

Man is turned off by gal pal's resemblance to mom

DEAR ABBY: I met a guy I think is perfect for me on a dating website. We have gone on several dates and they have been great. He respects my morals and even has some of his own, which isn't easy to find.

The problem: He says I am exactly what he has been looking for except for one thing. I look like his mother. He says he really likes me and would like to keep dating to see if he can get past this issue. I like him very much. Is there something I can do, short of plastic surgery? — **DEAD RINGER IN ARIZONA**

DEAR DEAD RINGER: Before changing anything, you need to explore more closely what he's saying. Ask to meet his mother, then judge for yourself how strong the resemblance is. It's possible the similarity is less physical and more about your personality or mannerisms.

You should not alter your image to please anyone but yourself. Keep in mind that many men DO marry women who resemble their mothers in some way -- whether it's conscious or not -- and the marriages are often successful.

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced many years ago, and ever since, I have lived with my mother and visit Dad on his days off from work. Mom cheated on Dad, and the man she cheated with lives with us.

I don't have a good relationship with her boyfriend. We don't have much



DEAR ABBY

in common, and when he drinks, he gets angry for no reason and takes it out on me or Mom, and it puts the whole household in an awkward position, sometimes lasting for days. When he's sober, he can be fun to be around.

I have talked with my mom about this. She promises she'll talk to him and things are going to change, but they never do. She doesn't want to break up with him because she can't afford to pay the mortgage on her own. I have thought about moving in with my dad, but I don't want to upset her. What do I do? — **WANTS TO MOVE IN WITH DAD**

DEAR WANTS: Your mother hasn't asserted herself with her boyfriend because she's financially dependent on him. She's afraid if she insists he do something about his drinking, he will leave her.

The affair and the boyfriend were her choice, not yours. If you want to move in with your father to avoid being around a verbally abusive drunk -- and your father is willing -- that's

what you should do. You should not have to tolerate abuse in order not to "upset" your mother. It's OK to take care of yourself.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 32-year-old woman. My boyfriend of 11 years passed away almost three years ago. I loved him very much and miss him every day. Some well-meaning friends and family members have suggested a dating site.

Abby, when does someone know if it's time to move on? I haven't been on a date in 13 years. I'm scared of putting myself out there again and getting hurt. Any advice would be great. — **SCARED IN OREGON**

DEAR SCARED: If the only reason you haven't reached out before is fear of rejection, then it's time to move on. Ask your friends and family to help you write a profile, and then consider what happens next as an "adventure."

While there are no guarantees you'll immediately find a relationship like the one you had, you might find someone who is compatible. And if you don't, you could still make some friends. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Now may be the time to try something new, Aries. You are not one to shy away from anything, but right now you're a bit apprehensive about things. Take a leap of faith.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, many people look to you as a leader, and they are wise to do so. You are especially trustworthy, and you will be asked to solve a few problems this week.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, there won't be much time to enjoy recreational activities this week, so you may have to find a new way to let loose. Rest assured there will be more time for fun down the road.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, a new opportunity comes your way but you're not quite sure if you're ready for such drastic changes. Take your time before making a final decision.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, no matter how hard you try, some people just can't see things from your point of view. Don't take this personally, as everyone is entitled to their own opinions.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, sometimes it seems like you have all of the answers, while at other times, you might not know how to approach a situation. Take some time to analyze your approach.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Feeling homesick, Libra? If so, make some post-holiday plans to visit with friends or family you didn't get a chance to see during the holidays. Enjoy this time spent with loved ones.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you like to stay busy. But you sometimes feel overwhelmed with all that you have to do. Stop biting off more than you can chew and take things one task at a time.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, now is a good time to make resolutions and reconnect with distant friends. It is good to rekindle relationships and commit to spending more time with friends and family.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

After time away for the holidays, getting back into a routine can be challenging, Capricorn. But you like to stick to a schedule, and getting back on track is the way to do it.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, although you have many friends, you recently have only spent time with a select few. This week is a great time to reach out to those friends you haven't seen in awhile.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Your competitive juices will be flowing this week, Pisces. Enjoy the competitive atmosphere but don't take things too far.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 5
Bradley Cooper, Actor (39)

JANUARY 6
Eddie Redmayne, Actor (32)

JANUARY 7
Katie Couric, TV host (57)

JANUARY 8
David Bowie, Singer (67)

JANUARY 9
Kate Middleton, Dutchess (32)

JANUARY 10
Rod Stewart, Singer (69)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bath-day

cake

5 Clip

9 Tadpole,

e.g.

10 Let in or

let on

12 Profit

13 Lasso

user

14 Emit

16 Big galoot

17 Harbor

boat

18 She loved

Hamlet

20 Orates

22 Let off

steam

23 Coffee

bar order

25 Racket

28 Quiver

contents

32 Gift for a

prom date

34 Contrived

35 Gardner

of "Mo-

gambo"

36 Like a

gala

38 Bank

subtrac-

tion

40 Doctrine

41 Disparag-

ing

42 Lewd

looks

43 Wound

reminder

44 Cuts off

DOWN

1 Be frugal

2 Carrot

color

3 Gung-ho

4 Bad boxer

5 Singer

Brooks

ally

6 Brouhaha

7 Stab

8 Cufflinks'

kin

9 Survives

11 Pay for

everyone

15 Draw

attention

away from

19 Continu-

ally

21 Some

charity

24 Bridge

support

25 A bunch

26 Witch

groups

27 Middle

East lan-

guage

29 Voiced a

view

30 Vacil-

lates

31 Undoes a

dele

33 Following

37 Prom

attendee

39 Cider

girl of

song

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				
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35					36				37		
38				39				40			
41								42			
	43							44			

1-4

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Make

suitable

6 On the

pinnacle

of

10 Back tooth

11 Letter

stroke

13 Kept in

reserve

14 Grassy

plant

15 San Fran-

cisco's

— Hill

16 Had a

meal

18"— little

teapot ..."

19 Old knife

sharpen-

ers

22 Sort

23 Crazy talk

24 Play

setting

27 Young

stallions

28 St. Louis

landmark

29 Sermon

topic

30 Garnet

and others

35 Holiday

lead-in

36 Seventh

Greek

letter

37 Gardner

of movies

38 Rancher's

rope

40 Old Nick

42 Bob of

"Full

House"

43 Put up

44 Eye part

45 Survives

DOWN

1 In the

thick of

2 Generous

person

3 Suspect's

story

4 Ocean off

Cal.

5 Sewing

machine

part

6 Useful

skill

7 Golf peg

8 Like "first"

important

9 Coloring

12 Big

dinners

17 Chiding

sound

20 Day

follower

21 Maine col-

lege town

24 Fencing

swords

25 Far from

important

41 Memo-

rable time

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	
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38			39			40	41			
42						43				
	44					45				