

“My View” (A film review) By Ruth Klaase

Bravery

Heroes: they come in all shapes, sizes, genders, political preferences, and categories of bravery. I've recently watched several films that portrayed real-life heroes—recent ones and those from a distant past—and two films stood out. One tells the true story of an unassuming man who 'just did his job', managed the impossible, and yet ended up almost getting sacked for his life-saving efforts (this seems to be a recurring thing with many heroes); the other is a royal tale you may not believe really happened—but it did.

Let's start with the latter. In 1766 15-year-old Princess Caroline Mathilda, daughter of the Prince of Wales, was married to her 17-year-old cousin Christian, the King of Denmark. Ah, those silly royals. Marrying cousins, trying to keep bloodlines intact, and creating lots, and lots of drama in the process. When I read about cousin Christian's childhood I realised that the writers of fairytales, even the darker ones, have been kind to history. It is a tale of exceptional woe: Christian's mother died when he was three, he was severely physically abused by his male nanny, and when his stepmother—not a very loving person by all accounts—gave birth to a disabled son, well, all bets were off. Who needs fiction when you can read about royal history?

Snowwhite's stepmom' sister?

Throughout his reign, Christian suffered from severe mental problems. He is said to have had bizarre spells, during which he would display very erratic behaviour. He would slap people, babble incoherently, and have apparent hallucinations. He also went into town regularly to seek trouble, coming back injured from bar fights. Some think he may have suffered from schizophrenia. He was, in any case, indifferent towards his wife from the start, and made no secret of his preference for ladies of the night. Caroline Mathilda, who was still a child, must have been very lonely. And her jealous mother-in-law (the archetypal evil stepmother, oh yes) made this much worse by dismissing her favourite ladies in waiting. Despite all this, the queen managed to give birth to a healthy son—the Crown Prince.

Enter Johan Friedrich Struensee, a German physician who, despite being a foreigner, an outsider, and a progressive 'thinker', speedily gained the King's trust. They became the best buddies, and Struensee started taking over the reigns. This included taking care of the Queen's needs, an affair that became quite public. Together, the queen and her lover, with assistance from the King, changed many laws towards a better future for Denmark. But true fairytale heroes rarely run their course without encountering severe hurdles, and Caroline Mathilda and Struensee were no exceptions. They tried some very brave things, unusual for those times, and ran into fierce opposition. If you want to know the rest of the story, including the rather horrendous role the evil stepmother played in all of it, I suggest you start with the fabulous 2012 rendition, *A Royal Affair*. The acting (by Mikkel Følsgaard, Alicia Vikander, and Mads 'Hannibal' Mikkelsen) is superb, and from what I can tell most of what's in the film really happened.

Nothing but the truth, so help me Eastwood

Another hero—a much less assuming one, I might add—showed the world his skills just a few years ago. You may recall a plane landing in the Hudson River in New York in January 2009? Everyone miraculously survived, and the pilot, Chesley Sullenberger aka 'Sully', was hailed a hero by the public. According to Clint Eastwood's movie *Sully: Miracle on the Hudson*, however, that view was not shared by the American National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), who investigated the incident. The events they confirmed happened: Flight Captain Sullenberger (Tom Hanks in the film) and co-pilot Jeff Skiles (Aaron Eckhart) had just taken off from LaGuardia, New York, when a flock of geese hit the plane. As a result, both engines died, and Sullenberger made a life-saving decision: not to attempt to reach near(ish)-by landing strips, but instead aim for a river landing. Water landings have been carried out before, but in this way and without loss of life. Yet Sullenberger and Skiles did it: all 150 passengers and 5 crew walked out of the Airbus 320 into the cold of winter, and thanks to several ferry and boat crews, they didn't die in the freezing water either.

According to Eastwood's film, the investigators who looked into what happened, try very hard to find fault with Sully's decision. They had experienced pilots try out alternatives, and argued Sully's decision may have been heroic, but unnecessary. While the film offers an interesting (and apparently accurate) impression of what happened during and immediately after the flight, as well as a great portrait of a man with zero arrogance and a great sense of duty (and enormous courage), this dramatised part of the film is...weird. It seems that no-one knows why Eastwood decided to change the way the NTSB acted, and insiders say it goes far beyond artistic license. Sullenberger was very actively involved in the making of the film, and in interviews does not seem to share Eastwood's rather extreme view. He confirms what NTSB people have said: that their task is a difficult one, that if they do find fault they will not hold back, but that they just did their job.

Eastwood is known for having rather strong opinions on certain matters. For the sake of keeping this magazine 'clean', I cannot quote him on matters of racism, women, or whether Trump will make America great again, but let's just say I do not agree with him on those issues. That being said, when you set aside the controversies, the rest of his movie is worth your time, because it shows how important a well-trained, well-meaning, level-headed set of pilots with zero arrogance and a life-saving attitude is in times of near-disaster. It also shows, once again, that both Tom Hanks and Aaron Eckhart are exemplary actors and that we should hope to keep them around for a very long time.



