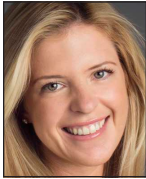


# Cohabitation before marriage?

**Dear Annie:** I liked the advice you gave about not moving in with a partner too soon in a relationship, but my situation is quite the opposite. I have been with my boyfriend for 2 1/2 years (we are both in our late 20s), and it has recently come up that he would not consider marrying someone unless he has lived with the person for a minimum of a year. I would like to wait until marriage; I like the idea of building a home and starting a new chapter of life together as a married couple. I want my future husband to carry me across the threshold of our new home together and not into a home and life we've already been sharing. I also like the idea of having my own space until I'm ready to turn it into "our space," which I think should come along with the "what's yours is mine and what's mine is yours" commitment of marriage.

**DEAR ANNIE**



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

figured out who makes the coffee versus who makes the bed and those kinds of daily lifestyle arrangements. We basically do live together. We just keep our belongings in separate places. We are very compatible, but is this a deal breaker? I love my boyfriend, but I don't want to stay in a relationship that has no potential for a future. Should I wait it out? Walk away? Is there a compromise? — *Don't Want to Be Roommates*

**Dear Don't Want to Be Roommates:** If you're both set on the same destination, there's no sense in breaking up over the route. But make certain you do in fact agree on that destination. Ask him how he feels about marriage, with open-ended questions, not leading ones. You want him to feel comfortable being honest now so you can save yourself trouble later. If he's serious about cohabitation as a steppingstone, then propose a compromise. You'll move in together after you're engaged. If you can afford to move in to a new place (rather than either of your current apartments), it might help establish that new-chapter feel.

**Dear Annie:** I'd like to suggest another option for "Anxious Adopter," whose adopted son has visits with his birth mother but whose adopted daughter has no contact with her birth family. My suggestion would be for "Anxious Adopter" to talk to her son's birth mother to see whether she could find it in her heart to include your daughter in the visits. Our 15-year-old daughter relinquished her newborn son for adoption many years ago. Years later, when our grandson became a part of our life, he had an adopted sister who had no knowledge of her birth family and no contact. Because she was special to our grandson, she was special to us and was included in our time with our grandson. My husband and I were honorary grandparents at her wedding. — *Twice Blessed*

**Dear Twice Blessed:** First, I'd like to say that I respect the rights of birth mothers in open-adoption arrangements, and it would be regrettable if my earlier response suggested otherwise. I love your solution, which shows real heart and practicality. I've passed it along to "Anxious Adopter." Thank you.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're not in it alone today, and maybe you never were. You just didn't know that others were dealing with the same things you were. Check in and see how your friends are faring in the process.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You may set out to get inspired and wind up something else entirely — jealousy. That's all right. Jealousy is inspiration's close cousin, and it has quite a lot to teach you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** They say you should let your heart defy logic — as if you had any other choice! Your heart has its own kind of intelligence that your mind wouldn't dare trespass into.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** If you really do something wrong, of course you should apologize, but don't say sorry for every little thing. For instance, you shouldn't feel apologetic for taking up space, or having needs, feelings and intentions.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** For some reason you feel it's your job to make sure everyone is happy. That's an admirable position, and appropriate in many situations, especially if you're being paid for it. Just be sure to take time for yourself.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** The facts were there and you added them up, and yet you still felt that there was a deception at hand. Go with the feeling. Maybe don't act on the feeling, but hold back any action that goes against it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Who, on the planet, is there to support you? This is the question that comes up today. It's not about picking your favorites; it's about knowing who's got your back.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** The quiet will bring messages. You have to be willing to sit in the quiet for a very, very long time, though. You can get the same messages by moving through life with a certain open awareness.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Keep it clipping along. Brevity is grace. The powerful don't have time to trivialize. When you make it short and sweet, your message will be easily digested — or in the modern sense of it, "liked" and "shared."

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** In games of cards, the worst cards can make the best players. In games of people, the worst can be avoided. Today your heart is open, and yet you'll be better off if you don't even touch the deck. Move along.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** How will you contribute to the harmony of the world? Today it will not be a function of donating tons of money or completing a mission in a foreign land; rather, you'll have a stellar attitude in your day-to-day life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Respect is important. It's a commodity better than dollars. It's a currency that means more in daily life than any other. Give your respect to a person and you're giving gold.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 10).** You'll express your poetic soul. That doesn't mean you'll walk around rhyming (although that's one way to go), but you'll find ways to celebrate the vivid way life comes to you this year. You'll get the coach, team and/or financial support you need in January. Love and friendship will be messy fun in 2018. Pisces and Virgo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 29, 22, 27 and 38.

