

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Nostradamus, This Is Your Life!</i>	9
Chapter 1: The Stuff Legends Are Made Of	11
Chapter 2: Winds of Change: Renaissance Life.....	23
Chapter 3: The Man Behind the Legend	41
<i>Part II: The Big Influences on Nostradamus</i>	57
Chapter 4: People, Events, and Institutions that Shaped Nostradamus's Prophecies	59
Chapter 5: The Motivations and Methods of Nostradamus.....	73
Chapter 6: Peeling Back the Layers of the Prophecies.....	89
<i>Part III: The Prophecies From Nostradamus's Time to Napoleon</i>	105
Chapter 7: Predictions that Created a Legendary Beginning	107
Chapter 8: Foreseeing Royally Good (and Dangerous) Times.....	117
Chapter 9: Royal Betrayal and the French Revolution	137
Chapter 10: Suffering from a Napoleon Complex	157
<i>Part IV: The Prophecies of the Modern Era</i>	179
Chapter 11: Revealing Times of War	181
Chapter 12: Focusing on Hitler and World War II.....	203
Chapter 13: Telling the Tales of the Three Antichrists	223
Chapter 14: Taking a Technological Tour	235
Chapter 15: Playing Politics: People and Events of the 20th Century	243
Chapter 16: Looking at Events in the New Millennium.....	259
<i>Part V: The Prophecies of a Future Era</i>	273
Chapter 17: The Future of Religion and the Family.....	275
Chapter 18: Foreseeing Disasters in Our Future.....	289
Chapter 19: Looking Toward the Age of Aquarius	303

<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	317
Chapter 20: Ten Insights into the Life and Mind of Nostradamus.....	319
Chapter 21: Ten Tips for Exploring The Prophecies on Your Own	327
Chapter 22: Ten Tips on Finding Quality Resources	335
<i>Appendix: A Brief Chronology of Nostradamus's Life and Times</i>	341
<i>Index</i>	347

Table of Contents

.....

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
What You're Not to Read.....	3
Foolish Assumptions	4
How This Book Is Organized.....	4
Part I: Nostradamus, This Is Your Life	5
Part II: The Big Influences on Nostradamus.....	5
Part III: The Prophecies From Nostradamus's Time to Napoleon.....	5
Part IV: The Prophecies of the Modern Era	6
Part V: The Prophecies of a Future Era	6
Part VI: The Part of Tens	6
Appendix	6
Icons Used in This Book.....	7
Where to Go from Here.....	7

Part I: Nostradamus, This Is Your Life! **9**

Chapter 1: The Stuff Legends Are Made Of **11**

Meeting Nostradamus	11
The man.....	12
The predictions	14
Finding the Key to His Lasting Fame	17
Discovering the Truth (or Not) Behind His Prophecies.....	18
Determining whether predictions are possible.....	18
Turning the attention to Nostradamus.....	20

Chapter 2: Winds of Change: Renaissance Life **23**

What Was Rocking the Renaissance World.....	24
It's all there in black and white.....	25
Looking back at humanism's foundation	25
Okay, people, settle down into classes.....	27
Scratching the itch to explore	29
Main Ideas in Medicine.....	29
A plague on all your houses.....	30
Cross your fingers and swallow this.....	31
Checking In with the "Other" Arts	31
Much ado about alchemy.....	31
The art and science of stargazing	32

O Father, Where Art Thou?	34
The commanding presence of the Catholic Church	34
The power and pain of the Inquisition	34
The men who shook it all up.....	35
Those Who Gave Form to Ideas	36
Big names in the art of, well, art.....	36
Big names in the art of changing the way people thought	37
The Hot Political Climate	38
What was up with France and England	38
The treacherous English throne.....	39
The Holy Roman Empire and the German throne	39
The conquering quests of the great bear	40

Chapter 3 : The Man Behind the Legend 41

The Early Years: Safe at Home.....	42
Growing up in southern France	42
Forging family ties	43
The School Years: Soaking Up Knowledge.....	43
Spending time with great-grandpa	44
Attending school in Avignon.....	44
Studying medicine at the university	45
Taking his healing prowess on the road	46
Life in Agen: Good, Bad, and Ugly	48
First comes love, then comes marriage.....	48
What — me? Heresy?	49
Time in Salon: Looking into the Future	49
Life in Salon	50
Turning out his most famous works	51
Meeting his best supporters	53
Ladies and Gentlemen, Nostradamus Has Left the Building	55
A prediction of his own death	55
The publication of his prophecies posthumously	55

Part II: The Big Influences on Nostradamus.....57

Chapter 4: People, Events, and Institutions that Shaped Nostradamus's Prophecies 59

