

Should woman expose brother-in-law? Tomorrow's horoscope

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

Dear Annie: My husband and I have been together for 12 years. We have three children. His mother is still living, and he has one younger brother.

My issue is with this brother, "James." A few years ago, James cheated on his then-girlfriend, "Sheila," with whom he has a daughter. Sheila also has a son from a previous relationship that James never cared for. In the midst of their troubles, she would call my husband and me and vent about the way James treated her and her son, saying he was emotionally abusive. Sheila once showed me one of James' text messages referring to me as his brother's "scumbag wife" and other nasty things, all because I spoke to Sheila when she was hurting.

Sheila took her son to a counselor or who told her to pack up and remove herself and the kids from the home because of James' behavior. Eventually, she sent her son to live with his father. Then she and James got married.

During the few holiday gatherings I have with my husband's family, I tolerate James, but otherwise, I have no interaction with him or his wife. I wasn't invited to their wedding, although my husband attend-

Annie's Mailbox

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ed. I only recently revealed to him what James wrote about me in that text. I could see it upset him, but all he said was, "I didn't realize."

Lately, my mother-in-law has been making comments about how she doesn't understand why "people" don't talk to each other. I'm sure she's referring to me. I know James is a master manipulator and has probably told her all kinds of untrue things about me. I haven't wanted to upset her by giving her the lowdown on James, but should I? — *Hurt and Fed up*

Dear Hurt: Please don't. It wouldn't help your relationship and might push James to go after you with more venom. Your husband knows the truth, and that's the most important thing. Make sure he is supportive of you if James or his mother says anything unkind. Beyond that, you are handling this as

well as can be expected.

Dear Annie: It was with great interest I read the letter from "Devastated in Ohio," the kind writer who is grieving the loss of a friend who tripped and fell while recuperating from brain tumor surgery at a cabin retreat.

I had a brain tumor and can tell "Ohio" not to feel guilty. Balance and tripping issues continue to plague me even six years after my surgery. "Ohio" was so kind to bring the man somewhere to recuperate, and falling down and hitting his head could have happened anywhere at any time. That cabin retreat was probably just what the guy needed, and his death was no one's fault.

I was so moved to read how heartbroken this friend is, but I wanted to say that there are support groups all over where people listen to stories like this all the time. It helps relinquish any guilt. — *J.*

Dear J.: Thank you for your kind words. We received dozens of letters expressing sympathy and understanding. Several readers also pointed out that hospice offers grief counseling whether or not the patient was in hospice. We appreciate all of the expressions of concern and know that "Ohio" will, too.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The part of your life that is ailing will be healed by a routine, methodical approach. Take it slow and steady and commit to doing it daily over a long period of time — at least a month.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As St. Francis of Assisi suggested, baby steps will lead to greatness. "Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). What if you could listen so hard to another person that you could express that person better than he or she could? Those who listen well are liked. Those who listen masterfully are revered.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There are times when distraction can be a great help. People who are experiencing something painful or frightening will glide through more easily with the help of a distraction. You'll mercifully provide such a distraction today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Psychic clearing is real. It can be felt, and it can make for an easier, lighter, healthier experience. Today's best method for psychic clearing is simply to get what's in your heart out in the open.

VRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Rinse and repeat isn't just for shampoo. Excellence may come in the form of a glorious action, but it is actually the result of habits. Practice daily. Don't wait for the inspiration; just go.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Maybe you can have it all, but you can't have it all at once. The key to feeling like you've had a successful day is in picking one thing to

work on and working on it until it's finished. **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Even the most capable people require assistance sometimes. The more responsibilities a person has the more help he or she needs. You may be the only one who notices this, so don't hesitate to lend a hand.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The philosopher Nietzsche suggested that we are all in a flight from ourselves. Though this may be true, today's journey will bring you round trip.

