

Star Aligners

A Short story by Natasha Piers

Suzan and Elizabeth were your typical girls who lived in a city. They worked in marketing during the day and at night got back to their apartment. They were best friend since childhood and have always helped each other through hard times and made good times better.

Elizabeth was always the level headed one, ever since high school. She was organized and balanced, always planning ahead just enough. Suzan on the other hand was more aloof. Her attention span was very short and she never needed to plan ahead.

The inexplicable detail here is that Elisabeth always joked about being the unlucky one. The joke masked a certain truth... it's not that Elizabeth was unlucky, but that Suzan was extremely lucky. Suzan had a sort of blind faith in the universe and that seemed to translate into luck. She was prone to believe in magic and astrology because she was always so lucky.

While Elizabeth was more geared towards cause and effect in her decisions, Suzan was more superstitious and did things like always wearing the left shoe first to impact her day. Her luck made her succeed in everything and she always attributed her luck to her patterns.

Last week for example, Elizabeth wanted to call a plumber to fix a faucet but Suzan refused because “you don’t call a plumber during an ascending moon”. Elizabeth was always torn between annoyance and amusement when things like that happened, but she always gave Suzan the benefit of the doubt. She could swear that every time Suzan forewarned something, it had a tendency to happen. The last time she ignored Suzan’s warning in July against rain, because “Mars is restless in the vicinity of Neptune”, it actually rained for the first time in five years. That day Elisabeth had her worse beach outing in many years. But it couldn’t be, could it? There was no way Mars was close to Neptune, unless Suzan wasn’t talking about planets.

Elizabeth came to accept that Suzan has a certain intuition she couldn’t understand. She didn’t believe in all that rubbish, but trusted in the luck of her friend.

One morning Elizabeth woke up to an overexcited Suzan yelling in the living room:

“Liz! Wake up Liz! Come on! Something wonderful is happening!”

“I’m up, I’m up...”

Elizabeth lazed her way out of bed into her sweats and got out of the room.

“What’s up? What’s got you so excited at 7 AM on a Sunday?” Elisabeth made sure to insist on every syllable for both seven and Sunday.

Not that Suzan would notice, for her getting up early and starting a very strange routine was the norm. And for her everyone should be doing the same. Suzan had already started her day at 5:30 AM with ten minutes in front of the mirror to make wishes for the day. She then spent thirty minutes doing her walk of enlightenment that consists of walking around the living room in concentric circles thinking positive thoughts. After the walk of enlightenment she listens to an astrology podcast and checks the position of the stars on a chart online.

This morning something in the star chart excited her beyond measure:

“Liz! You’ll never guess what day it is today!”

“Isn’t it a regular Sunday?” Elisabeth replied with a yawn that would put to shame an opera singer

“ Nnnno silly, it’s the day we both find true love!” Suzan was wearing her best smile when she said this.

Elisabeth was speechless. So many emotions were fighting inside her and she couldn’t make heads or tails from them. She was obviously angry at being woken up on her only day

off after a tough week. She was also feeling a lot of affection for Suzan being... well being Suzan. She did not believe her ears and thought that Suzan was getting crazier with time and maybe she should stop it. She also had hope because she did want to find true love, whatever that was. She was also feeling anxious for the day ahead since Suzan's zeal in the morning usually meant she was going to spend a very tough day, and she wasn't at all ready for it.

Suzan then proceeded to explain the amazing breakthrough, and not surprisingly it came from her online star chart and numerology. Apparently both Suzan and Elisabeth met very specific birth conditions, whereby "if an Aquarius and a Gemini, who are friends, and both born at the specific time when Venus was in the house of Jupiter, should find love today". Suzan also started showing Elizabeth what looked like a math equation from an engineering final and started explaining very strange and unfamiliar concepts. It was math yes, but very strange math that really didn't make any sense. It's often the case with numerology.

Elizabeth was curious about finding true love, and in contrast, Suzan was obsessed with finding it.

The decision was made very quickly. Both Suzan and Elizabeth would set out and follow Suzan's lead since she had very precise calculations that in theory started with breakfast in an unfamiliar setting.