

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I have meddling in-laws. Anytime my husband of 20 years and I have a disagreement, he calls his parents to complain about me. On six different occasions, I found messages and Facebook chats between my husband and my in-laws in which they called me a bad mother, a terrible person, crazy, evil, the devil and disparaged my family.

Because of this, I have cut off contact with his relatives, and they cannot come to our house. My husband insists on being around them, and we argue because I want our 9-year-old son to have only limited contact with them. I don't want them tearing me down in front of him. I also expect my spouse to spend time with me and our son at holidays, but my husband says I'm being unreasonable and I should just "move on and let it go." His parents refuse to apologize. They say they have done nothing wrong. I need some objective advice.

— *Miserable in Missouri*

**Dear Miserable:** The person who has done something wrong is your husband. He should not have gone running to Mommy and Daddy when you had a disagreement. What they did was accept his side of the story and support their wounded child.

I don't blame you for not wanting your son subjected to any smack talk from his grandparents. Wanting to shield him from that doesn't make you crazy, evil, etc. Bury the hatchet with them if it's possible, and drag your husband to a licensed marriage and family therapist so he — and you

— can learn to disagree like adults.

**Dear Abby:** My mother keeps buying me (and my now-teenage daughters) clothes from a catalog for elderly women. Think lots of bird prints, florals and elastic-waist pants.

She's an amazing mother and grandmother and an inspiration in my life. I appreciate her generosity and that she thinks of us. However, none of us wear the clothes, and I don't want to hurt her feelings by telling her we are "pretty particular" when it comes to style. We are very frugal and even shop second-hand stores for some clothing.

Should I speak up, or quietly continue donating the clothes? The last thing I want is to hurt her.

— *Winning in Lansing, Mich.*

**Dear Wincing:** Do NOT tell your mother you and your daughters have been donating the clothes she orders for you. DO tell her that teenage girls these days dress much differently than women her age and yours, and that it would be "prudent" to ask them what they might like or gift them money to buy something of their own choosing. It's the truth, and she should hear it.

As to what she is ordering for you, thank her for her generosity and point out that since the pandemic began most women have been wearing jeans, sweats, leggings, etc. and that while you are grateful for her, you think she should be aware of it. Fashions change, and there is nothing so constant as change.

# Billionaire's clothing company becomes a sportswear sensation

BY MIN JEONG LEE AND YOOJUNG LEE  
Bloomberg

When it comes to Japanese retail billionaires, the first name that springs to mind might be Tadashi Yanai, the entrepreneur behind the Uniqlo brand and the nation's richest man.

But there's another founder who's drawing attention as one of his biggest companies transforms in the country.

Yoshio Tsuchiya's Workman Co. has expanded beyond its roots as a maker of drab uniforms for laborers into low-cost, functional sportswear and outdoor gear. The evolution has won praise from investors, analysts and even Fast Retailing Co.'s Yanai, who says the company has created a "new market." Other observers question whether the positive momentum has reached its limit.

Workman's shares have more than quadrupled since the start of 2018, despite paring some of their gains recently. That boosted Tsuchiya and his family's stake in the company alone to about \$4.5 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. For one analyst, the retailer has the potential to really take



Toru Hanai/The Washington Post

In 2016, Workman moved into low-cost outdoor gear before opening its first WORKMAN Plus store, like the one shown above, two years later to focus on sports and outdoor clothing.

off when the country gets clear of the covid-19 pandemic.

"It's one of the more exciting stories in Japanese retail" once things get back to normal, said Ruhell Amin, global head of retail equity research at William O'Neil & Co. in London.

Tsuchiya opened Workman's first store in 1979 when he was in his late 40s. The company specialized in work clothing for construction laborers, a booming business in the country's bubble economy of the 1980s.

In 2016, Workman moved into low-cost outdoor gear before opening its first WORK-

MAN Plus store two years later to focus on sports and outdoor clothing. The company had 632 regular stores and 269 WORKMAN Plus shops across Japan as of March 10, often in areas where blue-collar workers live.

One popular product is a waterproof jacket that costs \$36 (3,900 yen), much lower than comparable offerings by other companies. A "climb light jacket" from The North Face, for example, retails for about \$300 (33,000 yen).

"Because our clothes were originally designed to suit workers, they weren't inferior to sportswear in function-

ality, and most importantly, they could be made at cheap prices," Tetsuo Tsuchiya, a family member and senior managing director at Workman, said in an interview with I'Media Business Online in January. "We realized that was Workman's strength."

Richard Kaye, a portfolio manager at Comgest Asset Management Japan Ltd., which owns Workman shares, said the quality of the company's products can be better than more expensive brands because of its established supply chain.

