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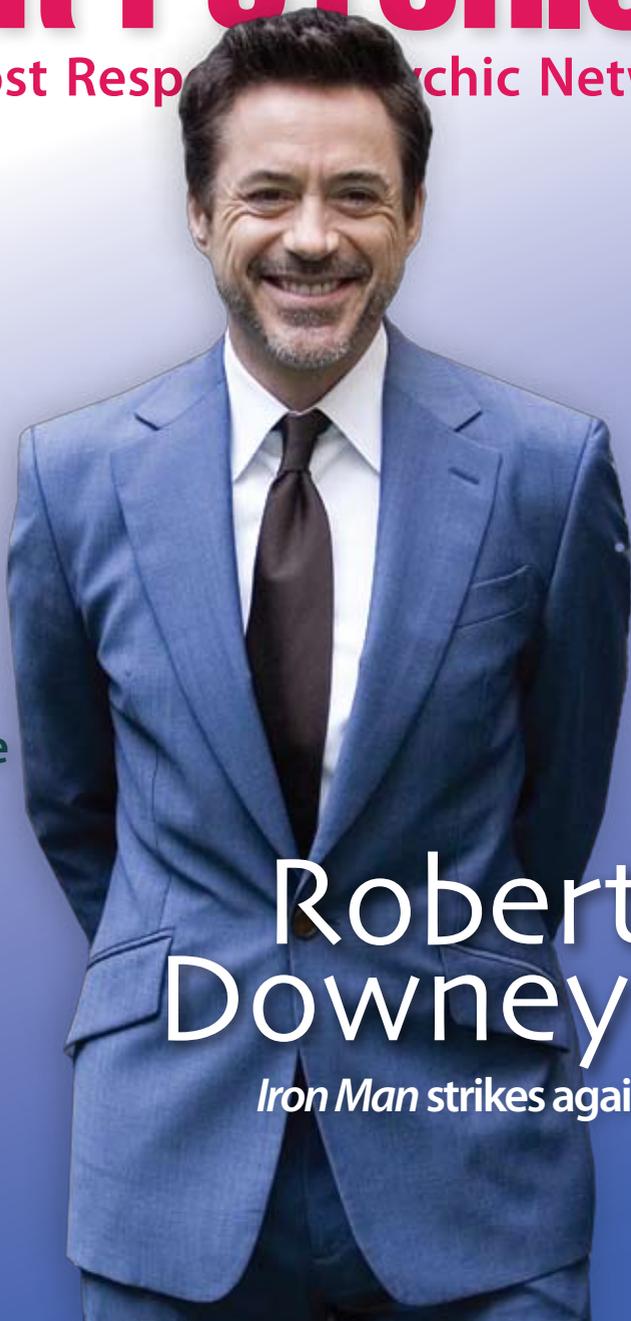
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# Robert Downey Jr

*Iron Man strikes again*

April 2013



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# HEROES & VILLAINS

story by Barney Battles

With the third installment of *Iron Man* set to dominate movie theatres across the globe, Robert Downey Jr's career renaissance shows no signs of slowing down. It's well-known that his commitment to sobriety has helped him vanquish old villains and soar to new heights of success—but could he have done all this without a few secret astrological weapons at his disposal?

Robert Downey Jr was born on the 4th April 1965, making him an **Aries** in the Chinese Year of the **Snake**. With a screen debut at the age of five, followed by a string of roles in popular '80s films such as *Less Than Zero*, Downey's presence in the industry was strong from the beginning. The single-minded drive towards **achievement** is natural to both of his main astrological signs. When combined, they create an even more powerful dynamic. In fact, it could be said that both Aries and Snake signs are **obsessed** with achievement. The Ram is famous for butting its way to the top, while the Snake prefers to let its target drift into reach and then strike. Both signs are able to focus all of their energetic resources towards a **single goal**, to the exclusion of all else, until victory is won.

Although it propelled him to early success, this potent psychic combination has a **dark side**—one that played perfectly into Robert's addictive persona. As a fire sign, Aries can be reckless and highly combustible, eager to walk where angels fear to tread. The Snake, in turn,



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# Having vanquished his inner foes, the only real question for **Robert Downey Jr** is whether they will rise again.

has seductive tendencies towards indulgence and escape. When life's tension builds, this side of Robert's nature drove him to **seek release** in drugs in alcohol. By the age of 15 he was familiar with the entire spectrum of Hollywood vice. On one hand, the actor's astrology helped him break down barriers between himself and his characters, and gave him the **psychic sensitivity** to inhabit characters with abandon—but on the other, it blinded him to the bigger picture.

