

# Mom needs boundaries

**Dear Annie:** I have been in a relationship with my fiance for seven years. When we first started dating and I met his mother, she cried and said, "Take care of him." Mind you, he's 52 years old. I didn't think anything of it. Well, six years later, I can't count all the incidents of drama and manipulation that she's created.

## DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane  
Creators  
Syndicate Inc.

She's incredibly overbearing. She comes over for dinner at our house every Saturday night, and my boyfriend goes to her house throughout the week. She has many children and grandchildren in the area but calls him for everything.

When my boyfriend and I have gone on weekend getaways to the coast, she's wanted to be included. The few times he told her no, she cried and said, "You know I love going!" I understand needing someone, but shouldn't there be boundaries?

I tried to be open in the first few years of the relationship — calling her, reaching out — but it only made things tenser. Things that I could overlook at first I find difficult, at best, to deal with now.

I'm tired. I have tried to talk to my companion. Have you noticed I have called him "fiance," "boyfriend" and "companion"? That's because I have no idea what to call him. When I ask what we're doing, he gets angry and stubborn. It's a pattern.

Really, I know this man and I am not going to marry. I am not his wife; this is not my mother-in-law. But I want my time with him.

I just want to make him understand that I need my space and that I'm not happy with her dynamics involving our relationship — though of course I want him to have his time with his mom.

How do I explain this in a better way than I am doing now? I have been in counseling and thought I received excellent advice, but I haven't made any progress in the situation. — *Am I Doing It Right?*

**Dear AMIDIR:** This isn't a matter of your needing to explain things differently; it's a matter of his needing to listen. You've already tried communicating

clearly, calmly and directly with him about your feelings, multiple times. You've seen a therapist about the issue. You've adjusted your expectations and made compromises. Meanwhile, all he's made are excuses.

Ask him to go to couples counseling to work through this (admittedly thorny) issue. If he values your relationship, he'll do whatever he can to make it work. Otherwise, I'd recommend taking some time and space for yourself — because if you're the only one fighting for the relationship, what are you really fighting for?

**Dear Annie:** "Still Daddy's Little Girl" implied that the lack of a high school diploma makes her newly laid-off father less employable.

You mentioned several ways she could help her father get another job, but you did not mention helping him get his GED diploma. It's never too late to get a GED diploma, and doing so can be a huge boost to one's self-esteem and employability. — *Karen H.*

**Dear Karen H.:** Great point. It's never too late to get your GED diploma. Visit <https://ged.com> for more information.

## TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** No one can understand all that goes into being another person. We may know something of a person's challenges and responsibilities, but we can never know it all — a fact that helps us respect one another today.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** There's something so beautiful about needing less out of a situation — or, better yet, not needing anything from it. Objectivity allows you to see where the opportunities lie.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll be in a position to guess "who done it." When questioned, innocent people can get just as rattled as guilty people. In this case, it will be better to acquit all than to accuse the wrong person.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** With so many uncontrollable factors involved in finding your way, you'd do well not to worry about too much. Handle what's in front of you with an excellent attitude and life will open favorably to you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** If you're spending just about every waking moment trying to make this existence work out according to plan, you're not leaving much room for serendipity to swoop in and give you a twirl.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Proverbially, there will come a day in which the last shall be first, assuming that the last even care about such things. The truly enlightened, probably wouldn't. Rank and order will have a bearing on today's proceedings.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** It's good to rattle the power structure once in a while in the name of justice. Without checks and balances, things get far off-balance indeed.

In a related matter, be careful not to confuse acceptable with extraordinary.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're right in step with all that's going on around you in the world. You spot the worthy trends, note the buzzwords and adopt the most useful aspects of the prevailing style.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Glamorous jobs can be horrible and the jobs no one wants to do can be dreamy. So don't be quick to judge. You'll do what needs to be done in the classiest way you can think of to do it.

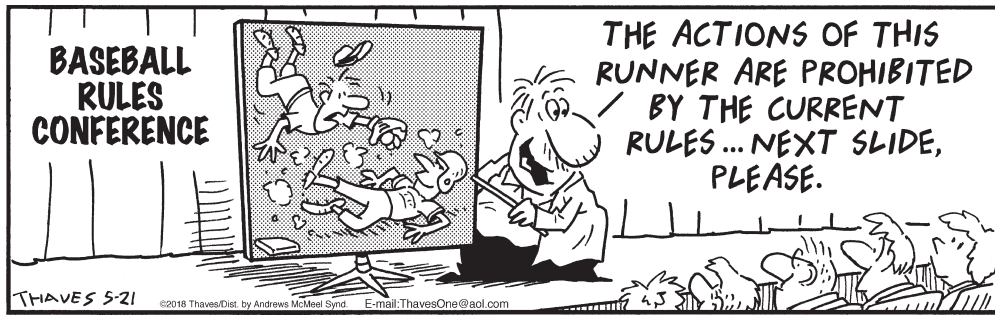
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** The action is like a train today, rushing forward with great power. One switch can head things in an entirely different direction. One crossing can stop the action in its tracks.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Many will try to tell you what you need, feed you a vision of a "new and improved" you, or supply a so-called better way of going about life. But you have to stop and ask yourself — how do they know what's best for you?

