

Teen won't leave abusive home despite friend's pleas

DEAR ABBY: Last week, my best friend, “Lana,” tried to kill herself. I’m not sure anyone else knows. Her brother beats her, and her mom yells at her for being “ungrateful” when she asks to spend a night elsewhere. My family has offered several times to let Lana live with us, as have her grandparents. After this week, I have begged her to. She still refuses.

Her plan is to move in with her boyfriend when she turns 18 in a few months. He’s a good guy, but I don’t think it will be good for her. I know they always say to tell an adult about a situation like this one, but Lana claims she’s not strong enough to actually leave before then -- and she kept a secret of mine almost as big.

I’m scared and don’t know what to do. I love Lana and I know doing the wrong thing could end up with her dead. — **TERRIFIED BFF IN TENNESSEE**

DEAR TERRIFIED: If Lana tried to kill herself because of what’s happening at home, she can no longer remain there. Talk to her again. Moving in with her boyfriend is not the answer. It could be jumping from the frying pan into the fire. If she lives with him under these circumstances, she will be emotionally and financially dependent, and it’s not a healthy way to start a relationship.

Point out that if she lives with her grandparents -- who understand how dys-



DEAR ABBY

functional her home life has been -- or your family, she will be in a safe place while she considers her options about finding a job or getting more education. Once she’s independent, she will be in a stronger position to make wise decisions about her future.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend lost the “love of his life” to cancer two years ago. He talks about her and their life together endlessly. He says he wants to build a new life with me, but he constantly criticizes me because “she would handle the situation better.”

Abby, the woman was a physician from a wealthy family. I’m a blue-collar worker who single-parented two children. My parents passed away 20 years ago. Is there any hope for a future with him? Can I ever feel comfortable being who I am -- not the ghost he wants me to be? — **BLUE-COLLAR LOVER**

DEAR LOVER: As long as your boyfriend continues to compare you unfavorably with his lost love,

the answer is no. Have you told him how it makes you feel when he does it? If you haven’t, speak up! And when you do, suggest he find a grief support group, where he can talk and talk until he works through his loss better than he has. Until he does, you’ll never be happy. Competing with a ghost is a fight you can’t win.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a college student who has never had a boyfriend. I have been on a few dates with a guy I’ll call “Richard,” and while he’s nice, I don’t see this going anywhere.

On the other hand, I don’t want to break it off just yet because it’s nice having that kind of attention for once. But is it leading him on?

He likes me a lot more than I like him, but he knows I’m going to transfer next semester. What should I do? — **CONFUSED DATER IN DES MOINES**

DEAR CONFUSED DATER: You should be honest with Richard. Tell him you like him as a friend and remind him that your plan is to transfer next semester. That way, if he wants to continue seeing you, he’ll know the score and you won’t have led him on.

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Thanks to the chilly weather, a beach vacation beckons you, Aries. Start planning an excursion to a warm locale that allows you to escape the daily grind.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

A sporting event or something that draws a large crowd is just where you need to be this week, Taurus. Surround yourself with people who share your interests.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Give an issue in your relationship the consideration it merits, Gemini. Though it might not seem like it now, taking time to work this out will ultimately strengthen your relationship.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, the final stages of a project you have been working on are ready begin. Don’t be afraid to take credit when all of your hard work pays off in a big way.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Obligations to work and family leave you short on personal time, Leo. Though your schedule is hectic, make time to unwind and you will be glad for having done so.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

It may take a while to convince someone to go along with your idea, Virgo. Yet once you have this person’s support, they will be fully on board.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

You may have been bouncing around aimlessly for some time, Libra. But now is the week to get all of your affairs together and put your plan for the future in motion.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Restlessness can sometimes be a dangerous thing for you, Scorpio. Channel any restlessness into a worthy project that makes good use of your boundless energy.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, make the best of a situation that needs changing. You might not be able to affect change, but that does not mean you can’t improve the situation with a positive attitude.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Perceptions vary, Capricorn. Just because you feel strongly about something doesn’t mean another will view it the same way. Accept that your passion will not always be reciprocated.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, even though it will be a busy week, you aren’t likely to feel wiped out. There will still be time for fun. Figure out a day to do something enjoyable.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you are torn between being creative and following convention at work. Ask a colleague for some input.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 29
Ted Danson, Actor (66)

DECEMBER 30
Kristin Kreuk, Actress (31)

DECEMBER 31
Val Kilmer, Actor (54)

JANUARY 1
Cat Cora, Chef (46)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Puts away