As Robert's career continued to climb through a dazzling array of critically acclaimed films, his methods of escape intensified accordingly. Between 1996 and 2001 he was arrested on several occasions for drug-related crimes. When rehabilitation centers failed him, Robert was sent into the corrective system. By the time he was released from State Prison, it looked as though he had seen through the destructive aspects of his Chinese sign; but it didn't take long for the Snake to **uncoil**, and the young actor quickly picked up his old lifestyle. Aries was badly needed during this period in his life, but Robert seems to have lost touch with its virtues. Still, despite the ongoing struggles, his raw talent continued to get him roles and keep the career momentum going, even when all else seemed lost.

After another spell in rehab, Robert finally decided to sober up. "You know what?" he was quoted as saying. "I don't think I can continue

doing this." It is here that Ram and Snake began to **align** their positive attributes. As we have seen, this combination can work together to achieve any goal—in this case, a stable and sober personal life. Both Aries and the Snake are very spiritual creatures which can, if given the chance, **intuit** other planes of existence. Robert soon embraced aspects of Buddhism, and now describes himself as being of Jewish-

Buddhist faith. Discovering new dimensions of spiritual life gave his astrological natures the stability to **coexist** and channel their energies towards career success.

Robert's love life also improved. With the roving eye of the Snake and devil-may-care side of Aries, there were moments when it seemed he would never be able to give himself to just one woman. However, in

2005, two years after completely embracing sobriety, Robert was married to his girlfriend, Susan Levin.

It's no wonder that movie-going fans around around the world have embraced the *Iron Man* franchise with such fervour. Tony Stark seems to have it all, yet he is always driven to achieve more—and beneath the titanium suit lies a sensitive and vulnerable man. Robert Downey Jr can embody these struggles with perfect pitch because he himself has lived them. As for what the future holds, this talented actor's newfound inner harmony is not so much a happy ending as an ongoing saga. ★



*Busted for drugs in 2001*



## Destiny on your mind?

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**Aries** (Mar 21 - Apr 19)



It's a pretty simple equation: When Aries is full of planets, you are full of energy! Now is the time to live up to your reputation as the pioneer of the Zodiac, and put something new into action. Business projects, works of art, even relationships are easy to start this month. The other part of the equation, perhaps not so simple, is that these energies will soon leave your sign for other horizons. When that happens, you will be left to carry things through to completion. This requires the help of others who are better suited to these tasks—except, of course, where relationships are concerned. You'll have to handle that one on your own!

**Taurus** (Apr 20 - May 20)



You've been busy lately, to put it lightly, and it's been no small feat dealing with everything the universe has thrown your way. This month marks a shift toward inner journeying and quiet reflection, in order to balance all of this outward activity. Opportunities to take things slower than normal will present themselves, and taking advantage makes everything run more smoothly. There is a strong psychic connection between you and someone you don't know very well. Following it carefully to see where it leads may yield a surprisingly desirable outcome, provided mutual intentions are on a high spiritual level.

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 21)



Get your wardrobe in order and make a date with the stylist, because there are more social gatherings than you know what to do with. Sure, it's important to put your best foot forward, but this should be more than just hitting the town. The stars are helping you to expand your network in meaningful ways that contribute to humanity as a whole. Share your gifts, plug your talents into the mainframe, and everyone will benefit. Face-to-face networking, as opposed to the online variety, reminds you that nothing can replace real conversation. An emotional tension from contrasting views could translate to romance.



## April 2013 Horoscopes

**Pluto turns retrograde, bringing an abrupt end to something which no longer serves you.**

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**Libra** (Sept 23 - Oct 22)



You are good at walking a mile in someone else's shoes—so good, in fact, that your own shoes are feeling a little bit stiff lately! When you don't feel strong sense of your own unique position, it means you are seeing things too intensely from someone else's point of view. Why not come back to the centre of your own circle, and occupy your own unique self with its gifts and perspectives? A truly healthy dialogue is then possible. You may think you are talking normally this month, but your words are honey in the ears of more than one admirer. Use this to your advantage if you seek love, but use it wisely. Manipulation will backfire.

**Scorpio** (Oct 23 - Nov 21)



Welcome across so many intense love stories in books and movies—it's easy to forget that real romance, that kind that works in our world, is full of the beauty of the ordinary. Appreciating the little things in the world around you brings you closer to your soul mate, whether you've already found them or are waiting to uncover that connection. You of all people know that spiritual connections go deeper than storybook endings. If you feel restrained in your ability to communicate openly, healthy diversions with one or two close friends will restore the flow. Genuine laughter is necessary now for your physical and psychic well-being.

