

His girls come first before her

Dear Annie: I've been dating a gentle, kind and loving man for a while. He goes to church, constantly reads his Bible and plays Christian music. We get along great. We have conversations for hours, and we laugh and cry together. But the problem is that he is so close to his three grown daughters, especially his youngest, that I feel completely left out at times.

DEAR ANNIE



Annie Lane
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

For instance, we recently went out to dinner, and his youngest daughter happened to come into the restaurant. We had not been dating long at that point, and I was used to him looking at me as we sat across from each other. She came in and sat down beside him, and that was the end of our date. He turned in his chair to face her and talked and smiled at her the whole time. His smile was bigger than I had ever seen. It was almost like watching a schoolboy with his new girl. But they had just had lunch together the day before. They have lunch together at least three times a week. He was ignoring me so much, with his attention centered only on her, that it was extremely awkward.

month later. It was also my birthday. We discussed doing something together for my birthday and then having dessert with my parents so I could see my dad for a bit. His daughters decided to cook lunch for him at noon, which was fine with me, as we could still be at my parents' place by 3 or 4 in the afternoon for dessert and my birthday cake. When we were with his daughters, the time kept passing, and nothing was said. I finally asked him when we would be going. He told me that no woman would interfere with his relationship with his daughters and that he was not going to tell them that he had plans. I reminded him that we had made an agreement to see my parents. His only response was that his girls will always come first. I also told him they are old enough to understand that we have to share him. He still refused.

Is this a red flag, or am I being selfish? His daughters are 22, 38 and 40. I forgot to mention that the youngest daughter left after an hour to spend time with her mom and stepdad and her boyfriend and his dad. — *Are Red Flags Flying High?*

Dear Red Flags: It sounds as if you two are ships sailing in completely different directions. You began your letter by saying that you are in a relationship with a gentle, kind and loving man, but your stories about him show that his gentle, kind and loving side is reserved for his daughters, especially the youngest, even if it is at your expense. Seeing as he clearly stated that his girls come first and you don't like that — understandably — it is probably time to move on.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "On My Own in Georgia," who regrets not having children. This woman should check out the schools in her city. There are so many children who could benefit from her knowledge. There are also boys and girls clubs that could use her knowledge and wisdom. My husband and I could not have children, so we adopted a 5-year-old boy from Korea. I would do it again. — *No Regrets*

Dear No Regrets: I'm happy to print this letter, as it's great advice. A 2016 report by the Stanford Center on Longevity found that children and older adults benefit equally and greatly from spending time together.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Patience is a flattering emotion. It looks good on everyone, and it especially suits you today. Halloween alter ego: Your warrior spirit could shine through Jon Snow or Daenerys Targaryen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). A loved one will lean on you, and you'll likely be glad for the opportunity to be of service. Halloween alter ego: A character from the cartoon "Bob's Burgers" speaks to the bovine in you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Today's main feature will arrive with a humble presence and continue to grow in importance. Halloween alter ego: A couple's costume is the ideal for the twins, for instance, the two sides of an Oreo or a pair of sneakers.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). No one is expecting you to fix all the problems, only to make facing them a little less lonely. Halloween alter ego: A seaside classic is perfect for the crab. Consider the realm of mermaids or "SpongeBob SquarePants."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). When you believe something is going to be easy, you make it easy for yourself. So think a good thought, and then open the door. Halloween alter ego: Black Panther, Hello Kitty or any number of feline options.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Loved ones are the best at pushing your buttons because experience has taught them where said buttons are. Halloween alter ego: an earthy nurturer like Mother Earth, Little Bo Peep or Farmer John.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Kindness and acceptance are not only virtues; they are your most useful habits. Halloween alter ego: A political character like lawyer Saul Goodman

or a famous judge would be ideal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Expect big things from those in your inner circle. Halloween alter ego: A character from a Halloween movie such as the classic monster Michael Myers or Mavis from "Hotel Transylvania."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You'll notice a change in your reasons for doing a job. Halloween alter ego: You will be most satisfyingly complete with a group costume. For instance, going out as the cast of "Stranger Things."

