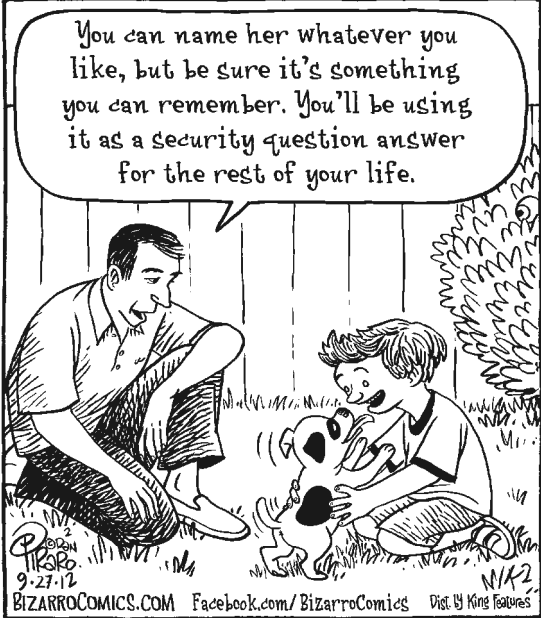


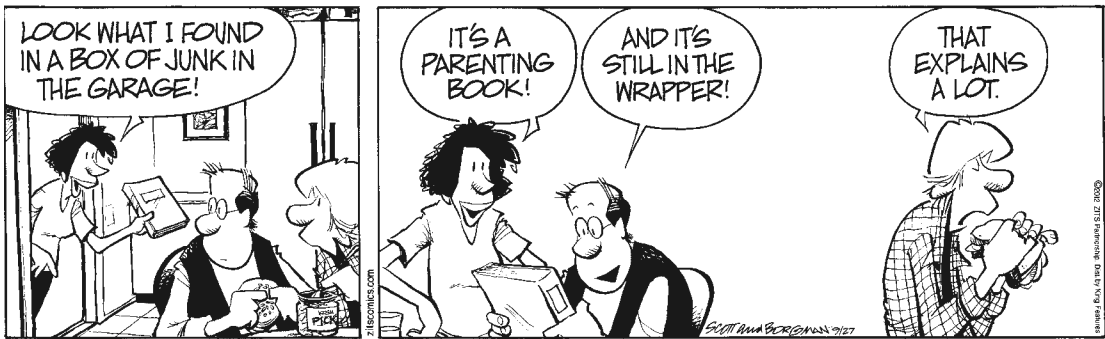
FAMILY CIRCUS | BIL KEANE



BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES



PEANUTS | CHARLES M. SCHULZ



DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE



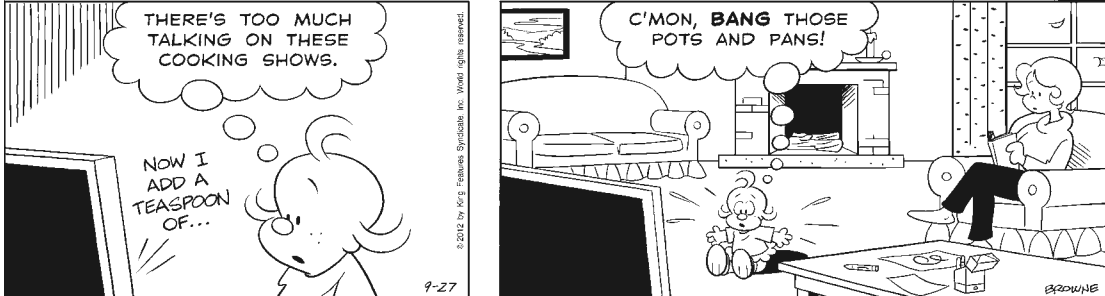
GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSON



Breakup Of Long Marriage May Be Only A Short-Term Thing

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I just got some shocking news. His father — age 81 — is leaving his wife of 60 years! Mom is not entirely self-sufficient and seems dependent on him.

Dad found himself a younger woman — a “chick” of 70. He has announced that he still has sexual needs and wants to enjoy the rest of his life. My husband thinks it will be a short-term fling and he’ll return to Mom, but she says she won’t be taking him back. (Who knows how she’ll feel later?)

My problem is, no matter what happens between them, I’m having a hard time even considering forgiving him for his selfishness. I know it’s not my place as his daughter-in-law, but I don’t know how I can bring myself to face him feeling as I do. Any words of wisdom? — JUDGMENTAL JUDY IN ARIZONA

DEAR JUDGMENTAL JUDY: I do have a few. If your mother-in-law hasn’t already done so, make sure she gets the best legal advice possible. After 60 years of marriage, there should be plenty of assets to split. They will make her financially independent, and from that, emotional independence will follow. Do not count her out as a weak sister just yet because she appears to be stronger than you think.

While it’s possible your father-in-law may want to reunite after the fling, it is equally possible that when the “chick” sees his nest egg is cracked in half, he will be less appealing to her. Only time will tell. In the meantime, keep the peace, bide your time, and as tempting as it may be to voice everything that’s on your mind, keep your lip zipped. This isn’t your marriage, so don’t stir the pot.

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to “Tom,” the love of my life, for four years. We have been to-

gether more than 10 years and have a 2-year-old daughter.

Tom was diagnosed with a terminal illness early last year and is close to the end now. He’s very angry, which I understand, but he takes it out on me since I am his caregiver. I’m also a full-time student about to graduate with my degree in registered nursing, so I’m busy all the time.

