

Young mom must keep her wits as husband considers leaving

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are a young couple, married almost two years. He recently told me he isn't happy with me anymore and that he may want to leave. He won't tell me why. He says he doesn't know why.

It was a complete shock to me. He refuses to seek marriage counseling and has dealt with a lot of depression for which he won't seek help, either. We have a child, and I am now pregnant again. It hasn't changed his thoughts about leaving.

What should I do for myself and our children? What can I do to help my husband change his mind? I'm still deeply in love with him. — **CONFUSED IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

DEAR CONFUSED: I can only imagine how painful this must be for you. Because your husband won't see a counselor about your marriage or do anything about his depression, then YOU should. And when you do, start figuring out a "plan B" for how you will support your children if it becomes necessary. You should also consult an attorney who can help you ensure that your husband lives up to his responsibilities if he does decide to leave.

The reason for your husband's ambivalence will become apparent in time. You may love him deeply, but for your sake and that of your



DEAR ABBY

children, it's important you stay calm and rational.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 17-year-old girl, turning 18 soon. Ever since I started high school, my family has pressured me to do my best in everything I do. Some examples: my grades, having the perfect boyfriend and being first in sports.

I know they want the best for me. But I'm a human being. I sometimes make mistakes. At the same time, I don't want to disappoint them. What should I do? Should I tell them to get off my back or continue to accept their pressure? — **TEEN IN TURMOIL, TULSA, OKLA.**

DEAR TEEN: Your parents probably push you because they want you to get a college education. Good grades, various activities and a talent for sports can make you a more attractive candidate.

There are ways to tell your parents to ease up without saying, "Get off my

back." Your message might be better received if you said to them what you wrote to me: "I know you want what's best for me. I don't want to disappoint you. But I'm a human being and I sometimes make mistakes. I love you, but the pressure is getting to me." It's not hostile, and they may hear what you're saying without becoming defensive.

DEAR ABBY: My brother-in-law is a registered sex offender. I am uncomfortable having him stay at our house with my husband and me and our children. My mother-in-law insists we need to forgive him and let him stay. I hate putting my husband in the middle (it is his sister's husband), but I do not want him under our roof overnight.

Am I right to refuse, or do I let him stay and be on major guard? — **MOMMY IN MEMPHIS**

DEAR MOMMY: As a mother, it is your job to protect your children. Because you feel your brother-in-law might be a danger to them, he should sleep elsewhere – and "forgiveness" has nothing to do with it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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	2	7			4			
	8				3			
4	5						3	7
1				3	2	9		4
	9						2	
2		4	8	7				3
9	1						6	5
			1				4	
			2		3	7		

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

6	1	4	8	5	3	2	7	9
5	9	7	6	2	1	8	4	3
8	2	3	9	4	7	1	6	5
3	6	2	4	8	9	5	1	7
1	4	5	3	7	2	6	9	8
7	8	9	5	1	6	4	3	2
9	7	1	2	6	5	3	8	4
4	5	6	7	3	8	9	2	1
2	3	8	1	9	4	7	5	6

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, enjoy some well-deserved time off. Life has taken on a hectic pace of late, but some much-needed time to rest, relax and recharge has finally arrived.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, hidden feelings come to the surface, and this will prove a pleasant surprise. Let things play out this week, and you will get some peace.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, your friends are up to something and they want it to remain a surprise. Keep your distance, and don't let your curiosity get the better of you.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

A temporary situation at work may alter your plans for a few days, Cancer. But don't let changes stop you from scheduling some down time with your friends.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, think things through before swinging into action. Run your ideas by someone close, and consider all of your options. This will ensure you make the best decision.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Your confidence about the future is a byproduct of the past, Virgo. You have learned from past mistakes and are ready to forge ahead and turn your hard work into results.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, now is the time to address some relationship issues that you have been avoiding. Deal with them in a straightforward way, and you will glad you did.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

A demanding schedule makes it impossible for you to be bored this week, Scorpio. However, if you desire a little time to decompress, you can fit it into your schedule.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, while you may be anxious about the future, make sure you enjoy the here and now and not wish the present away too soon. New friends come into your life.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, react swiftly to stressful situations, but do so with a clear head and conscience. Once a situation has been resolved, take some time to recharge your batteries.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, do your best to hold up your end of a bargain with a loved one. If you are struggling, simply ask for more time or help to ensure that everyone comes out a winner.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, your foremost priority is to further your position at work. Rely on your strong work ethic and attention to detail.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 12
Naya Rivera, Actress (27)

JANUARY 13
Nicole Eggert, Actress (42)

JANUARY 14
Jason Bateman, Actor (45)

JANUARY 15
Pitbull, Rapper (33)

JANUARY 16
Kate Moss, Model (40)

JANUARY 17
Michelle Obama, First Lady (50)

JANUARY 18
Mark Messier, Athlete (53)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Trembling

7 Hay's place

11 Get by

12 Diva's piece

13 Halloween hue

14 Tabloid fodder

15 Works hard

16 Produce

17 Lohen-grin's love

18 Last number

19 Bridge cost

21 Soviet space station

22 Book subtitled "There and Back Again"

25 Overly

26 London lockup

27 Asimov book

29 Tex. neighbor

33 Stopped

34 Musical sounds

35 Sandbox toy

36 Eye in awe

37 Creative germ

38 Comfortable

39 Inquisitive

40 Pantry

DOWN

1 Struck down, in the Bible

2 Winter air

3 Writer Nin

4 Was behind

5 Quiche base

6 Scottish river

7 Burdened

8 Folding skill

9 Like a log cabin in winter

10 Shred

11 Hero of

12 Across

13 Parade sight

14 George Burns film

15 Transport to Oz

16 Some sweat-shirts

17 Lass

18 Short fly ball

19 Cufflinks' kin

20 Hold, at sea

21 Massage

22 Flat form

23 Showy flower

24 "Toodle-oo!"

25 Lass

26 Shred

27 Hero of

28 Across

29 Parade sight

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