HOROSCOPE - JULY 2017

ARIES: BIRTHDAYS FROM 21 MARCH to 20 APRIL

General Highlights: For Aries, the second summer month, July 2017, will stand out as an ambiguous time, but bright and, in the end result - exclusively positive. The Sun will now be your primary celestial helper, and it will be supported by Venus, despite the fact that the latter is not usually the most positive with respect to the sign of Aries. It's important to understand that we are dealing with a dynamic time interval, that is, it would make sense to be mobile and active in several areas. If you work for yourself, July will be an ideal month for growing the profile of your enterprise. If you don't have your own business, you will probably discover new means of income, which will be both pleasant and useful. In the sphere of personal relationships there will be even more possibilities, this could be in the form of a reassessment of existing relationships, or the establishment of completely new contacts.



TAURUS: FROM 21 APRIL to 21 MAY

General Highlights: For people born under the Zodiac sign of Taurus, July 2017 will be an unhurried and harmonious time. The dawn of the summer season will bring many things into your life which you previously didn't have enough of. In particular, thanks to the favorable position of the Moon, you'll learn to control your emotions better, and you'll come to important agreements with your colleagues and partners. The communicative aspect will be important, although it won't take priority. At the current stage nothing in particular will take priority - all areas of your activity, all spheres of your life will have the same significance, and overall, this is a definite advantage. In the area of work it would make sense to focus on conservative positions, at least at the start of the month. Later, everything will change in the most radical way, but changes will be gradual, and you will have enough time at your disposal to make adequate decisions.



GEMINI: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 MAY to 21 JUNE

General Highlights: The primary planetary patron of Gemini, Mercury, will take on quite a profitable position in July 2017, which will, among other things, be supported by Venus and Uranus. This means that the second summer month will stand out for Gemini as colorful and promising, although the dynamics of the developments going on around you will prove to be a little less than during other periods. Of course, it would make sense to aim to make progress, but you must act in a calculated way, and not rush to conclusions. Circumstances will be on your side, wholeheartedly, but this doesn't do away with the fact that your competitors are active, and your own mistakes, resulting from insufficient information, are also quite likely. In the area of work, the stars advise Geminis to act calmly and confidently. You must clearly envisage what you want, and then circumstances will unfold in a dignified manner.



CANCER: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 JUNE to 23 JULY

General Highlights: For Cancer, July 2017 will be a successful and promising time, and if representatives of this sign want excess profit and want to attain heights which they have never even dreamed of, they will have to make an effort. However, at the very least, you will have all the opportunities to do so. In most cases, circumstances will develop to your advantage, so it would make sense not to lose sight of your goals, and to keep moving forward in the previously determined areas. In general, Cancers who have a plan ready at the start of the month will definitely win. For many signs the second summer month will prove to be quite calm, but not for Cancer! You will have to deal with a lot of urgent matters, many of which will be far outside the limits of your competency. In the area of work, you should secure the support of colleagues and partners, because it would be better to overcome the coming challenges collectively.



LEO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 JULY to 23 AUGUST

General Highlights: The favorable position of Pluto, strengthened by the position of the Sun and Venus, will guarantee representatives of the Zodiac sign of Leo significant advantages against competitors throughout July 2017. In general, on all fronts without exception, you will now have the opportunity to achieve the results you want. Of course, the results will be directly proportional to the amount of effort expended, but all other things being equal, it will really be easier for you than under any other circumstances. In the area of work it is likely that situations will arise which are extremely favorable for business development, for establishing a radically new, powerful base. Fortune will be on your side, but this doesn't do away with the necessity for increased concentration, attentiveness and adaptability. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances will be extremely important in this regard, because the dynamics of the stage imply a permanent change in position and direction.



VIRGO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 AUGUST to 23 SEPTEMBER

General Highlights: For Virgo, whose patron is Mercury, July 2017 could be an extremely promising time. Many things will become clear to you at this stage of life, and in comparison to the previous month, you will be aware of significantly more, perhaps more than ever before. With respect to the work sphere, this will give you incomparable advantages against your competitors. If you work for yourself, make an effort to act prudently, but quickly, since the lion's share of circumstances will unfold as you need them to, even if it's at the last moment. For those who don't have their own businesses, the second month of summer will be an excellent time for all kinds of risks and ventures. Of course, you shouldn't throw yourself headfirst into the deep end, but all other things being equal, you will be in an incomparably more favorable position than anyone else, and so sometimes it makes sense to rely on blind luck, especially if there is no other way out. With respect to the sphere of personal relationships, it's important to point out that Virgo will also be helped by Venus now.



