# Estate planning is unpleasant

Dear Annie: After a difficult life, I was fortunate to meet and marry the perfect man. He is everything I dreamed of and more. We are blessed with a daughter, who is now doing well at a prestigious university.

Our now-empty nest has been nice and intimate. I was a stayat-home mom during our daughter's school days, and since our girl went away to college, I have been a stay-athome wife, supporting my husband the best I can and doing my best to make the few hours he has away from work enjoyable and happy.

But there is one problem we have. He refuses to talk about making plans for how our affairs should be taken care of upon our death. He is in his late 50s, and I am in my 60s. We both are blessed with good health, but I know we will not live forever. But anytime the subject comes up, he shuts down and goes to bed without any discussion. To his credit, he is always short of sleep because of his career, which he is passionate about and I support.

He is so generous and dedicated, but this is one subject he will not deal with. We have no will or trust, but I get the feeling he would be fine with anything I would want to arrange finan-

cially. As far as what to **DEAR** do with our bodies upon **ANNIE** death goes, though, that's something we would need to decide on together. Even though I am older than he is, my family has a history of living long, and his family does not. And **Annie Lane** there is always a possi-

> same time in some kind of accident. I wouldn't want my grieving daughter to have to decide what to do with our bodies on top of everything else she would have to deal with. I love this man so much, but I don't know what to do about this. How can I handle this? — Verv Happy Family

bility we will go at the

Dear Happy: Marriage makes life a tag-team sport. Estate planning isn't one of your husband's strong suits, whether it's because he simply feels too tired to face such a big task or

he's uncomfortable with the subject of death. Fortunately, you seem equipped to tackle this challenge on behalf of you both.

Tell your husband that you'll prepare a draft of the will and that he can simply sign off on it or make revisions before it's finalized. My guess is that he'll be relieved. Once the will is behind you, you'll have the peace of mind to enjoy the rest of your lives together even more.

Dear Annie: I'm a 75-yearold retired teacher. It doesn't bother me when a store clerk calls me "honey." I'm fine when the young woman who works in my husband's nursing home refers to me as "dear." If the receptionist at my hair salon greets me with "sweetie," no problem. The waitress at my favorite lunch counter often says, "Hi, love. What are we going to have today?" I smile and give her my order. I can't understand why so many older women make a kerfuffle about nothing. You can call me "honey" anytime. -Bonnie in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

Dear Bonnie: Your laidback attitude is refreshing — but I assure you, it isn't just women making kerfuffles.

# TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You often expect yourself to have immediate answers. No one else is expecting this of you, though, And besides, there's something beautiful in the space between knowing and not knowing. Hang out

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Everything takes time, but not everything seems to. When we're experiencing something for the first time, the passing seconds feel much slower. This magic loophole is why you can gain more time in your day by adding novelty.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). No need to ponder unanswerable questions today. There is a tantalizing sense of wonder that accompanies the day's events. It centers around a mystery that shows signs it might reveal itself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Creativity is no longer solely the prerogative of supreme beings or the privileged elite who can afford to devote time and study to what may or may not result in a paycheck. You'll prove this with your endeavors of the day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Great machines have

been built, and greater ones will be built, by way of human craft and appetite. But if you can fulfill your needs without a machine, the natural way will be better today. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your favorite part of a job is the part you can easily accomplish

and readily share to typically excellent reviews. Save that part for last. Success hinges on your willingness to tackle the awkward, potentially hard part first. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A sense of urgency

may accompany your more challenging tasks of the day. Try to see this as a timed game instead of a ticking bomb and you're likely to enjoy

speedy accomplishment without the stress. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). A lack of routine will keep you from reaching personal goals.

Consider making a weekly appointment aimed at certain results. It's a structure that will build big things guickly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There's a deal to be struck, but with whom? Before you start the negotiations, get a general sense of the distance between your bottom line and theirs. It's hard to get on the same page if you're

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). It requires more effort, but you take great pleasure in getting things right. Go over your work again and again until you stop catching the mistakes.

not in the same book.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The basics are crucial. Don't skip what's essential. Getting enough sleep and proper nutrition will lay the groundwork for a stellar day in which the bad vibes bounce off of you and the good ones linger luxuriously.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Today will feature lively discussion. Take part, but don't take it too seriously. Leave your ego out of it, and prepare for differences of opinion that are rather extreme. Thinking and sharing keeps complacency at bay.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 2). A financial win right at the start of this solar return will set the tone. You used to believe that if you wanted something done well, you had to do it yourself, but what happens in April will change that. You'll be an integral part of a talented community. A detour in May will be an opportunity to experience fresh excitement. Taurus and Libra adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 30, 22,

### FRANK AND ERNEST



### **THATABABY**















### **SALLY FORTH**







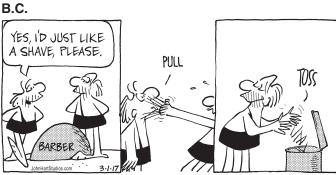
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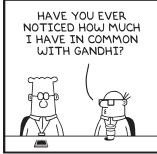
















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# **ROSE IS ROSE**