1 Take turns

5 Run up

10 Wine

grape

12 Lightning

home

13 Prelude

14 Swirly

prints

15 Frat letter

16 Vitality

18 Chaotic

spot

19 Rank

21 Sentence

subject,

usually

22 lan

McEwan

book

24 Chopper

part

25 lan

McEwan

book

29 Fatigue

30 Did salon

work

32 Radius’

place

33 Sch.

support-

ers

34 One, for

Juan

35 Caribou’s

cousin

37 Eastern

monks

39 Spoof

40 Subse-

quently

DOWN

1 Barbecue

rods

2 Candy-

filled

target

3 Sense

4 Postal

oath word

5 Resting

on

6 Subway

aid

7 Warring

woman

8 Fledgling

plant

9 Squeal-

ed

11 Bun

17 It may
start with
“E”

20 Like Loki

21 Bookish,

perhaps

23 Playthings

for Zeus

and Hera

25 Ventilate

26 Role for

Peter

Lorre

27 Home-

coming

group

28 Threat

29 Packs

down

31 Medicine

amounts

33 Stock

holders

36 Scatter

seeds

38 Suffer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to
Thomas Joseph Book 1, 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		

12-28

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Ham or

lamb

1 Refer to

5 Mexican

peninsula

9 Penalized

10 Blow

one’s top

12 Plain

silly

13 Musical

pace

14 Stand up

for

16 Writing

tool

17 Give off

18 Diner

activity

21 Indulgent

22 Corsica or

Cuba

23 Indy auto

24 Wise

sayings

26 Filming

site

29 Trample

30 Royal

address

31 Catchall

abbr.

32 Rely

34 Diner

offerings

37 Gave

medicine

to

38 Nepal

neighbor

39 Preten-

tiously

designed

40 Like

ocean

trenches

DECK	PAGES
ACHE	REPUTE
FRAY	ATONCE
TURN	OVER
	OVERTURN
BEATEN	ROE
ALLEN	BANDS
CIA	ARISES
HANGOVER	
	OVERHANG
AVATAR	ERIE
REVOLT	ANNE
MEANS	DOES

Previous Puzzle

15 Go
down

19 Pub pints

20 Road
goo

22 Othello’s
betrayer

23 Eminem’s
music

24 Go to

25 Century
part

26 Midday
break

27 Writer
Heming-
way

28 Lacy
nightwear

29 Convoy
truck

30 Fern
source

33 Dutch
cheese

35 Tell tales

36 Easy
victim

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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		

12-30

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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.

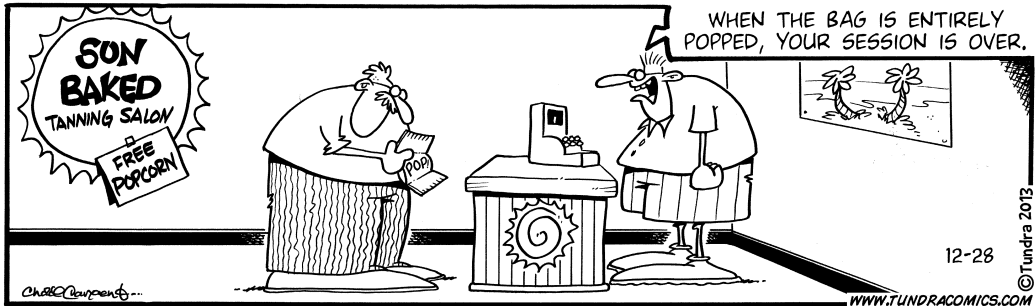
12-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

CFK XTT, JTFLJT, CFK’DT LTQZZC
BQM Q AFUMTLGKZ ZVGT. MFU’W
CFK XTT ABQW Q RVXWQOT VW
AFKZM ST WF IKXW WBLFA VW
QAQC? — HZQLTUHT WBT QUITZ
(“VW’X Q AFUMTLGKZ ZVGT”)

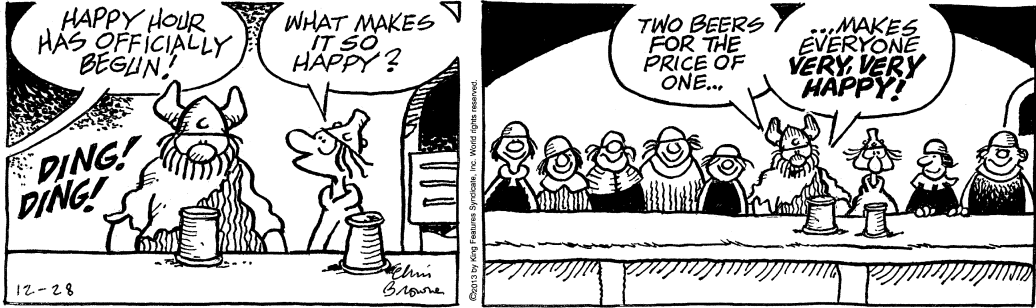
Previous Cryptoquote: LOVING KINDNESS, WARM
HEARTS AND THE STRETCHED OUT HAND OF TOLER-
ANCE. ALL THE SHINING GIFTS THAT MAKE PEACE ON
EARTH. – Bishop Henry Brougham (“The Bishop’s Wife”)

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts

