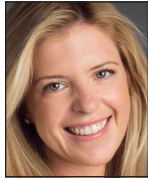


# Trying to solve a surprise rift

**Dear Annie:** My question is urgent and can't wait. I don't know what to do.

My best friend is suffering from a quick and aggressive form of ovarian cancer. We don't know how much longer she has and suspect it won't be long. For more than 25 years, I have talked to her at least four times a week and seen her at least once a week. She has been an active participant in my entire family life and is beloved by my spouse, children and extended family. We are all taking this news extremely hard. The hole in our lives is huge.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

around, and we never addressed it. We thought that the reason he declined our invitations was that he was busy working. Now we know he is still uncomfortable with us. She probably didn't tell us because she was embarrassed.

If there were time to be mad, I would be so mad. We would have made it right if we had known he was harboring this type of resentment. We could have made sure everyone was OK. Now she is probably dying, and we aren't there with her.

There was a time when we would have been the people he would have called for any kind of help. We moved the furniture, chopped the trees, patched the driveway, etc. We were the best friends when he needed us to be and out of sight and out of mind the rest of the time, I guess.

How do we fix this before it is too late? He is controlling of time and visitors and not receptive right now. We don't want to go behind his back and want to make this right. This is so heartbreaking to all. The few family

members who have been able to see her say she is depressed and so sad about the loss of control of her life and feels trapped and dependent.

I miss my best friend and don't know how to make this better for everyone. What do you suggest to heal this rift I didn't realize was this deep? Don't want my heart to die, too. — *Love My Friend*

**Dear Love:** If ever there was a time to heal this rift, it's now. Call her husband. Empathize with the complicated emotions he's no doubt feeling. He may have seized onto this issue as something external on which he could project all his anger over his wife's illness. Whatever his reasons, remind him that a grudge hurts the person holding it. And if he's so attached to the pain that he doesn't want to let go, that's his own prerogative. He can stay angry. But he can't force his wife to be part of that anger. Explore him, for her sake, to allow you to visit. If he feels uncomfortable, he can leave the house for a few hours while you're there. Ultimately, if you want to see your best friend and she wants to see you, go see her — with or without his permission.

**TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE**

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** If you're in a disagreement with a friend, it's all you'll be able to think about until the issue is resolved. So resolve it quickly. Plain and simple, all is healed by hugs; there's no better relief than a heart-to-heart embrace.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You've been watching out for a chance to show someone how much he or she means to you. You'll now have the perfect opportunity to give from the heart and be received as such.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Experiments aren't just for scientists. You already know what will happen when you try things the way you have in the past. Now you want to know what will happen when you try things totally differently — or better yet, when you don't try them at all!

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** This isn't a fairy tale. There won't be a hero or someone who needs saving. The roles are complex and nuanced. And the ending is wide open. You get to decide.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Aiming for a new level of accomplishment, you'll discover that this pursuit isn't for amateurs. It's actually more of a lifestyle than a game at these higher levels.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** You'll respectfully go forward with a pretty ambitious aim. When someone pushes back, consider that this may be a test, a tease or the reaction of threatened competition. Analyze carefully before you proceed.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** The news can be like the sound of an oncoming storm: frightening, even though you're warm indoors and there's very little chance of the weather affecting you anytime soon. You're going to be fine. You are protected.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Reason may be powerless in the poetry of love, but it works wonders to sort out the details of a shared lifestyle. The thing currently impeding free-flowing love is a logistical matter.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your social life can't be sorted out with a quiz, questionnaire, profile or series of hypothetical imaginings. At most, you can "match" with someone online, but you won't know if there's real chemistry until you're face to face.

