DEAR

ANNIE

Annie Lane

FEATURES

He tries to wipe slate clean

Dear Annie: I thought my husband and I had a great marriage — until I looked on his phone and found text messages to another woman. I was crushed. I asked him about it, and he said that it was nothing and that there

were only a few messages. When I checked our cellphone details, I was completely devastated to find that it had been going on for almost a year and there were almost 2,000 text messages during the past six months. When I talked to him about this and all the lies he had told me, he said he had lost his way and he was sorry and

didn't want to lose me. We started counseling, but he doesn't want to discuss the details of the text messages and did a factory reset on his phone so I can't see the messages. He said it was not a sexual affair, but his actions just don't convince me it was just text messages. Now he thinks we are fine and our marriage will go on, but I can't stop myself from thinking about what he may have done that I don't know about.

How can I ever trust him again? I don't know whether I can, because he told me so many lies. This was going on for almost a year. How can I believe that it wasn't sexual? I am trying to act as if we are OK, but inside I feel as if I am dying. Please help me to think this through. I need to figure

out whether I should stay or go. I need some good advice. — Lost in Love

Dear Lost in Love: I'm so sorry for the hurt you must be feeling. Your husband can't simply reset your marriage as he did his phone. It seems he expects that as long as he apologizes and stops talking to this woman, everything should go back

to the way it was before he decided to have an affair. And it was an affair — if not a physical one, then an emotional one. Tell him that if you're ever going to move past this, you need complete candidness and vulnerability from him. No more obfuscating the truth, changing the subject or destroying the evidence. Anything short of that would be placing a Band-Aid on a deep puncture wound, and the marriage would never heal.

Dear Annie: I am a regular reader of your column but was frankly dismayed at your answer recently to someone whose adult brother was behaving heartlessly toward his mother.

Our son has shown no interest in us for a long time unless he needs money. We, like the mother in the letter, are grieving over this behavior. When he was growing up, we were generous and loving parents. Do parents make mistakes raising their children? Of course they do. But does that give their children an excuse to abandon them as this young man apparently has and as my son has also done?

I was always close to my parents, even after getting married and having a family, calling and visiting frequently even though they lived far away. Anytime my dad or mom was in the hospital, I was there, unlike the young man in this letter. My parents are gone now, and I have no regrets about how I treated them.

There is absolutely no excuse for this kind of behavior from a child. — Another Mother in Pain

Dear Another Mother: I'm so sorry you're going through this. I'm printing your letter with the hope that it stirs some adult children to pick up the phone and call their parents.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You are gracious and social even when you don't feel like dealing with people. Somehow doing it anyway just puts you right in the mood, and as a direct result, good things happen for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Don't underestimate the power of feeling liked. Even people who profess not to care if others like them or not may in fact very much appreciate a sign of your acceptance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Should you stick with what you know, or make a switch to the new way? That's the juncture you'll come to today and both paths have pros and cons. Truthful testimonials and recommendations will help you decide.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Since what you say always reflects what's going on inside you, the easiest way to say the right thing is to be the right thing. You may need to sort through some feelings and get clarity. It will step up your conversational game.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The competitor with nothing to lose will surpass the one who has to make a strategic choice about what to risk — an important consideration in today's

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). It's the little ways a person shows you that he or she is paying attention that will go straight to your heart and turn someone into your favorite in an

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The best way is not to compare yourself to anyone. But since that's also a very unrealistic expectation of yourself today, then at least compare yourself to an example that is both attainable and

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). How can you make things clearer to the most people with the least amount of cost, trouble or time? The answer may be in a sign. A message built for all to read saves you having to whisper to

each person. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You're always training people. Each interaction is a training. It never ends. Give a thought to what you're teaching as you go about your

to treat you. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're handling a lot of responsibility today but you also needn't take it so seriously. Keep your perspective and your humor and you'll stay relaxed enough to handle anything that comes up.

day, specifically, how you're teaching people

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Set an expectation early on about what you'd like to see happen. Otherwise, you'll wind up with all the frustrations of a cat-herder.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll have the pleasure of getting to know someone through teamwork on a project. It's the best way to learn what people are all about, and it will be a very accurate picture of what future work and play together will be like.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 5). Most measures of joy, well-being and effort are internal. Only you know what's worth it and what's not. It's your year to trust your own assessments and do what makes you happy. Highlights this solar return include an extremely satisfying vacation, a new way to enjoy your family and a metal of some kind. Cancer and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 7, 40, 38, 22 and 18.

FRANK AND ERNEST



BLONDIE



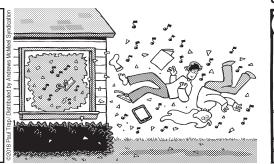




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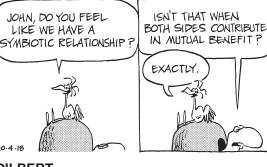
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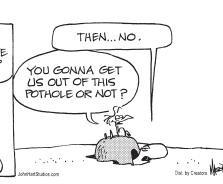






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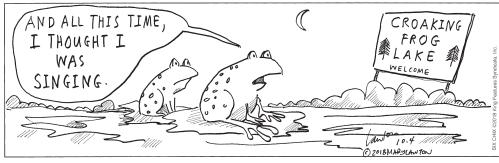








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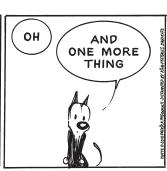


BIZARRO



MUTTS







NON SEQUITUR



BABY BLUES







MY WORD! WHAT CARNAGE HAPPENED HERE?









ROSE IS ROSE

WIZARD OF ID