**Sagittarius** (Nov 22 - Dec 21)



Luck is on your side in partnerships, both business and romantic. Here's the catch: Your emotional energy is strong and direct, so that when good opportunities arise, you may inadvertently knock them down with strong reactions. If things are to come off well, it's crucial to keep the other party's emotions in mind. To reach a state of cooperation, you must take many psychic factors into account. If you can do this, your month will be extra-productive. Meanwhile, having fun is not an option! Your spirit demands to be excited, entertained, stimulated. The more unexpected and unexplored, the better.

## Cancer (June 22 - July 22)



Focussing on one thing at a time has a surprisingly profound effect. It brings out the beauty in everyday life, enhancing both your ordinary and psychic senses. So whether it's scrubbing carrots or writing a magnum opus, allow your energy to flow into the task at hand—you'll see how richly the universe rewards you. It's only natural to have second thoughts about a recent change on the relationship front, but don't be too quick to reverse course. The factors that led to your original decision remain true. Inner beauty and grace translate to career advancement; the paradox is that spiritual light is dimmed by ulterior motives.

## Leo (July 23 - Aug 22)



As was the case last month, a secret or two is liable to get out in coming weeks. How will you handle it? Remembering that life's little dramas are fleeting will make this uncomfortable situation disappear sooner than later, while a strong reaction will prolong it. We all make too much of things from time to time, but you are lucky. Leo is among the more fixed and steady energies of the Zodiac, so take heart and know that staying cool when things don't go your way is a shining example for the rest of us to follow. Later in the month, when a stroke of luck puts a huge smile on your face, holding steady may be more of a challenge!

## Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)



Intense psychic energies are at work in your world. What they are made of and where they are taking you are not always easy to pinpoint! Making peace with the unknown can be a simple, rewarding, and even light-hearted adventure. Work it to your advantage by doing symbolic things you've never done before, whether riding the tallest roller coaster or trying an exotic new restaurant. Off the beaten path is best—that way your psyche makes contact with the unknown, and new realizations can unfold. Love and business don't mix this month. If possible, give each of these areas its own space to breath and grow.



## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)



A spiritual retreat doesn't have to be something you do once in a blue moon, set apart from everyday life. Instead, why not merge the two? There should be a nourishing place, either at home or in nature, where you can be alone and communicate with spirit. This will be important in April, as your emotional body naturally attracts others who want to be nourished. You know it's important to serve and care for those you love—just don't forget about yourself. Remembering the direct connection between yourself and something beyond the material world will help your various responsibilities to take care of themselves.

## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)



Your powers of communication are operating at peak-levels, so if you've been trying to convince a friend or partner or something important, now is the time to make it happen. The same goes for a potential lover—being bold comes naturally and pays big. On the other hand, things aren't moving as quickly as you'd like on the career front. In this area of life, there's no point trying to push the river. Freedom is found in knowing that things happen in their own time, and for good reason. A fundamental trust in the universe is growing in you, and as it continues to mature, good things follow!

## Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20)



Verbal Kung Fu with a partner or loved one will keep you busy this month. No problem, as long as you keep the sparring light and avoid saying anything you'll regret. Relationships deepen when differences in personality are acknowledged. Finding yourself caught between the nostalgia of the past and an attractive opportunity for the future, you will have to make a decision. Both have their merits, but your intuitive self knows which path is right. Last month's surge of energy has passed. Were the changes you put in motion just an illusion? Rest assured they were real—but like plants, they require constant care.

# Will It Last?

Five psychic signs that it's meant to be



## Arguments

You have healthy arguments—which means they are spirited and fair. Neither of you resort to insults or emotional manipulation, and most importantly, the tension fades quickly without leaving a psychic residue. Because you respect one another as individuals, you are willing to live with and celebrate your differences. If a relationship is based on the illusion that two people can be exactly the same, it will soon collapse under the pressure of unrealistic expectations.

## Telepathy

You and your partner do not need to communicate every little thing verbally. Body language, mannerisms, and even pure telepathy play a role in your everyday lives. Your partner suddenly does or says something that seems to have come right out of your own mind. *This does not mean you box each other in!* Partners with a mature psychic connection may often read each other, but they are not afraid to admit when they have no idea what their partner is thinking.

## Freedom and Space

Just as a fire needs oxygen to burn, a relationship cannot last if the atmosphere is too stifling. You and your partner can ask for space without anyone feeling hurt. Even better—the need for space is not a special request but rather a built-in aspect of the relationship that arises naturally. As close as you and your partner are, you both recognise the importance of maintaining two distinct identities and continuing to develop as individuals.

