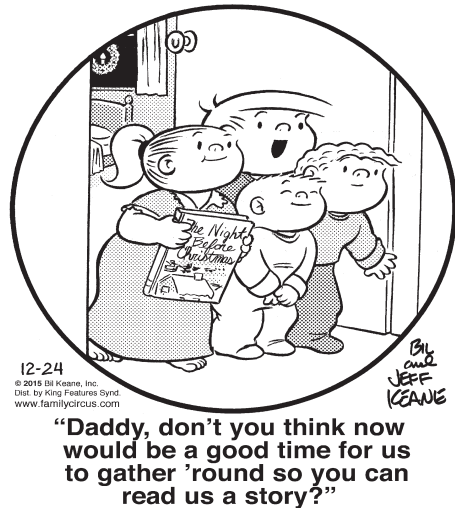


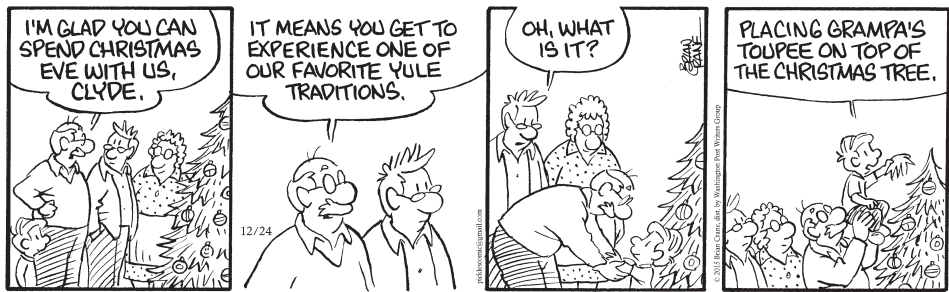
FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



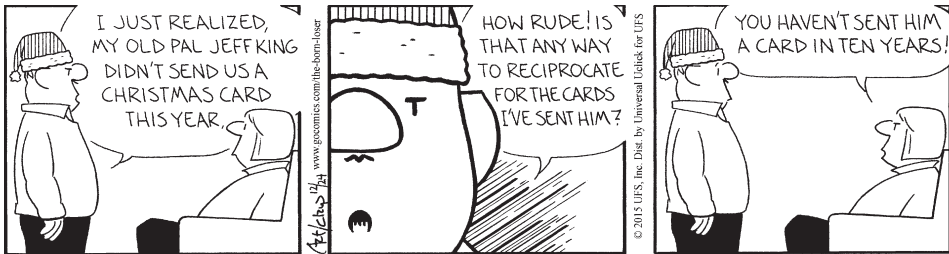
PICKLES | BRIAN CRANE



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



BORN LOSER | ART SAMSON



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



## Mom Is Exposed As Accomplice By Daughter's Rude Classmate

**DEAR ABBY:** My 7-year-old daughter, "Rosie," recently came home in tears because a classmate, "Emily," told her I was a liar and she was an idiot for believing my lies. Then Rosie asked me if I had been the one putting money under her pillow and presents under the tree all along. Ultimately, I told her that, yes, I had. But I stressed how important it was that she not ruin other kids' belief in the tooth fairy, etc.

The cat is out of the bag for my child, but do you think I should mention this to Emily's mother? We are friendly, but not close. She lives near me, so I run into her often. I'm not just upset that Emily told Rosie, but also that she was so rude. I don't want that girl to do this to more kids.

It's not about criticizing the mother's parenting skills. My kids need correction sometimes, too. I just believe it takes a village and we should all work together as parents. What are your thoughts? — CAT'S OUT OF THE BAG IN MARYLAND

**DEAR CAT'S OUT:** It's a shame that your daughter got the news the way she did. But in situations like this, when one child knows something the others don't, it's not unusual for the child to share the "news."

Emily was out of line to have said what she did to your daughter, particularly in saying that she couldn't trust you, because it could have far-reaching implications. By all means have a word with Emily's mother.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have an extreme aversion to alcohol and those who consume it. I suspect that it comes from having a father who was a violent, emotionally abusive alcoholic. Alcohol has zero appeal for me and, as I'm in my mid-20s, it's difficult for me to go on outings with friends without having to go to

a bar. I become that grumpy, silent person in the corner.

Because of this, my fiancée has begun socializing with her family and our friends without me. Most recently, they celebrated a sibling's 21st birthday and left me home across the country. Talking to her and knowing she's at a bar and drinking makes me extremely angry, and we almost always end up in a fight about it.

