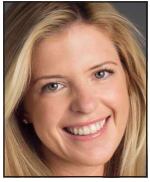


# Sad old mother-in-law

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I have been arguing over his family. His mother is very controlling and causes a lot of problems. Her husband died about 25 years ago, and ever since then, she's just stopped living.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

She won't go out of the house unless she has to go to the doctor, and she does nothing for herself. She is now 86 years old, and this has been going on for years. She had to have a knee replacement 17 years ago, and since then, my husband has done her grocery shopping. She is so stubborn she won't allow anyone else to do things for her. My brother-in-law "Thomas" lives next door to her, but he is in very bad health and can barely take care of himself. Thomas is the eldest sibling and refuses to put her in a nursing home.

To complicate things, she doesn't get out of bed until 1 in the afternoon. My husband's work schedule has changed, and he now works only on weekends. Since his schedule

change, he has gone to the store every Wednesday after 1 p.m. No matter what our plans are, he makes that a priority. We have been working on our house — painting, etc. We have argued over this so much. I get angry because he gets nothing done in our home. I have done everything, even threatening to divorce him. He will not stop doing it. I am fed up.

Two of the other siblings live out of state, but three live in the area, yet my husband is the only one who does anything for her. None of his siblings will go against Thomas and his insistence on not putting her in a nursing home. She would be so much better off to be where she could be cared for properly. No one visits her because they are so disgusted with her. I am at my wits' end. It's terrible, but I wish she would just go. She has nothing to do with her kids, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I didn't come into this family until after the passing of my husband's father, so I don't

know what she was like before. I have nothing but resentment toward her and Thomas. What can I do? — *Frustrated*

**Dear Frustrated:** That which we resist persists. You might get better results if you gave up on forcing the situation. Try to be more understanding about your husband's reluctance to abandon his mother. Though she sounds very difficult, she is still his mom, and she raised him into the man whom you married. I'll bet that his loyalty and tenderness toward his mother are partly what attracted you to him in the first place.

At the same time, that doesn't mean you must silently resign yourself to the status quo. Communicate with him that you would like to spend more one-on-one time with him, or work together to make a schedule of things you can both do around the house so there's no resentment. You'll get better results in the long run if you speak from a place of love, emphasizing your own personal perspective rather than making accusations and focusing on what he's doing wrong.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Honest self-reflection requires a big person with a little ego. You'll review the chain of events that led up to an undesired result. Your willingness to look at what your part may have been will enable you to see a solution.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** If allowed, there are some rather unhelpful ideas that will go marching around your mind with all the pomp and circumstance of bonafide facts. Check them, challenge them, or just ignore them and they'll diminish in the distance.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** What seems like a formless mess may very well be just that now, next week and next month. But it will not always be this way. Trust that things yet unknown are shaping slowly into the structures of your future.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Coral reefs make up only about a tenth of one percent of the earth's surface, yet that's where nearly a quarter of the known species of marine life live. You want beauty. Go to a rare place of concentrated diversity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Of course you can be creative all alone and you often have a peaceful experience creating in solitude and silence. And yet, you need the group energy to keep you motivated. Get involved.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You've been emphasizing output over input, and that's fine for a while as long as you realize that when the inspiration dries up, you'll need to go replenish it. But why wait?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** They may look at you appraisingly, figuring out what value you might add to their lives. And yet, do not fall into the trap of thinking you are as good as what

you can do for others. You are invaluable and your worth is inherent.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** In regards to finance, you'll benefit from erring on the side of caution. What builds slowly will build strong. The same will go for partnerships of all types. Be methodical and stay aware.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Someone is going to get the best deal, the highest quality and in the most abundant quantity available — why not you? Nothing is guaranteed, but ask anyway. Those who don't ask, don't get.

