

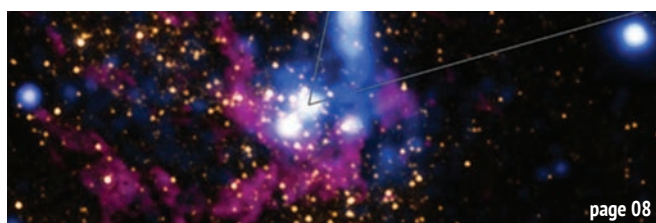
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"The relationship themes described in the birth chart are real to us, regardless of the actual reality of other people or of the outside world."

Clare Martin, *Star Crossed: Astrology, Personality Theory, And the Meeting of Opposites* (Wessex)



Cover: Cat Keane



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The value of scepticism about 'scepticism'

When I first read of doubts about President Vladimir Putin's reported birth year (1952), I was sceptical – of the claims of Vera Putina, his putative biological mother. In the bedlam of fake news and conspiracy theories that abound on social (and increasingly, in mainstream) media, it is tempting to dismiss just about everything as a lie or an 'alternative truth'. So, when Sue Kientz sent me the idea for her piece in this issue on the case for Putin's 1950 birth year, using the dwarf planets Eris, Makemake and Haumea as cosmic testimony, I inwardly sighed. Fortunately, I have been around long enough to self-police my reflexes – and suspended disbelief. Besides, Sue is an astrologer of considerable learning – so who am I to presuppose anything? Sue's essay has plausibility, and I am glad I did not yield to my 'scepticism'.

What passes for critical scepticism is so often just pure and simple thoughtless rejectionism.

Thinking about it, there's a great deal in this issue that challenges many of my assumptions, prejudices, areas of oblivion – and advances my own learning. Despite great work out there on Ceres, I still do not know what to make of the dwarf planet in my practice. Who better than Faye Blake to enlighten us all? Her essay on Ceres as antidote to Pluto's grim associations is original astrology at its best, furthering our understanding of the horoscope as we learn yet more about the physical cosmos.

Before Lynn Bell told me that she'd like to interview the masterly French astrologer Yves Lenoble, I had not heard of him. I am still a relative newcomer to astrology, and I feel I am in permanent catch-up. Their conversation proves to be rich in anecdote and observation of the modern astrology world. Lenoble has worked with many fellow greats such as André Barbault and 'the Roberts' (Hand, Schmidt, Amadou). He also worked on Nostradamus' 50 original charts – which alerts me to another one of my prejudices, namely that I do not care for Nostradamus at all. I have lost count of the number of 'definitive' books on his cryptic prophecies. Hister = Hitler? River or monster? Yet Lynn's interview has insights which have altered my perception.

Oscar Hofman insists that it is not possible to delineate a chart properly unless fixed stars are included. The emphatic nature of his assertion used to trigger in me an automatic 'Oh, really?' But the persuasive nature of his columns over the past few months has altered my view, especially since I read Hazel & Munkasey's *Little Book of Fixed Stars*. Now I wonder what I missed before I encountered Oscar's work.

Robert Pendleton's much-delayed and learned essay on T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land* – using astrology in aesthetic analysis – unnerved me initially because I had not read the poem. Then I did. It's not always the easiest of works to comprehend but is worth the effort. I might not have bothered but for Robert. I am grateful to him and all the other writers in this issue for advancing my education.

Victor Olliver
Editor



Was Vladimir Putin really born on 7 October 1950?

Sue Kientz

With the help of dwarf planets Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Sedna, the case is made that Putin was not born in 1952 as he claims but in 1950. The new progressed and transits charts tell a sharper, more complete story about his major life events – and future as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is met with robust resistance

Not all the charts referenced in this piece can be shown for space reasons.

Go to website moreplutos.com/putin1950 to see all the charts

What astrologer hasn’t feverishly poured over Russia President Vladimir Putin’s chart these days, trying to foresee an end to his insane invasion of Ukraine? Putin’s War is a disaster not only for Ukrainians, but a threat to Europe and the world in its repercussions on food availability (Ukraine is a major wheat exporter), rising gas and oil prices (what’s not sanctioned is being used as blackmail), and the chance that Putin might unleash chemical or even nuclear weapons in his mad ambition to reconstitute his beloved Soviet Empire. And this is in no way a complete list of what is at stake.