## Hide and Seek

You tell your partner things you wouldn't tell anyone else, and this is part of what makes you so intimate. Your partner knows many of your secrets, but he or she doesn't know absolutely everything! Like a game of hide and seek, you both maintain an element of surprise, so that when the time is right, you can share new aspects of yourselves and see each other in whole new light. You both understand that being close is a gift to be unwrapped, not a cheque to be cashed!



## And the **number one sign** that your relationship will last...

You can't explain it, but since you've been together, doors just seem to open. You feel closer to reaching your personal goals. You think of something good and suddenly it happens. Of course you have problems, but a mutual patience and trust allows solutions to arise, seemingly on their own. These things indicate that your relationship is in accord with the psychic energies around you—or to put it another way, it was written in the stars!

Curious about **fate**?



# Stress Relievers for Mind, Body and Spirit

## diet

Changing what you put in your body can have a rapid effect on how you feel, both physically and psychically. First, consider your intake of high-stress foods—things like coffee, red meat, fried foods, and refined sugar or flour. These foods tend to increase blood pressure and mood swings. Now, consider your intake of low-stress foods such as herbal teas, raw or steamed greens, fruits and nuts, and natural yogurts. These have an alkalizing effect on the body, bringing peace calm to the senses. Your intuitive wisdom knows by looking at a food or drink what kind of effect it will have. Remember—high-stress foods, when taken occasionally and in moderation, can also lower stress! It's more about intuition than abiding by inflexible rules.

## motion

There is good reason for the massive popularity of techniques like yoga, Tai Chi, pilates and ecstatic dance. The usual routines, like jogging or lifting weights, can have a jarring effect on the psyche, while practices like yoga have been refined over the centuries to bring about feelings of calm and wellbeing. So what's the catch? This isn't one—except that once in a blue moon isn't going to cut it! These techniques must be done consistently to really get the benefits. Just like riding a bicycle requires you to keep pedaling, the balancing effects of these ancient techniques only come about with regular effort.

## bodywork

There is nothing quite like a treatment in which a professional applies all of his or her energy toward making you feel better. Massage is perhaps the most enjoyable, while the benefits of just a few acupuncture treatments can be profound and lasting. Both systems use pressure points and meridians identified long ago by ancient cultures. If you're in a relationship, trading short massages is a great way to get regular treatments at no cost. And don't be afraid to work on yourself to relieve aches and pains within reach.

## fragrances

Fragrances have a special power. They attract potential mates, warn us of danger, and even trigger long-forgotten memories. So what about melting away the stress? Using fragrances to bring more calm into your life is easy. Lavender, Sage, Rose and Sandalwood are just a few of the scents that have been known for centuries to banish stress. For the best possible results, combine incense or essential oils with fifteen minutes of total relaxation—no activities or distractions, just you and the power of scent.

## visualisation

Stress is nothing more than images in your mind—how much work you have to do, or personal conflicts that feel unresolved. First, understand the degree to which these images create and perpetuate your stress. Allow your stress to become specific images and take note of what you see. Then, use the same power of visualisation in a proactive, creative way to bring peaceful images into your psyche. Natural images like waterfalls or meadows work well, as the basic language of nature is harmony and balance.

## environment

Finally, to reduce your own individual stress, reduce the amount of stress your lifestyle places on the environment. Something as simple as riding a bike to work once every week, or re-using glass containers, can re-inforce your fundamental sense of interdependence. Random acts of courtesy remind us that we are all in it together. By doing these things whenever possible, we literally embody a low-stress lifestyle for ourselves and the planet as a whole.

Call our psychics at **1-866-960-6498**

## Jacky



I started to travel astrally in my sleep around the age of 6, and started to have dreams which came true at the age of 8. At the time I didn't realise I was psychic—my parents didn't talk about things like that. For many years I blocked out my psychic abilities, but around the age of 24 they came back in full-force. I would know who was going to call me on the phone, and what people were going to say to me. By the time I was 32 I decided to use my psychic abilities to assist others by means of the tarot and mediumship.

I remember one client who had split up for her husband and had started to date someone new. She wanted to know where it was going. I saw her moving from her present home, but that she wouldn't move in with the boyfriend until the second move, after they had married, which would happen later in the year. Sure enough, within 2 months she moved back to her parents' house, and in another 6 months she married the boyfriend and moved in with him.

I feel that a good psychic reading is made up of several different parts. In my case, using the tarot cards to make the reading flow is one important part. Also, the reader needs to remain unbiased, calm, and sympathetic to the client at all times. The reader must be honest and help the client to see the most positive way forward in a given situation.

*For a personal reading with Jacky, call 1-866-960-6498 and enter pin # 7719*

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