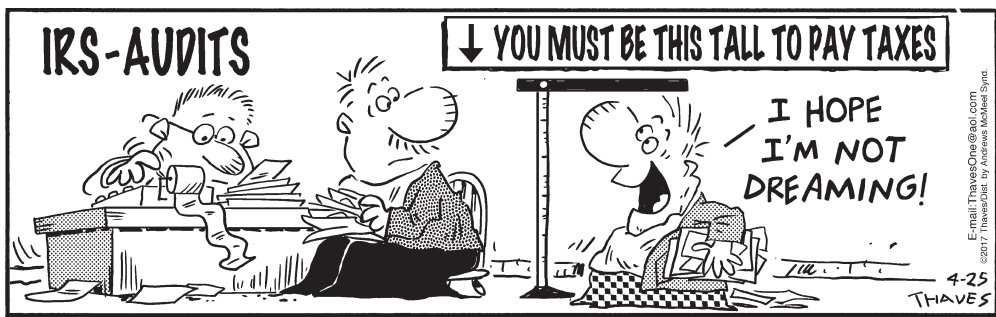
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You're charming, well-liked and imperfect. Don't let early obstacles and false starts dissuade you. You're just getting warmed up! Sometimes it just takes a few tries before your ideas and methods are accepted.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** When you don't have as much experience as the others, you have to work harder, be more original and have superior powers of diplomacy. There's a way to defer to the big shots and still be powerful in your own right.

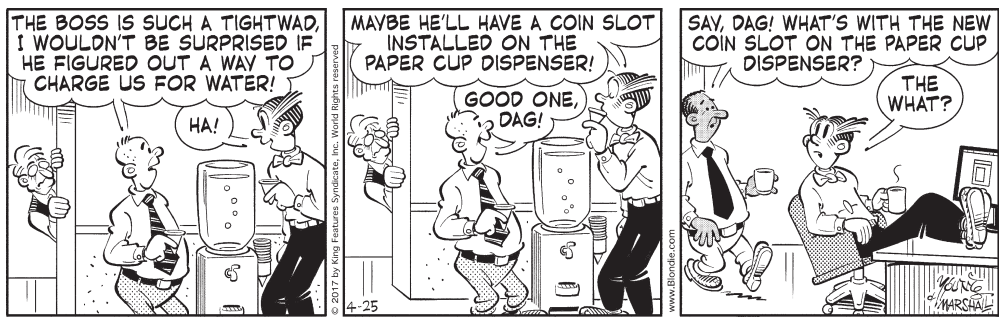
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Some togetherness brings an excited buzz. Other togetherness is more like a dreadful drone. You'll be in tune with the music of relationships and, even better, able to change the station when you need to.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (April 26).** You'll connect with someone who has a similar inner drive to accomplish a joint goal in May. You've been generous, so when it's your turn to be on the receiving end in June, relax and accept. Celebrations (especially formal ones) will bring lucky opportunities. Your family grows, and financial success follows the spurt. Libra and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 9, 34, 3, 31 and 16.

