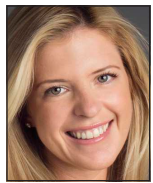


Lying ruins relationships

Dear Annie: I met and married a wonderful man 23 years ago. I found out his family has a history of lying and manipulation. One of his sisters goes beyond that. She decided days before our wedding to reveal that she was abused when she was a teenager. Over the years, she has been caught in lies — so many lies we don't know what is the truth. She made sure to tell all her nieces about her abuse as soon as they turned 14 — the age at which she was abused.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

She took all her parents' money and plays games with her therapists. When my husband's parents passed away, she decided to tell people that her dad wasn't really her dad and that he had abused her. She also said her uncle was her real father. None of these people is alive to defend himself. Now I've found out that she's also been going around saying my husband — her brother — has violated her.

Since my husband's parents died, she has cut herself off from us. It hurts my husband, but he

simply wants an apology from her. I don't want her in our lives anymore. I don't want her telling lies and accusing our sons of things or telling our daughters her personal problems. What is the best way to handle this? — *Tired of Twisted Sister-in-Law*

Dear Tired: It sounds as if your sister-in-law suffers from mental illness and the death of her parents exacerbated her condition. If your husband and his other siblings are on board, you could try staging an intervention with the help of a licensed therapist, with the goal of her committing to a treatment plan.

Regardless, I think you're wise not to let her spend time (especially unsupervised) with your children. It was highly inappropriate for her to discuss abuse with 14-year-old children. She's unpredictable, and until she's willing to get help, she's forfeited the right to close relationships with her nieces and nephews.

Dear Annie: Your response

to "Emotionally Exhausted" — whose friend "Melanie" is always complaining about the same problems — had merit, but you addressed the symptoms of the issue, not so much the cause.

How about she say something like this? "Melanie, we have been friends for a long time, and it is obvious you are unhappy and frustrated with your job. I have learned over the years that 'I need' and 'I want' are dead-end thoughts with dead-end results. To make your life more satisfying, look at the situation from a different perspective. Use phrases that include 'I choose.' That simple shift will change the entire game and put you in control of desired outcomes. For example, 'I choose to have a job that I like.' 'I choose to have a path to a career.' Wanting achieves nothing, but choosing achieves results that serve you."

— *Believe in Melanie*
Dear Believe: I like that "I choose" phrasing, as it drives home the point that we're in charge of our own destinies. It's a point we all need to be reminded of from time to time, so I'm printing it here. Thank you.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you can win small, you can win big. You'll do both. Along the way, you'll also lose on either side of the equation, and that's just part of it. The important thing is to have courage and take none of it personally.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You may want to be different, but the point of the game isn't to change yourself. This is about accepting yourself more and more fully. As you do this, you'll become increasingly powerful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Don't worry if your focus of interest isn't everyone's today. A subject doesn't have to be broadly trending to be absolutely compelling. It only has to be fascinating to you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The challenge is simple. The circumstance is straightforward. It's something to be protective of because this dynamic can change in an instant — the instant a complicated person gets involved.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You may be changing the world, but it's difficult to see the change over the course of a day. That's where hope and faith come in and on days like today it's hard to generate that on your own. Stick by the hopeful, faithful people.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's as though there's something in you that doesn't like to be too good for too long. It's the quality that keeps you absolutely riveting to some people around you. So go on and spice it up. They're expecting you to bring the fun.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Nature is one way, the facts of which cannot be changed today. However you can use what nature gives you in a way that enhances and improves your experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your life is your own recipe. You may pull inspiration from various places — the internet, fiction, friends — but ultimately no one has the exact instructions for this dish. It's your own magnificent creation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You would pass one of your responsibilities onto another if there were someone around who could handle it half as well. Alas, this is important, and if it's to be done right, it is to be done by you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Some jobs are important and urgent and must be completed quickly, for better or worse, to serve the bigger picture. Other jobs are even more important and must be handled right no matter how long that takes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). When people act right because they are afraid to do something wrong, it doesn't count as virtuous. The true mark of good character is one who feels they have a full range of choices and yet they still choose right.

