

Ostracized over parentage

Dear Annie: I need your advice. In my social life and at my places of employment, I used to tell people that the man who raised me with my mom was not my biological father. At work, customers and co-workers would say unkind things to me about that. Then, a few weeks later, I would get let go for no logical reason, or it would turn into a hostile work environment and I would be forced to quit. The final straw came when I was leaving church and the clergyperson shook my hand goodbye and at the same time pushed me out the door. I had a DNA test done, and it turns out that my dad is my biological father.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
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I don't feel I owe people an explanation, and even if I did, they would probably not believe me anyway. How do I handle these horrible people? — *Really Dad's Little Girl*
Dear Really Dad's Little Girl: I'm thinking there must be more to the story than you've included in your letter, because their behavior sounds bizarre. Your biology is none of their business. If you were terminated because of your parentage, you should have legal recourse. Contact an attorney.

Dear Annie: My wife and I are in our late 20s and have been married since we were 18. We have two wonderful children. The problem I'm having is dealing with my wife's mother. We recently moved to a new city so my wife could be closer to her side of the family, which was fine with me because she never really had much of a relationship with her mother growing up. We have now lived in this city for three years, and in that time, my wife's mother has never made an attempt to re-establish any type of relationship with my wife — or our children, for that matter.

Every time there is a family function going on, my mother-in-law does everything in her power to keep my wife from finding out about it so that our family is excluded. And whenever we host family functions, my wife's mother always has an excuse for why she won't be able to attend.

In addition, my wife and I have not had one night to ourselves since we were in high school. We even took our firstborn on our honeymoon because we couldn't get a

baby sitter. I think that is where grandparents and other family members should be involved. It's hard on my wife. We have two very well-behaved kids, and it's killing my wife that her mother won't watch our kids.

I know that my wife wants to create a relationship with her mom that she never had, just as she wants our children to have a grandmother in their lives. I am so sick and tired of watching my wife reach out to her mom. Am I wrong for wanting to protect my wife from certain heartbreak? Or should I let this go and let my wife handle her mother? Any advice would be greatly appreciated. — *Protective Husband*

Dear Protective Husband: Your mother-in-law sounds like a real piece of work, but there isn't much you can do about changing her attitude or behavior. You can and should continue giving your wife support and encouragement, but ultimately her relationship with her mother is between the two of them and not you. As for getting away together alone for a night or weekend, what about other members of her side of the family? If no one will help, then maybe you could consider moving closer to your side of the family.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Recently, something might have happened between you and another person that, in one way, signaled that one of you understood what the other was going through. But in another way, it was offensive. So much lies in the interpretation! Emotions need a rest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Your experience of the world is unique and all yours. So don't be surprised when they don't seem to be on the same page. They might still get there. All that's needed? A few flips.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Maybe the job is getting repetitive. Or maybe your life is getting repetitive. Though you don't get paid for life outside of work, it can become just as monotonous as the 9-5 grind. But something will break the cycle of repetition. And that will please you immensely.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Things today will be the same as yesterday, and yet you're a lot different — not a little, a lot. Why? Answer this question and your next big idea is on the tails of it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Whatever led you to your love, you'll follow it again and again. It's not because you think it will lead to your love; it's because you know it will lead to your rapture.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Oh! The same old questions will come again and again ... but you don't have to give the same tired answers. Change it up. They'll ask, "How are you?" And your creative answer will better your fortune.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Your responsibilities will be more fun than you anticipated they would be. Involve people who share your

sense of humor. It's the magic combo. You can't lose.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The overarching feeling is the thing. If someone picks up on the details and tries to make a case, well ... that may be sound in theory, but theory is not practice. What's real is what's going on. So: What's going on?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you can resolve the historical, you can resolve the present. Bonus: Sometimes this happens without actually having to get your hands dirty in the present.

