

Wheelchair-bound for 2 years – then an astrologer saved my life

When Carol Goodman, 37, was diagnosed with ME (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome), she looked to her horoscope to give her strength and reveal her future

“Every day I get up and go off to work in my successful high street boutique, where I sell cut-price designer clothes.

At night, I go back to my lovely house in Henfield, West Sussex. I can't believe I have my own business and my own house, all paid for by my own hard work. But it could have been so different...

Back in 1996, I was going through some major changes. I was living in London, but had met Anthony Thomsett, now 43, and a dental technician, in Henfield.

We hit it off and I moved from the city down to Henfield to be nearer Anthony and commuted to my job in banking in London.

I enjoyed my work. It was fast-paced and stressful, but I liked the high-flying city life and I earned good money.

Deep down, though, I knew I'd

chosen it because it was a safe job option. The truth was, fashion was my passion. I loved colour and fabric, and used to do colour analysis on my friends and family as a hobby.

I'd study someone's hair colour and complexion and pick the colour that would most suit them. It was just a bit of fun, but I hoped in the future I'd be able to do more with it.

I'd known Anthony less than a year when he proposed and we set the date for our wedding – June 7, 1997. But suddenly I began feeling more and more tired. After a long day at work, I'd come home exhausted and go straight to bed.

I felt as if my muscles didn't have the strength to carry me.

'I've probably just got that 'flu that's going round,' I said, as Anthony would help me into bed.

I struggled on, but it soon became clear that I had something more than

just a common cold. I'd only been awake for a few hours and I wanted to go back to bed. Simple tasks exhausted me.

One day, as I walked to the train station, I got half-way down the road and stopped. Try as I might, my legs just wouldn't carry me any further. I'd no strength left, and Anthony had to come and get me.

Even our wedding day was affected. I yawned the whole way through. But when I fell asleep at my desk one day I knew I needed help. I went to my GP and started having tests.

After four months, I was finally diagnosed with ME, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

I was signed off work sick while my doctor referred me to Midhurst Hospital, West Sussex. I tried lots of different forms of treatment.

My diet and exercise patterns were looked at and I had physiotherapy, but it soon became clear that my recovery would take a long time.

Six months after first feeling ill, I was bed-bound. For four months I did nothing but sleep all day. I barely had the strength for a shower, and felt like an old woman instead of a young newly-wed.

Anthony was very supportive and over the next few years, as I gradually improved, he was there for me.

But my illness did create a lot of stress. I was confined



to a wheelchair for two years and instead of enjoying myself like other 20-somethings, I was living the life of an invalid. Even making a cup of tea left me exhausted.

Over six years, Anthony and I tried to make our marriage work. But, although I grew stronger, in reality we'd grown apart and we split in early 2002.

I started working three hours a day with my mother, Joan Goodman, 62, at her lettings agency in Henfield. It was great, but how would I afford to pay the mortgage on my own?

I thought more and more about my real passion – fashion – and decided to set up a fashion retail business. I'd

heard through a friend about a load of stock going cheap.

'I need a new start, Mum,' I said. 'I want to open my own shop.' Mum looked worried. 'You're struggling to work part-time here,' she said. 'You're not well enough to start a new business, not yet.'

All my family and friends said the same thing. No one thought it was a good idea.

It was a huge risk, financially and physically. But my gut instinct told me it was an opportunity not to be missed. What should I do?

I needed objective help. Then I remembered Paul Wade. He was an astrologer my sister Gillian, 41, had raved about following a reading with him a few years back.

I'm quite a sceptical person and never would have consulted a tarot reader or psychic. But astrology was based on real movements of stars and planets and seemed to make sense to me in a scientific way.

So, when I turned 35 in June 2002, my family bought me a reading with Paul and off I went.

I explained everything – my health, the divorce, the house, and the stock. Paul sat and listened and, as he bent over the astro charts, my heart hammered with nerves.

I fully expected him to say what everyone else had said, and

promised myself that if Paul said: 'Don't do it,' I wouldn't take the risk. It wasn't just the money at stake, my health was more important and too much stress could put me back in a wheelchair.

Finally, Paul raised his head. 'You'd be a fool not to go for it,' he said. My jaw dropped. 'Planetary movements show a prolonged period of great opportunity in your career area. Your horoscope shows that after some hardship your financial affairs will improve.

'Whatever you do, you must do this.' I was amazed, and walked out of my reading with Paul feeling more confident and inspired than I had for years.

Stock would cost me £20,000 and the business would take a while to get off the ground. I also needed to make sure my house was financially secure. But now I knew I had to go for it.

I took in a lodger to help pay the



BOOM TIME: Carol's business is flourishing

mortgage, then moved my new stock into my bedroom and started my business from home, sleeping on the sofa for six months. I was only strong enough to work a few hours a day, but I was determined to make it happen.

The business went well. After a few months, I rented a small unit on an industrial estate, and in June 2003 I took on a small boutique space on Henfield High Street. I named my shop Alice Carroll after my grandmother.

Less than two years on, business is booming. My health took its time to get back to normal, but these days I feel great and I'm working full-time again. I took an enormous risk. I could have become ill again and not been able to work at all. I'd have been stuck with thousands of pounds worth of clothes I couldn't sell.

But Paul's predictions gave me the confidence to go for what I wanted and achieve my dreams. If I hadn't seen him I'd have lost my chance to build a successful business of my own.

Astrology really works for me and I've no regrets at all about putting my faith in the stars."

Have your destiny revealed too!

For further information regarding Paul, please visit his website at www.astrologywizard.com Alternatively, you can call for more details on 0871 288 6959.

For discounted designer labels and colour and image analysis at Alice Carroll, call 01273 494396 or visit www.alicecarroll.co.uk



ASTRO STAR: Paul gave Carol the courage of her convictions

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