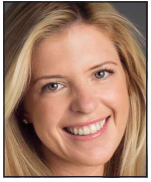


'Omg im so angry'

Dear Annie: My friend "Brianna" and I recently got into a fight via text messaging. She was trying to plan a surprise girls' trip for our friend's 30th birthday. She was texting a couple of other friends and me suggestions of places we might go, with links to vacation rentals. The places she was suggesting were out of my price range, though, and I politely said so. We went back and forth on this point for a bit, and then she said, "Well, are you sure you should even go on this trip if it's just not in your budget?"

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

I couldn't believe she'd be so rude as to say something like that in front of our other friends (digitally, at least). At that point, I just went off and told her she was being selfish. Things devolved from there, and eventually the text conversation ended for the night.

The next day, I felt anxious and regretted the fight. I still wanted to go on this trip, and for the sake of smoothing things over, I sent her a private message apologizing. I expected she would apologize as soon as I did. But to my amaze-

ment, all she said was, "It's OK." "It's OK"? As if I had been in the wrong!

Everyone ended up settling on a local place to celebrate our friend's birthday, and it turns out I can afford to go — but now I'm so angry with Brianna that I don't even want to. Who was wrong, Annie? — *Sorry Not Sorry*

Dear Sorry Not Sorry: You're both wrong for not picking up the phone and calling the second things got tense. Text fights are for people who don't want to find solutions.

But your false apology takes you down another peg. "Sorry" is like "I love you"; you should never say it just to hear it back. It's emotionally manipulative. It's also prone to backfiring. Just look at your predicament. You've painted yourself into a corner, one you can't get out of without looking like a fool and making an even bigger mess. I say swallow your pride on this one and digest the lesson.

Dear Annie: This is in response to the letter from "Unsure

in Ithaca." The loss of "Unsure's" sister's unborn child is very real. Yes, she wants to move on. However, the pain is real, and she is hurting.

My sister miscarried a child. From her experience, here's what not to say. (Believe it or not, these things were said to her.)

"It was a blessing the baby died."

"You can try again and have another." (They already had hopes, dreams and aspirations for the baby they lost. A new baby isn't a replacement.)

"The baby was deformed."

"There was something wrong with the baby, and it's better off dead."

"You didn't deserve that baby, so God took it."

As far as ways to cope, my sister bought a fairly large angel centerpiece for her dining room table. It's her reminder that she has her own angel in heaven. It's there for all the big celebrations. She also bought an angel Christmas tree ornament. It is hung every year, along with "baby's first Christmas" ornaments. — *Big Sister*

Dear Big Sister: Thank you for sharing.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). In science, opposite forces attract and like forces repel, but it's not usually the case in social matters. Still, the odd way people intermingling today will seem to have its own mysterious logic and rules.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Much boils down to simple matters of logistics. If you're here, paying attention to this, then you can't be there, paying attention to that. It's the practical space-time matters that will define the day.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Striving to be confident tends to look insecure. Just let confidence happen if and when it does. Confidence is a by-product of doing. The one you want to impress will be more impressed if you're comfortable with however you really are.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a creative rebel in you, and it feels like doing something to make yourself happy that other people, frankly, wouldn't understand. When you're happy, those who genuinely and selflessly love you will be happy for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some Google the menu before they get to the restaurant in order to have a very clear idea of what they're getting into, and others delight in surprise and make decisions on the spot. You'll be in the latter category today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll gravitate toward the magic words that will give you an edge by making a difficult message more palatable, or a boring message more interesting. Bonus: your beautiful handling of language is most attractive to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Some of the provisions you need are food, but most of them aren't. Your soul is hungry. Your heart wants love. Your mind craves a challenge. You'll be

amply supplied.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't watch the clock; be the clock, reaching ever forward one tick-tock at a time. The boring tasks will be a challenge. What helps is to add more elements to them and keep adding more until it's a game.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It is said of the aged, "When there is snow on the rooftop there's a fire in the furnace." You could be warmed by such a fire today as you let someone with more years than you share some wisdom.

