

Adopted teen can't shake anger felt for birth mother

DEAR ABBY: I am almost 13 and I'm struggling with a lot of different things. I was adopted when I was a baby, so I never lived with my birth mother. That's probably a good thing, but I am having angry feelings toward her that I wish I wouldn't have. Those feelings are also being directed at friends and family members.



DEAR ABBY

I'll think I have forgiven my birth mother for what she did, and then all of a sudden, I realize I never really did. I don't want to grow up being bitter all my life. Do you have any advice for me? — **NEEDS HELP IN INDIANA**

DEAR NEEDS HELP: Yes. It is important you understand that birth mothers love their babies very much. When a woman places her child for adoption, there can be legitimate reasons for it. She may have been too young to raise a child, without the means to properly support it or addicted to drugs or alcohol. Your mother may have wanted you to have a better life than she had and felt another family could give it to you.

When you are older, you can do a search for her and find out the reason for yourself. But in the meantime, stop blaming her -- and you, your friends and family will be happier.

DEAR ABBY: I'm really confused about what to do about a couple of situations.

I'm a 17-year-old high school senior and I have feelings for a 23-year-old single father. We have talked on and off over the past year. He said that once my 18th birthday came around he was going to "make me a very happy girl."

After I recently told him I was afraid we might not get together when the time came, we stopped talking. Now the mother of his child is back in the picture, and I'm glad for the baby's sake. I don't know for sure they're getting back together, though.

My second issue is about my feelings for a 20-year-old college student who's going away to an out-of-state school. He claims he's not the best guy for me, but I don't believe that. I told him I liked him regardless of what he says. I think he likes me, too, but it's not always clear. What should I do? — **SCATTERED IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR SCATTERED: For the next year or so, your first priority should be your future -- and I DON'T mean

with a man. Before becoming seriously involved with anyone you must complete your education and establish some economic independence.

You were right to speak up about your concerns regarding your relationship with the first man you mentioned. That there is another woman in the picture -- even if she was in the background -- would have meant complications. Whether or not they get back together, the fact they have a child together means she may always be a presence in this man's life -- or could pop up at any time and cause disruption. Clearly, right now, he has unfinished business with her.

As to the second issue -- this young man may like you very much, but when a man tells a woman he is not the right man for her, what he usually means is that she is not the right woman for HIM. He may want to do what I'm advising you to do -- complete his education before becoming romantically involved. Or, he may feel the "chemistry" isn't quite right. If you accept it and move on, you'll save yourself some heartache.

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, your sign pulls back this week and you may focus more on the artistic or spiritual. It can be a highly intuitive time of self-reflection for you.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, if you have been backtracking over past decisions, it's time to look at things again with a clear perspective -- even if that means you need some advice from a third party.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, you achieve some financial stability this week and enjoy the opportunity to breathe easy. Don't go overboard, but reward yourself for your financial discipline.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

There is much career energy coming your way, Cancer. You may find yourself with more job offers than you ever thought to entertain. This is not a time to sit back and let things slide.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Beauty and balance are brought into your life, Leo. Use the opportunity to brighten up your space with some decorating or a welcome change of scenery.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you may have more energy than you know what to do with this week. Find a way to funnel it into a creative or worthwhile endeavor, like volunteer work.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Relationships will be a major high point for you this week, Libra. Every friendship or romance you have is irresistible and compelling at the present time.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, your health and career continue to be your top priorities. You have a sense of urgency to get in better shape. It may be possible to combine your goals.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
You are beyond magnetic this week, Sagittarius. If someone didn't want to be your friend before, they certainly do now. Expect to be swarmed with attention.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, others describe you as feisty and fun this week. With boundless energy, you bring your own party to each and every situation. Enjoy the rush.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Communication doesn't seem to be coming easily for you, Aquarius. You know what you want and can't voice it successfully. Take some time to plan what you want to say.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, a major financial event is on the horizon, but you're not sure if it is a windfall or a burden. Only time will tell.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

MAY 17
Derek Hough, Choreographer (30)

MAY 18
Tina Fey, Comic (45)

MAY 19
Sam Smith, Singer (23)

MAY 20
Cher, Singer/Actress (69)

MAY 21
Gotye, Singer (35)

MAY 22
Ginnifer Goodwin, Actress (37)

MAY 23
Melissa McBride, Actress (50)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Not free

5 Vegas

10 Door

12 Metal

13 Biting

14 Slacken

15 Soak up

16 World

18 Gloss

19 Affectedly

21 A ton

22 Italian

24 Libertines

25 Nor-

wegian

cheese

29 Hold

power

30 Slacken

32 Little

laborer

33 Stock

holder

34 Tell tales

35 "Keen!"

