

Worried over family issues

Dear Annie: My daughter and daughter-in-law had a close relationship and worked together for a social networking business.

My daughter recently went through a marriage breakup, and my daughter-in-law has totally unloaded on her. She said my daughter has not been a good friend. She has brought up several issues of complaint, including some on which she is speaking for my son. My daughter-in-law has stopped their relationship. I feel that my daughter-in-law is being immature, spoiled and selfish. She has issues from her childhood. She was adopted and many years younger than her siblings. She recently found her birth parents and has established relationships with them and their families.

I don't think the relationship between my daughter and daughter-in-law will ever be as it was. But how can I help them both to get over these issues and somewhat mend

their relationship?

I feel bad for my daughter. She needs her sister-in-law now more than ever.

— *Concerned Mother and Mother-in-Law*

DEAR ANNIE



ANNIE LANE
Creators
Syndicate Inc.

Dear Concerned: I'm not really sure that what your daughter needs now more than ever is her sister-in-law — the same person who completely unloaded on her just as her marriage was breaking up. As her mother, you should take the initiative and be there for your daughter as much as possible. Having a good relationship with your daughter is in your control, and she needs your support.

At the same time, calling your daughter-in-law "immature, spoiled and selfish" is not going to help the two of them mend their differences. If anything, it will only drive a deeper wedge.

No matter how old your daughter is, sometimes a girl just needs her mother.

Be supportive of your daughter, and don't be so

judgmental about your daughter-in-law or her past, and if they are meant to be friends again, it will happen. If not, there is nothing you can do about it.

Dear Annie: I would like to add another side to the story concerning the issue of flatulence. My beautiful mother-in-law was the recipient of a colostomy bag. She was gravely ill, and this saved her life. However, her world changed drastically. She was constantly aware of noises and odors surrounding her. She withdrew and settled into a depression from worrying about this. She found herself homebound until absolutely necessary to go for groceries or checkups.

She tried several different bags, and even though she found a good one, she never regained the confidence to leave home as she once did. If someone had ever mentioned anything about the odor, she would have been mortified.

— *Stuck With It*

Dear Stuck With It: Thank you for sharing your story about your mother-in-law.

TOMORROW'S HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate Inc.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Make suggestions instead of requirements. Express preferences instead of severe declarations. Generally, go easy on yourself. Because if you're too strict today, then you'll rebel, big time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Children's faces transparently reflect the frustrations and displeasures that more mature humans learn to hide. You'll play today's social situation like a pro due to emotional restraint that's been years in the making.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). By the grace of time, you cannot acutely feel the sorrows of yesterday, though you still remember them. A picture from the past will recall a sense of what you were going through and lend perspective on today.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A power suit doesn't make a person powerful, but it can affect how powerful a person feels. Ask any superhero; the outfit matters. You'll put thought and effort into helping yourself make a confident entrance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll likely have to spell out the rules for people who don't seem to understand them. You'll never regret being patient, gentle, kind and thorough in this regard.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You can learn something from every person you meet, even the ones with far less time on the planet or expertise in a field. With your curious mind, you'll keep picking up new intelligence.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Spiritual alignment has a feeling of openness to it. You might think being so open would leave you vulnerable, but you're attracting what's good and right for you. That forms a different kind of protection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's a movie-trailer sort of a day. You will learn the gist of the story with a few key clips, get a feel for a person within a short interaction and travel a great distance emotionally in a matter of moments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It feels good to be considered for certain things, even if you don't quite get the position you were going for. It just shows that you're in your league and that when a good fit comes along, you'll slide right in.

