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# Illusion Of Perfect Marriage Shattered By Man's Discovery

**DEAR ABBY** 

Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: I always thought that "Lana," my wife of 14 years, and I had the perfect marriage. When I discovered she was having an affair, it hit me like a train wreck. After many weeks of trying to discover who she really is, I found out she has had several affairs throughout our marriage.

I still love my wife and feel I could forgive her and regain my trust in her. The problem is, she says she is trying to recover from her actions, so she can no longer hear about my problems or respond to any of my questions.

Lana is now saying I need to see someone to discuss our issues with. We are already seeing a marriage counselor, but I suspect he is too connected to us as a couple. What do you think? — LOST IN LIMBO

DEAR IN LIMBO: I think the mar-

riage counselor should have made clear to you and your wife that in order for trust to be rebuilt it takes LOTS of dialogue and listening on the part of both spouses. And painful as it may be for Lana, she owes you the answers to your questions.

That said, I think she is correct in suggesting you talk to someone individually. With the help of a licensed psychotherapist — someone who is there JUST FOR YOU — you may be able to rationally decide whether your wife is capable of being the person you assumed she was, and if staying married to her is the best thing for you.

DEAR ABBY: My mother died a few years ago after a prolonged illness. My father has found a new lady ("Colette") to share his life, and they are now engaged.

My problem is my sisters. We are all adults with families of our own. They don't like Colette at all. They are rude to her and behave like spoiled children. Colette is very different from Mom, but our family has always been open-minded and taken pride in our conviction that "normal" is just a setting on the dryer.

Colette isn't after Dad's money, nor is she

## ACQUELINE 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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 2014:

This year you move into a period where your social life is highlighted. You will network professionally and expand your personal circle as well. You know what you want, and you have the ability to achieve it. Review your long-term goals, as you could discover that you might not want to pursue one of them anymore. If you are single, consider what you want in a relationship. You will have a lot of opportunities to make a match that could work well. If you are attached, the two of you will be seen together more often. You also will manifest a mutual goal that will bring both of you ear-to-ear smiles. LEO always is a good friend to you. The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-

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)

 $\star \star \star \star$  Someone could compare you to lighting: nearly impossible to stop, with flashes of forcing her way into our lives. She's also not trying to replace Mom. It appears she genuinely cares for our dad, which I can understand. He's a good man, smart, attractive and fun to be with.

Dad is happy as a clam. He's enjoying life and has lots more life to live. The only thing that mars his happiness is my sisters' attitudes. What can I do to help them? I don't want to be too harsh because I know they are still grieving, but I hate to see them drive a wedge into what remains of our family. — JOY IN TEXAS DEAR JOY: Please accept my sym-

DEAK JOY: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. Perhaps you should remind your sisters how grateful they should be that your father has been able to find happiness after losing your mother.

Not all widowers are able to do that. Stress that his desire to remarry is a tribute to the relationship he had with your mother, because men who had unfulfilling marriages usually don't want to commit again.

Point out that they have nothing to gain by alienating Colette and a lot to lose, because the more they treat her with disrespect, the farther away they will drive her — and your dad. Then suggest that if they can't resolve their grief, they join a support group or consult a therapist for help.

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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loved one. You will be more open to unexpected solutions than to traditional ones. Make sure to return all calls. Tonight: You can be found wherever the action is.

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

★★★★ Sometimes you underestimate how much you have to offer. You could feel as if no one is listening to you. Just because you do not receive the rousing response you desire, it does not mean that you were not heard. Have patience, please. Tonight: Your treat.

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

★★★★ Avoid being scattered at all costs. You might need to place limits on a situation that could irk you or cause you a problem. Your friends will be a major distraction, but one that you will appreciate. Say "yes" to the moment. Tonight: Just don't be alone!

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  You could be inordinately tired, as all the happenings around you could drain you far more than you realize. Try not to overreact. In fact, pull back if you suspect you are withered! Go for a walk, and handle important matters later. Tonight: Make tonight just for you.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

## HÄGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



## BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER



## HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER



## FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON



## **GARFIELD** | JIM DAVIS



great ideas. A partner or friend could have a problem dealing with your sparkle and energy. Be gracious about any negative comments. Tonight: Be sensitive to a loved one.

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

★★★ Others often expect a lot from you, whether or not you are willing to give it. Your caring could move a personal matter past a problem and help the other party realize that the situation might not be as bad as he or she believes it to be. Tonight: Pace yourself, but make time for the gym.

## GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

★★★★ Your imagination could go to extremes as you attempt to infuse a situation with a little more fun and creativity. Understand what is happening with a child or loved one. This person really thrives with your attention, support and caring. Tonight: Pretend that it's the weekend.

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

★★★ Staying close to home might not be as pleasant as you would like. It is likely that someone you need to respond to will demand your feedback, if not your presence. Curb a tendency to go overboard with spending. Tonight: Happiest at home.

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

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Your personality will come out in a presentation or when having a discussion with a

## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT

high energy to help a child or loved one who could be off-kilter. You seem to find solutions where others cannot. Be direct in how you deal with a loved one. Spontaneity is the only path. Tonight: Out and about.

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

 $\star \star \star \star$  Be aware of your limits when dealing with a boss, friend or older relative. You could be taken aback by this person's requests. Someone close, perhaps a family member, will chime right in and make a situation better than it has been. Tonight: Could go till the wee hours.

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

★★★★★ Take an overview, and understand where others are coming from. Otherwise, what you see happening will make little to no sense. You might just decide to cut off a conversation with a difficult person. Tonight: Have a leisurely visit with a loved one.

## PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★ You will get a better sense of where someone else is coming from. You could discover that a loved one simply might be reacting to you. Laughter will energize both of you and allow more fun. Count your change carefully. Tonight: Go with someone else's choice.

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#### **BLONDIE** | YOUNG & DRAKE







MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS