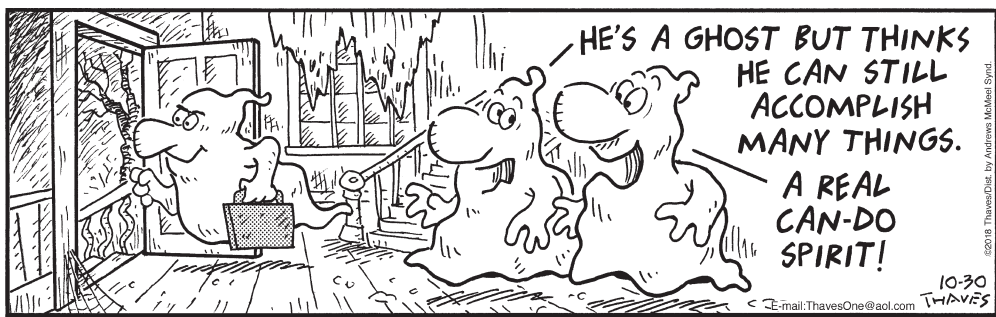
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You will upgrade yourself in small but meaningful increments. You identify with the intelligent forces of the universe so your Halloween alter ego is perfectly aligned with Einstein or Edna from "The Incredibles."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). There is magic in your voice, so speak up. You're likely to influence a decision or make a difference. Halloween alter ego: a game character such as Brite Bomber or Dark Voyager from "Fortnite."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you step back and throw up your hands, you'll be amazed at how things sort themselves out. Halloween alter ego: A peaceful mood prevails, pointing costume options toward a gentle unicorn or a Bob Ross painting.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 31). Dream big because the smooth way life runs will make this one of your best years, especially if there's a shining goal to slide toward. The things that are not aligned with who you really are get uncomfortable, and you either shake them off or find an adjustment to make your life work better. Capricorn and Taurus adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 8, 2, 22, 19 and 40.