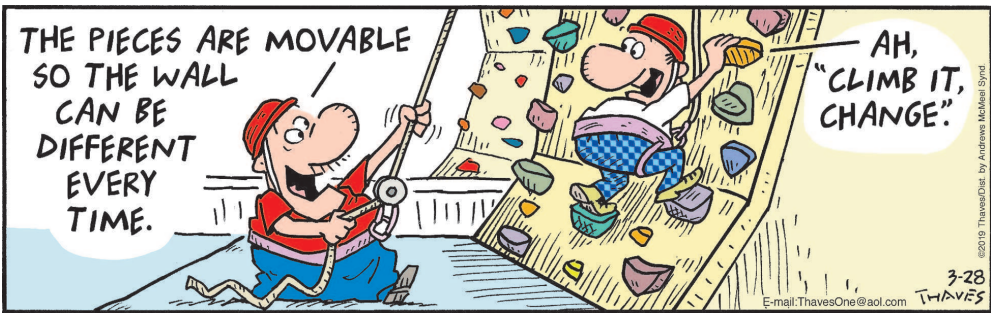
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Verbal freedom sometimes causes a backlash. But if you always thought about how your words would affect others, you wouldn't be able to express yourself at all.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll bring out the best in the people you meet today, but not out of an act of selfless and conscious goodwill. You bring out the best because that's what you actually see in them.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your idea of who you are grows with each situation you take on. So even if what you're agreeing to do seems random and you're not sure why you agreed to do it, you'll still get the gift of knowing a different part of yourself.

TOMORROW'S BIRTHDAY (March 29). The machinery that's been humming along at a moderate pace will suddenly kick into another gear. You're so productive through the next three months that by the end of June, you'll need to regroup, get organized and possibly move the operation elsewhere. Family makes you so proud in August. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 5, 30, 25, 16 and 41.