But what can we make of the Astrodiest Rodden Rating DD chart for Putin?¹ Can we trust this data? Why would an ex-spy allow access to any reliable information about himself? The source notes at astro.com claim the birth information, *including time of birth*, is from his ‘official Soviet birth certificate’. Yet immediately afterwards it’s noted that Russian birth records do not include times of birth. A red flag indeed, highly suspicious, just like so many of Putin’s own accounts of his life, some as fantastic as the claims of the North Korean Kims [see endnote 1]. Like how Putin’s soldier father supposedly came home in the middle of World War II and, noticing bodies stacked up in front of his house to be taken for burial, he ‘recognised’ his wife’s shoes on some exposed legs.²

Unless you’re married to Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* and she’s wearing the ruby slippers, what man in history ever recognised his wife’s shoes? Still, Father Putin insists they hand over her body, which is not quite dead; in fact, she recovers and gives birth to Vlad eight years later. The usually tight-lipped, unsociable Putin offered this miraculous story to Hillary Clinton. Whom he despises.

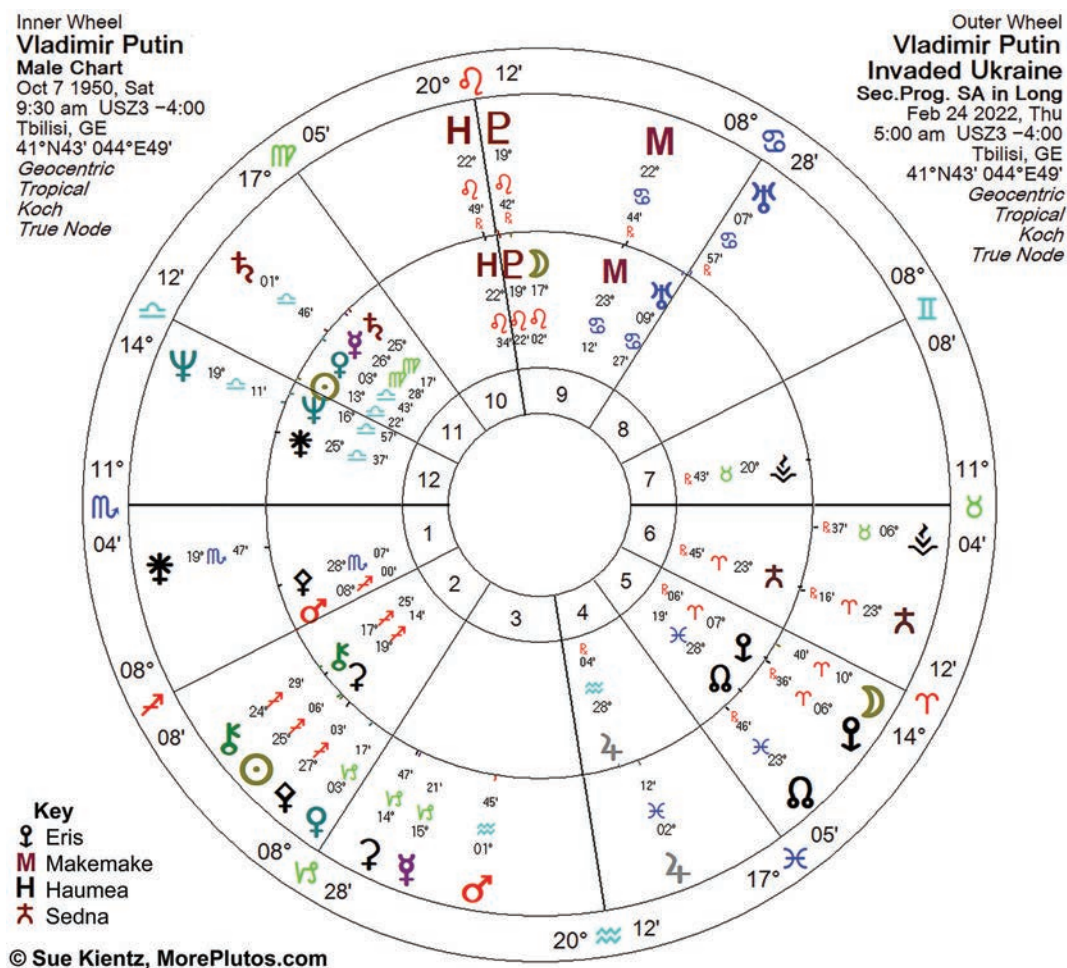
Yet like so many, I keep looking to find some truth about