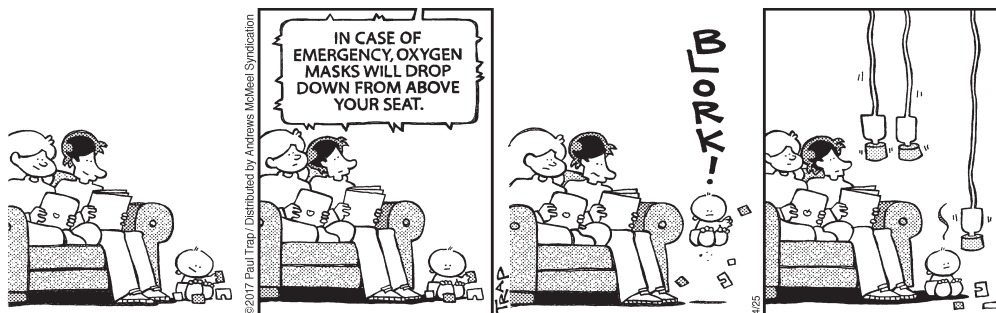
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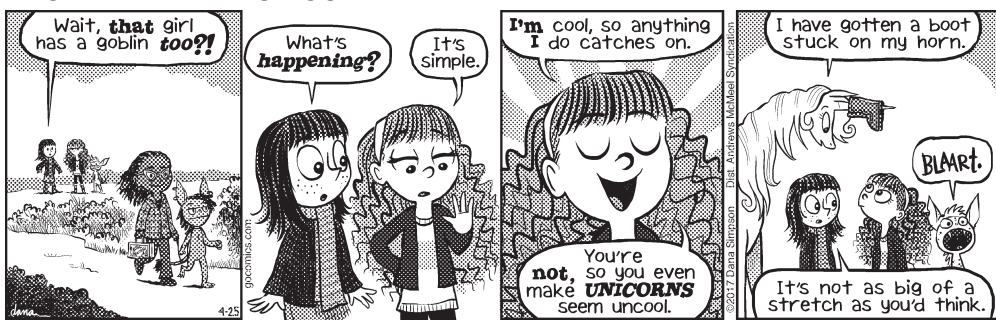
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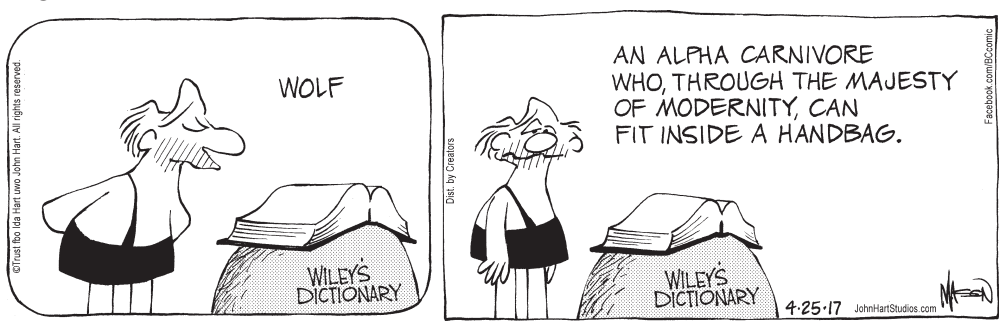
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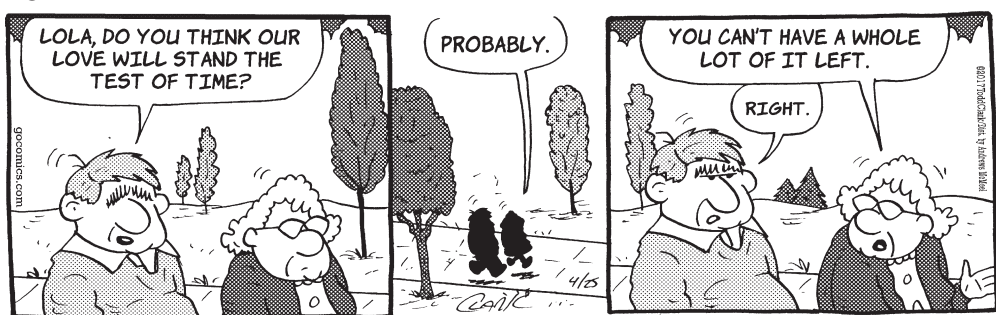
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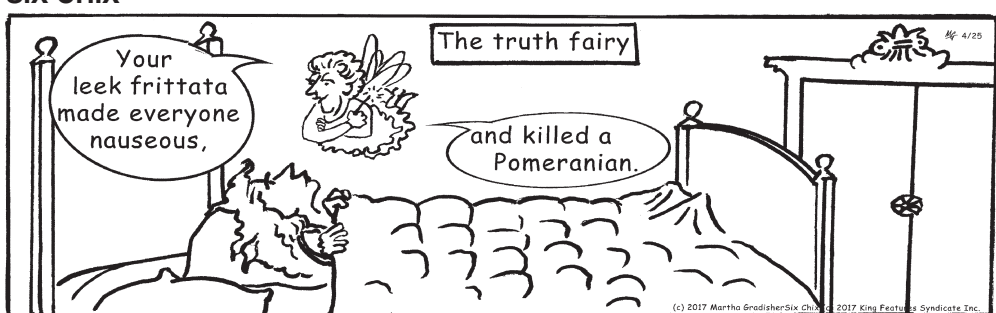
