

Husband’s secret texting puts his wife on high alert

DEAR ABBY: I was recently told by a friend that my husband had sent her texts of an inappropriate and sexual nature. My husband didn’t deny that he sent them and refused to tell me what he sent.

This woman is envious of my husband and jealous of our relationship. She often comments about how she’d love to have a man like mine, etc. My concern is, he admits he texted her, but I don’t understand why. My intuition tells me she told me the truth, but I want to trust my husband.

Now I’m suspicious. I always want to check his phone, and analyze every aspect of our life and marriage. I feel this has put a huge wedge between us, and I no longer feel the same love and passion for him. Please help. What do I do now? Is my marriage over? — **SUSPICIOUS IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your marriage may not be over, but it could be in jeopardy. Considering what has been going on, you have every right to be concerned. Marriage counseling may help you and your husband get back on track if he’s willing to go with you. But if he isn’t, then for your own sake, get counseling on your own because you may need to talk to someone who isn’t emotionally involved in your turmoil. It will make you stronger.

DEAR ABBY: Every



DEAR ABBY

time my new wife and I visit my mom or she visits us, my mother scratches my back, rubs my arm, rests her hand on my inner thigh, tickles me, hugs me or touches me any chance she gets. I don’t reciprocate or validate the touching, but I don’t discourage it either. She has been this way for so long that I’ve just gotten used to it. I never noticed how creepy it was until my wife mentioned something.

The problem is, how do I address this with my mother? I don’t want to throw my wife under the bus as the reason for the discussion, but I am not sure how believable it will be if I suddenly say after 30-plus years that it bothers me. I want the message that I feel she should stop touching me at every opportunity to come from me. How do I have this conversation? What can I say? — **NO MEANS NO**

DEAR NO MEANS NO: Say, “I love you, Mom, and I know I should have mentioned this before, but when you do that, it makes me un-

comfortable, so please stop.” If she wants to know why, all you have to do is tell her you know she loves you, but you think what she’s doing is excessive.

DEAR ABBY: We go out to eat occasionally with another couple I’ll call Jack and Jill. Most restaurants around here offer free refills on soft drinks or self-serve. Jack will order water (free) to drink while Jill orders a soda. They then take their empty glasses and refill them with a colorless soft drink.

They see nothing wrong with the practice. We think it’s stealing, and we are embarrassed. What are your thoughts, and how should we react when this is done in front of us? Lately we have been making excuses to avoid going out with them. — **EATING WITH CHEAPSKATES**

DEAR E.W.C.: I agree that it’s stealing. Jack and Jill are taking something to which they are not entitled. Have you spoken to them about it? If you have, then because their behavior makes you uncomfortable, you are justified in not going out with them.

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

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

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

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

A Shell of a Problem

Dear Heloise: I often purchase the FROZEN PIE SHELLS to bake pies, and I have difficulty removing slices from the pan after they are baked; the pie crust is always stuck. Do you have any suggestions for how to make this easy without breaking up the slices? — Carole Owings, Wildwood, Fla.

Carol, that’s just a plain ... well ... pain! Here are some hints to consider. Switch brands to see if a different one does not stick – it may be that simple. It may be the type of pie you are baking. If you pre-bake the pie crust, poke holes in it, bake, then add the filling.

However, if you are baking a pie with filling (pecan, pumpkin or my fave ... blue- or blackberry!), DO NOT poke the shell with a fork. Doing so will let sticky liquid seep through and will cause the crust to stick. Do let the pie (and crust) cool before cutting.

Last resort? Remove the frozen crust, grease the pan, put the crust back in and proceed. — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:

Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com)

Cocktail Sauce

Dear Heloise: Every year around the holidays, I buy a bottle of cocktail sauce. I use only a small amount. It sits in the refrigerator for several months, then I toss it out. Is there any other use for it? I checked the label, and it only lists shrimp. Should I just buy more shrimp? — Dan in McDonald, Ohio

Dan, don’t toss the sauce or buy more shrimp! This sauce is basically “spicy ketchup,” so get adventurous! Put it on burgers, hot dogs and fries. It works with crab, too.