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** The things you find luxurious don't decorate the pages of popular magazines. These items are random and specific to you. The more you connect with them, the richer you'll feel today.

**TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (May 22).** This solar return brings new levels and kinds of sharing. You'll share a belief and make a friend. You'll share an activity and bring lots of love into your life. You'll share a goal and change the world. Special moments include an award in July and an investment in September. You'll bank on what you learn. Cancer and Scorpio adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 4, 8, 20, 27 and 31.

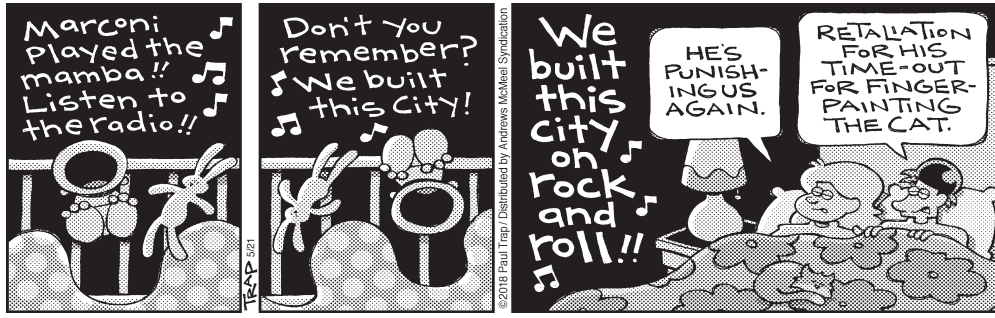