Putin that might lead to more reliable information on what he is doing next and how lucky he is right now. I question his ‘official’ birthdate, 7 October 1952, mainly because its secondary progressions and transits don’t look bad enough for him when the Beslan School Massacre happened and, considering how the Ukrainians have surprisingly bested him and his ‘powerful’ army, his secondary progressions and transits don’t mirror that now. He even lost his big flagship called the Moskva – how symbolic is that? Something seems missing in Putin’s personal chart as events have so far unfolded.

All that said, I did not expect to find something during my online searches, but recently I stumbled on something eye-opening. It’s not new information, but it’s not widely talked about either, perhaps because the story is littered with the bodies of dead journalists. Apparently in 2000, before Putin was elected president the very first time, some reporters got wind of a woman named Vera Putina in the Republic of Georgia who claimed she was Putin’s mother, and that Putin’s (now dead) parents were really relatives who raised him when Putin’s stepfather insisted the boy was a nuisance and had to go. So, Vera Putina sent 9-year-old Vladimir to her parents in Russia, who placed him with the childless relations.³ And that’s when it gets interesting.

Young Vladimir did not speak Russian, only Georgian, so to get him situated in a new school at a level where he could start learning Russian from scratch, his new parents changed his birth certificate to make him younger and therefore eligible to start first grade again. His real birthday, Putina says, is 7 October 1950, near Tbilisi, Georgia. She also provided the interviewer with her own birthday, 6 September 1926, at a village near Perm, Russia.

Was Vladimir Putin really born on 7 October 1950?



