

Boyfriend is a lying abuser

Dear Annie: Recently, we published a letter from someone whose good friend was being abused by a girlfriend physically, verbally and financially. I agree with your advice to the letter writer to keep in contact with her abused friend.

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

My issue is this: My boyfriend is telling his mother that I am abusing him, and I am not; he is the mean one. I am in the process of getting out of the relationship. We both have lots of ties — homes, two businesses and more. Because of what we have on our shared plate, it is easier to say that I should get out ASAP, but it's harder to actually do it. We are in separate rooms and living areas of our large home, which helps during the breakup process.

Anyway, my boyfriend is not telling his mother that he is the abusive one. He tells her that I call him names. He doesn't tell her my anger comes from how he acts like a bully. He busts doors all over our beautiful home, for one. Also, he recently spat out a mouthful of

carrots all over the table while we were out for dinner because he was mad! I was embarrassed that he did that in public. I finished my meal and left. He since has angrily spit food all over the place twice. He calls me really foul and demeaning names — saying I'm a miserable you-know-what. I tell him anyone in a relationship with him would be miserable.

Would it be OK to spill the beans to his family about what he is really doing and has done? Or would it be best to just walk away when I am finally organized in a smart enough way to leave? I really want to spill the beans to his mother. — *Apprehensive*

Dear Apprehensive: Spilling the beans wouldn't get you anything except more of a mess. Continue preparing yourself to make an exit. Seeing as you have properties and businesses together, be sure to consult a lawyer, if you haven't already. I'd also encourage you to stay with family or friends or to get a short-term rental if at all possible. Breakups are always rough,

but breaking up while continuing to live together? That's torture.

Dear Annie: Socializing is definitely critical to the development of young children, as you said to "Concerned Mommy." But it seems that the school is effectively meeting her son's academic needs, and there are activities other than school in which children can interact with their peers in ways that make positive contributions to the children's development.

Two organizations that help to produce well-rounded children are the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The youths learn many valuable things that they might otherwise not, such as camping skills, a respect for their country, compassion for others and sportsmanship.

Other activities that can allow for socialization while also teaching useful skills often not taught in school are music (especially singing in a choir), team sports, participating in library programs and volunteering.

I would strongly urge "Concerned Mommy" to investigate such activities, whether or not she switches schools. — *Scout Leader of 38 Years*

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your intuition will be extremely strong, which has its upside (you know who to talk to and who to avoid, and you can smell a winning situation from miles away) and its downside (you're sensitive to bright and noisy things).

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Be willing to fight for what's yours. This is the nature of ownership. From time to time, it gets tested. Maybe it's annoying, but at least this reminds you the value of a thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've many ways to renew your energy, some of them opposing. Exercise restores you, but so does rest — sometimes silence, other times song. Experiment. You might be surprised what makes you feel better today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There's a lot you'll do in the name of making others happy, especially those you care a great deal about. But some of these activities just aren't a good fit for you. It's the best when they smile just seeing you be you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). People don't appreciate the things that are just handed to them as much as they love the things they've worked for. Keep this in mind before you give or accept anything today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Aesthetic qualities matter to you. This isn't a signal of shallowness, far from it. Beauty is a window into the vibrancy and health of things. Color, feel, light, symmetry — they are all signals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). There's nothing quite like the feeling of people banding together for a common cause. The sense of belonging can't be beat. It doesn't take away the risk, but there's comfort in knowing the risk is shared.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's nice to be needed. It makes you feel important. But there are those who will take advantage on this, leaning on you instead of becoming self-reliant. It actually weakens them to help too much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Assumptions are bad for education. You can't learn if you think you already know. You'll learn fast once you forget what you've already got in your brain on the subject, clean the slate and begin anew.