It makes a zingy “dip” when poured over cream cheese. I run a fork through the slab of soft cream cheese to score it, then pour on the sauce. Set out with crackers, and ta-da ... quick-and-easy eating. — Heloise

Coffee-Filter Conundrum

Dear Heloise: I purchased a 12-cup coffee maker. It’s the same model as my previous one. The paper coffee filters almost always collapse, and grounds end up in the coffee. Any help would be appreciated. — Bonnie, via email

I have tasted coffee grounds in fresh-brewed coffee! Yes, the same filters (do be sure they are the “old” filters) should work. However, I bought some “same brand, same size” filters on the Internet, and they did this too. You can wet the filter to make it stick – this should help. Or try a permanent filter that you wash out. — Heloise

Hardened Honey

Dear Heloise: I buy honey at a big-box store. After a while, it crystallizes, and I would heat it in a pot of water to thin it out.

I solved my problem by putting it into small jars. If it starts to crystallize, I put it on the top rack of the dishwasher. When the cycle is finished, the honey is back to the way it was before. It works perfectly. Just be sure the lid is on tight. — Shirley L. in Florida

Shirley, this is a HONEY of a HINT, and I love it! — Heloise

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Jack of

rhyme

6 Small nail

10 “— de

Lune”

11 Madrid

museum

12 Rosy-

cheeked

13 Inform

against

14 Fancy

flower

15 Moolah

Buddy

17 Add up

18 Filming

site

19 Flower

boxes

22 Wow ‘em

at the

comedy

club

23 Cry from a

sty

26 Bandages,

to Brits

29 Argon or

xenon

32 Motel

freebie

33 Flower

visitor

34 Gallery

star

36 Heart,

essentially

37 Minimum

amount

38 Lily variety

39 Queen

— lace

40 Benefit

41 Benefit

42 Prom

crowd

DOWN

1 Be frugal

2 Mice and

men, e.g.

3 Extreme

4 Helps out

5 Attempt

6 Muffin

makeup

7 Billing info

8 Find

darling

9 Words of

prohibition

11 Snowbell’s

27 Do

cousin

something

ducer

D	E	E	R	F	I	N	K
S	E	R	V	E	I	W	O
O	G	R	E	S	R	O	T
F	R	A	N	C	E	S	I
T	E	T	U	P	T	I	C
C	E	A	S	E	S	B	E
			A	R	I	S	E
C	H	O	P	L	A	T	E
H	O	U	S	T	O	N	U
A	P	T	O	N	T	A	R
O	P	A	R	T	A	D	O
S	E	G	U	E	N	A	P
R	E	E	D	A	M	E	S

Previous Puzzle

15 Expected

28 Flower

parts

17 Salon

staffers

29 Fancy

events

20 Snooze

30 Fight site

21 Canine

command

31 Was mal-

odorous

24 Interstellar

clouds

35 “Got it”

25 Cold War

citadel

36 Make

streets

27 Do

38 Purrr pro-

ducer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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
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27								28
29	30	31		32			33	
34			35				36	
37							38	
39							40	
41							42	

3-4

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Lab

liquids

6 “Twilight”

heroine

11 Column

style

12 Wise

saying

13 Mothering

sort

14 Configura-

tion

15 Tilted type

17 Monk’s

title

19 Writing

tool

20 “This

— test”

23 Come to

25 Burden

26 Major

routes

28 Spotted

29 Auto

highlights

30 Mi. parts

31 Pickle buy

32 Tennis

need

33 Small

dome

35 Impressed

greatly

38 Bulb rating

41 Game

setting

42 Cager

Shaquille

43 Owed

amounts

44 Disagree-

able

2 Pigeon

call

3 Lingerie

and the

like

4 Slimming

plan

5 Winter

windshield

tool

6 Wash-

room sight

7 Suit

8 Tipsy

9 Singer

Rawls

10 Guitar

blaster

16 Photog’s

cover

17 Dag-

wood’s

dog

18 Had title

to

20 Chants

33 Minimal

change

21 Dismissive

retort

34 Turner of

film

22 Useful

skill

35 Hunk of

gum

24 Writer

Follett

36 Bonanza

stuff

25 Paddle’s

cousin

37 Attic

sight

27 Don

hastily

39 Skin

art, for

short

31 Last

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