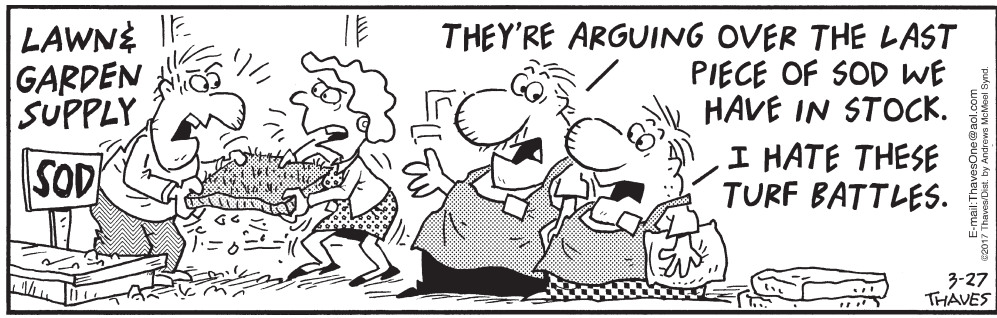
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** A certain amount of political play is to be expected. And yet, if it seems that the intrigues and falsehoods surround you on all sides, it's a sign that you are in a toxic game. Get out. No prize is worth this.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Discovering why what you offer is different and necessary is the usual burden and challenge of business. Being the total original that you are, you will find this neither burdensome nor challenging today.

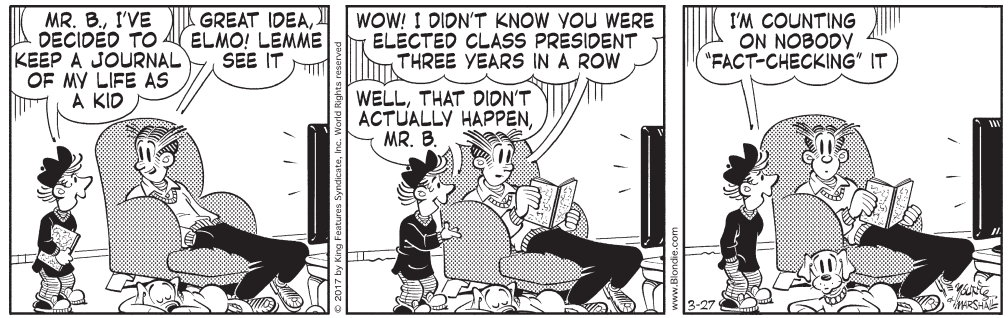
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Oddly, there are some people in the world who find it extremely difficult to be happy for other people. They are the opposite of you, with powers of empathy so strong that you feel every human victory almost as if it were your own.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 28).** Go on and set those ambitious goals. The next three weeks bring the clarity to organize your efforts, prioritize your responsibilities and make a doable plan. One special person brings sunshine to your summer days. You'll create new income for your family in July; also there's a big sale in October. Sagittarius and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 39, 40, 47 and 1.