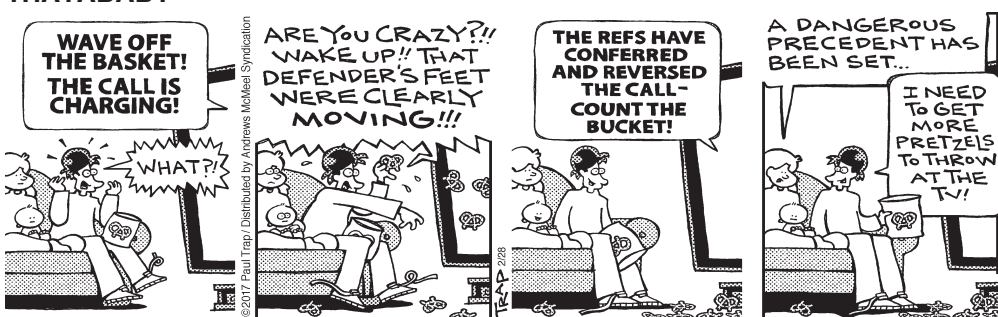
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). No one can blame you for being a little extreme today. When all goes well, drudgery will be re-deemed by success, and the parts remembered will be the dazzling highs and the dismal lows, not the tedium in between.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 1). Tender connections will happen often for you. You'll read people well and use this gift to care for your loved ones, communicate well and detect the hidden motivations of others that might affect your plans. The character-building work of the spring makes you even more beautiful and attractive. Capricorn and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 42, 13, 28 and 45.

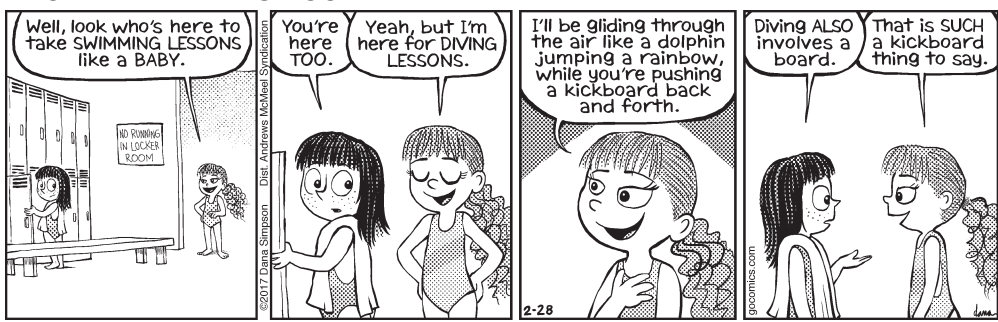
FRANK AND ERNEST



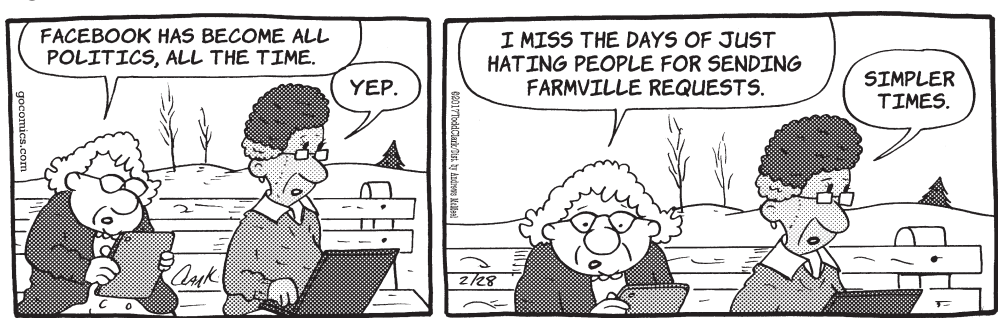
THATABABY



PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN



LOLA



SIX CHIX



MUTTS



BABY BLUES



ZITS



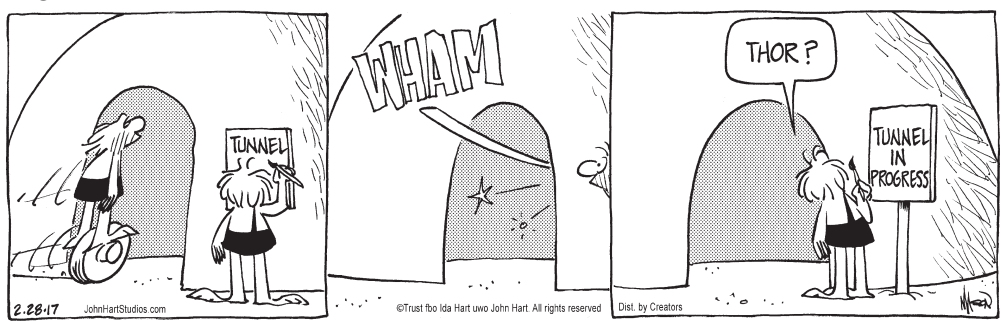
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



B.C.



DILBERT



BIZARRO



NON SEQUITUR



WIZARD OF ID



ROSE IS ROSE