LIBRA: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 SEPTEMBER to 23 OCTOBER

General Highlights: In July 2017, people born under the Zodiac sign of Libra can count on quite a successful resolution of all difficult situations. The thing is, Libras will now be supported by numerous objects of the solar system, including the lord of the heavenly bodies, and Venus. As a result, total success is likely in the sphere of personal relationships as well as on the work front. In situations where you're just one step away from a victorious end, your planetary helpers will definitely give you the necessary impetus. If circumstances suddenly start to unfold in a bad way, you will definitely find a way out of the situation, once you have received clear or indirect (which is more likely) guidance. In other words, at the current stage of life you shouldn't count on complete 'freebies', but firstly, no truly critical situations are foreseen here, and secondly, with such powerful patrons you have nothing to fear.



SCORPIO: BIRTHDAYS FROM 24 OCTOBER to 22 NOVEMBER

General Highlights: Saturn will be the key patron for people born under the sign of Scorpio in July 2017, which is actually quite natural. Your sign will also be supported by Uranus, and this already guarantees success in the majority of disputes. You personally will still have to work, so you shouldn't expect someone else to do your work for you. This month it would make sense for Scorpio to focus on a synthesis of their own initiatives and real necessity. That is, for example, in the area of work, if you don't work for yourself, you will have to allocate equal amounts of time to your own projects as to projects assigned to you by the management. We'll take a more detailed look at this situation below, but you must understand that we are dealing with a vaster spectrum of opportunities and possibilities. You shouldn't expect all external factors without exception to develop to your advantage now, but this is nothing to worry about.



SAGITTARIUS: BIRTHDAYS FROM 23 NOVEMBER to 23 DECEMBER

General Highlights: For people born under the Zodiac sign of Sagittarius, July 2017 will be a difficult but promising time. There's no need to be frightened, since no truly challenging aspects or critical situations are foreseen, but it would make sense not to lose vigilance, as this will enable you to utilize the opportunities of the second summer month to the max. Your primary patron, Jupiter, will enable you to make it out of any confrontation with flying colors. On the whole, this will be a fickle stage, and periods of bright and powerful dynamics will interchange with stretches of time which can be described as absolutely peaceful and stable. Of course, everything here is extremely individual and it's hard to determine with clarity exactly how the periods will alternate. In actual fact this won't be particularly important, because in any event you will be able to prepare yourself for what awaits you. Now it would make sense to trust your intuition, not only in the area of personal relationships. Even in the area of work, your internal, instinctive vectors must take priority.



CAPRICORN: BIRTHDAYS FROM 22 DECEMBER to 20 JANUARY

General Highlights: With respect to people born under the sign of Capricorn, July 2017 could be quite a colorful month, although it won't be unambiguous in all respects. The thing is, in addition to Saturn, the traditional celestial patron of this sign, Mars will now help it, although he is a sheer nightmare for all the other signs (at this stage). Overall, an unusual situation will develop, but it will inevitably be positive in the end. The bottom line is that you mustn't be frightened by the fact that already at the start of the month many of your plans will not seem feasible, and future prospects will seem purely illusory. Don't betray your positions, act as before - confidently and consistently. When it comes to work, a lot of interesting things await you, in particular, this could involve significant changes in staff. In the sphere of feelings and emotions it's hard to say anything specific, since, knowing Capricorn, it's difficult to guess exactly how he will react to developments.



AQUARIUS: BIRTHDAYS 21 JANUARY to 19 FEBRUARY

General Highlights: In July 2017 Aquarians will have the patronage of their traditional celestial helpers - Saturn and Mercury. There will be solar energy, but it can hardly be called dominant. This period of your life will most likely prove to be colorful and ambiguous. You will get what you want, but you will also realize many things, you may even understand that for many years you have been badly mistaken. This will also be a turning point, probably one of the most important. Don't be afraid to accept yourself as you are. In the midst of the summer season, luck will be on your side, and you will be able to achieve your goals in the work area and the sphere of personal relationships alike. You won't lose, although if you really want to, put your hands down and step aside - such a course of action is also possible. In any other event, you have every chance, so you shouldn't doubt yourself or your opportunities. It's important now to achieve the best possible result, and to gain experience during the current cycle.



PISCES: BIRTHDAYS: 20 FEBRUARY to 20 MARCH

General Highlights: In July 2017 the Zodiac sign of Pisces will have as much luck as they are ready for. In actual fact, we are dealing with quite a favorable period which will, however, have a number of significant nuances. The combined effect of Venus and Jupiter will allow Pisces to get out of any difficult conflict with flying colors, and there is the possibility of critical success. That is, at the same work place you may not only get a new job, but even jump a few levels at once, to your competitors' serious surprise. In the area of personal emotions, single Pisces could easily meet their fate, in the most direct sense. In this regard it must, however, be taken into consideration that we are not necessarily dealing with love (although this is also possible), this could also be friendship, some kind of emotional unity, especially the relationship of a student and a spiritual mentor. This will be a good, progressive stage, which will tend towards confident but not hurried movement forward. True, due to the unfavorable position of Mercury, strengthened by the Dark Moon, there could be serious problems.



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