Men and Women who Shaped the Man	59
Learning from great-grandpa	60
Experiencing the power of the people.....	61
Studying with a mentor	62
Gaining royal admiration.....	62
Struggles That Strengthened Nostradamus.....	65
Troubling times in school.....	65
Dealing with the death of his family	66

The Catholic Church and Competing Beliefs.....66
 The central role of the Church67
 Jewish roots, Jewish mysticism68
 Christian mysticism70
 The occult.....71

Chapter 5: The Motivations and Methods of Nostradamus 73

A Briefus Historius on Prophecy.....73
 Prophecy through the millennia.....74
 Prophecy and the occult in Nostradamus’s time75
 Divination 10176
 Counting the components of divination.....77
 Defining the ways of divining.....78
 That sticky subject of free will.....79
 Why Nostradamus Moved from Normal City to Prophecy Central80
 The Shape of Things to Come: Breaking Down the Predictions.....81
 A quick lesson on quatrains.....82
 When a century isn’t 100 years82
 An exception to every rule.....83
 In His Own Words: Nostradamus’s Methods83
 Of rhyme and reason.....85
 Description of methods in Century I – 1.....85
 Description of methods in Century I – 2.....87

Chapter 6: Peeling Back the Layers of the Prophecies 89

Revealing the Reasons for All the Obscurity.....90
 Dodging the wrath of the Church and God90
 Keeping tight with the queen.....90
 Avoiding the blame91
 Preventing panic while helping humanity.....91
 Seeing Stars: Astrology in the Prophecies92
 Charting a clear path92
 Dialing in the Zodiac93
 Alchemy’s Role in Guiding the Prophet.....95
 Predicting humanity’s ultimate fate96
 Encouraging imagination.....96
 Counting on Numerology97
 The power of numbers97
 How he determined specific dates.....99
 Unlocking the Secrets of Symbolism100
 Tune into important topics101
 Look for signs of the times.....101
 Explore universal themes.....102
 Talking the Talk: Language.....102

***Part III: The Prophecies From Nostradamus's Time to Napoleon* 105**

Chapter 7: Predictions that Created a Legendary Beginning107

Telling Two Tales of Early Predictions	108
Picking pigs for dinner	108
Identifying a future pope	109
Detailing the Death of King Henry II	109
Viewing Visions of the Siege of Malta	111
The siege according to history books	112
The words may vary	112
The prophecy in focus	114
A Forewarning to the French	115
Facing the Wars of Religion	115
Revealing personal concerns.....	116

Chapter 8: Foreseeing Royally Good (and Dangerous) Times117

Keeping It in the Family: The Medici Prophecies.....	118
Witnessing a widow renewed.....	119
Revealing the regency.....	120
Foreseeing the end.....	121
Francis II: The Conspiracy	122
Oh Henry: The End of the Valois Line.....	123
Taking the reigns of power	124
The king commits murder	125
A dream come true: The death of Henry III.....	128
Growing up Bourbon: The rise of Henry IV.....	129
Nowhere to Hide: A Queen on the Run.....	131
A Frightening Forecast for London	133
A city on fire.....	133
Bemoaning Bloody Mary.....	135
Plaguing problems.....	135

Chapter 9: Royal Betrayal and the French Revolution137

The Death of a Cardinal and His King.....	138
Picking out the people	139
Pinpointing the places	140
Putting the other pieces together	141
Witnessing the French Revolution	142
Major events on the path to independence.....	142
Louis and Marie meet Madame Guillotine	145
The Noyades at Nantes.....	149
A persecutor pursued.....	152
The fate of faith and the Church.....	154

Chapter 10: Suffering from a Napoleon Complex157

Predicting Napoleon’s Reign.....157
 Spelling out his identity.....159
 Examining the quality of his rule.....162
 Cataloging the Events163
 Capturing Milan163
 Walking on shifting sands in Egypt164
 Dancing in Spain165
 Deserting the troops in Russia168
 Escaping Elba.....169
 Battling it out at Waterloo172
 Reaching the end on St. Helena176
 Foreseeing Napoleon III’s Role in the World177

Part IV: The Prophecies of the Modern Era..... 179

Chapter 11: Revealing Times of War181

Feasting on Aggression like It’s Fat Tuesday182
 Meeting a hungry new face182
 Reviewing the original version183
 Two Wars that Changed the World185
 World War I: Battles in the sky.....185
 World War II: A grand cosmic shift.....188
 The Worst World War Yet to Come189
 The first but vague forewarning189
 The second forewarning, full of despair.....192
 Other Upheavals.....194
 Judgment Day194
 The rise and fall of communism196
 Crossed swords at the Middle East.....198
 The war between the pure and impure200