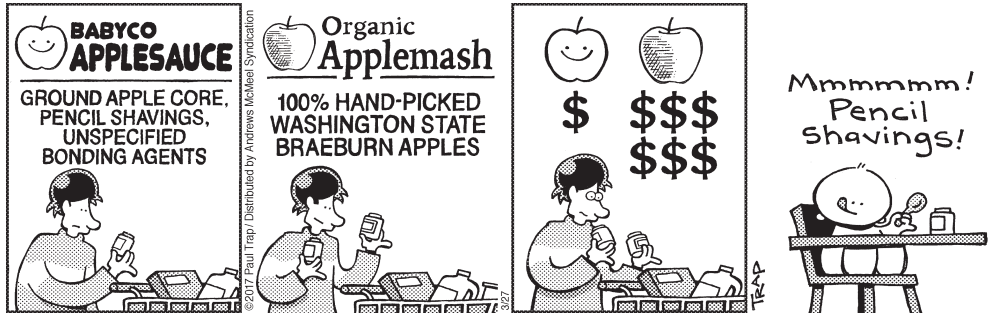
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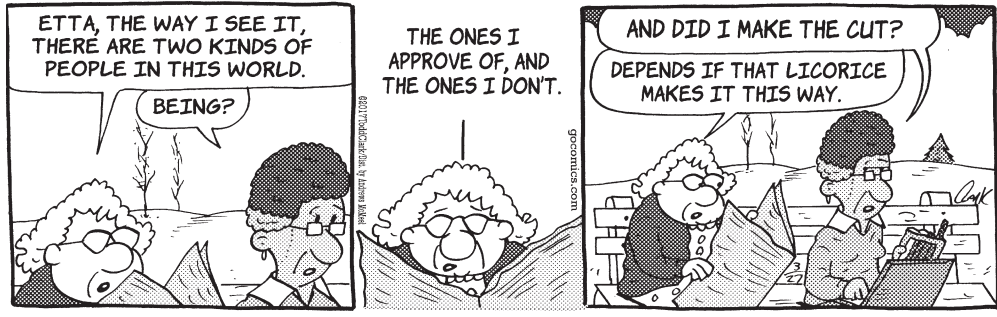
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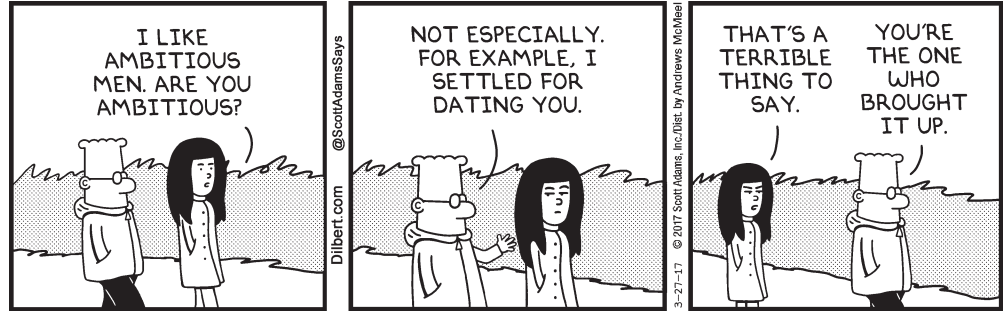
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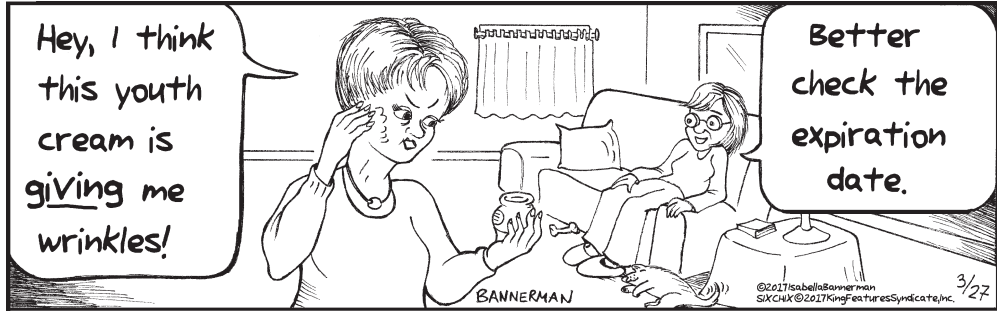
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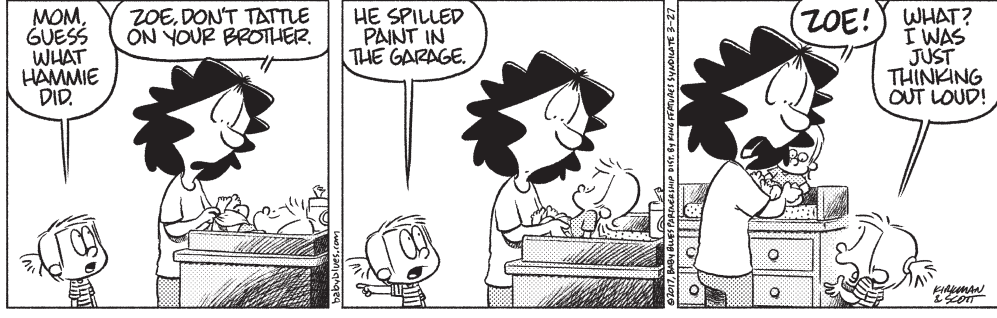
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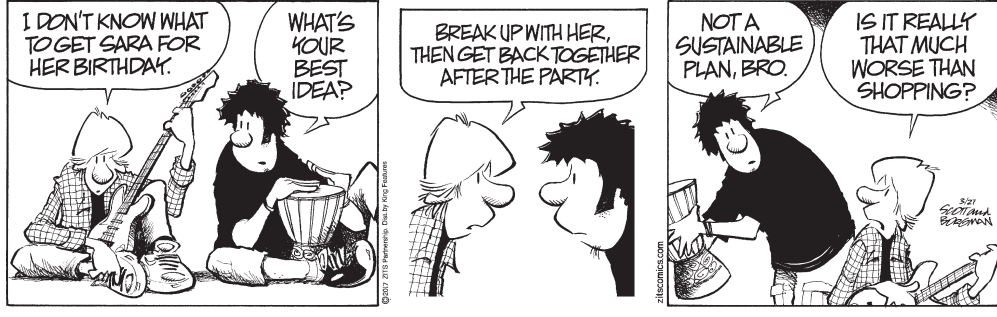
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## ROSE IS ROSE