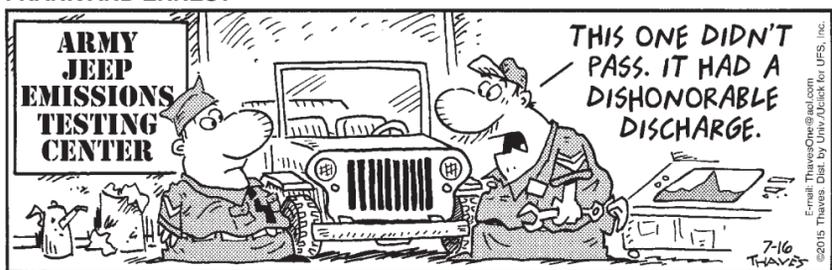
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The thing you felt entrapped by will magically disappear. Sweet freedom! Keep running and don't look back. If you create enough momentum, this newfound independence will stick.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll probably have to make your own fun, but the extra effort will prove worthwhile. Your ebullient personality will attract new friends, interesting offers and perhaps a romantic hopeful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Set aside your pride. Giving yourself a wide margin for error (especially in regard to bank accounts, projects and deadlines) will make life better and work enjoyable.

FRIDAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 17). You've been a fan for a long time. With great purpose, you enter this solar year ready to be the star. The next 10 weeks are financially lucky once you lay down some rules. September is your chance to change a piece of history. The ones you've taught will make you proud in December. Sagittarius and Aquarius people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 50, 3, 22, 14 and 16.

FRANK AND ERNEST



THATABABY



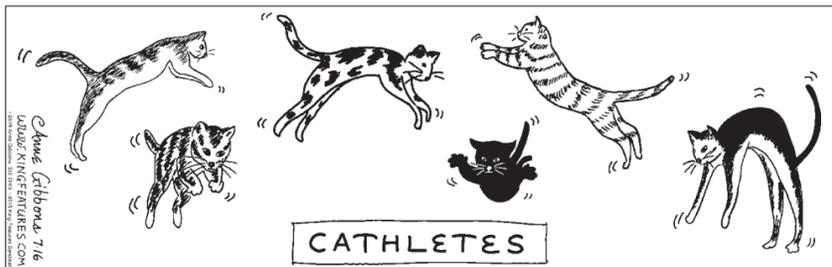
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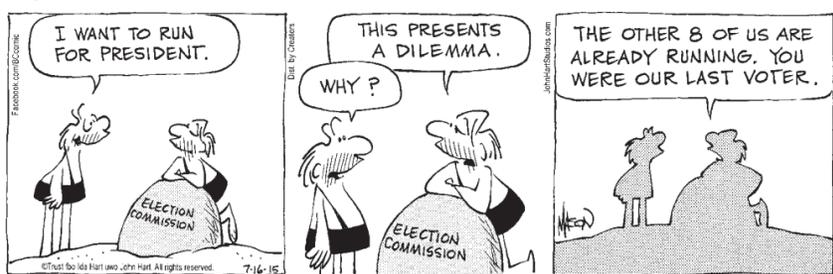
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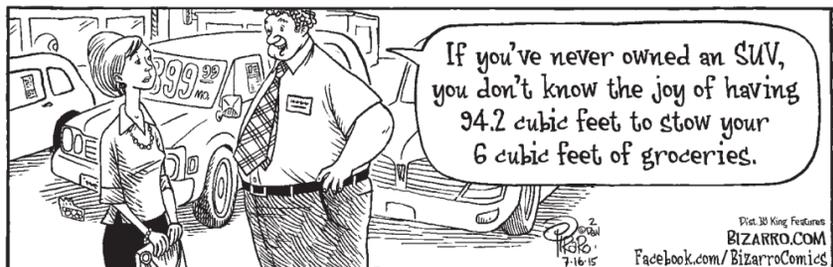
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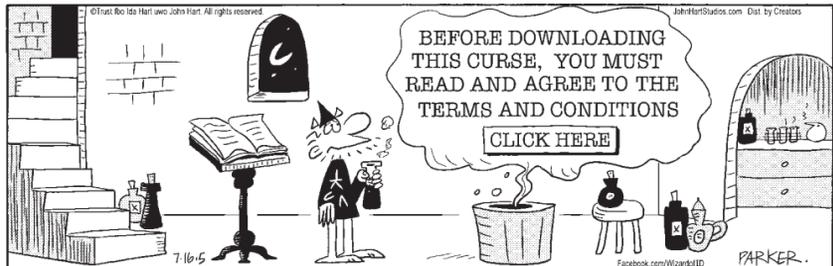
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