

Starr's Zodiac Gift-Giving Guide

By Eva Starr

Are you one of these people who:

- have a list a mile long of people to buy for this Xmas
- are short on time, ideas, and cash
- haven't the foggiest notion what to buy Aunt Millie, Uncle Fred, or Cousin Jose

Imagine holding the golden key to Santa's List. I can clue you in if Santa's a Scorpio and buried that list deeper than the Dead Sea Scrolls. Ask the people on your list what their zodiac sign (or birth date) is. Unless you want to waste a lot of time going around the bush and calling up everyone's mother, grandmother, and the midwife...

ask.

Let's start with Aries because they want to be first in everything, and after all, they *are* the leaders of the pack and technically the first sign of the Zodiac.

Aries: (Mar 21-Apr 20) The Ram is constantly butting horns, so you can't go wrong with anything that'll cushion the blow: a pair of boxing gloves (to release all that sporadic energy), tickets to a spur-of-the-moment adventure, airline tickets to uncharted territory...the hotter the better, anything that moves fast, drives fast and is a challenge, add the color red & a subscription to *Racer* magazine

Taurus: (Apr 21-May 21) Now you'll need a red cape to drag the Bull out of his Bull-Pen because he's way too comfortable there, but you'll be in his will if they find tickets to the opera, ballet, or the museum in their stocking. You'll get the whole estate if you add a gift card to an exclusive restaurant with a wine list to match, throw in a few emeralds and a Bocelli CD, and you're in like Flynn + a subscription to *Cooks Illustrated* magazine.

Gemini: (May 22-June 21) Our Twins, you'll need to outthink, their intellect is razor sharp. A gift certificate to Fry's or one of those stores

that has all those puzzles and games that only a Mensa Mind can figure out. You'll score double if it's yellow, and let's not forget a subscription to *People* magazine + accessories for their Smartphone.

Cancer: (Jun 22-Jul 22) Ah, the Crab, there's no skirting the issue here...a Crab is at home in her kitchen, anything from cookbooks to kitchen accessories, including the latest kitchen gadgets. Cancerians are nostalgic: a scrapbook, a photo collage, picture frames, or anything that holds memories. You'll get the seat at the head of the table with a DVD of her life, including kids, family, and the pet Oscar. They do love that silvery ball in the sky; you've just been adopted if you show up at Xmas with the Moon.

Leo: (Jul 23-Aug 22) The Lion/Lioness is King/Queen of the Jungle, so that a diamond mirror would do the job. Gold is their color; anything that wreaks elegance is sure to let out a grateful roar. Tickets to the most elegant black-tie affair, limo included, would get you a seat as the chauffeur. When in doubt, whatever makes them shine, throw in a subscription to *Vogue* magazine.

Virgo: (Aug 23-Sep 22) Good luck with this one; I love you Virgos, but you can be just a teeny weeny bit on the picky side. Who you? They may need extra white gloves if you don't pass the dust test. They do love organic gardening, herbs, and anything involved in keeping them healthy...a ticket to a spa (as long as it's a practical spa) might just be what the doctor ordered to help them relax a bit...you can't go wrong with anything that measures + *My Herbs* magazine.

Libra: (Sep 23-Oct 22) Keep it simple, please, unless you want your Xmas dinner delayed a couple of hours while they're deciding which gift to open first, you'll win them over with flowers, art, culture, all the finer things in life, find out when and where the latest museum exhibit is opening and send tickets with a fine bottle of wine...along with a meet and greet with *Taylor Swift & Travis Kelce*.

Scorpios: (Oct 23-Nov 21) The more profound and mysterious, the better; send them tickets to an archeological dig or explore the caves

of Pierre Saint Martin or the hidden jungles of Pantanal, Brazil's best-kept secret. Surveillance cameras, or anything else top-secret agents use, would bring that Scorpion's intensity to an all-time high. You'll hit the target with anything from Victoria's Secret, give them a treasure chest that locks with a subscription to *True Crime Magazine*, but don't put yourself in a tizzy...you may not even find your Scorpion on Xmas day unless you're prepared to dig deep.

Sagittarius: (Nov 22-Dec 21) These people are so lucky even if you forget them on your Xmas list, ten other people won't...Tickets to the Kentucky Derby or the Royal Ascot would hit the jackpot with the Centaur...along with tickets to Vegas. A set of dice, playing cards, or a Texas Hold-Em game, hell why not buy them their own slot machine so you can play, too? Plane tickets to any foreign land are always a winner, or they have a paid-for flying course to fly their plane, + a subscription to *Backpacker*.

Capricorn: (Dec 22-Jan 19) *IF* you can tear them away from the office on Xmas, you're batting a thousand...now that you've got them under the mistletoe, take their Smartphone out of their hand and replace it with a subscription to *Family Handyman* and a renewal to their *Forbes* magazine. A few more electronic gadgets in their Xmas stocking may keep them around till dinner is finished. Have them fix that hole in the roof so Santa can land safely with his team of reindeer, and you've got them till the morning...Feliz Navidad

Aquarius: (Jan 20-Feb 18) For the eccentric Aquarian, anything futuristic, a telescope for these astronomers, and a copy of *Sky & Telescope* puts you in their graces. They love to play with the latest gadgets as they sip on gourmet coffee and discuss the next march on Capital Hill. A subscription to *Against the Current* displays nicely on their coffee table alongside the most eccentric Tarot card deck.

Pisces: (Feb 19-Mar 20) The Fish is one of the most accessible signs to buy for. They're happy with anything having to do with water. Aquariums or more fish to go with the ones they have. Accessories for their boat, more Zen rocks for their fountains, journals to write

down their daydreams and their night fantasies, and a set of watercolor paints so they can dream about being another Picasso. Anything spiritual or Spirits, for that matter, they do like their liquids. When in doubt, you'll be in the right pond with a subscription to Tropical Fish or Spirituality & Health.