliz cumpleaños* at the exact time, right down to the minute. But she knew there was *a lot* that she could learn about past whatever Mercury Retrograde was supposed to be doing to her.

She once wandered into a small botanica on a slow day and chatted with the store attendant there that day. She’d never seen her before so the attendant thought Sobeyda might be new to the world of santeria and magic and tarot. “Do you know about astrology?” the attendant gingerly asked so as not to scare me off. Sobeyda had just picked up a tarot deck and put it back without really reading anything on the back so she must have looked lost, at best. “Um, yeah I guess so.” Sobeyda didn’t feel like explaining just how much she knew but she’d gotten enough *limpias* and done enough *baños* and she’d definitely watched enough videos on YouTube to hold a conversation about it. But she wasn’t much of a talker. So the attendant explained things to her for what felt like an eternity but was probably more like an hour. Sobeyda responded with enough *mhm*’s and *oh yeah*’s between

explanations to keep the attendant enthused. By the end of the exchange she'd decided to buy that tarot deck she didn't read the back of and thanked the attendant for her time.

Sobeyda read through the descriptions of each sign, but nothing was clicking. They just didn't feel right. The emotional rollercoasters that Cancer's supposedly experienced felt out of place with her usually calm and somewhat unbothered demeanor. And just reading about how sociable and outgoing Gemini could be made her introverted soul shudder. "No", she mused as she hit complete purchase on the checkout page with the cart full of twelve books, "that must be why I was born earlier than expected." The loading circle turned into a little green checkmark on her screen and she felt content.

