

# Head-over-heels romantics should come back to earth

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been single for a couple of years. I have always been levelheaded when it comes to romance, but I'm finding myself unable to control my feelings about the new man I'm seeing.

"Brent" is smart, intelligent, sweet and loving. We have been dating for a little over a week and he has already given me keys to his place. (I have a roommate, or I would have given him my keys, too!)

I love him. He loves me. I am so happy. I feel calm and confident about how we're progressing. This is a first for me. I know it's unusually fast, but my parents got married six weeks after they met, and they're still happy together after 37 years.

Love at first sight is rare, but I think this is it. Your thoughts? — **WOWED IN NORTH CAROLINA**

**DEAR WOWED:** I'm glad for your parents, but because they married six weeks after they met does not mean you must repeat history. Right now, you and Brent appear to be caught up in a whirl of endorphins and adrenaline. Because you asked for my thoughts I'll share them: Slow down until both of you have your feet back on the ground because that is how solid relationships are built. Your



DEAR ABBY

folks were an exception to the rule. If you don't believe me, ask them.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 62-year-old male. My problem is I have never been married, and when I go on dates, women always want to know why I'm still single.

The reasons are financial and also that I'm allergic to cats. (A lot of women own cats.) I have never made much money, and I live with my mother. I can't afford to move out, and even when I had a place of my own, it didn't make much difference. I'd like to be married, but this has become a catch-22. No one wants to marry me because I have never been married.

I have looked this issue up online and it is a huge problem; women definitely discriminate against never-married men. Sometimes I wonder if I should lie and say I'm a widower. What can I say to women who

interrogate me about this? — **SEARCHING FOR A MATE IN SAN DIEGO**

**DEAR SEARCHING:** If you lie about the fact that you're a lifelong bachelor, at some point the truth will come out and your credibility will be shot. That's why I'm advising you to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Your marital status is nothing to be ashamed of. Not everyone is meant to be married. You say you are 62 and live with your mother because you can't afford to live on your own. Has it occurred to you that you might not be able to afford being married?

Also, marriage is a big adjustment for anyone — male or female. There is no guarantee that a person who has become set in his or her ways can successfully make that transition. This is not to say that you shouldn't have companionship, but you don't need a wife for that. A good friend — or several — could provide it.

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](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

	6	1		3			
					8		2 1
	7				1		
2	9	3				4	
7	1					5	3
	4					9	6 7
			7			9	
3	5		8				
			5		8	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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, sometimes you just need to put a different spin on things to get your way. Instead of being too pushy with things, relax a bit and let others come to you.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, ask for further clarification if there is something you don't understand. Do not make important decisions until you understand all of the pertinent details.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, now is a good time to plan an outing with family members. It's been awhile since you've made some memories together, and your schedule affords you this opportunity.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

How do you know how others will react to your requests if you never drum up the courage to ask, Cancer? Let your feelings be known this week and take a risk.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, enjoy an upcoming reunion with a friend you haven't seen in some time. Make the most of this opportunity to catch up and recall old times.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you have much-needed rest and relaxation coming your way. Let loose this week and enjoy the freedom. Enlist others to join in the fun.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, an opportunity to jump on the career path you always had in mind for yourself is about to present itself. Do everything in your power to make the job yours.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, distractions are all around you and you find it difficult to stay focused on one thing at a time. Try separating yourself from all external stimulation for a few days.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Something inspires you to give a relationship another chance, Sagittarius. Maybe it was the lyrics to a song or a segment on a television show, but you are moved to action.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Obligations at home could temporarily stall work plans, Capricorn. Fortunately, you have understanding bosses who are willing to give you the time you need.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, your friends are great sources of unconditional support. Lean on them for advice as you make an important decision in the coming weeks.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, try some things that fall outside of your comfort zone. The adventure will recharge your batteries and may prove inspiring.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 17  
Donnie Wahlberg, Actor/Singer (45)

AUGUST 18  
Frances Bean Cobain, Artist (22)

AUGUST 19  
Christina Perri, Singer (28)

AUGUST 20  
Amy Adams, Actress (40)

AUGUST 21  
Kacey Musgraves, Singer (26)

AUGUST 22  
Giada DeLaurentiis, Chef (44)

AUGUST 23  
Shelley Long, Actress (65)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Narrow

point of

land

5 Showed

up

9 Avignon's

river

10 Sur-

rounded

by

12 Wears

13 Singer

Lauper

14 Battle site

of 1945

16 Cart puller

17 Fox hole

18 Jeans

choice

20 "Measure

for

Measure"

villain

22 Brewery

need

23 Cheese

buy

25 Broad

28 Casual

talk

32 Barber's

offering

34 Before, to

Byron

35 Easter

find

36 Now and

then

38 Provinces

40 Before, in

Brest

41 Electric

coil

inventor

### DOWN

1 Visibly

upset

2 Model's

work

3 A party to

4 Easily

defended

5 Bean-

bearing

tree

6 Writer Tan

7 Riviera

nation

8 Finishes

9 Mary's

friend

11 Main

ideas

15 Escher

work

19 Subse-

quently

21 Pitcher

24 "I'm

outta

here!"

25 Flour

source

26 "My

thoughts

exactly"

27 Take in

29 Like

mares

and

fillies

30 Bowls

31 Outdoes

33 Hacienda

houses

37 Infamous

czar

39 As done

by

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

Previous Puzzle

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			

8-16

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Viciously

criticize

6 Surgery

souvenir

10 Toil

11 Halley's

sighting

13 Busy

14 Humiliate

15 Singer

— King

Cole

16 Gibson

of "Lethal

Weapon"

18 Brownish

gray

19 Early

explorers

22 Mine rock

23 Enormous

24 Big water

pipes

27 Does

some

modeling

28 Opposed

to

29 New Eng-

land catch

30 Puts off

35 Quantity:

Abbr.

36 Rent out

37 Memora-

ble period

38 Slugger

Roger

40 Copper or

cobalt

42 Dodge

43 Celeb

roster

44 Penn of

"Milk"

### DOWN

1 Duck

hunter's

cover

2 Islands

veranda

3 Touches

on

4 Urgent

call

5 Quakes

6 Weigh-in

need

7 Corn core

8 Best

Picture of

1984

9 Make a

comeback

12 Past,

present

and future

27 Natalie of

"Thor"

17 Cain's

mother

20 Volcano-

shaped

21 Mary's TV

pal