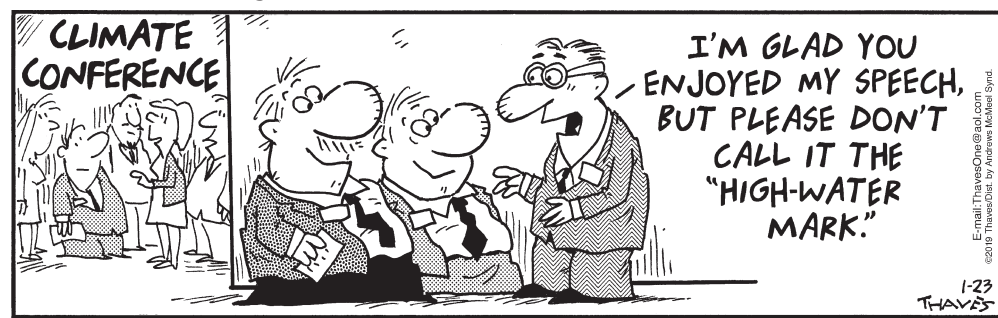
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). When you think of boredom as a kind of dull pain, it makes sense to relieve it. The best relief is actually healing, and it won't come from a distraction that takes away from an experience, it will come from going deeper into it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). It's like you're looking for yourself, even though you're not technically lost. But you sense there's more in the situation to absorb, know and feel, if you can only bring yourself fully to the moment.

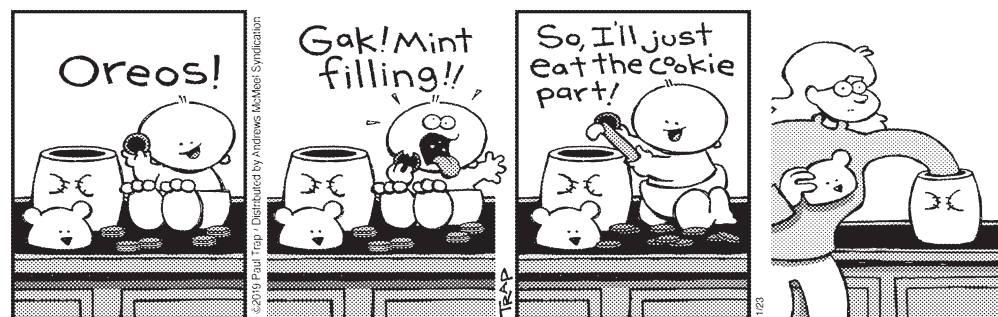
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). When people say, "You remind me of ..." it's not an insult. Rather, it's a signal of their limited experience and perception. Anyway, keep striving to be so uniquely yourself that this sort of comparison is impossible to make.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 24). It's as though your pleasure is a top priority for the universe. Many pleasing situations show up requiring very little effort from you. And as long as you keep appreciating, the gifts keep coming. March brings the sweet end to a chapter and an exciting start to the next. Travel and a business deal will be part of this. Pisces and Leo adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 3, 39, 1, 18 and 31.

