

Sex isn't part of husband's hour-long bedtime ritual

DEAR ABBY: “Barney” and I are in our 40s and have been married two years. Barney is a neatnik. His nighttime ritual of cleaning up before bed takes an hour or more. Before we can be intimate, this ritual must be performed, which rules out anything in the afternoon or that’s spontaneous.



DEAR ABBY

Barney is also a night owl. Sometimes he goes straight from the shower to the Internet or reading, ignoring sex altogether, even if we planned and talked about it while getting ready to clean up for the night.

I have fallen asleep many nights waiting for him, only to awaken hours later and see he’s still not beside me. When we discuss it later, he says it’s a selfish habit he “got away with” in his last marriage. He enjoys sex but becomes easily distracted.

Should we seek counseling for this or try something else? Barney displays all the signs of ADD and has since his childhood days. — **FRUSTRATED IN CLINTON, IOWA**

DEAR FRUSTRATED: By all means seek counseling. The ritual you described could be a symptom of a disorder, or your husband may have a very weak sex drive. However, one thing is clear: If Barney isn’t in bed with you, it’s because he’d rather be elsewhere.

For your sake, the sooner

you get some straight answers the better you’ll be. His comment about “getting away with it” tells me he knows what he’s doing wasn’t fair to his last wife, and it isn’t fair to you.

DEAR ABBY: For the last 10 years, my friends and I have gotten together on a fairly regular basis. We always bring potluck to share. While “Marcia” and I were assembling a meal, “Cindy” would contribute a bag of chips. We finally told her we thought the offerings were unequal, so she shaped up.

We recently celebrated my birthday at my house, and Cindy “surprised” me with a beautiful blueberry crumble cake (her specialty). I was delighted and told her I had been craving that particular treat.

As the afternoon wore on, I asked if we should bring out the dessert, but she said she wanted to “wait a while.” A half-hour later, she announced she had to leave and wanted to take

the cake with her. (We often take leftovers home, but her dessert hadn’t even made it to the table.) When I said, “But we have no other dessert!” she said she had company coming and needed to take it with her. Then she put it in the container she had brought it in and left.

Cindy is a close friend, and Marcia and I have put up with some of her quirks. But I’m thinking about confronting her about this latest gaffe because I’m afraid if I don’t, my resentment will continue to build and our friendship will “crumble.” Am I being petty? — **DESERTED DESERT LOVER**

DEAR D.D.L.: Petty? I don’t think so. What she did took the cake – and I’m not talking about pastry.

I don’t know what qualities you look for in a close friend, but Cindy appears to be unusually self-centered. What she said was not only rude, but showed a distinct lack of empathy for your feelings.

By all means, clear the air, but don’t count on Cindy to change. In fact, don’t count on her for anything.

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.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, let your creative side take over this week. Your imagination is ready to run wild, and this burst of creative energy will have long-lasting positive effects.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, though you are known for being a tad stubborn, this week you are open to any and all suggestions. You may surprise a few people by being so open-minded.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, while you may have natural leadership abilities, most of the time you do not want to pull rank. This week you may need to step things up a bit.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, now is a good time to travel, even if it means just a quick jaunt. But if a big vacation is on the horizon, know that you will likely have a smooth trip ahead.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Your powers are magnetic this week, Leo. Others find you simply irresistible, which can bode well if you are looking for a romantic partner or want to step things up.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a busy week at work will require lots of cooperation among you and your coworkers. If ever there was a time to summon your leadership abilities, now is the time.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, many things are in disarray and you may need some help getting back to efficient living. Download an app to help you track expenses or keep tabs on your responsibilities.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

You are bound to be the center of attention, Scorpio. Get over any shyness early on because you will be spending time with coworkers for most of the week.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You will do some of your best work at home this week, Sagittarius. Spend ample time getting the house in order. A few days working from home could kickstart plans.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, quickly curb any feelings of boredom by exploring a new hobby. Try taking a new fitness or art class. You’ll have chances to mingle, too.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Put the brakes on impulse buys, Aquarius. This week you may be tempted to spend more money than you have, and that will only lead to long-term financial concerns.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it is time to re-brand yourself. This may start with a mini-makeover or more significant changes to your life and career.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 22
Cyndi Lauper, Singer/Songwriter (61)

JUNE 23
Frances McDormand, Actress (56)

JUNE 24
Mindy Kaling, Actress (35)

JUNE 25
Busy Philipps, Actress (35)

JUNE 26
Derek Jeter, Athlete (40)

JUNE 27
Sam Claflin, Actor (28)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Jazz style
- 5 Uncle Remus word
- 9 Some trumpeters
- 10 Alleviates
- 12 Some elbows
- 13 TV host
- 14 Come into
- 16 Brewery product
- 17 Pebble Beach peg
- 18 Uninspired
- 20 Some cars
- 22 Homes in the wild
- 23 First Lady before Michelle
- 25 Hotel unit
- 28 Landlord
- 32 Not binding
- 34 Imitating
- 35 “For shame!”
- 36 Hold back
- 38 “Houseboat” star
- 40 Full of verve
- 41 Cut off
- 42 Fork features
- 43 Concert highlight
- 44 Crystal gazer

