

FAMILY CIRCUS | BILL KEANE



1-19  
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"Wow! You're right, Mommy! I DID find it hangin' in my closet."  
Bill Keane  
JEFF KEANE

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CHIMP CLOWN

# Couple's Age Gap Poses Challenges To Be Overcome

DEAR ABBY: I am dating a man, "Richard," who is significantly older - 17 years, actually. I'm in my mid-20s. I have no problem with it, as I have always been attracted to men who are older and have their lives together.

My parents are cool with it, but I know they have their reservations. Richard is not a sugar daddy; I don't love him for his money. I have my own success. I don't have "daddy issues," as my father is an amazing person who has raised me and my siblings well. My parents are still together and are great role models.

My friends can't find anything in common with Richard when we all hang out. It seems everyone around us is giving us grief - including his parents. I understand the concern, but how can I convince everyone that I'm happy and willing to take this relationship wherever it goes? — AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

DEAR AGE: The way to do that is simply to be happy and take the relationship one step at a time. While you're doing that, accept that relationships with this kind of age disparity are not without challenges. The friends you have now may never be comfortable around Richard, and you may have to make new ones closer to his age. Also, the women may look askance at you for being so young.

These things can be overcome. What bothers me about this scenario is that this man's parents are weighing in. By now one would think they would have accepted that their son is an adult and capable of making his own decisions about the women in his life.

DEAR ABBY: A good friend and I are having a disagreement. My 17-year-old son has a 16-year-old girlfriend. I know they are sexually active.

I spoke to my son and asked if she's on the pill. He said her mom refuses to put her on the pill. I gave my son \$10, had a long talk about unwanted pregnancy, and told him to buy a box of condoms every few weeks and

bring me the receipt so I know the money is being spent on condoms.

My problem is, my friend disagrees with me about what I did. She accused me of encouraging them. If I had a daughter, I'd buy the pill for her, so why not pay for condoms for my son? Who is right and who is wrong here? — MISSOURI MOM

DEAR MISSOURI MOM: The girl's mother may think that by not providing her sexually active daughter with birth control, she is discouraging her from having sex. Clearly that hasn't happened. Of course you are right to make sure your son doesn't impregnate his girlfriend. Neither one of them is ready for the financial and emotional responsibility of a child.

Something I'm unclear about is why your friend is trying to guilt you out of it, when she should be minding her own business. Please tell her I said so.

DEAR READERS: Today we remember the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was martyred in the cause of civil rights in 1968. His words ring as true today as when he first spoke them: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

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 or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, 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 and Moon in Capricorn.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JAN. 19, 2015:

This year your ingenuity soars. You seem to have the right solution for nearly everything. Others often seek you out for advice as your reputation grows. If you are single, be careful, as you could fall for someone who is married or otherwise unavailable, especially in the first half of your birthday year. The second half of the year, someone special who seems to fit your needs is likely to enter your life. If you are attached, guard against being too me-oriented. Remember that your significant other is an equal partner in the relationship. You could be dealing with an unusual amount of CAPRICORNS this year. You all seem to have a tremendous need for control.

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)

★★★★ The unexpected is likely to play a role in your morning events. As a result, someone might become very controlling. Pressure continues to build, yet you'll be able to dispel that heaviness through your sense of humor. Focus on one item at a time. Tonight: Out till the wee hours.

### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★ Be willing to detach, especially if a situation seems off. A comment could trigger you to look at the matter objectively. You might be pushing yourself a little too hard. A friend is likely to present a problem, but know that some details are missing. Tonight: A must appearance.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that is happening. Deal with a loved one directly, and you will feel better. You might feel as if you are pushing yourself too hard and as if others don't seem to appreciate your efforts. Tonight: Spend some time with a favorite person.

### CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ People know how to get you to react. You might not be sure about the outcome of a matter involving others because of details that seem to be missing. Your creativity will open doors for you. Tonight: Defer to someone else, especially if you are not sure of yourself.

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

★★★★ You'll be on top of a situation, yet the

unexpected might play a significant role. Listen to others carefully, because you or another person easily could misinterpret a situation. Be careful when dealing with a controlling person. Tonight: Get some form of exercise.

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

★★★★ Open up to new possibilities. Your logic might not be as strong as your intuition right now. You could be unusually vague without intending to. How you follow through on a major project will depend on new information. Tonight: Ignore the fact that it is Tuesday.

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

★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by everything that falls on your plate. A partner seems to be adding to the excitement around you. Be direct in your dealings, and ask for a clarification if you feel confused. Your ability to see past the obvious allows greater flexibility. Tonight: At home.

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

★★★★ Stay on top of someone's demands, especially if you feel as though you should remain responsive. You could see that there is another way to handle a problem. Follow through on that thought. Tonight: A misunderstanding could happen with a loved one. Be explicit.

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

★★★★ You could feel as if someone is manipulating you financially. You also might not be sure which way to turn in order to handle the problem. Make sure that all parties involved are on the same page as far as objectives go. Tonight: Handle a problem now.

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

★★★★ You are likely to go back and forth regarding a personal matter. It's likely that you'll need to use your clout to handle this properly. You might be harder on the other party than you realize. Be as clear as possible with your instructions. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

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

★★★★ You could feel pushed beyond your normal levels, and you might be in a position where you are feeling unsure about the best way to express your feelings. Honor a change of pace and slow down. Give it a day or two, and your position will change. Tonight: Easy weeks.

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

★★★★ You might feel as if you have no choice. Remain secure about your choices, and know what your alternatives are. A meeting could be a little too controlled for your taste. Be willing to reveal more of what ails you. Tonight: A friend will appreciate your call.

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