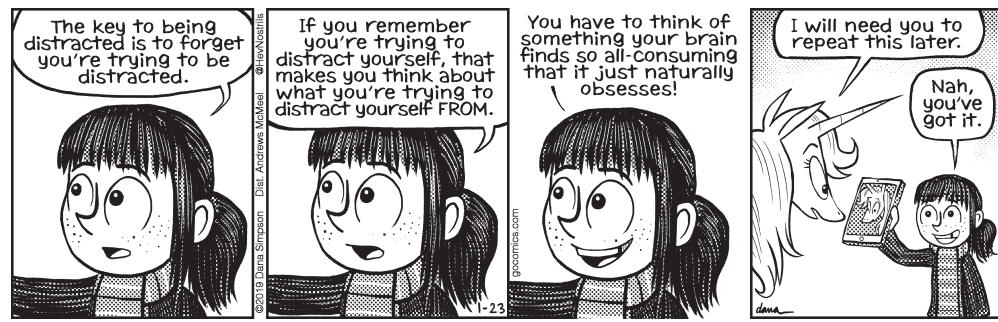
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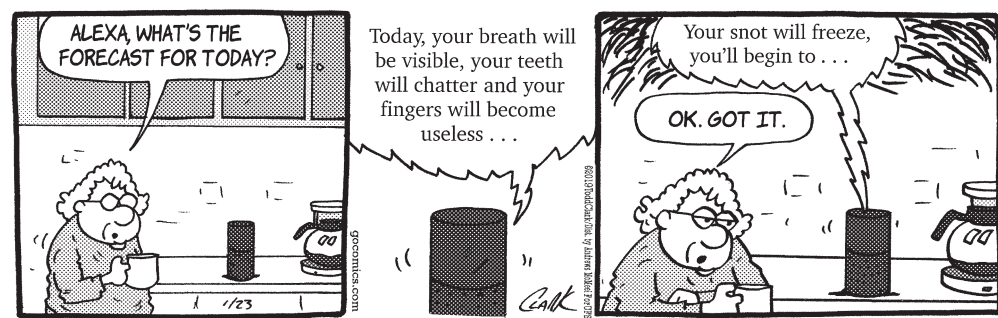
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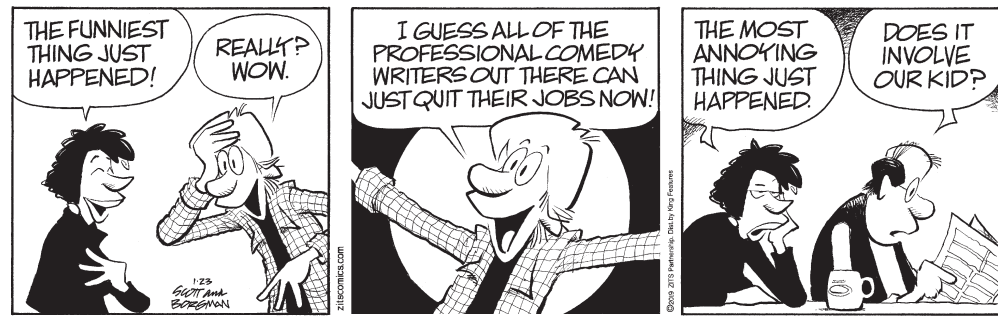
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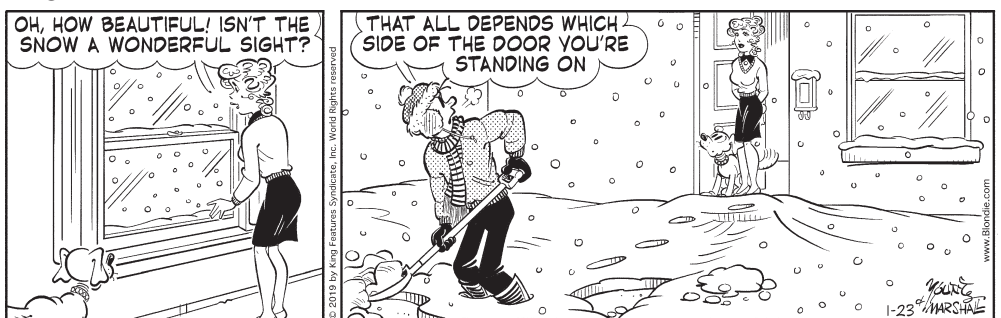
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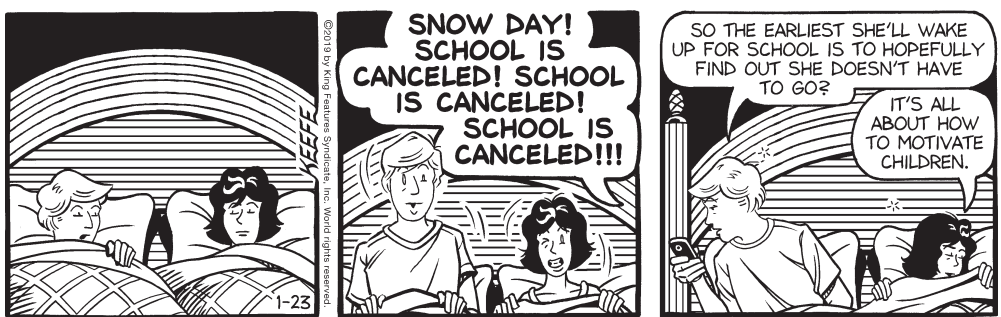