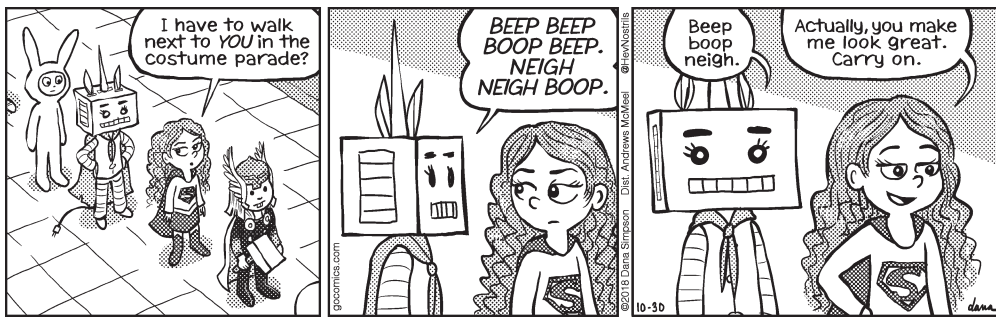
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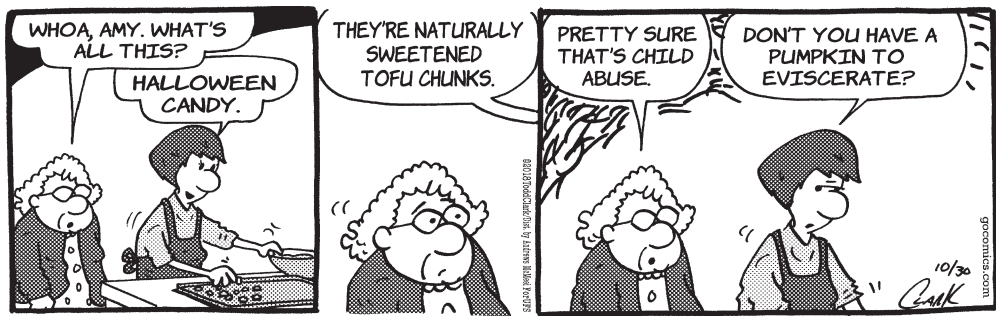
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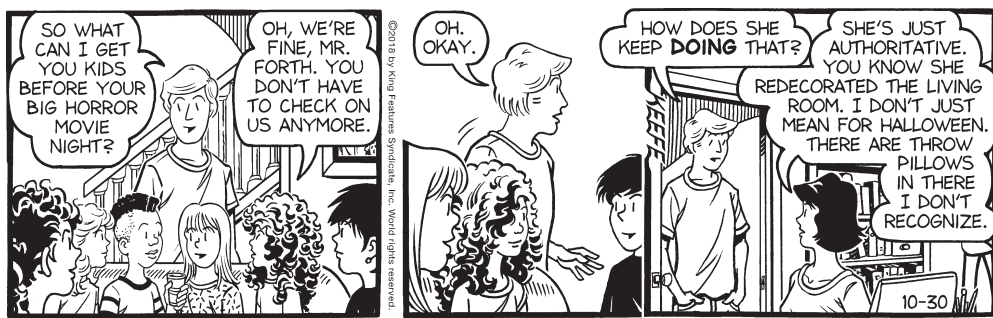
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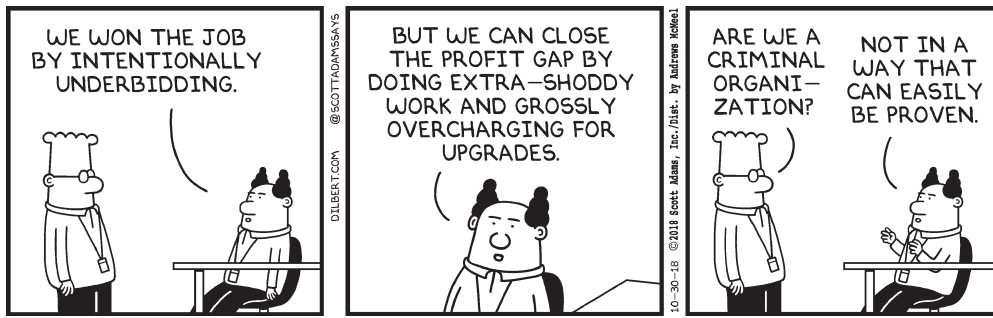
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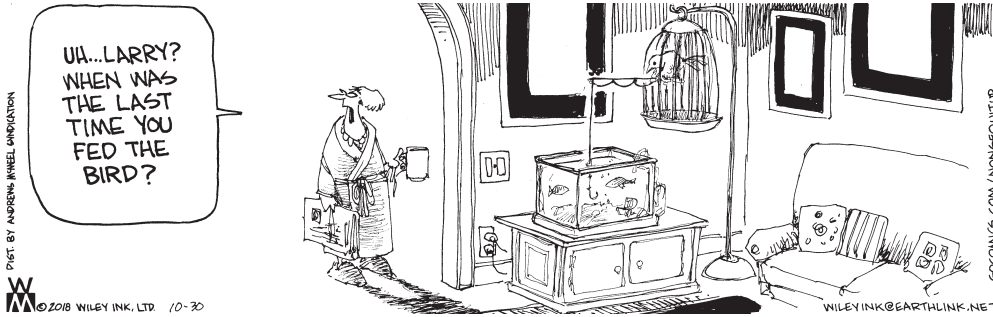
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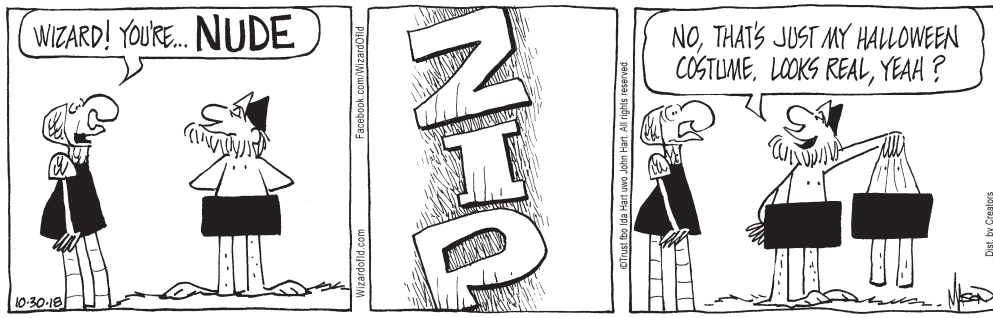
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