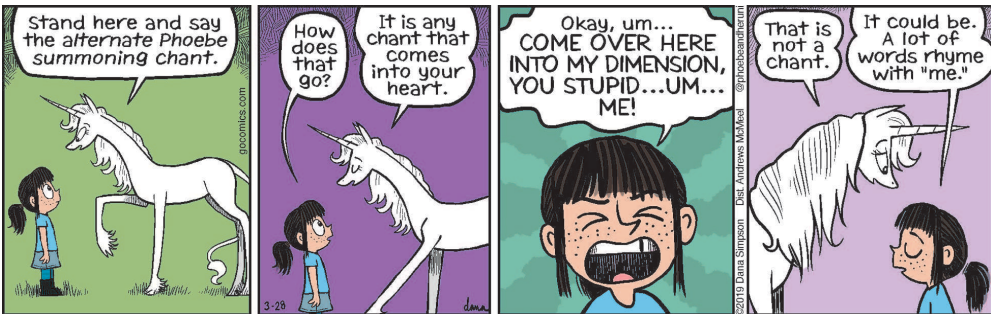
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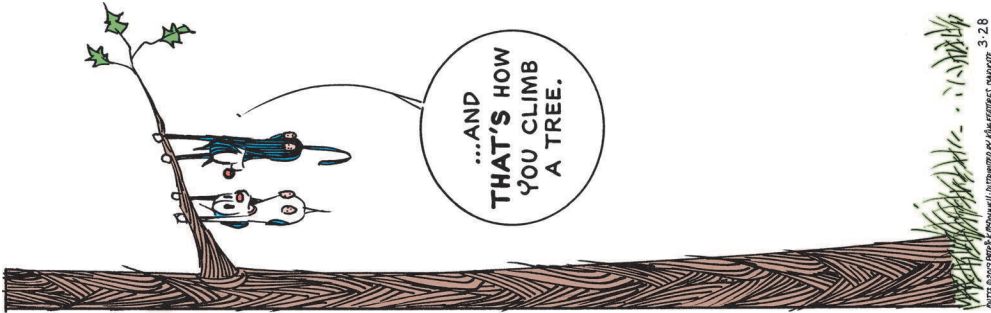
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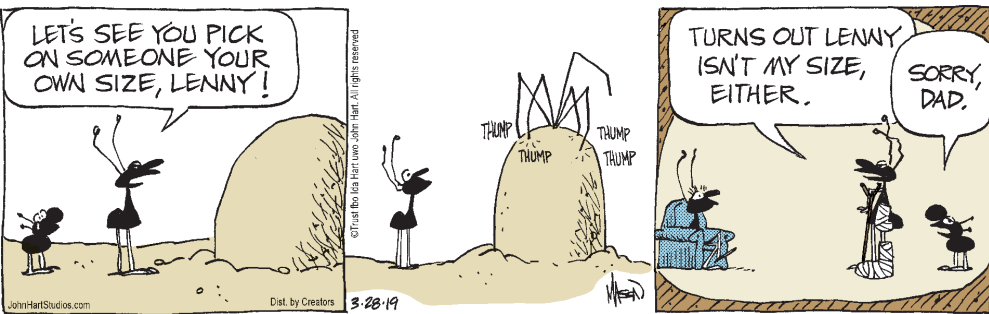
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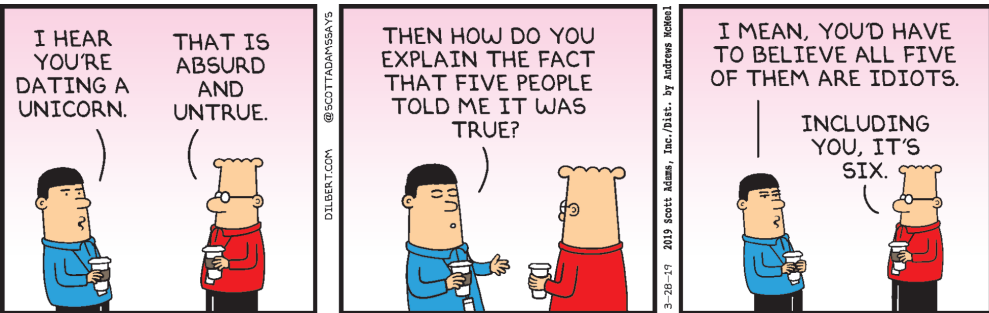
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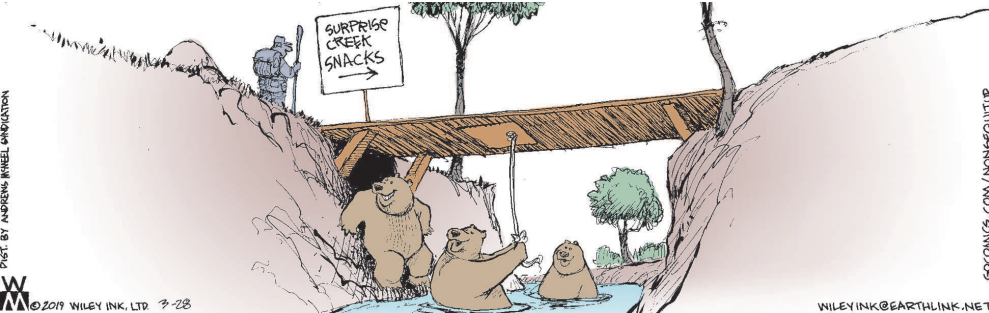
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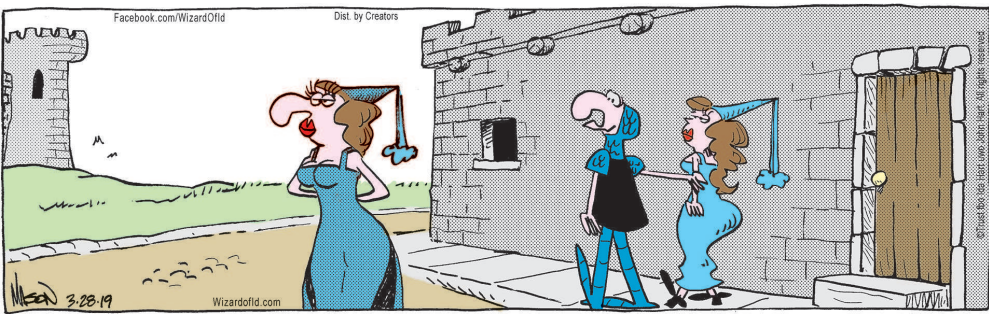
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