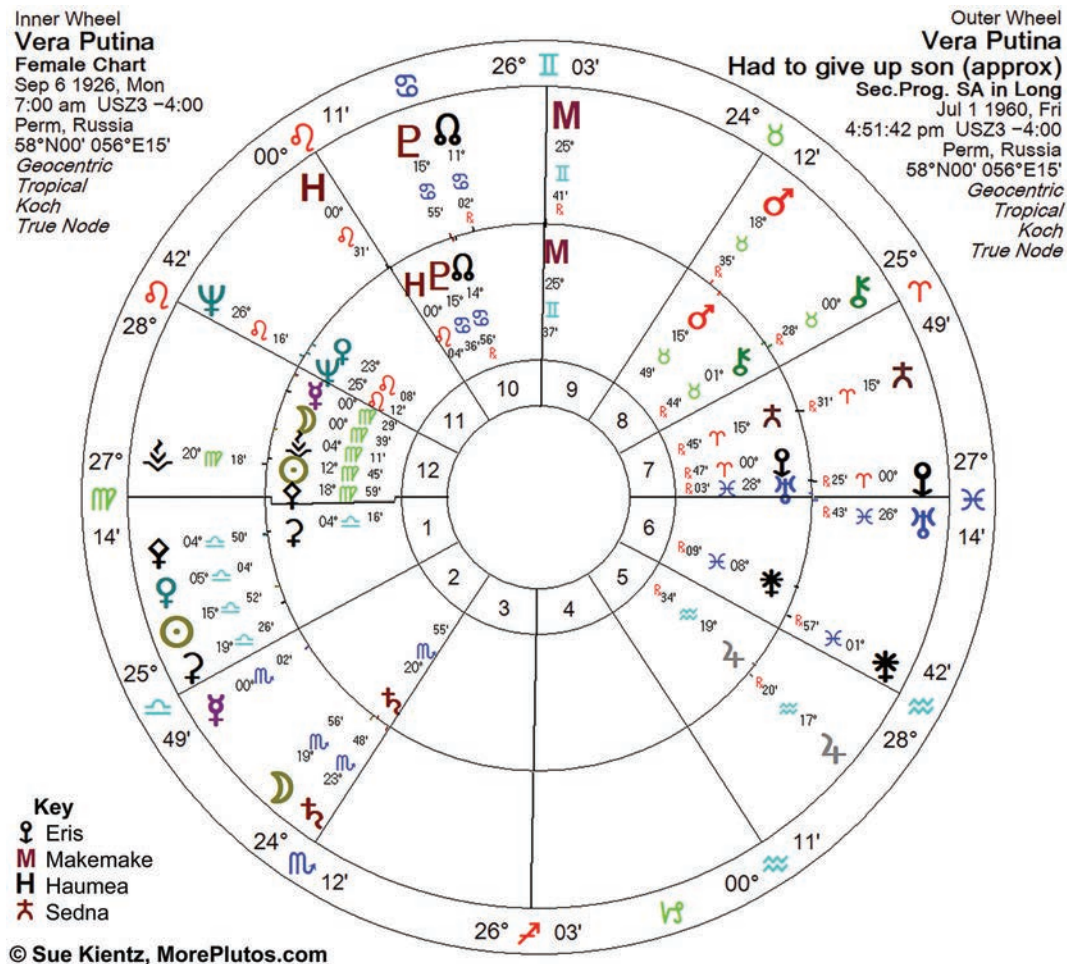
Reportedly, Putina spoke out after she recognised her lost son on TV running for president! She was happy to tell anyone who would listen. But soon Putin himself must have become aware, because suddenly people flying to interview her had unexpected plane trouble and ended up dead. Another journalist felt especially targeted and eventually his death was reported on the news. But as luck would have it, the man killed was just a guy with the same name as him. The article I cite [see endnote 3] has all these details and they fit together pretty tightly. To beat all, Mother Vera is still alive, at 95! If Putin is so upset and this is all untrue, how is she still alive? Putina is now very reluctant to speak of her beloved son. And her daughters who care for her explain it's because the secret police came and took all the family's photos of her firstborn son and warned her to shut up about Putin. Yet journalists who dare to make the trek to her home outside of Tbilisi can find villagers who grew up with young Vladimir, one recalling he was big into judo, just like President Putin.

Hopefully your interest is now piqued to see this new Putin birth chart and his mother's. We can vet it in a few keyways before we look at Putin's most emotionally charged life

milestones, like the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the Beslan School Massacre and the invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. We will examine what was going on in the 1950 Putin chart and in Vera's chart, in the summer of 1960 when he arrived in Russia to start school on 1 September 1960.⁴ That's when Putin's and his mother's charts, if valid, should both show strong signs of their traumatic split.

My plan is to verify these charts by zeroing in on the most intense moments Putin has experienced and seeing what secondary progression reveals. Secondary progression is so 'slow' that major life crises must appear clearly, or your data is questionable. I found I can rely on secondary progression alone once I began using the weightiest new dwarf planets (Eris, Makemake, Haumea and Sedna) in chart work, as since then the big events consistently show up in the timing of *both* transits and secondary progression. Before that, I was like every other astrologer, having to run transits and progression to get a full timeline for my clients. It puzzled me as to why that would be, why both techniques would now provide similar timing of big-life milestones, until I realised that dwarf planets must fill in what was missing in our solar system's pattern.⁵

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Since Putin's birth month and day are the same, his Sun degree is still 13° Libra, just slightly earlier (13° Libra 22').⁶ By summer 1960 (using 1 July), Putin's progressed Sun (23° Libra 00') has reached exact semi-square to his natal Mars (8° Sagittarius 00'). Putin's Mars is afflicted by close sesquiquadrates to dwarf planet Sedna (23° Aries 45' – Sedna with its 11,400-year orbit is best imagined as Saturn-Neptune in effect, very harsh, depressive, but also tenacious and self-sacrificing) and sesquiquadrate dwarf planet Makemake (23° Cancer 12' – Makemake is bizarre, electric, unpredictable, making one look crazy or a genius depending on one's ability to manage such energy). Without dwarf planets, Putin's Mars is mostly unsuspected. But that summer of 1960, Putin's prog. Sun wandered into that tense melee, opposite prog. Sedna (23° Aries 40') and square prog. Makemake (23° Cancer 15'). His childish pranks and guff (Makemake) have turned devastatingly serious (Sedna) as he faces losing his home and doting mother.

