



We'd all like to believe that our future is as fun-filled as an IT girl, with oodles of adventures, a fantastic career and a decent bloke at the end of it all. Can having your tarot cards/aura/palm read really determine what lies in store? There are as many believers as detractors so U Magazine donned its headscarf and hooped-earrings in search of some concrete answers.

THE CASE FOR:

+ Ask anyone you know and most people (often a little sheepishly) will admit to having had some sort of reading done over the years. It can be a very communal experience and often a gaggle of women go along for a giggle. Susan Reilly, one of our tarot-tester volunteers agrees with this. "While I was waiting to get my tea leaves read, there was a group of girls ahead of me. I got really excited about the prospect of the reading as I eavesdropped on what each of them had been told. For a gang of girls on a hen, it's a bit of laugh and it only cost €20, so what's the problem?" The House of Astrology say that more people than ever are visiting their Dublin base for readings. "We get about 100 people seeking our services per week and most are interested in astrology and tarot readings," says Réamonn O'Byrne, one of the founders of House of Astrology. Based on those figures, does he feel that it's more popular than ever?

"Tarot cards and astrology have always been popular but history and the dominance of Christianity forced it underground. There have always been people telling fortunes like Mrs Murphy in her back room. Now it's a lot more open," says O'Byrne. "I don't really like the term fortune-telling because no one can tell your fortune, they can only guide you on a path."

While getting a reading is hardly up there with ouija boards and exorcisms, it's a good idea to be keep an open mind about it all. Catherine Keers, a