

# SHOULD YOU STEER CLEAR OF AN INTIMIDATING PERSON?

FARIA KHAN

Sometimes, I meet people who simply make me feel uneasy and on the edge. It's not because of their appearance or something mean they're saying, but mostly because of their attitude and the energy that they give off. These people just have a way – they're super intimidating!

Psychologists say people who are aggressive, judgmental, rude or just seem to be fake – common traits of an intimidating person – usually have a reason for being the way they are. Rather than taking the behaviour personally, research says we should look for the underlying reasons. So you should give them the benefit of the doubt and keep the things listed below on your mind when dealing with an intimidating person.

## THEY'RE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME

People you find hard to talk to – who come across as rude – have a back story too. We should not judge a book by its cover, remember? When you meet such a person and they shut you down with an unenthusiastic reply to your friendly approach, there isn't much you can do about it. If, even after a couple of tries, they act the same, leave it at that. It doesn't mean you get to judge them and disregard the slight chances of actually liking them. Just try again later.

## THEY'RE NOT SMARTER AND YOU'RE NOT DUMBER

It is true, intimidating people make you feel dumb but *\*news flash\** it doesn't mean you actually are. It's just their confidence level, which is a 13 on a scale of 1 to 10. These people seem to know how the mind of the person in front of them works, so they try to talk in such a way that they seem superior to you. Being the dominant one



gives them some sort of pleasure. Yes, that's sad, but bear in mind, they may not be bullies.

## DO NOT WORRY OR OVERTHINK

What they are saying or doing should not be taken personally. Things coming out of their mouth probably don't sound as horrific in their head, but sometimes when it's out in the air, they have an overwhelming effect. They're very good at hiding their expressions and **FEELINGS**, so you'll never really know. Once you get to know them, and you get to break their wall, you'll know how they are wired. Until then, don't waste your time analysing the little things they say to you.

## BE ASSERTIVE

Assert your stance. If you are not self-assured and firm, it becomes easy for the intimidating person to dominate you even more. It's almost as if they prey on the weak ones, the ones who give in to their control and mastery. So just try and maintain eye contact with them. This will show them that you are not cowering and if they pick this up, you may even be on friendly terms.

*Faria Khan is an ambivert who truly believes in the divine power of music. Give her a piece of your mind at [fariaa.964@gmail.com](mailto:fariaa.964@gmail.com)*

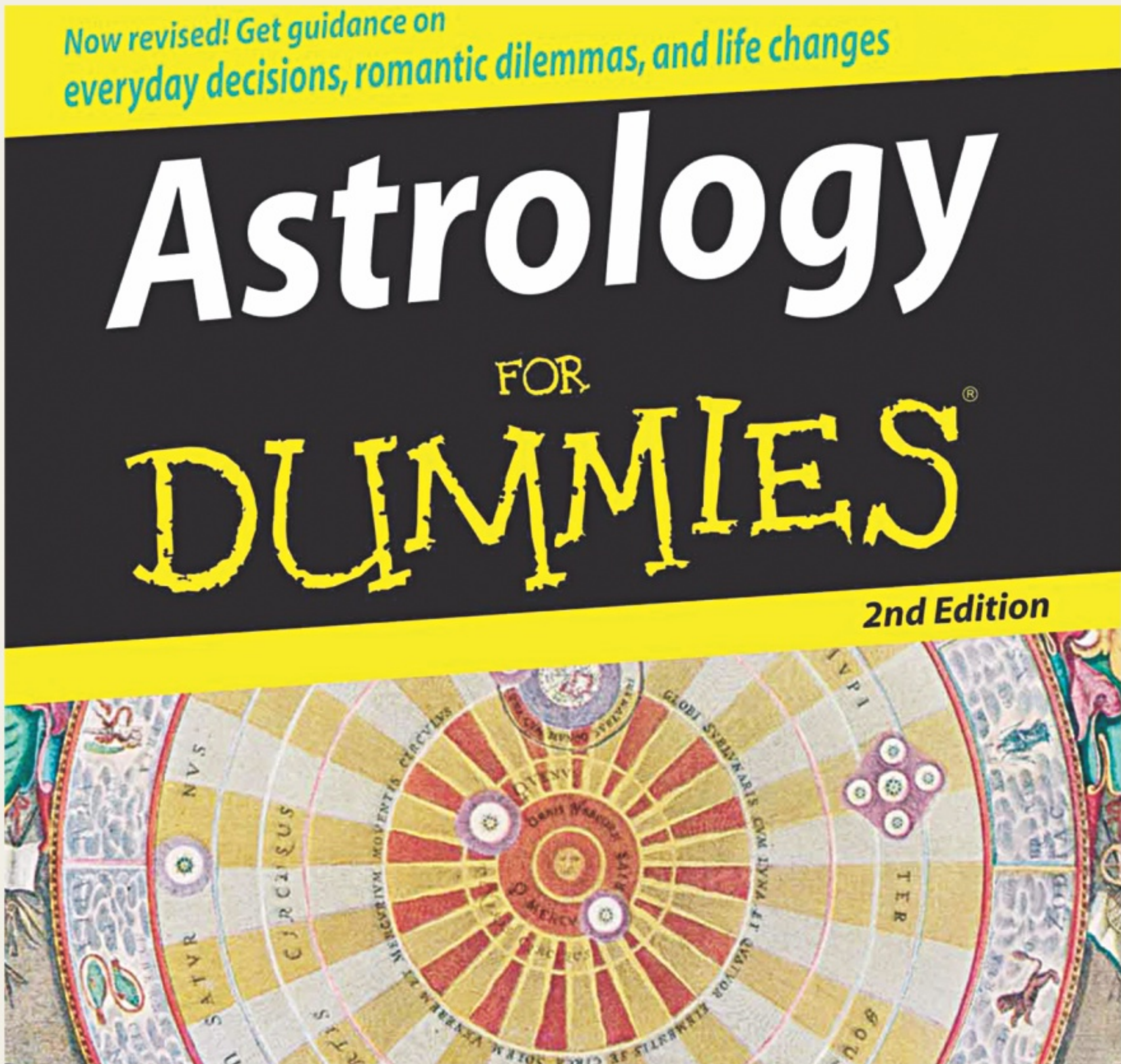
# IS THERE A FAULT IN OUR STARS?

