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# **Mastectomy Fails To Chase Man From His Wife's Side**

**DEAR ABBY** 

Dear Abby is written

by Abigail Van Buren,

also known as Jeanne

founded by her mother,

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Phillips, and was

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geles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I am writing in response to "Anonymous in Wisconsin" (Aug. 11), the can-cer survivor whose husband has lost interest in her after her double mastectomy. I am OUT-RAGED by his insensitivity and lack of love. She says she doesn't want to leave him. My question to her is, why not? She deserves better.

I am a cancer survivor who was diagnosed with breast cancer seven months after I was married. Prior to my decision to have a radical mastectomy, I offered my husband the chance to leave. (After all, one doesn't expect worse" to come so soon after the wedding.) The prospect of children, which we had discussed and was important to us, was uncertain because of my subsequent chemotherapy. My husband didn't hesitate. He said, "You would not leave me. We will adopt."

On our first wedding anniversary I was bald, and he treated me to a beautiful, romantic getaway. Although I did have reconstruction, it was a long process. He was supportive from day one.

Fifteen years later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer again. I had another radical mastectomy followed by chemo and reconstruction. Åbby, my husband again made me

feel beautiful even when I didn't. There are men out there who define a woman not by the size of her breasts, but by the beauty of her heart. - SURVIVOR IN NATICK, MASS.

DEAR SURVIVOR: I want to thank you and the many breast cancer survivors who wrote me — and their supportive spouses — for telling me your personal stories. Readers, I am printing this to remind you that October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I had to write to "Anonymous." I kept hoping my husband of 20 years would change his mind and accept my new body. However, because he could not, I chose to divorce him and it liberated me.

At first, I felt that if the one person who was supposed to care couldn't look at me,

# 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 Libra and a Moon in Leo if born before 11:52 a.m. (PDT). Afterward, the Moon will be in Virgo.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 1, 2013:

This year you will alternate between being the extreme extrovert and the recluse whom no one can find. You will network and expand your horizons, yet you also will take frequent timeouts. During the more introverted periods, you will reflect and verify whether you have made the right choices for yourself. If you are single, meeting people comes easily; however, learning to choose the right person is a different issue entirely. If you are attached, enjoy the closeness that the two of you create as a couple. LEO can be hard on you, but he or she won't ever criticize you in public. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5then no other man would either. I was wrong. After five years of dating, I never once encountered a man who was as insensitive as my husband had been. I have now found the man of my dreams.

In some respects, my "medical adven-

tures," as I refer to them, were the best thing that ever happened. They enabled me to see my ex for who he really was, and find a man who truly IS a man. — GOT A NEW SET AND A NEW LIFE

DEAR ABBY: Breast cancer doesn't ruin your life unless you let it.

I am 66 years old. When I was in high school, my mom had a breast removed. My parents and I just took it in stride. It didn't define us. Dad adored her.

Mom would come in dressed up for whatever reason and ask, "Åm I even?" because the "falsies" then were made of foam and were lightweight. She kept the vacation money pinned to it. She made a few new friends faint when she used it as a pin cushion. Dad died at 90, and Mom died the following year.

Mom could have helped "Anonymous." She would have cut

her a slice of homemade pie, poured a cup of coffee, sat down at the table and just talked to her. Women need other women. "Anonymous" should find a friend who has gone through the same thing and talk and pray. She needs both. — EARLENE IN TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: My wife went through a lumpectomy, chemotherapy, then radiation. During that time she went to work every day, except when she had a treatment.

Of course, I have a visual reminder of what she went through when we share an intimate moment, but she has had to deal with it every day of her life since then. When I see her scar, I think about how strong she was going through that difficult period of time. Rather than drive us apart, it has brought us closer together than I ever thought possible. — HUSBAND OF A BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR

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of yourself as you would like to be in the afternoon. Realize that there is a good reason for this lack of confidence, as someone could be trying to sabotage your plans. Tonight: Head home early.

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

★★★★ You might sense a change of energy midday. Use the high energy of the afternoon to forge ahead with an important cause; otherwise, a loved one could become very difficult. Understand that this person is set on having things go his or her way. Tonight: Enjoy the moment

#### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-0CT. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Use the morning to the fullest, when networking is favored and getting along with others is highlighted. You will have your way, as long as you use the time well. By the afternoon, you could feel overwhelmed and be in need of some per sonal time. Tonight: Be less available.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

 $\star \star \star \star$  Be aware of the fact that you are

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#### **GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS



# BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



#### HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



#### THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM



#### **MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM** | MIKE PETERS



Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

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

 $\star \star \star$  Others desire your precision and your ability to handle details. Your compassion comes across through your semi-businesslike attitude. When you express your feelings, the other party gets the message. Tonight: The challenge is not to get involved in a power play

#### TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

 $\star \star \star \star$  The morning might be the most important part of your day. Your follow-through counts with a boss or with someone you would like to impress. Your creativity will inspire others, especially a close friend. Tonight: Live today as if there were no tomorrow.

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

★★★★★ You will flow with ease in the morning. Make important calls at that time, and/or handle any dealings involving others. By afternoon, you will be best served by cocooning at home. Know that you will get a lot done once you emerge, and quickly at that. Tonight: Head home.

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

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Try to be more in sync with others, and know full well what you need to do. Honor a change that is going on, even if you do not necessarily feel comfortable with it. Let someone know how much you care. Plan to visit this person soon. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

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

★★★ Move forward with a project that has been on the back burner. You might not be as sure

# **BABY BLUES** | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

about to accept yet another responsibility. If you don't want to take on this task, make yourself more aware of the nuances in your conversations. A meeting in the afternoon could be your major concern. Tonight: Only where your friends are.

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

 $\star \star \star$  You'll have a limited amount of time to proceed in a certain direction or to blaze a new trail. Allow your innate leadership qualities to emerge. Know that the possibility exists that you no longer will have the same freedom to explore alternatives. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  A partner might demand more of your attention than you willingly want to give him or her this morning. Do not be surprised if this behavior resurges later today. Detach, and perhaps distance yourself, in order to see how to integrate what you must do. Tonight: Surf the Web.

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

★★★★ You might feel as if you are a social director on a cruise, as so many people want to see you and speak with you. You give a sense of direction to many people's dreams. Someone might want to isolate you in order to monopolize your time. Tonight: Visit with friends over dinner.

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

★★★★ Get an early start, if possible, and handle the most important matters first. You could find that you won't be able to concentrate to the same degree, come afternoon. A meeting with a boss or parent might steal the scene. Listen to what this person says. Tonight: Opt to not be alone.

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### FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