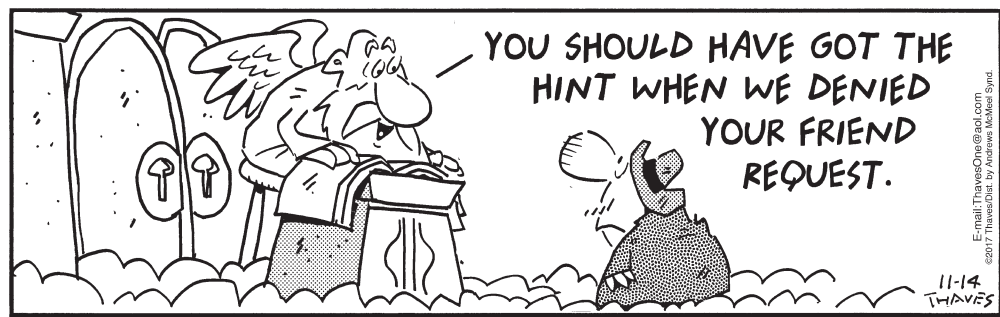
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). What you wouldn't give for a clean slate. It's the wish of everyone: Don't forget it. And the grace of society is that minor infractions can be rewritten and glossed over with the stroke of a wand. Really! So just start new.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Running into an ex is only fun if you happen to be looking even better than you were. It's why you give extra effort to the mirror today. You never know!

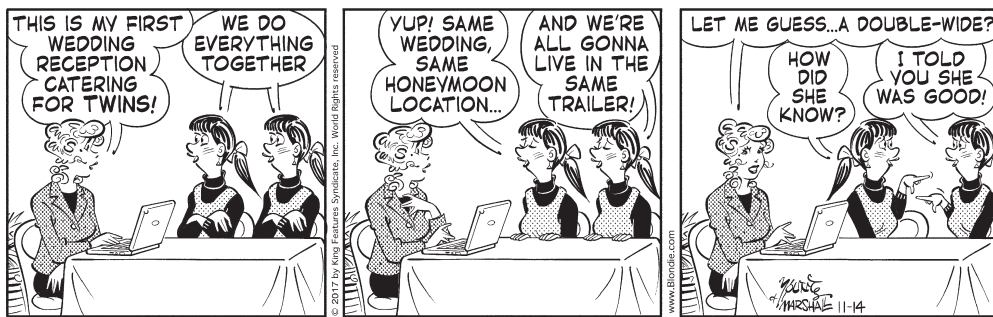
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Someone is being super mean to you. This goes way back. It's not about you, but that doesn't make it any easier not to take it personally. Stand strong. The cosmic forces are with you.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Nov. 15). You are strong on your own, and yet you'll also have a hero in your life this year. In 2018 you'll make a trade that improves your lot. Also you may be willing to give something up for love — but not everything! A brush with fame has a lesson in it. You'll be building a team in February. Pisces and Capricorn adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 33, 39, 19, and 14.