MUSTAFID RAIYAN KHAN

Straight out of the bag, this article is about the multiple constellations etched into the horizons. It's about the zodiac and all its astrological implications. Is there really a fault in our stars?

Every person is born on a specific date, and so is represented by a specific zodiac. Yours truly is a Sagittarius, and this is important- not because I explicitly believe Saturn's position in Sagittarius is going to improve my non-existent love life (nor do I understand what these positions even mean because it honestly sounds like ham + hammer = sandwich). Neither do I like being generalized into a category like zodiacs tend to do. It's important because this is the universe's way of saying we're all unique, but also similar on some levels- and that's okay.

Astrology is controversial in its credibility given that it's a science based on vague ideas that preach planetary positions and stars directly affecting our lives. But interestingly, against all logical explanation, they're never entirely wrong. With Sagittarius comes its horoscopes (or “horror-scopes” *\*hehe\** on particularly bad days) which are sometimes creepily accurate, whether by chance or some marvelous calculation of cosmic proportions, who knows? They almost



make you entertain the idea that a greater power maybe at work in the universe. But then, because horoscopes literally sing “your destiny is written in the stars”, there's room to be skeptical. Everyone wants to believe he/she molds his/her own destiny.

Maybe the magic of horoscopes lies in extremely generalized statements and situations that a lot of people can relate to. But it's hard to imagine a group of astrologers cramped up in a room, huddled around cluttered desks with telescopes, scales and books;

scratching their heads trying to make horoscopes day in, day out. But then a horoscope won't explain why you're sometimes as morose as a 50-something year old emptily staring away at nothing in particular, pondering pressing world issues like the absence of portable biodegradable toilets in the world- ironic thoughts given how you think best and make major life decisions in the confines of toilets.

There are only 12 zodiacs for over 7 billion people. Around 4 babies are born every second of every day, 345,600 new kids share the same birthdate and 10 million kids the same zodiac in a year. This is where astrology's credibility becomes stretched into obscurity. People of different zodiacs might be more alike than two persons of the same zodiac. It's hard enough to fathom that 1 person similar to you or me is born every year, let alone 10 million (world domination would be a cinch if astrology was a universal law!). The odds are insane!

I guess at the end of the day, regardless of hard evidence, the zodiac is to us what we want it to be. It's comforting to think everyone belongs to a zodiac, no matter how weird, wacky, quirky or different they may be.

Because hey, if Jupiter decides to burn me tomorrow, at least I won't be alone!