Between school, my daughter and giving full care to my husband, I’m stressed out. He yells a lot about everything, from money woes to the wrong bread on his sandwich. To top it off, we haven’t been intimate since our daughter was born.

I’m not considering straying from our marriage, but at times I feel I’ll be ready to date as soon as he’s gone. It makes me feel guilty. Is it wrong to feel this way? Do you have any advice to help me through this tragic time in our lives? — DEPRESSED AND LONELY IN MICHIGAN

DEAR DEPRESSED: Yes. Stop beating yourself up for experiencing human emotions at a time when you’re hauling a load that would crush an ox. Of COURSE your husband is angry. He has good reason to be — but he’s misdirecting it on you.

Guilt is the last thing you need to add to what you’re dealing with. It’s normal to crave the closeness you haven’t experienced in two years.

If there are counseling services offered at your nursing school, please avail yourself of them. Venting your feelings in a supportive environment will lighten your load and help you cope with your husband. There are also online support groups for caregivers. If you reach out in either direction, you’ll feel better. It could also be helpful to ask your husband’s doctor for a referral to someone who does end-of-life counseling for him.

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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 Libra and a Moon in Pisces all day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 2012:

This year you experience many different feelings that help guide you. You sometimes wonder which voice to listen to, but only you can decide that. You often have issues with the opposite sex. Maintain your sense of humor, and everything will work out fine. Transform your attitude, and you'll transform your life. If you are single, you come from a place of compassion when you meet someone. Be vulnerable yet open to the fact that this person might not be Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, share a new hobby with a sweetie in order to become closer. PISCES can drag you down.

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)

★★★ Your intuition directs you as to which way to go, though you could feel stuck between a rock and a hard place. You see the potential for change, but you need a boss or supervisor to go along with you. You might opt not to share everything you are thinking. Tonight: Not to be found.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ A friend seems to zero in on an issue, which helps you to verbalize and express your thoughts. A partner cares, but he or she initially might show it as hostility. Get past this person's behavior. Detach, and you will see more. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★ You are on top of your game, and you understand what makes an associate function in the way that he or she does. Open up to a talk, and share more of what you think is needed. Be aware of what others suggest as well. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★★ Detach before making a final decision. You intuitively want to know more of what could make a situation work. By stepping back, you will gain greater insight for how to proceed. Evaluate what is needed at the moment. Tonight: Your feelings need to lead the way.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ Recheck any agreements that could impact your finances. You have very high ideals, and you want to

satisfy them. Sometimes double-checking is important in ensuring that everything is proceeding as you'd like. Be willing to flow with a change in plans or a call that takes too long. Tonight: Deal with a family member directly.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Defer to someone who really wants to call the shots and make the decisions. You might not agree with this person, but you need to witness the end results of his or her actions. A child or loved one interjects a delightful element into your day. Tonight: Make calls and figure out weekend plans.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★★ You deal with others directly and with self-confidence. You know what your expectations are, and, for the most part, you share them with those involved. You could get into a heated conversation at first, but let it go -- don't let it mar your interaction. Tonight: Off to the gym.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Your sense of direction calls for some quick decisions. Your ability to see beyond an issue and understand the consequences of certain actions allows you to make the right move. Deal with a passionate individual directly, remembering that this person cares. Tonight: Choose something fun.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

★★★★ Think through a problem with key players. What you see happening is OK, even if on some level you don't buy someone else's version of the story. Nevertheless, you plan on making an important change because you see the wisdom of making it. Tonight: Happy to be home.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You have an intuitive sense of what you want to hear. Do not let frustration build, and realize that you have no control over others. Stay upbeat. A conversation opens up a situation. Tonight: Visit with a friend over a drink and munchies.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★★ You might not understand the financial implications of what you are seeing. Someone might be more deceptive than you think. If you are unsure, say little and avoid making any commitments. A boss or higher-up tests your patience. Tonight: Think “budget.”

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

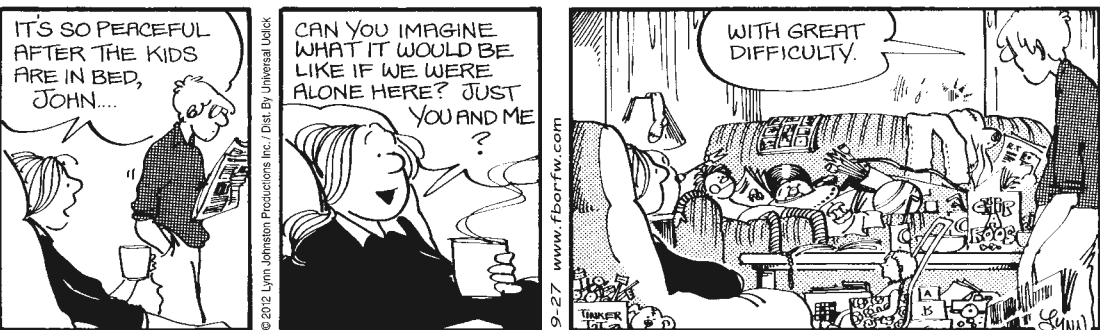
★★★★★ You might want to understand what is going on with someone at a distance. You could be unusually aggravated with a loved one, but let these feelings pass. A friend encourages you to go along with his or her idea. Say “yes.” Tonight: Beam in what you want.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

