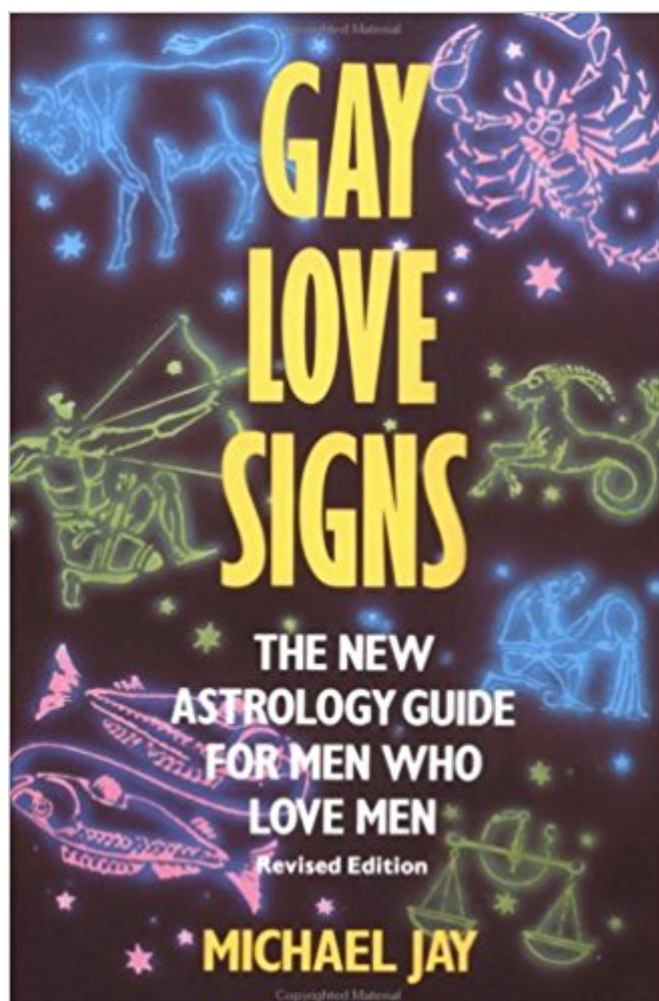


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# Gay Love Signs: The New Astrology Guide For Men Who Love Men (Plume)



## Synopsis

Michael Jay's handbook on gay love--and how the planets affect romantic success and failure--is now completely revised and updated, and even more finely tuned to the needs and desires of today's gay community. The most complete, correct astrological guide for gay men of the 1990s.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hal Draper's extremely long and expansive series "Karl Marx's Theory of Revolution" is definitely the highest point achieved so far in systematic exegesis of the work of Marx (and Engels). Totalling five volumes, a total of almost 3000 pages, Draper has provided the most clear, thorough and readable full overview of the entirety of the political thought of Marx. As a former Trotskyist involved with the Schachtmanites, Draper could be suspected of having a controversial editorial line, but in practice this is only very mildly the case, and he is generally very strict and accurate in sticking to the clear meaning of Marx himself. This is in particular made possible by the great care he takes to provide the historical and intellectual context for Marx' statements on the respective issues, so that it is always clear what Marx intended with his sometimes cryptic or diplomatically phrased letters, notes, and so forth. This volume is the first volume of the work, titled "State and Bureaucracy", and deals with all Marx & Engels' theories about state, state formation, state autonomy, class rule, bureaucracy, and so forth. Because it is the first in the series, it also contains the series introduction, as well as a sizable overview of the development of the thought of Marx and Engels and their