The apparel maker boasts "high performance at one-half to one-third the cost of famous brands," Ryoza Minagawa, a senior analyst at SMBC Nikko Securities Inc. in Tokyo, wrote in a November note. It has "no competition" in the cheap sportswear segment, he wrote.

"I want them to keep it up — competition is a source of development," Fast Retailing's Yanai told reporters following an earnings release in October when asked about the threat of Workman. "We created a new market and so has Workman," he said. "The clothes have functionality, and I think they're very good."

**YOUR HOROSCOPE** *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021:** Confident, enthusiastic and impulsive, the desire to learn and grow moves you in a positive direction. This year, you acquire knowledge that enhances your ability to connect with people personally and professionally. Keep an eye on your finances since you may be tempted to spend more than usual for business and pleasure. If single, friendship may lead to love. If attached, your partner is your biggest cheerleader. CAPRICORN directs your energy.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★★★ Spend the day outdoors with someone special. Make sure there are no crossed wires and you both agree about the game plan. Look forward to a deep conversation. Give your point of view sweetly, though firmly. Tonight: Sample something sweet.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★★ You may be preoccupied with an unfinished project. Work on it in the morning, and then set it aside. Children and grandchildren may come to visit. Brush up on your cooking skills. Experiment with herbs and spices. Tonight: Family film.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★★★ Get your household chores done early. Take a car, bus or train ride somewhere off the beaten track. You may be invited to a gathering or party. Someone you meet could become an important contact. Tonight: Phone a friend.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★★ Attending a sporting event or watching it from home may define your day. Try to persuade an out-of-town relative to come for a visit. If that does not work, arrange to Zoom with several family members. Tonight: Solve a problem.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★★★ Enjoy your breakfast and the morning paper before the day takes you by storm. You may want to indulge in a lazy Sunday, but others have different plans. Bite the bullet and go out with friends. Tonight: Carve out alone time.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★★ You may discover you have less cash on hand than you thought. Explore online bargains and creative ways to buy what you need. Think of it as a treasure hunt. Involve your family and compare what you find. Tonight: Relaxation.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★★★ Family may make plans without asking you. Be accommodating and assertive. You know how to bring others around to your point of view. Take advantage of that quality. Make others feel they have gotten what they want. Tonight: Online shopping.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★★ Be sure to jot down last night's dream. It might contain an illuminating message. Ask someone you love for a favor you have been hesitant to bring up. The positive response may surprise you. Tonight: Start an exciting page-turner.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★★★ Reflect on advice you recently received from friends. They know you well and can provide the objectivity you need. Think about joining a book club. You will expand your social circle when you widen your interests. Tonight: Laughing out loud.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★★ Pat yourself on the back for making it through a challenging week. The recognition you receive will boost your confidence. Share happy thoughts with someone feeling down. Talk them into going for a walk in the park. Tonight: Artistic impulses.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★★ Research destinations for a family trip. The good news is, if you do your homework, you'll discover the perfect place at a great price. Children and grandchildren may provide you with surprising tips on where to go. Tonight: Dance party.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★★ The entrepreneur in you is ready to emerge. Use your natural charm, and someone may be interested in marketing your ideas or selling your products. Ask an informed friend to guide you through the process. Tonight: Catch up with friends.

**GO!** Central Oregon's source for events, arts & entertainment

Pick up Thursday's Bulletin for weekly event coverage and calendars

**HOBBY LOBBY** FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU OR SHOP ONLINE AT [HOBBYLOBBY.COM](http://HOBBYLOBBY.COM)  
STORE HOURS: 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. • CLOSED SUNDAY  
PRICES GOOD IN STORES MONDAY, MARCH 29 - SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021.  
PRICES GOOD ONLINE SUNDAY, MARCH 28 - SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021.  
SOME ADVERTISED ITEMS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. SALES SUBJECT TO SUPPLY IN STOCK. NO DISCOUNTS APPLY TO REDUCED ITEMS.

**HOME DECOR 50% OFF**  
FEATURING TABLE DECOR  
Categories Listed

Does not include Seasonal Department, Photo Frames or items labeled Wall Decor and Gifts

- Glass Decor**  
Glass Department and craft glass containers  
Does not include craft stained glass
- Ceramic, Resin & Pottery Decor**  
Does not include "Your Price" items
- Decorative Lanterns, Birdcages & Terrariums**
- Wicker Department**  
Decorative storage, boxes, trays, metal & cloth
- Decorative Table Clocks, Spheres & Globes**
- Lamps & Lampshades**
- Floral Containers & Vases**  
Ceramic, glass, pottery, resin, wood & metal  
Does not include "Your Price" items
- Wooden Table Decor & Plaques**

**Easter, Summer and items labeled The Spring Shop™ are not included in Home Decor sale.**

REWARD POINTS ARE DELAYED AND INCONVENIENT DISCOUNTS. WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF PRESENT-TIME DISCOUNTS EVERY WEEK.