Chapter 12: Focusing on Hitler and World War II203

Identifying the Infamous.....204
 Marking Hitler’s humble beginnings205
 Playing name games206
 Fixating on the Details208
 Hitler’s rise to power208
 A buffet of battlefield quatrains.....211
 The Prophecies’ Direct Impact on WWII216
 Influencing the invasion of Paris216
 Giving Hitler a lucky break218
 Images of Terror219
 Foreseeing Hitler’s Final Solution.....221

Chapter 13: Telling the Tales of the Three Antichrists	223
Settling on a Definition	224
Introducing the First Two Scalawags	225
Napoleon Bonaparte	225
Adolf Hitler	227
Three's Company: The Coming of the Third Antichrist	230
Seeing spots	230
Scheduling a date	231
Dealing with some sketchy details	234
Muddying the waters with another theory	234
Chapter 14: Taking a Technological Tour	235
Cataloging Modern Marvels	236
Shooting for the Stars: The Space Prophecies	237
Livin' la vida luna	237
Finding solutions in the sky	239
Chapter 15: Playing Politics: People and Events of the 20th Century	243
Rolling out the Red Carpet	243
Counting out King Ferdinand of Bulgaria	244
Reigning in British royalty	245
Saluting American royalty	248
Playing Politics	253
The Hungarian Revolution	254
The Spanish Civil War	255
The fall of the Berlin Wall	256
The changing face of communist China	257
Chapter 16: Looking at Events in the New Millennium	259
Millennium Madness	260
Weighing Whether 2000 Was the Beginning of the End	261
As puzzling as the dark side of the moon	262
The monster beneath the rainbow	264
Sorting through September 11	265
A burning sky in New York	266
The busy man's guide to 9/11 quatrains	267
Beware the hoaxes and hysteria	271
Part V: The Prophecies of a Future Era	273
Chapter 17: The Future of Religion and the Family	275
Seeing Religious Trouble on the Horizon	276
Meeting a Leader Who Will Shake the Foundations of Faith	278
Following A New (Old) Path	280
Getting Back to the Basics	281

Changing the State of Spirituality	283
Changing Family Values.....	284
Shifting Attitudes Toward Love and Sex	287
Chapter 18: Foreseeing Disasters in Our Future	289
Connecting Overpopulation and Famine	289
Born to devour.....	290
Starvation on a universal scale	291
A Flood of Problems.....	292
Predicting El Niño.....	293
Waiting for another 40 days and nights.....	293
Divining a future drought	294
No End to Illness	295
Same cough, different day.....	295
AIDS: A plague with far-reaching effects.....	296
Changing the World One Natural Disaster at a Time.....	299
Earthquake, rattle, and roll	299
A river of change, a mountain of comfort	301
Chapter 19: Looking Toward the Age of Aquarius	303
The Dawning of the Age of Aquarius	303
Flooding the Future with Problems	305
The effects of global warming.....	305
An alternative theory: The rivers as a metaphor	307
The bottom line about the fate of mankind	308
Trouble Spelled Out in the Stars	309
Under the influence: An astrology lesson	309
A clue about time	310
A vague warning	311
Cracking the Code: A Treasure Hunt	312
A rewarding journey.....	312
The search for understanding	315
<i>Part VI: The Part of Tens</i>	<i>317</i>
Chapter 20: Ten Insights into the Life and Mind of Nostradamus ..	319
Life in Provence.....	319
Traveling in the 1500s.....	320
The Family Man	321
A Doctor with Good Intentions.....	322
An All-Star Astrologer Only in His Dreams.....	322
Comfortable at Home but Not Filthy Rich	323
Quarrelsome with Common Folk	323
Artistic Differences	324
Favorite Pickup Line: "I'm a Capricorn. What's Your Sign?"	325
A Wiz with Jams and Jellies	326
Faithful to the End.....	326

Chapter 21: Ten Tips for Exploring The Prophecies on Your Own	327
Get a Game Plan	327
Keep in Mind Nostradamus's Secret Techniques.....	329
Find Out How to Speak in Symbols.....	330
Remember the Frame of the Quatrain.....	330
Read Between the Lines	331
Know Your History.....	331
Tune Into Current Events	332
Listen to the Prophet Within	332
Let Go of Expectations	333
Look at the Big Picture (and on the Bright Side).....	334
Chapter 22: Ten Tips on Finding Quality Resources	335
Strike a Balance	336
Check the Freshness Date.....	336
Evaluate the Source	336
Consider a Bilingual Approach.....	336
Question Shocking Openers	337
Check Out These Web Sites	337
Pick Up a Good Book	338
Avoid Online Sales Pitches.....	338
Beware of Extreme Opinions	338
Question Metaphysical Writers (Yes, Even Me).....	339
Research Topics that Influenced Nostradamus	339
 Appendix: A Brief Chronology of Nostradamus's Life and Times	 341
 Index	 347