I know this is MY problem. Do you have any advice on getting over it? — DOESN'T TOUCH THE STUFF IN LAS VEGAS

**DEAR DOESN'T TOUCH:** Yes. Either get counseling for your issues and to help you recognize that not everyone who enjoys an alcoholic beverage is an alcoholic, or find a woman to marry whose views more closely match your own. There is a support group called Adult Children of Alcoholics that might be helpful to you if you attend some meetings. You can find a group near you by going to [www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org).

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

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## JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should refer to the dates following each sign.

A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and a Moon in Gemini.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 2015:**

This year you express unique versatility, which is likely to enchant many people around you. Your reputation as a very serious person could lose some of its power, but don't worry about it. You will become more likable! If you are single, someone from a very different culture strolls into your life. This relationship could be more important than you realize. If you are attached, the two of you will schedule a long-discussed trip. As a couple, you could opt to take the next step in your relationship. GEMINI's chatter sometimes annoys you.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)**

★★★★ As you put the final touches on holiday preparations, you might feel more discomfort than you thought possible. Someone close to you might be asking for a certain amount of attention, but you could be too busy. Keep communication flowing anyway. Tonight: Get into the moment.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)**

★★★ Curb a tendency to be overly possessive or too touchy. Step back, and allow a loved one to run with the moment. You might have some last-minute details to take care of, which actually could make or break someone's holiday. Tonight: Indulge a loved one rather than withdraw.

**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)**

★★★★ You'll watch others' reactions as the holiday season starts playing out. A family member seems to be more upbeat than he or she has been in a substantial period of time. How you indulge this person will make all the difference in what goes down. Tonight: All smiles.

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)**

★★★ Understand what is going on with others. This holiday season has presented situations where you have needed to play a lesser role. You have experienced a certain amount of anxiety or discomfort regarding this change. Remain positive. Tonight: Life is about to get much livelier.

**LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)**

★★★★ Start a conversation with someone whom you experience tension around. Get over the hump by allowing each of you to relax and con-

nect. You might be spending a lot on a last-minute item that you have decided you want to purchase. Tonight: With your loved ones.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)**

★★★★ You might feel as if nearly anything is possible. You could find your interactions with someone in your daily life to be much easier. This person could be a boss, parent or older friend. Wherever you are, avoid taking on more responsibility. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

**LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)**

★★★★ You could be at a point where you want to run away. Don't worry -- you won't need to. Recognize how close to the finish line you are. You could be delighted by what someone at a distance decides to share. Expect a fast turnaround with your feelings. Tonight: Use your instincts.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)**

★★★★ Understand what needs to happen between you and someone else. Once the two of you click, you won't want to separate, even if you have been in each other's lives for a while. Do what you want for at least a little while; it's your holiday too! Tonight: Beam in what you want.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)**

★★★★ You won't want to cause any uproar, as it's the holiday season and bridges are mending. Others observe your attitude and like what they see. You still might be upset about a matter that you have not discussed yet. Make a point of doing so in the near future. Tonight: Make plans.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)**

★★★ You might wind up being responsible for a bit too much. You do such a good job when others delegate errands to you that you could get stuck with too much on your plate. Try to say "no" more often. News heads your way that delights you. Tonight: You know the drill.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)**

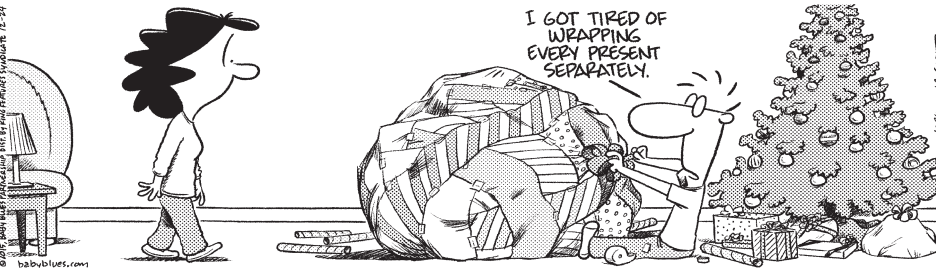
★★★★ You'll feel like a kid, no matter what age you are. You could hit a snafu with a misunderstanding. Maintain a positive outlook. You will witness what happens when you smile more. Others are likely to return the same type of friendliness. Tonight: Get into your Santa gear.

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)**

★★★ You could be in a position of having to accept what is happening, even if it upsets you. You will opt for the well-being of the group instead of just yourself. Your caring ways will touch many people, and you will have time for a discussion in a few days. Tonight: Not too late.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