Now look at Vera's secondary progressions, and you will be startled to see a similar constellation: her prog. Sun (15° Libra 52') is opposite prog. Sedna (15° Aries 31'), and square prog.

Pluto (15° Cancer 55'). As for Vera's Sun square Pluto, she's apparently powerless to keep her son, usually an inviolate right. Also note, her prog. Mercury (0° Scorpio 02') is square dwarf planet Haumea (0° Leo 31' – Haumea brings sweeping change: healing, fixing things, but also separation, death, destruction). In Vera's case, the family fights will cease, but at what cost? A 1st-house Sun chart is used for Vera and seeing prog. Moon (19° Scorpio 56') opposite prog. Mars (18° Taurus 35'), one senses her true birth time could be close to this estimate.

Now to check a time when both would feel the pinnacle of achievement: Putin's appointment as interim president on 31 December 1999. For Putin, his recent success in cozying up to reigning Soviet leadership is shown by his prog. Sun (2° Sagittarius 36') sextile prog. Saturn (0° Libra 23'). His future looks bright ahead as prog. Sun applies to trine prog. Eris (6° Aries 41' – Eris represents other people in general, the disenfranchised in particular, and signifies cooperation and community. Putin must – and does – get people as a group to vote for him). Additionally, his prog. Mercury (15° Sagittarius 47') trines prog. Pluto (19° Leo 51') from his progressed

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Ascendant (17° Sagittarius 39'), showing Putin's words/decrees will be weighted with authority for years to come.

For his mother, who reportedly first recognised her long lost child in 1999 on television, Vera's prog. Sun (25° Scorpio 20') / prog. Venus (24° Scorpio 34') trines prog. Uranus (25° Pisces 38'). What an apex moment! She likely imagines she will be reunited with her beloved estranged son, as now her husband is dead and of no consequence whatsoever. Her firstborn is to be president! And soon after is elected to the office. The figure exudes unadulterated joy, except there is a cloud: prog. Sun is also square prog. Neptune (26° Leo 57'). Soon enough she learns there is to be no reunion. She cannot even speak of being Putin's mother, some men visiting her make clear. She can bask in his success, but only in private, as her existence is still a scandal (Neptune) to him.

Since we have learned that Putin regards the breakup of the former Soviet Union as a devastating mistake that he must correct, look at what his 1950 chart reveals of his reaction to the first crack in that great empire, when the Berlin Wall fell on 9 November 1989. Putin was a KGB officer and certainly heard of the chaos in Germany, the opening of the Wall for western and eastern Germans to cross freely for the first time in decades. At the time, Putin's prog. Sun (22° Scorpio 22') and Venus (22° Scorpio 42') are square prog. Haumea (22° Leo 56'). Talk about sweeping change! No one at the time could conceive this would ever happen. It seemed impossible, but when the news broke, everywhere people reacted with unbridled celebration. Putin's Sun/Venus square Haumea shows no such euphoria but is a figure of death or terrible loss of one's greatest love. The Soviet Union did not fall that day, but the writing was on the (literal) Wall.

Next, look at the Beslan School Siege on 3 September 2004 (the end, when an attempted rescue caused the deaths of hundreds of hostages including children). At the time, Putin's prog. Sun (7° Sagittarius 20') was conjunct his Mars (8° Sagittarius), and so was sesquiquadrate prog. Sedna (23° Aries 21') and prog. Makemake (23° Cancer 01'). This terrible tragedy was a great failure for Putin, and his progressions look understandably horrific. The figure is similar to Summer 1960 except, for self-involved Putin, being abandoned by his mother is far worse than being responsible for Russian mothers losing their children, as a t-square is much more daunting than suffering through a pair of sesquiquadrates.