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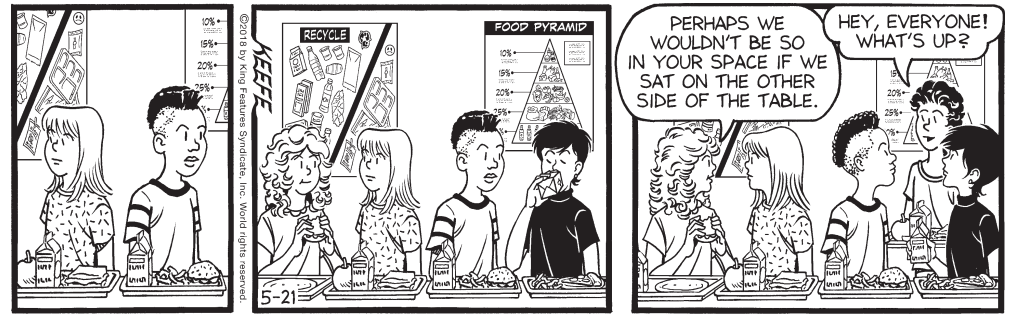
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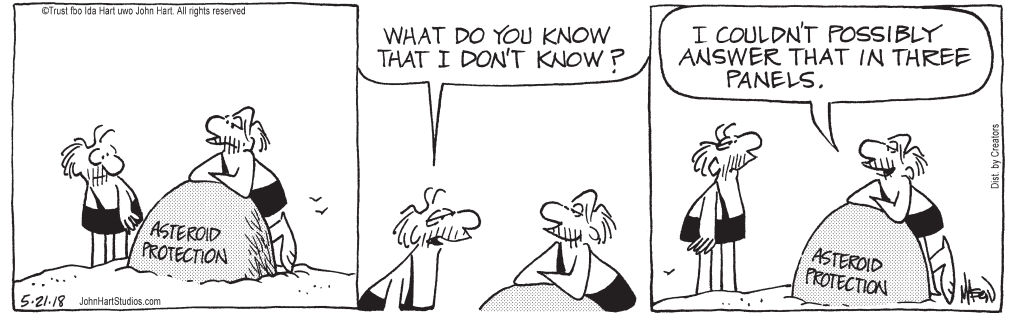
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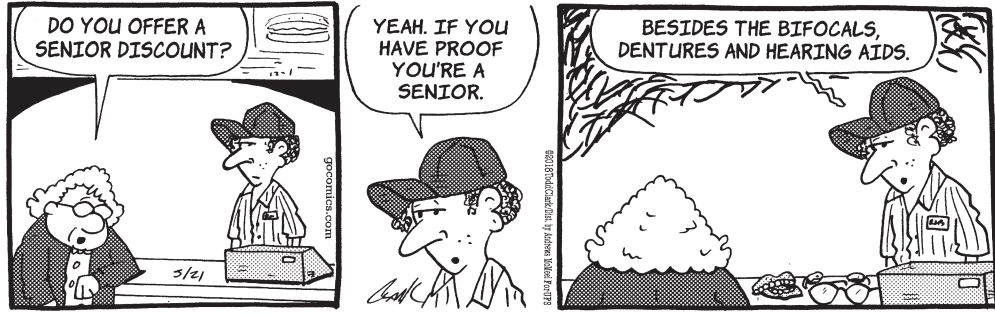
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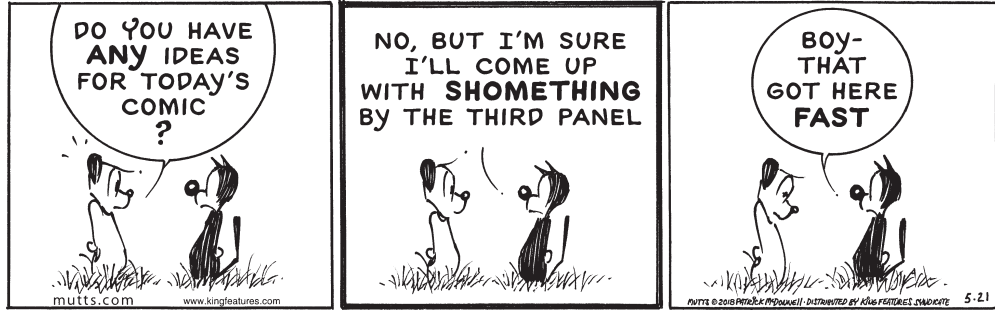
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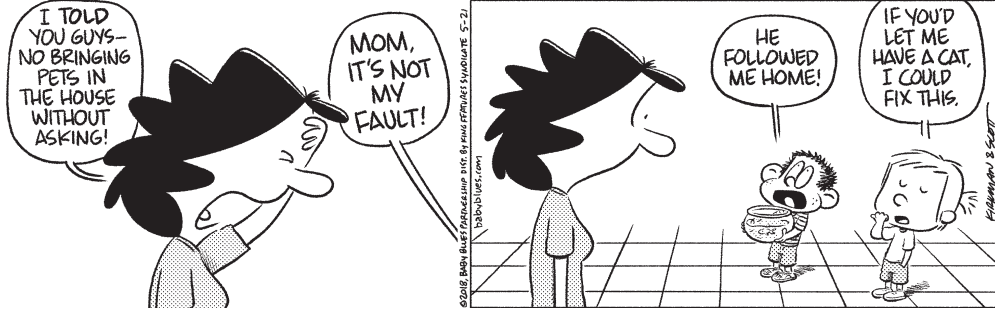
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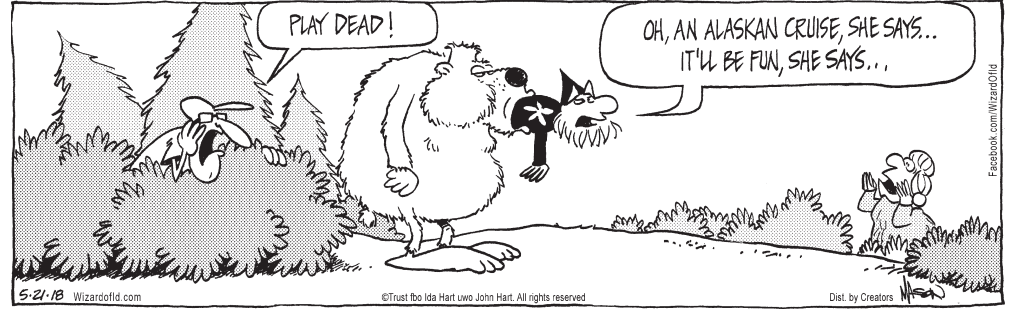
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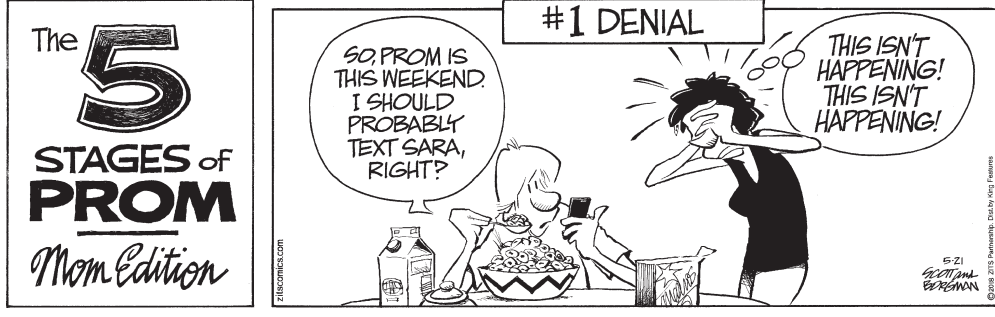
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