37 Give an

address

39 Mystic

deck

40 Birth-

related

41 Evicts

42 Towel

word

DOWN

1 Critter

2 Free, as

hens

3 Dazed

state

4 So far

5 Shore

crawler

6 Umbrella

part

7 Arthur's

resting

place

8 Dress

size

9 Dance

units

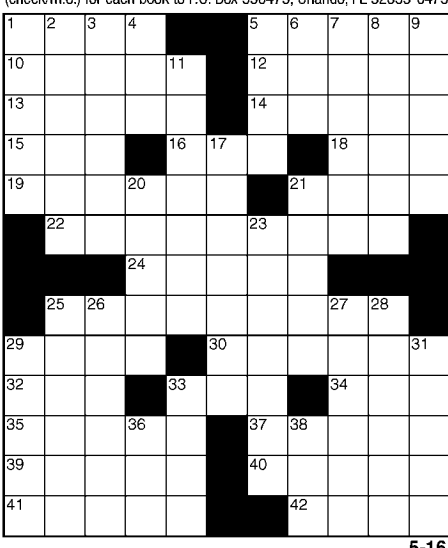
11 Eviction



Previous Puzzle

17 Quick inspection
27 Feel empathy
20 Baseball's Joe
28 Band need
21 Finishes last
29 Cost
23 Syria neighbor
31 Banana waste
25 Northern state
33 Cook's needs
36 Young-ster
26 Church sights
38 Fan sound

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5-16

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Abound

5 Formal

agreement

9 Monte

10 Set off

12 Bitter

13 Like some

eclipses

14 Rink

footwear

16 Take

advantage

of

17 Musical

sound

18 Cochise,

for one

21 Put a stop

to

22 Pertly

sarcastic

23 Account-

ing check

24 Ranch

pen

26 Puppy

sound

29 Artistic

California

town

30 Billionth:

Prefix

31 Coffee

dispenser

32 Open-

back

footwear

34 Flag

features

37 Foot

con-

nection

38 Arrange-

ment

39 Take the

wheel

40 Turn

down

41 Storage

site

DOWN

1 Add

2 Gofers'

job

3 Superior

group

4 Style

5 Chum

6 "The

Simpsons"

clerk

7 Vancou-

ver

player

8 Like pulp

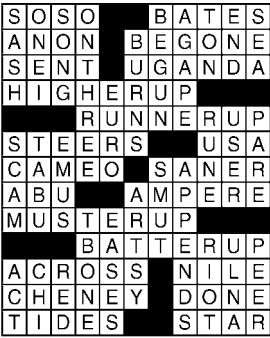
novels

9 Social

group

11 Pine or

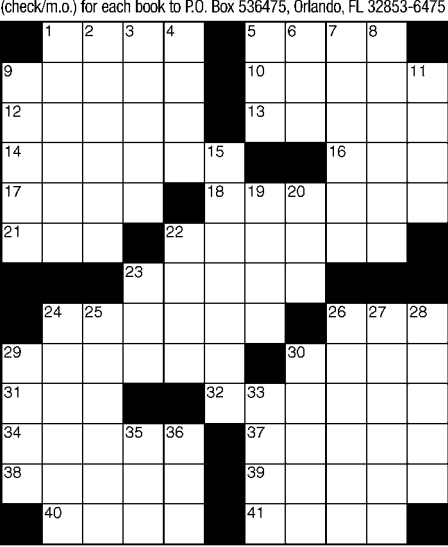
palm



Previous Puzzle

15 Beach footwear
19 Sandbox toy
20 Museum topic
22 Certain
23 Sleeve filler
24 Hauled
25 Decora-
tive
26 New York
player
27 Not straight
28 Tricky puzzle
29 Use foul language
30 Last inning, usually
33 Highlands girl
35 Sprint
36 Secret agent

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5-18

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.