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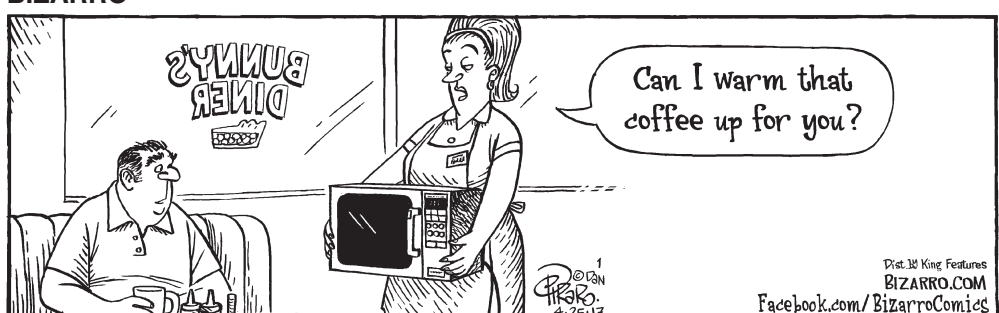
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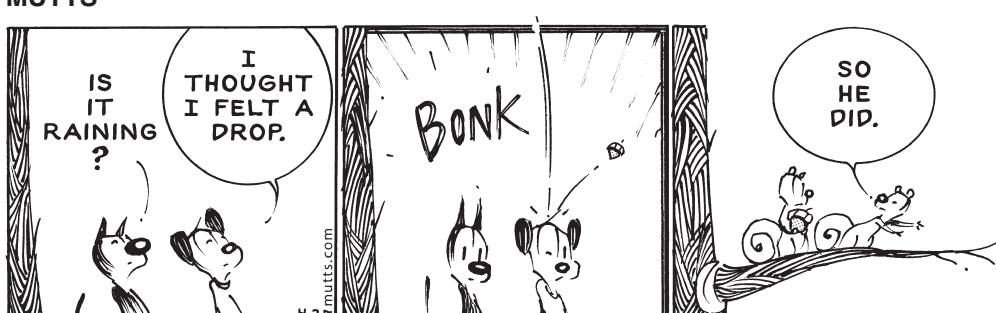
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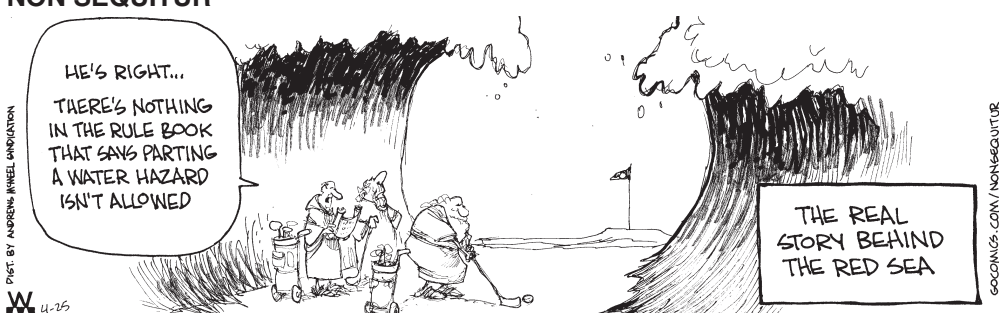
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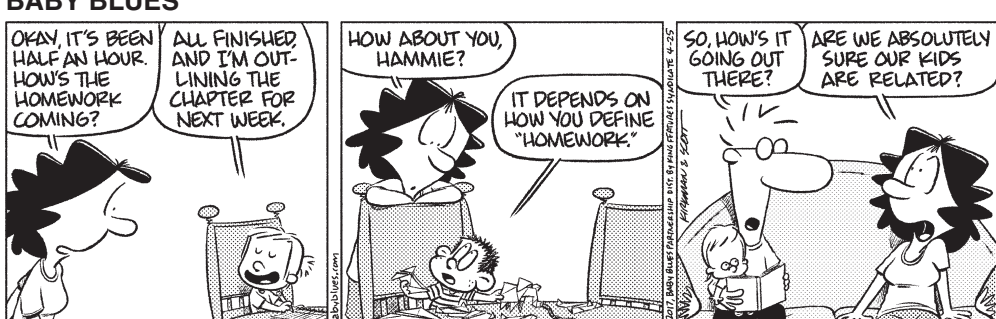
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