April has arrived, the month that astrologers have been patiently waiting for. This coming astrological weather will accelerate the ongoing shift of the greater consciousness. It's all been building up to this. Will we gather the strength to accept this new understanding? How will we nurture this Proustian "vibe-shift"? Spirituality, sexuality, drugs and the passage of time. Welcome to Quarter 2.

The astrological new year coincides with the vernal equinox and the first day of Aries season. The sun and the moon meet up at 11° Aries on April 1 at 2:24pm for the first full moon of the astrological new year. Aries is ruled by Mars, the warrior. Mars in the chart represents how we take action, assert ourselves and activate our desires. These qualities are put to the test when Mars in Aquarius makes a conjunction to Saturn on April 4. Saturn co-rules Aquarius and Capricorn. So while Saturn might be a bit more open minded in chill Aquarius as opposed to uptight Capricorn, Mars must still bow down to patient and responsible Saturn. This conjunction can manifest as procrastination, like we just can't seem to get anything started. What Saturn would probably most like to teach us is that we are our own masters. Saturn wants us to take hold of the fears that prevent us from moving forward and grab them by the fucking throat...lest we be the masters of our own demise. This transit should be especially felt by those going through their Saturn return in Aquarius.

On a more wholesome note, Venus enters Pisces on April 5. After spending the first quarter of the year in not only two Saturn ruled signs but also a retrograde, Venus couldn't be happier to enter its exaltation in Pisces. When a planet is in its exaltation it performs at its highest frequency. Venus is the planet of beauty, love and harmony and in Pisces it is generous, dreamy and healing. Venus in Pisces is a fabulous time to create, fantasize and fall in love, it's limitless.

Pisces is co-ruled by abundant Jupiter and spiritual Neptune. These two planets have been getting comfortable in Pisces all year and will finally meet up on April 12. What I'm hoping to see here is an embrace of spirituality and religion. Think of all the religious celebrations we have to ring in spring with: Ramadan, Passover and Easter. Renewal, resurrection, community. Now, by embrace I don't mean conversion. I'm talking about healing and understanding your spiritual wounds. This Jupiter-Neptune conjunction is no place for small-minded, atheistic sanctimony. That attitude won't get you anywhere, definitely not heaven. What might get you to heaven though, at least temporally, is psychedelics. An expansion of consciousness might bring a more widespread understanding of the benefits of psilocybin. A prime time to fall down the rabbit hole. Pisces at its worst is drowning. At its best it is transcendence.

Venus comes around the bend on April 18 for a conjunction with Neptune. This is a time for sensitivity, with yourself and others. Especially in matters of the heart. Love and creativity will feel deep and unending but beware of putting people on a pedestal. The idealism will extend to April 30 when Venus makes a conjunction to Jupiter. Jupiter and Venus together brings a grandness to all things that bring us pleasure. Connections to partners will feel magnetic, social circles will blend together and resources will be shared when gracious Jupiter

connects with harmonious Venus. This conjunction should help ease the tension of the upcoming eclipse season.

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A partial solar eclipse at 10° Taurus at 5:13pm on April 30. A solar eclipse occurs when a new moon passes between the Sun and the Earth blocking out the sun. At times we must endure darkness in order to recognize the light. Eclipses have a reputation for being intense and unpredictable. Think of the reputation of a full moon. It's that, but way moodier. Astrologers usually advise against basking in the glow of an eclipse, preferring to respect the lunation from afar. No pictures, please! The strong reactions from the astrology community can, at times, lean towards melodramatic and border on fear-mongering. If you may recall the Great American Eclipse of 2017 and the unique beauty of the shadows cast. It's important to tap into yourself and not let others dictate your feelings and emotions.

Eclipse season continues with a total lunar eclipse on May 16 at 25° Scorpio, just past midnight. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth finds itself between the Sun and a full moon. The eclipses correspond with the lunar nodes. The nodes carry our karmic lessons. Those of us experiencing our nodal opposition can benefit greatly from meditation, shadow work and therapy at this time.

Jupiter ingresses into Aries on May 10. The planet of luck and wishful thinking is down-to-clown in good-time Aries and it should make for a very exciting summer. May in Detroit is prosperous and lively.

Jupiter usually looks at the big picture but in impulsive Aries we will

immediately want to say 'yes' to every invitation. Unfortunately, we can't be in two places at once. Don't get disappointed if you have to miss out. Mars slides into a conjunction with Jupiter on May 29. Desires will feel more attainable than ever. A thirst for adrenaline-chasing and sexual-fulfillment. Watch out for over-exuberance and ego.

Also on May 29 Mercury in Gemini will station retrograde. Gemini is the chattiest sign of the Zodiac. Mercury in Gemini fosters the perfect environment for oral exploration. The twins love to share based opinions and conspiracy theories. During a Mercury retrograde the messages we send out might not make it to the recipient. Expect to get lost in translation. Mercury moves back into Taurus on May 22. Taurus is the sensual sign under pleasure-seeking Venus. The bull likes to feel things out first, thinking before speaking to make their voice count. This retrograde could have us either speaking out-of-pocket or never even getting to the point we wish to make. Mercury will station direct on June 3 and square Saturn the day before. This square might continue to slow down communication, hopefully for the best. The banter wont be gone for long, Mercury happily reunites with Gemini on June 23.

A square between Venus in Taurus and Saturn in Aquarius on June 18 will bring on further delays, if you let it. This will be especially apparent when it comes to relationships. Venus in Taurus is grounded and committed. Saturn in Aquarius is critical and future-oriented. A square here brings conflict that forces you to resolve what isn't working. Analyze what you value in your relationships and how you wish to maintain that. It will help to recall September 2021, the last time we had a square between Venus and Saturn. Sensual Venus in Taurus square Sage Saturn in Aquarius is like a tea-soaked madeleine triggering involuntary memories of an entire childhood. Whenever we have an aspect with Saturn it is important to reflect on our past. This will help us understand the lessons that Venus square Saturn aims to teach us.

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