experience before the point where they could be said to have developed Marxism (around the time of *The German Ideology*). This is also very worthwhile in its own right, because Draper uses his typical thoroughness and wide-ranging knowledge of their works and the historical background to give an enlightening and clear overview of the steps in the intellectual development of these two examples of genius. It may just be a long introduction, but not many writers on the genesis of Marxism have succeeded at even that. Most of the work concerns, as said, the Marxist theory of the state, its origin, its class background(s), and the question of state autonomy. Draper has a clear and rather original viewpoint here, emphasizing that for Marx it was not at all a problem to speak of a state or bureaucratic power being the ruling power without there being a 1-on-1 correspondence with any particular class supporting it, and that for Marx there was also no need to assume that states necessarily rest on any particular single group of private property owners. In fact, he shows several examples where Marx and Engels referred to states that exercised power over the entirety of society, without the bureaucracy of this state being one that was private property-owning in a meaningful way itself, such as the Chinese imperial bureaucracy and the state in ancient Egypt. In Draper's view, a Marxist analysis of the state and its power must acknowledge the possibility of state autonomy, from the very origins of the state itself on, without considering this contrary to historical materialism. It must also research the material basis of any particular state power by empirically analyzing the specific state of class divisions in a given such society, not by applying the general 'modes of production' scheme as being identical with each successive ruling class having all state power in every society of that mode. This discussion is particularly important in the context of on the one hand absolutism and its forms, and on the other hand the so-called Asian or Oriental mode of production. Draper in a unique interpretation defends the latter in a way by suggesting that Marx & Engels used the Asian societies as examples of societies where village communes coexisted individually with an autonomous state power over them, which was something that they did not however think unique to Asia, because they also considered it applicable to Russia and the Germanic tribes. 'Asian mode' here then fulfills the same language function as 'Peking man' or the like, an example that the author also uses. An appendix attacking the viewpoints of Karl Wittfogel is also relevant for this discussion and helps dispell some of Wittfogel's confused notions, which have had a great influence on the discussion of this particular term. Nonetheless, I am not fully convinced that Hal Draper's interpretation is right, and even if it is, I still don't see how the concept is salvageable as a useful idea. On the other hand, Draper's purpose in the series is not to defend Marx & Engels (though he does that often) as much as to explain their views as accurately and precisely as possible. Absolutism, Bonapartism and 'state socialism' (which referred in those days to

Bismarck type governments) also get the attention they deserve, and Draper's analysis of Marx's copious writings on Bonapartism is particularly insightful. Of course, Draper's own Trotskyist background comes popping up here and there, because the relevance of Marx's critiques of Bonapartism and 'state socialism' as well as bureaucratic tyranny and stifling are inevitably full of implications for the question of the Soviet Union and its government. Anyone who was active in the Stalin and post-Stalin debates on bureaucratic socialisms etc., like Draper was, from any partisan perspective in it will have this debate too much in mind to entirely avoid anachronistic readings. Still, this doesn't pose too much of a problem as the analysis is generally very solid and can be considered an accurate portrayal of the views of Marx and Engels on the topic. One must keep in mind neither of them had seen anything of the 20th Century and what it would bring, so we will never fully know what they would have thought of it, or what conclusions they would have drawn. Draper is in this book at his most wittiest and sometimes produces razor-sharp asides, which together with his clearly erudite knowledge of 19th century history and culture make the reading less dry than one might expect. He uses this to good effect, for example when dispelling the old canard of the supposed anti-semitism of Marx based on the usual misreading (or rather not reading) of "On the Jewish Question" and the like, as well as in his short exkursus on Marx' romantic poetry. Draper's excellent series should not be seen as an invitation to treat the thoughts of Marx and Engels as Holy Writ or as a canon of dogma from which no deviation is possible and upon which nobody can improve. Instead, it should be used as the most expansive existing reliable analysis of Marx's & Engels' thought as such, allowing us to see both where they were right and where they were wrong, and allowing their brilliant minds to inspire us, that we may improve upon their work and understand our own times better. Although Hal Draper did not live to see his series finished, he has done us all a great favor with this life's work.

I love his interpretation in matching the signs. The book is right on with all the matches. I have been using this book for years and it has been a great help in understanding the strengths and the challenges I may have with a particular sign. When I show the book to friends they usually end up getting a copy for them self.

great product, easy sale, quick delivery... thanks

Great book. I refer to it often especially when I meet someone new. It gives both positive and negative sides without being too wordy. This is required reading for Gay men looking for love.

Excellent condition, and an amazing book.

Its so cliché in the gay idiom to inquire about ones zodiac sign. I can tell you nobody was a bigger skeptic than me. That all changed after I picked up a copy of GAY LOVE SIGNS. Almost 15 years have passed since Michael Jay gave us "GAY LOVE SIGNS " and it remains a relevant piece of work I STILL refer to! Whether your contemplating a love relationship , cant figure out WHY someone in your life acts a certain way or your just curious about astrology, GAY LOVE SIGNS will provide some telling insight into what you wanna know. Thanx for a fun and timeless read Mike !

Love this book - second copy of it after losing first one. So insightful and accurate

The book condition is exactly described as the owner. I am overall very happy to have this book!!  
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