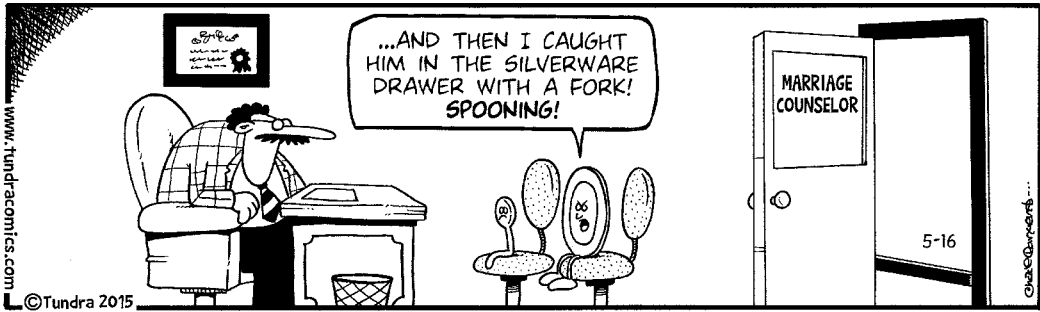
5-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z L G Q X B I W V X G T Z L M I W M V L M V
Z H Z W Y U I F W I Y V L U Z L L U X
Y I G P C M V W I L E M T X W J A U M V
N Z L U X G V, J Q L J I G G I Y X C N G I H
U M V B U M P C G X W. — O. O. Z Q C Q J I W

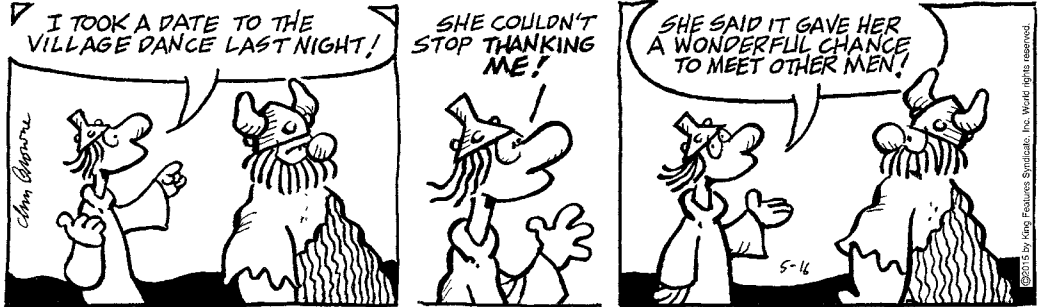
Previous Cryptoquote: TO SEE A WORLD IN A GRAIN OF SAND, AND A HEAVEN IN A WILD FLOWER, HOLD INFINITY IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND, AND ETERNITY IN AN HOUR. -- William Blake

COMICS

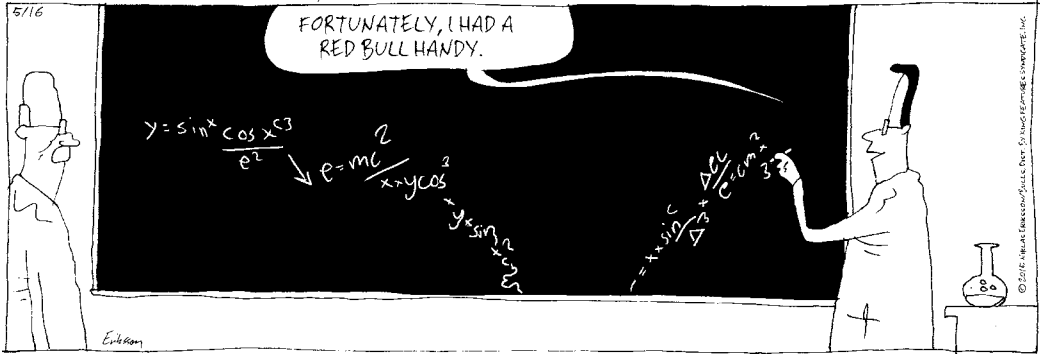
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Carpe Diem



Baby Blues



Dilbert