Last thing, is there a comparable indicator of Putin's immense riches, which he began accumulating around 2005 after his oligarchs began exchanging a substantial percentage of their profits for his protection and tacit acceptance of any corrupt business methods? Yes, progressing the 1950 chart shows prog. Venus (12° Sagittarius) close to sextile Putin's Sun (13° Libra 22') that summer, and in range of trine his Moon (17° Leo) and prog. Pluto-Haumea (19° Leo 21'), which will take

more than a decade before separating. Even then, the Venus trine period overlaps with his prog. Sun (16° Sagittarius) also forming a long-term trine to prog. Pluto-Haumea.⁷ The riches this combination could bring via Venus are life changing, not just enhancing Putin's wealth but, in the worst sense, impacting the lives of his perceived enemies and rivals, as with such powerful resources he can buy anyone's life or death.

Currently, Putin's prog. Sun (25° Sagittarius) is just separating from his Moon/prog. Pluto-Haumea stellium trine, with prog. Venus (3° Capricorn) now sextile prog. Jupiter (2° Pisces). He still commands massive wealth, but the gravy train will eventually reach the station, or maybe a cliff.⁸

So far, the 1950 chart matches Putin's documented life. Now to determine what his correct birth year tells us about how he is faring in Ukraine. If this new chart describes his odd conduct of the last few months, we can more confidently look farther ahead. As he invaded on 24 February 2022, his prog. Moon (10° Capricorn 41') was just a few months away from opposing his Sun (13° Libra 22'). Putin's prog. Sun (25° Sagittarius 06') was also two months away from square his Saturn (25° Virgo 17') which is conjunct his natal Mercury (26° Virgo 28').⁹ Everyone and his brother truly expected the Ukrainians to be crushed, but quite the contrary. Their resilience helped them deny Putin's expected 'easy' success. When the prog. Sun-Saturn square approached exactitude on 22 April, Putin announced 'Victory in Mariupol' even though a few thousand Ukrainian fighters and citizens still in bunkers refused to surrender.¹⁰ What's important here is, there was no clear victory, as would be expected if the attacking leader's prog. Sun is square his Saturn.

In fact, this major aspect best matches what we are all reading on our phones, seeing on browsers and news feeds, and watching on TV. Putin is not just squeaking by a bad patch; he is *not* winning. His prog. Sun is also moving to square his Mercury (26° Virgo 28'), exact by next year. At some point he must explain this capricious war to Russian parents of dead soldiers and to other Russians with dead Ukrainian relatives. At the same time, his prog. Saturn (1° Libra 47') is creeping into semi-square with his Moon (17° Leo), and conjunct his Venus (3° Libra 31'). That makes for one unpleasant, impoverished rest of the decade for him. In his favour, his prog. Mars (1° Libra 53') is trine prog. Saturn. He's able to use his grip on Russia's government to wage his vanity war. Can we hope this also shows he *could* engage the brakes and find a face-saving excuse to cut his losses? Perhaps it means, he will not go so far as to use his nuclear weapons.

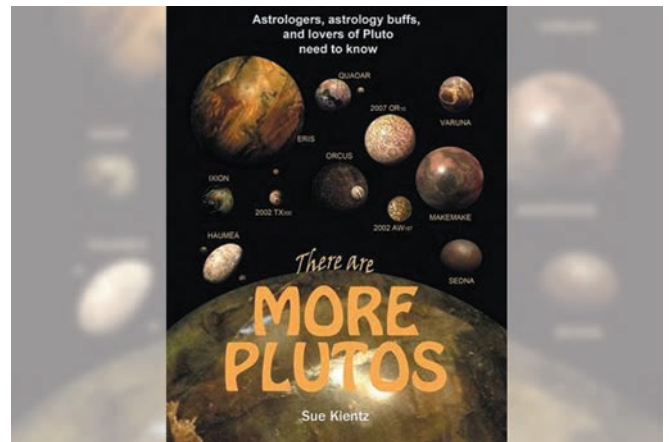
It will be interesting to see what the next few months bring, whether mid-May, when his prog. Moon opposes his Sun, will reveal more Ukrainian successes and Russian flubs or not; if at June's end, prog. Moon square prog. Ceres (14° Capricorn 55') will witness widespread hunger and lack of basic services

for his people or not; if around 1 August, prog. Moon square prog. Mercury (15° Capricorn 41') will see mounting criticism or protests or riots against Putin or not. By then, prog. Venus (3° Capricorn 50') begins its sesquiquadrate period with prog. Pluto (19° Leo 41'). This summer's aspects should confirm or disprove Vera's claim that Putin is her son.¹¹