FRANK AND ERNEST



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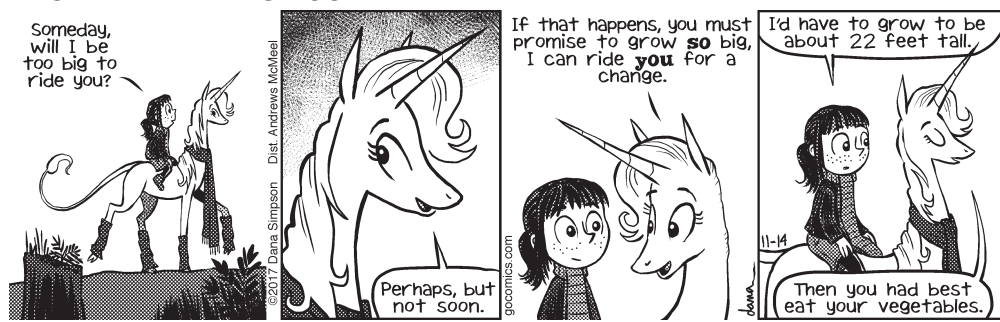
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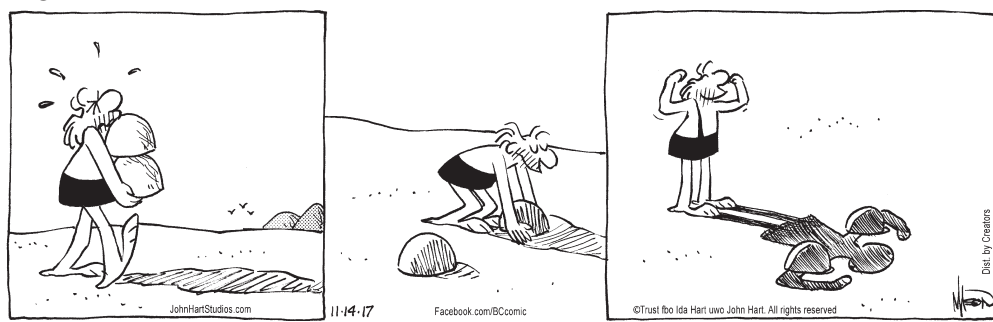
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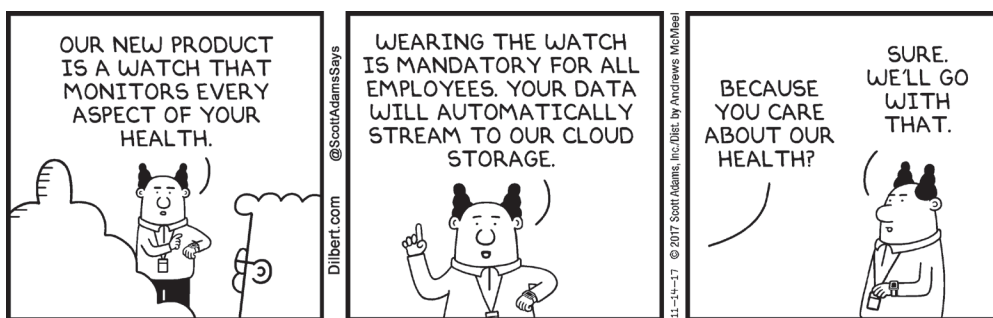
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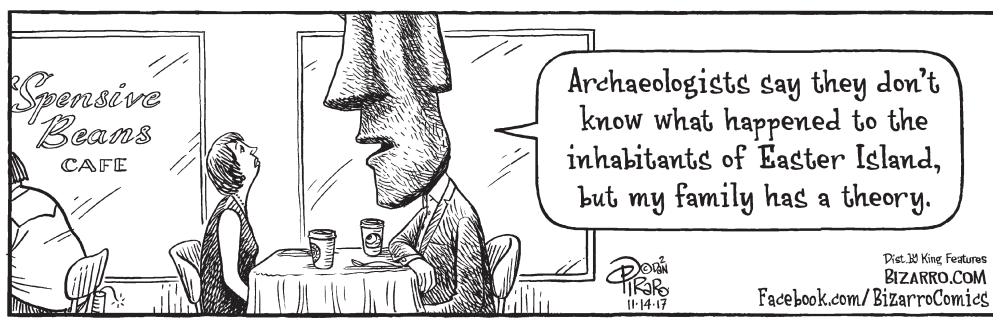
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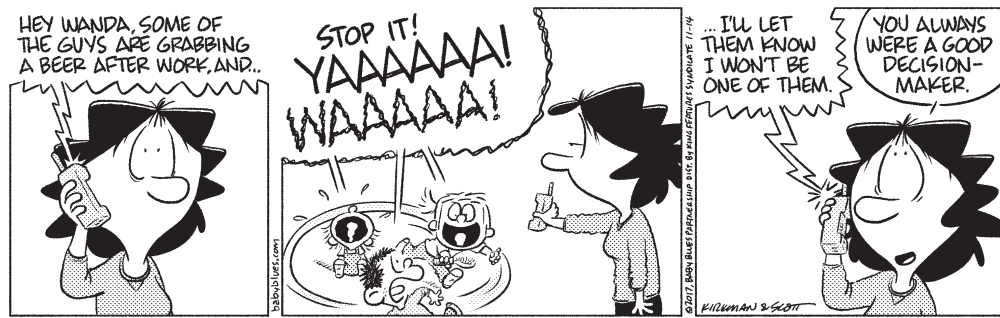
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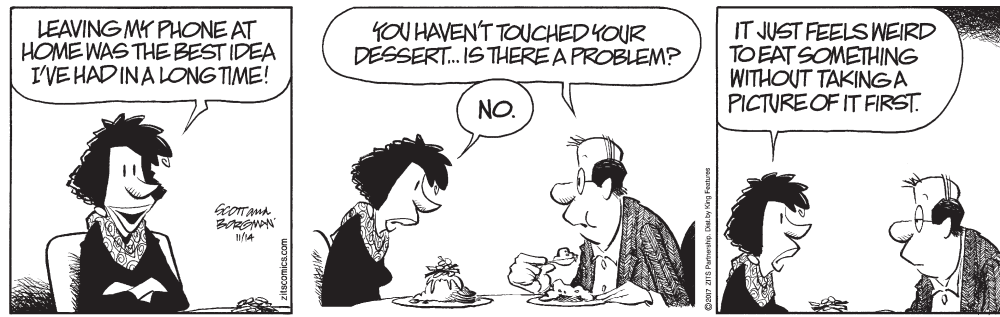
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