

## **Astrological Patterns in the Bloodline: My Grandmothers, My Mother, Myself** By Dena DeCastro ©2008

In trying to gain insight into my relationship with the women in my bloodline over the years, I've looked at their charts to get an astrological perspective. It's become apparent to me, having done the charts of many family groups that astrological patterns can be seen amongst families. For example, a child might inherit the sun sign of one parent and the ascendant of another in their primal triad (Sun, Moon, or Ascendant). Or, if one parent has a strong astrological signature, it will often show up in the chart of the child. A parent with a heavy Piscean theme might result in the child having a heavy 12th House, or Neptune aspecting their Sun or Moon.

What I noticed about my own connection to the women in my bloodline is a pattern related to my moon. One layer of the meaning of the Moon in our charts is our relationship to our own mother, or in an archetypal way, to the mothering function within us. My natal Moon is in Taurus, conjunct (within one degree) Saturn in the 12<sup>th</sup> House. My Mom's Sun is in Pisces, and her Moon was also in the 12<sup>th</sup> House, connecting with the 12th House placement of my Moon. My maternal grandmother's Sun is in Capricorn, connecting to the strong Moon/Saturn aspect in my chart. She also has a Moon/Saturn conjunction. And my paternal grandmother (Marie's) Sun is in Taurus, the sign of my Moon. In fact, she has a stellium of planets in Taurus: Sun, Mercury, and Jupiter, as well as the North Node. Her Sun is also conjunct my Moon and Saturn. So, all three of these women – my mother and both grandmothers – are represented in some way in my own Moon.



My paternal grandma, who didn't like to be called "grandma" but went by her first name, "Marie," was, and is, what they used to call a "firebrand." She's feisty, youthful, and still keeps her long, blond hair at age 79. Picture a blond Ruth Gordon, and you're pretty close. She has owned various businesses (an entrepreneur at a young age, in a time when women didn't really do that), raised her children, foster-children, and step-children, and is on her fourth and happiest marriage (the first three were *really* not her fault). Although I didn't spend the quantity of time with her that I did my mother's side of the family, her influence on me was intense in its smaller doses. She showed me a different way to be a woman in the world, and how to live passionately. And, she's still doing it.



My mom and I, while very connected, were at times too much so. We became even closer in my late teenage years and twenties; she was then more like a sister to me. In fact, people often thought we were sisters, as she looked very young, and we were only 19 years apart. She and my dad were high school sweethearts, engaged at 18. She became pregnant with me shortly before my dad left for Viet Nam. My mom was alone with me and my two younger brothers much of the time. My younger brother, Dustin, was autistic during a time when not many people understood it, or even knew what autism was. This made things difficult for my mom; she had her plate full,

and I pitched in. This made our bond very strong, and we worked together often as a team for the survival of the family.

It was my maternal grandmother who provided the most ongoing sense of structure and stability for me in my childhood. She was the Capricorn with a Moon/Saturn conjunction like me. Our earth signs stimulated each other toward the appreciation of calming activities, relaxation, and



enjoyment of the senses. When she and I were together, there was an abundance of those things. I would go visit her and my grandpa every summer, and I'd stay for one or even two months sometimes. Grandma and I would go on shopping excursions during the day, drink root beer floats after dinner, play cards or Yahtzee every night, and make each other giggle a whole lot. I now realize I was treated like an absolute princess while I was there; no wonder I never wanted to leave. After my parents divorced when I was seven, my grandparents' house was a reprieve of stability where I found escape from my more tumultuous life at home. Additionally, her Moon is in Libra, ruled by Venus as Taurus is. We are linked by our love of peace and harmony in the home. I think of how she so fully embodied the model 1950's housewife. She put on her face every morning, had her hair styled weekly at the salon, and always kept an immaculately clean home. She'd have dinner on the table at the same time every night for my grandpa, and on the odd occasion she wasn't going to be there, she'd

have something in the fridge or the oven with instructions for him to prepare it written in perfect handwriting.

Another connection that I see is that both my mom and Marie have Scorpio Moons, while my South Node is conjunct [Pluto](#) (ruler of Scorpio). I think the nodal connections, the karmic links, are perhaps a key in gaining insight into these bloodline patterns. I can feel the way in which the Scorpionic traits of my mother and Marie stirred some powerful reactions in me over the years, both teaching me and triggering me. Their intense emotional natures, and their ability to survive in a sometimes hectic home environment, challenged my Taurus Moon. Moon in Taurus, opposite sign of Scorpio, craves stability, comfort, and a peaceful atmosphere in the home. Scorpio will usurp comfort in pursuit of deep authenticity and to follow a passion. I see the strength of this, and I now see this pursuit of passion and authenticity as one of my own growing edges.

My mother passed away in 2002. Her Piscean/12th House influence showed up for me in her love of the life of the imagination, the dream-world. She was immensely creative, and the house was often filled with her artwork. She worked in several different mediums over the years, including water color, pen and ink, and sculpture. She had an appreciation for classical music, and for beautiful, sad stories and fairy tales. And of course, it was she who helped me to recognize the presence of the non-physical realm: spirits, fairies, past-lives, tarot, astrology, and all topics of esotericism were common themes of discussion growing up. This is why I've always literally felt "at home" in the 12th House, I think: my Piscean mother helped me to see that the invisible was just as "real" as the visible world. Her connection to it came forth in her fantasy-inspired artwork.

With these three women, I see the amazing gifts I've received, and the lessons. Astrology gives me a way to put words to some of it, and the ability to understand a small part of the great web that connects me to them.