

# She's trying to leave abuser

**Dear Annie:** For four years, I have been trying to leave an abusive marriage. I've been working with various agencies that are budget strapped and overwhelmed with clients. I finally found a friend who offered to let me stay with her, but she lives four hours away, and I cannot afford a rental car. Then my husband tells his boss that he needs time off because I have a disability. That part is true, but I know now that he is using it as an excuse to be home and control the situation.

Worse, my husband brought home a dog, knowing I would never leave the poor thing with him. Taking the dog makes things more difficult.

Our local abuse shelter is crowded right now. In a perfect world, I would grab what I could and leave, taking the dog. I tried once, and he caught up with me. Any suggestions? — *Gloria*

**Dear Gloria:** You need a better plan. First, please don't tell your husband you are leaving. He will use whatever means necessary to stop you. Would your friend offer to pick you up? Is there a bus or train you can afford?

Please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org) at 1-800-799-SAFE and ask them to help you find a safe way out.

**Dear Annie:** A year ago, I fell ill with diabetes. Due to financial problems, I have had lots of complications in treating it. I also have a troubled past, but I turned it around a few years ago, and I'm proud of myself.

## Annie's Mailbox

Creators  
Syndicate Inc.  
Kathy Mitchell  
and  
Marcy Sugar



I was so ill that I had to quit my job. Now I have problems affording the medication, and it depresses me. My parents seem to believe that I am simply back to my old habits and say I should be working. But I have documentation saying I cannot work due to diabetes complications.

I have asked both of my parents to go with me to see the doctor, but they refuse. I am so lost right now, I don't know what to do. Please help. — *Confused in Northwest Illinois*

**Dear Confused:** You may be eligible for reduced-cost medical care, including medications, which would help you get back on your feet. Right now, your health is the most important thing, and you'll feel better if you can be proactive about your care. Please contact the American Diabetes Association (diabetes.org) at 1-800-DIABETES. You also can try Partnership for Prescription Assistance (pparx.org) for low-cost medications. And you may be eligible for low-cost hospitalization and clinic care through the

Health Resources and Services Administration (<http://1.usa.gov/1NQaRFA>).

**Dear Annie:** I am responding to "Growing Up Way Too Fast," whose young son likes to play with the neighbor boy who plays adult video games and is allowed to watch frightening, sexually suggestive adult TV shows.

Our three kids sometimes had friends from homes with questionable parenting skills. Our kids were allowed to play only at our house with those friends. The first time they acted inappropriately, I explained that their behavior was rude and unkind and not permitted in our house, and the consequence was that they would be sent home. The second time, they were sent home. That usually solved the problem. But if it happened again, they were sent home and not allowed to return for several days. Of course, I phoned the parents to let them know their child would be coming home, but unless the parent asked, I gave no reason.

Our kids didn't like this rule, but that is where parenting comes in. Watchful supervision was always on high alert when these kids came over. — *Mean Mother Award Winner*

**Dear Mother:** Congratulations on understanding what it takes to be an effective parent and not letting an unpopular rule deter you.

Annie's Snippet for St. Patrick's Day: As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point in the wrong direction.

# Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Finding the blessing in each circumstance is like hunting for ancient buried treasure. You don't even know what you're looking for, but whatever object you strike, it will pay to mentally dust it off and investigate further.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** What you want to happen will require vitality, bravery and honesty. You have it in you, and you're ready to do the work it takes, mainly because you see the worthiness of realizing this goal.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You can't airbrush the present, but the past and the future can get as many touchups as you want to put on them. It's not a bad idea, either. A little glamorization won't hurt things.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Set down the weapons you use against yourself, as they will not be required today. Neither will the weapons you use on the rest of the world. The events will unfold peaceably if you let them.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The socialites and the dilettantes can be good friends to have, but you also need a few people in your mix who are ready to get their hands dirty and go to the deeper level of an interest that will take work. This is what inspires you.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** When you're not given the advantage you would prefer, what you are given instead is the chance for an up-by-the-bootstraps story that will show you (and the world) just how resourceful you are.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Disinterest can be mighty effective in making others try harder for your attention. That's why you sometimes choose to deal reluctantly with something or someone you secretly can't

wait to get involved with.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Unprepared? It's to your benefit. Today you're the perfect candidate to try a relaxed approach. Stay ready to use whatever resources show up in the moment (including your charm).

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** The pursuit of pleasure won't result in pleasure. This is because you don't yet know what will bring you the most delight — it's not the common or conventional thing. Today's pleasure will come out of service to another.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** When the teller has to say "it's a joke," it's not a joke. You'll see right through lame humor and into the heart of a message. This is an opportunity for truth, and you'll use it to set things right.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You'll be in a contemplative mood. When you have to speak, you'll do so with brevity and sincerity. Don't be surprised if this makes you the most interesting person in the room.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The reason you're not moving as fast as you want to is because your mind is burdened. The mental ball and chain strapped to your ankle has physical consequences. You also hold the key, though, so free yourself.

**WEDNESDAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 18).** Adventure, financial bonus and exciting relationships are featured through the next three months. You're prompt, and you prefer life events to meet you in that spirit. That's why the waiting you do in August and September may baffle you, but will ultimately turn out to be your biggest blessing of the year. Love signs are Gemini and Sagittarius. Your lucky numbers are 5, 1, 3, 16 and 42.

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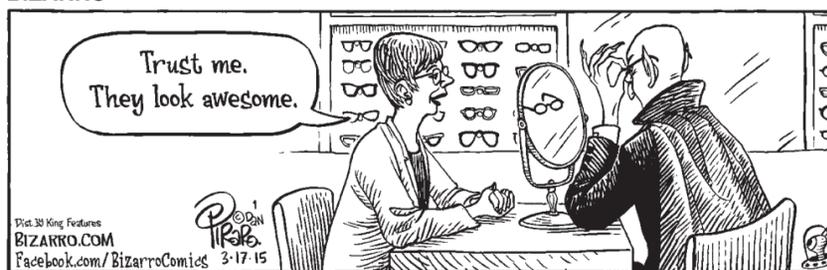
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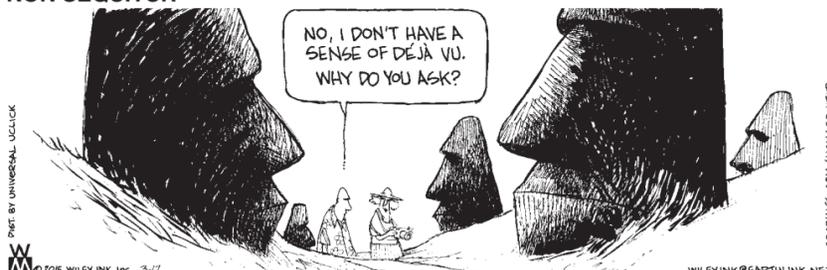
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