Psychologically, this new story of Putin's traumatic childhood makes more sense in light of his now open desire to reconstitute the Soviet 'empire' as it was before 1990. His vision of 'Mother Russia' that he claims was unjustly lost, which he insists it is his destiny to restore – one is tempted to see this as a subconscious desire, nursed since 1960, to reverse the loss of his personal Mother Russia, Vera Putina.

Endnotes

1. nzherald.co.nz/world/top-10-myths-north-koreans-are-told-about-leader-kim-jong-un/HW4M2UQJWWJ4GCECDHGEHJ33I/.
2. astro.com/astro-databank/Putin,_Vladimir.
3. zeit.de/feature/vladimir-putin-mother.
4. jukebugs.com/maria-ivanovna-shelomova-putins-mother-truths/.
5. There's a scientific explanation for this: transits are the parent pattern, and secondary progression, by being embedded inside transits, is a 'child' pattern or a fractal. A fractal is always 'self-similar' to its parent. That's how transits and progressions can describe the same path. All we needed were more planets, which we now have.
6. I'm using Putin's 1952 chart's birth time since he was 9 years old when he left home and could reasonably have heard details of his birth. It's also hard to imagine Putin born with the Sun in the Western Hemisphere, with his egotistical nature.
7. Consider the power of such a stellium. It's one thing to have Moon-Pluto, a very powerful ability to make one's innermost wishes a reality. But with Haumea there, you not only have power, but the ability to destroy, change, heal, even completely remake your world. Pluto and Haumea were near conjunction during World War II, with Mars conjunct both at D-Day, and the Sun conjunct both at the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
8. In fact, Putin took some serious hits to his assets when his prog. Venus (1° Capricorn 43') squared prog. Saturn (1° Libra 43'), exact in late 2020. About that time a team of killers proved less than first rate when they failed to poison Alexei Navalny who managed to ferret out his attackers and trick one to admit the failure in a TikTok. Navalny subsequently released a video on 'Putin's Palace', exposing the vastness of Putin's ill-gotten wealth. During the same period, his high-value ally President Donald Trump lost the 2020 US election and was no longer available to demean NATO or defend Putin's actions in Eastern Europe.
9. Mercury-Saturn perfectly explains Putin's manner: the taciturn bearing, introverted personality, and the grip on his country's media.
10. Whether Putin was born in 1950 or 1952, transiting Sedna has been sesquiquadrate his Sun for a few years. Sedna's movement is so slow that the 135-degree figure can really wear you down. When Sedna was exactly sesquiquadrate the 1950 Sun on 25 March, that is when Putin's generals announced the 'end of the first phase' of the 'military operation', which really meant Putin *gave up* trying to capture Kyiv and needed some excuse for regrouping.
11. What a relief it would be to find that Putin does not have that 1952 Mars (trine Pluto-Haumea, and trine Sedna) but rather the 1950 Mars (sesquiquadrate Makemake and Sedna, and trine Eris). The 1952 Mars is an unstoppable warrior or one who wields power with ease and compassion (i.e., not him); the 1950 Mars, someone eccentric and cold, who wants to be widely adored, thus all the bare-chested photos.



Sue Kientz began studying the astrological signs in 1977 to learn more about symbolism in literature. She has always included the large asteroids in her chart work and sees the dwarf planets as the finishing touches astrology needs to show that time has actual patterns and features. A technical writer with a BA in Theatre from Adelphi University and an MA in English from University of New Orleans, Sue has lived in southern California since 1987. She created some of the first websites at UCLA in the early 1990s, and then worked at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for nine years on websites that delivered employee services. Her book *More Plutos* on dwarf planets is out now. Details at moreplutos.com.