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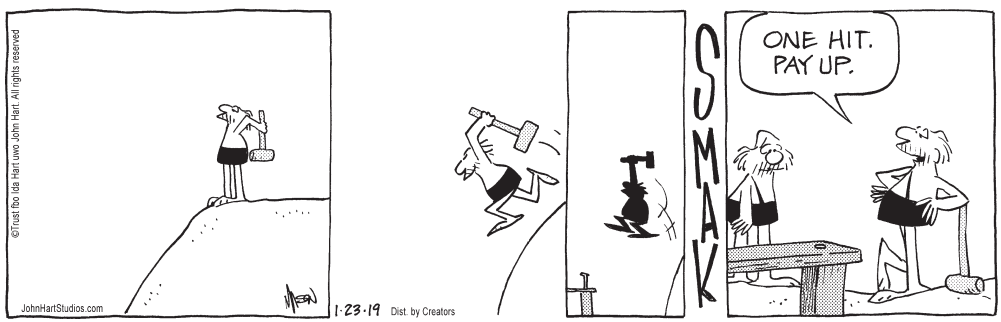
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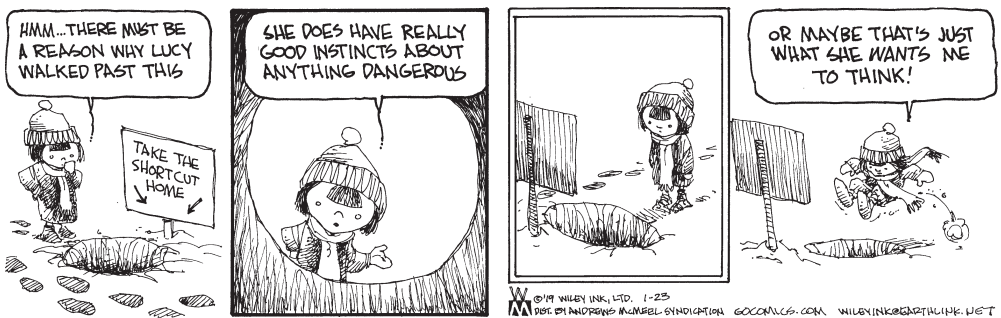
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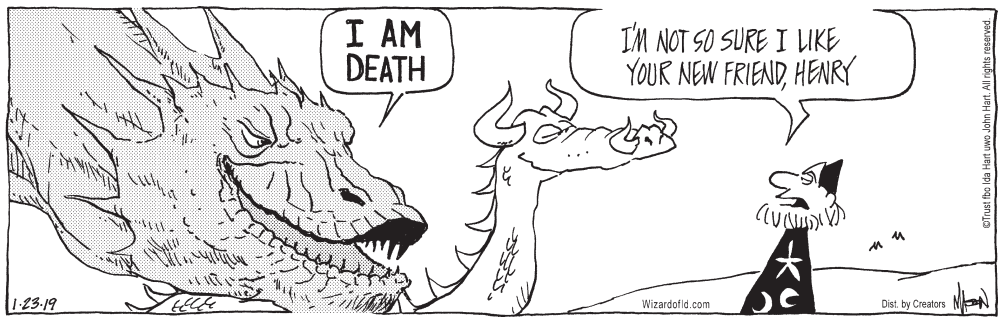
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