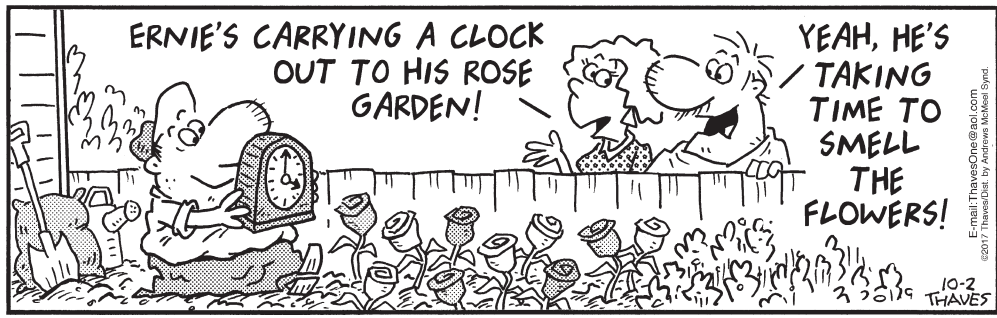
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). The one who knows you well will push all the right buttons to get a desired reaction. If this is not something you like, it's time to change your wiring or put a passcode in place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There are many possible interpretations of the cryptic information coming from someone who matters a lot to you. Take the lighter interpretation. Even if it's not what was meant, the levity in your response will make it so.

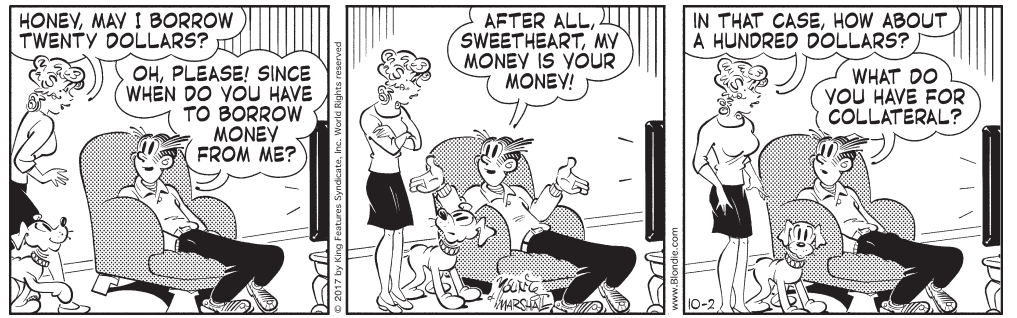
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Assumptions are a waste of time and can be potentially dangerous to a relationship. Extend the benefit of the doubt, and be happy for all the times you connect easily and without drama.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 3). You're not as young as you used to be or as old as you're going to be, and yet you feel in this moment a sharp surge of vibrancy and vitality. Follow your curiosities, especially in regard to the people you'll meet over the next four weeks. Your generosity leads to good fortune in November. Investments pay in July. Leo and Aries adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 10, 6, 20 and 18.

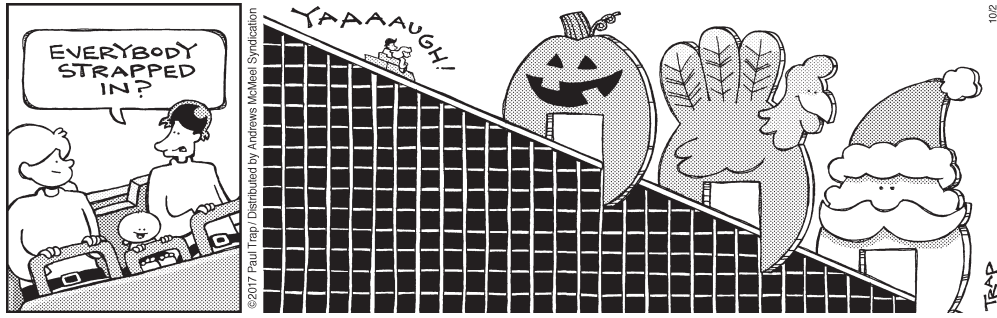
FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



THATABABY



SALLY FORTH