**EASTER PARTY, CRAFTS & DECORATIONS 40% OFF**  
Plush Animals, Paper Plates & Napkins, Home Decor, Baskets, Plastic Eggs, Crafts, Fabric and More  
Does not include candy

**SUMMER TOYS 40% OFF**  
Includes Little Wishes®

**Items Labeled THE SPRING SHOP™ 40% OFF**  
Fashion Items in Tableware, Garden, Wall Decor, Home Decor, Storage and More

**WEDDING 50% OFF**  
Categories Listed  
All Items Labeled Studio His & Hers®  
Invitations, toasting glasses, ring pillows, bouquets and more  
Ribbon & Trims by the Roll  
Ribbon, bows, tulle & deco mesh in our Wedding, Floral and Fabric Departments

**ALL YARN 30% OFF**  
Every skein, brand, color and size  
Does not include thread and floss

**WEARABLE ART 30% OFF**  
Always 30% off the marked price\*  
Includes Youth and Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirts, Baseball & Long-Sleeve T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Infant & Toddler T-Shirts and Creepsies  
Does not include Cricut® branded apparel

**BEST-SELLING BOOKS**  
Bibles, Devotionals, Gift Books and Children's Books  
ALWAYS 40% - 50% OFF THE MARKED PRICE\*

**PARTY**  
Streamers 200' Roll 99¢  
Solid Color Tissue Paper 8 count 99¢  
All Paper Napkins, Cups & Plates Solids & Prints 50% OFF  
Candy Waters 1.99  
12 oz bag Regular 2.99  
24 oz Fondant 5.99 and up  
White Fondant 15.99  
5 lb Vanilla

**CANDLES & CANDLE HOLDERS 50% OFF**  
Candles, Candle Holders, Scones, LED Candles, Potpourri, Diffusers, Oils, Room Sprays, Fragrance Cubes & Warmers  
Priced \$2.99 & Up  
Does not include "Your Price" items

**CRAFTS 30% OFF**  
Categories Listed  
Candle Wax, Candle Gel, Soap Blocks & Bases  
Paper Mache Boxes, Shapes, Letters & Numbers All Sizes  
Leather and Leather Kits Priced \$4.99 & Up  
Individual Diamond Dotz® Includes open stock & sampler pack  
Krylon® Spray Paint

**PAPER CRAFTS 40% OFF**  
Categories Listed  
The Paper Studio® & Cricut® Vinyl  
Single Sheets, Rolled Vinyl & Iron-On  
Does not include machines, EasyPress™ and BrightPad™  
Tim Holtz® Products  
Planners & Planner Stickers by The Happy Planner® and Agenda 52®  
Sizzix® & Spellbinders® Die Cutting Products  
Does not include machines  
All Punches & Punch Sets  
Rubber Stamps and Ink Pads  
Includes Clear, Cling and Sets

**ART SALE 50% OFF**  
All Master's Touch® & Fine Touch®  
Single & Packaged Brushes, Artist Pads & Sketch Books, Art Canvas & Panels, Tube & Jar Paints and Mediums  
Does not include "Your Price" items

**Master's Touch® Art Sets 50% OFF**  
Acrylic, Oil, Watercolor, Pencil & Pastel

**All Art Tables & Easels 50% OFF**

**JEWELRY MAKING 50% OFF**  
Categories Listed  
Explorer by Traditions™  
Pendants, beads and filligree inspired by world travels  
Swarovski® & Create Your Style™  
Includes beads, flatback stones and charms. Does not include hotfix stones  
Bead Stringing by On-A-Cord™, On-A-String™ & On-A-Wire™  
Vintaj®  
Unique artisan components made in the USA

**Scissors & Rotary Cutters**  
Fiskars® and Singer®  
Sewology® Sewing Notions  
Home Decor Pillow Covers

**FABRIC 50% OFF**  
Categories Listed  
Ribbon, Trim & Tulle Spools  
Does not include ribbon, trim or tulle sold by the yard or Seasonal Department  
Home Decor & Apparel Trim By the Yard

**CUSTOM FRAMES 50% OFF**  
Always 50% off the marked price\*  
Applies to frame only. See store for details.  
Compare our prices with our competitors' larger in-store discounts.  
**FREE QUOTES**  
See our Great Selection. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

**FURNITURE 30% OFF**  
ALWAYS THE MARKED PRICE\*

\*Discounts provided every day; marked prices reflect general U.S. market value for similar products. No coupons or other discounts may be applied to "Your Price" items.