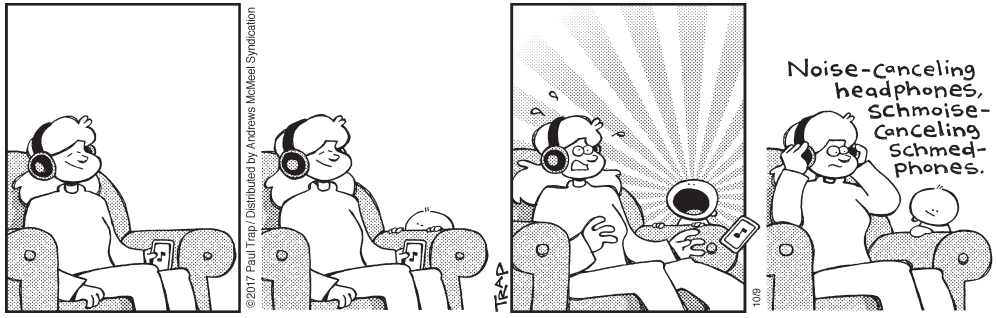
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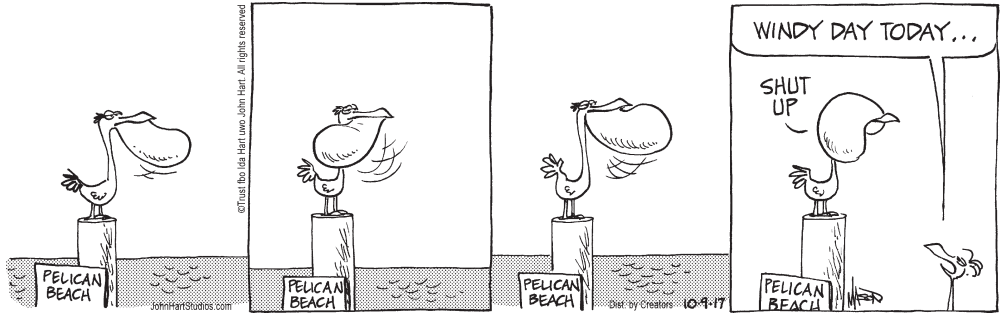
**SALLY FORTH**



**PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN**



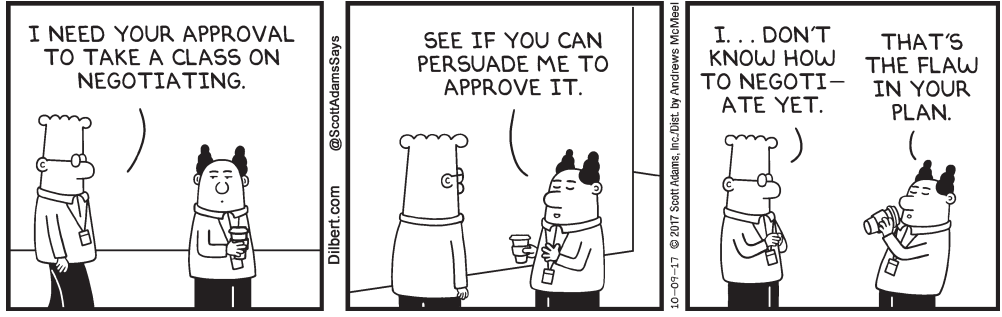
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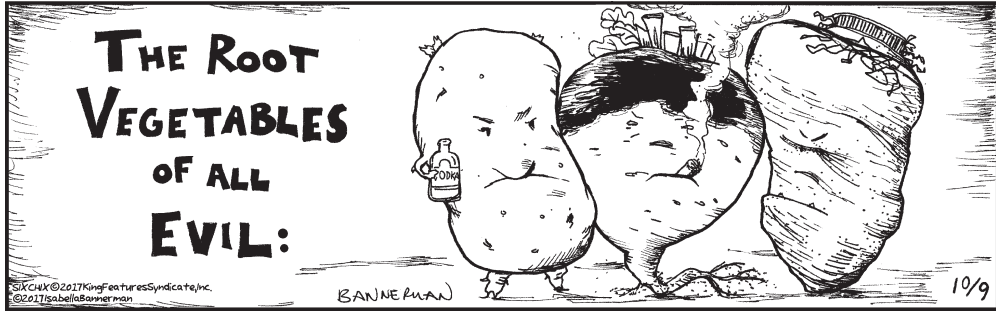
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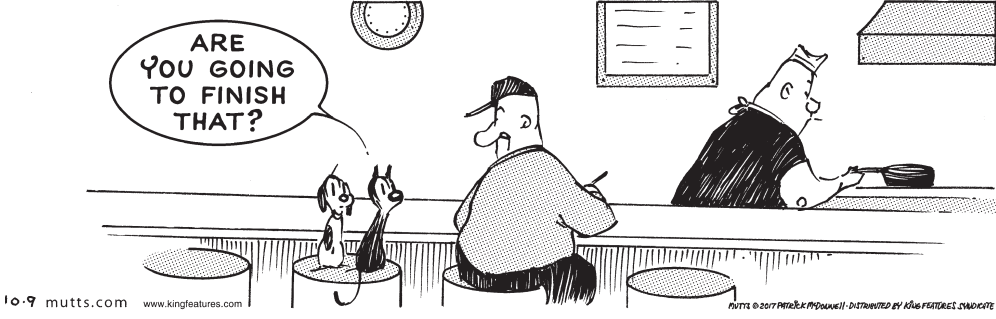
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