

Desires and needs are rarely simple , but leaving the more complicated aspects of astrological chart comparison to one side, I shall explain that , fundamentally, what a woman looks for in a man, even subliminally, is described by the position of her Sun, Mars and the sign on the cusp -i.e., at the start of – her 7th House. Jane’s Sun was in her 4th House, the natural House of Cancer, her Mars was in the 5th House, the natural House of Leo and Pisces was on the cusp of her 7th House. Mr. Tony Crane, as you may remember, has the Moon in Cancer, Mars in Pisces and Leo on the Midheaven. In other words, he would have brought to life Jane’s inner picture of the ideal man very well. Very well indeed.

But there is more! Jane’s Venus, planet of love, at 9 degrees of Scorpio, is in conjunction with Mr. Tony Crane’s Ascendant and Mr. Tony Crane’s Jupiter, planet of - shall we say, “luck”? – is in conjunction with Jane’s Virgo Ascendant! How very, very intriguing! I’m sure Mr. Tony Crane actually is “lucky” for Jane, as he wanders around the country, poetically dressed in those white Regency shirts, bringing Darcy alive for her! I wonder to what extent the sales of romantic novels rise at Waterstone’s, every time he hits town!

When Jane was alive, as is made plain in “Pride and Prejudice”, it was of the utmost importance for a girl to marry, preferably before the age of twenty – five, in order to secure a roof over her head, for the rest of her life. A girl was not allowed to inherit property from her father and if she did not marry, she had to rely on married siblings or cousins to help her, by providing accommodation. Eliza de Feuillide, Jane’s glamorous cousin, for example, married a French count whom she did not love, because her mother, Philadelphia Austen, Jane’s aunt, advised her to accept the offer. Obviously, a woman had to think twice before turning down a marriage proposal. Yet, in “Pride and Prejudice”, the sparkling heroine, Eliza , or Elizabeth, Bennet , much to her mother’s displeasure, turns down the proposal of Mr. Collins, because she cannot love him. In 1802, Jane, herself, at first accepted the proposal of Harris Bigg-Wither but changed her mind shortly afterwards, because she did not love him. Despite being fully aware of the difficult position in which she was placed and the consequences of her decision, she put love before money. Jane clearly believed it was really love that counted – the sort of love of which the presence, incidentally, cannot be divined in any astrological chart. Compatibility, yes. But love, no. Love remains a mystery.