

Suggested Beginning Astrology Books For Tropical Astrology

Bloch, Douglas and Demetra George, *Astrology for Yourself*, Wingbow Press, Oakland, CA: 1987.

Douglas Bloch and Demetra George created a unique step-by-step guide and workbook with easy exercises that enable you to interpret any chart. This resource is packed full of useful tables, keywords, and phrases that are indispensable for a beginning astrology student. What I love about this format is both its ease of use and ability to walk a complete beginner through the maze of astrological terminology and symbolism and out the other side with a truly useful chart interpretation put into their own words.

Burk, Kevin, *Astrology: Understanding the Birth Chart*, Llewellyn Publications, St. Paul: 2001.

A thorough, well laid out resource that will help anyone to lay a solid foundation in astrological understanding and interpretation. The author walks you through several chart interpretation examples, building on the concepts presented. The author provides depth of understanding without overwhelming a novice while simultaneously teaching how to synthesize the chart information in a practical, easy to understand format. Burk also includes a variety of "cookbook" descriptions; however he presents the information in a way that helps the reader understand his logic in reaching his interpretation.

Forrest, Steven, *The Inner Sky*, ACS Publications, San Diego: 1988.

Steven Forrest's style of writing is what makes this book unique. The planetary, sign, and house descriptions are thought provoking and unlike other astrological resources. As an evolutionary astrology, Forrest offers a distinct, yet insightful perspective on the meaning of astrological planets, signs, and houses. *The Inner Sky* does contain steps to guide a beginner toward chart interpretation in

the last few chapters. While useful, this part of the book is not as complete as I'd prefer to see as a beginning teaching tool. What I do like about the chart interpretation section is Forrest's explanation about how phrases are derived from the different astrological components – planets, houses, signs, and aspects. Unfortunately, the book only provides one example interpretation which is not enough for a beginner to pick up the 'routines' or rubric of Forrest's chart interpretation method. In addition, some of the topic matters in the book are not given enough explanation.

Rogers-Gallagher, Kim, ***Astrology for the Light Side of the Brain***, ACS Publications, San Diego: 1995.

Astrology for the Light Side of the Brain is a humorous and fun book. Kim Rogers-Gallagher writes in pictures. Her descriptions conjure images of common objects and figures to help the reader remember the core nature of astrological pieces. For example, she describes the fifth house as "The Love Boat" and the 4th house as "Cellar"; Mercury is the "Executive Secretary" while Jupiter is the "Head of the Department of Generosity, Abundance, Joviality, and Laughter." If you learn best with imagery and a humorous touch, this may be a book that you benefit from reading. Her chart interpretation section could be more in depth. She outlines seven brief steps for chart interpretation and takes the reader through only one example. The reason I like this book is for its imagery. It is a fun way to learn and does help the beginner recall characteristics more easily over dry memorization.