DOWN

- 1 Al
- Jolson song
- 2 Redeemed, as a check
- 3 Price to play
- 4 Alexandra, for one
- 5 Borscht base
- 6 Flock father
- 7 Houdini feat
- 8 Land
- 9 Barbecue rods
- 11 Canary chow
- 15 Pancreas product
- 19 Lupino and Tarbell
- 21 — matter fiction
- 24 Cardinals, informally
- 25 Ransack
- 26 Burger toppers
- 27 Be interperate
- 29 Texas-Louisiana border river
- 30 Twist of fiction
- 31 Merits
- 33 Delroy of “Believe”
- 37 Tennis’s Nastase
- 39 Sushi choice

PROFIT	SPAT
TOLEDO	ERGO
AI ELLO	LOOM
LETOFF	
RICA	DIETS
USO	FREESIA
NON	OAT
GUFFAWS	ORO
STEAM	BRAN
STYMI	E
SASH	ANGELA
SHOO	STALER
WARM	CONFIT

Previous Puzzle

- 15 Pancreas product
- 19 Lupino and Tarbell
- 21 — matter fiction
- 24 Cardinals, informally
- 25 Ransack
- 26 Burger toppers
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- 39 Sushi choice

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			11
12				13			
14				15		16	
17			18			19	
20		21		22			
		23		24			
25	26	27		28		29	30
31							
32			33			34	
35			36			37	
38		39		40			
41				42			
	43			44			

6-21

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Employee group
- 6 Takes to the slopes
- 10 Pink shade
- 11 Dollar divisions
- 13 Merge
- 14 In the know
- 15 Nourished
- 16 Corn unit
- 18 Author Deighton
- 19 Fast food side
- 22 Backer’s vote
- 23 Price to play
- 24 Staggers
- 27 Lock of hair
- 28 Bullets
- 29 Adam’s mate
- 30 Dish with onions and peppers
- 35 Egg layer
- 36 “The Matrix” hero
- 37 Writer Brand
- 38 Make blank
- 40 Humiliate
- 42 Copter part
- 43 Bengal cat

- 44 Budget amount
- 45 Refine ore

DOWN

- 1 Mess up, as a new shoe
- 2 Copier need
- 3 Take for — (trick)
- 4 Diet no-no
- 5 Swindles
- 6 Neck wrap
- 7 London’s —
- 8 Queued up
- 9 City ways
- 12 Detects
- 17 Cry of insight
- 20 Backpack material
- 21 Less common
- 24 Bacon slice
- 25 Napoleon, for one
- 26 Radiate
- 27 Oprah and Ellen
- 29 Language suffix
- 31 Chemically inactive
- 32 Mirror sight
- 33 Caravan creature
- 34 Put to use
- 39 Bart, to Homer
- 41 That fellow

BAGS	DARES
ALOUD	ALERT
SOLVE	MOOMA
END	CAPTAIN
SEAMAN	IND
ADD	SLES
HARE	TOSS
CAN	STAB
ORE	ENSIGN
ADMIRAL	CUE
STONE	ELATE
TONGA	EARED
SPEED	DENY

Previous Puzzle

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10					11			12
13					14			
15			16	17			18	
19		20				21		
		22			23			
24	25	26			27			
28				29				
30			31			32	33	34
35			36			37		
38		39		40	41			
42				43				
	44			45				

6-23

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

U G Q P O O J B K D O T C Y O Q L H D L G O
R O W K J T I H K K Z U J C . . . R M T T O J H D
D K M S U J T — Q L L G O Q C O K S
S U S L D , R Q D — L G Q L Q F G K H O
J O F H U S O G Q R K N O J O T I O S K Y O
D K M . — Q C Q L G Q W G Y U R L U O

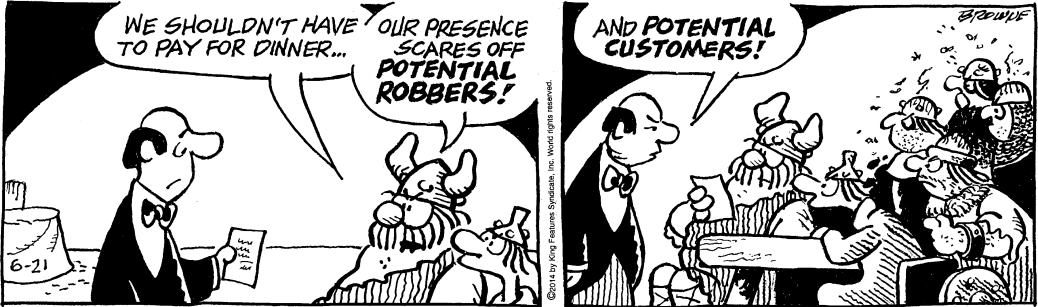
Previous Cryptoquote: THE DEEPEST DEFINITION OF YOUTH IS LIFE AS YET UNTOUCHED BY TRAGEDY. – Alfred North Whitehead

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

