

# Teen bemoans the influence boyfriend has on her mother

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 17-year-old girl who lives with my mother and my mother's boyfriend. This man has changed my world, and not for the better. The one person I ever cared about has practically turned against me.

My mom tried killing herself for this man and chose him over me after she was released from the institution. I have been diagnosed with depression and have also tried to kill myself. I also have a habit of cutting myself. I stopped, but lately I have been wanting to start again. The only thing that has held me back is her threats of committing me to an institution.

She threatened my boyfriend with the police if he ever spoke to me again after we broke up. When I confronted her, she insisted that she was right and someday I'd understand. She has turned into this person I hardly know, and it's because of her boyfriend's influence. Before, when she was upset she would just not talk to me, but now she calls me the most horrid things and won't apologize unless someone besides me tells her.

I feel so alone. I honestly do want to kill myself, but I haven't because I know it isn't the right thing to do, even if it may seem right. I have tried talking to her. She won't listen to me. What should I do? — **HOPELESS AND ALONE IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR HOPELESS AND ALONE:** Because you honestly do want to harm yourself, contact the



DEAR ABBY

doctor who diagnosed you with depression. However, if this is about your mother breaking up your romance by threatening to involve the police, you need to understand that the tactic wouldn't have worked unless he had something to fear.

The level of conflict in your home is not healthy. If you are still in school, discuss this with a trusted teacher or school counselor. In one more year you will be 18 and able to make decisions for yourself, but they shouldn't be based on your mother or her boyfriend. They need to be about what is truly best for you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I hate funerals. My grandfather died when I was 6, and one of my relatives held me over the casket and made me kiss his cold, dead face. It terrified me, and it's all I can remember of my grandfather. I force myself to recall any of the good times we had together, but that event still taints the good memory.

Since then, every funeral I have been to has had the same poisoning effect, no matter what the service was. Funerals are for the

living, and I understand that many people feel the need for closure and the sharing of grief to begin healing. But I need to keep my grief and my faith private in order to heal.

I'm sure some people think my not showing up at a service is a sign of disrespect or just not caring. Nothing could be further from the truth. I prefer to remember the good times with the loved one, not the passing. My way of honoring that person is to keep my happy memories untainted.

Am I wrong? Selfish or lazy? Weird or crazy? Please let me know because at my age I'm sure more of these events will happen. — **KEEPING MY DISTANCE IN WASHINGTON STATE**

**DEAR KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE:** You are none of the above. People grieve in different ways. An appropriate way to express your respect for the deceased and your support for the survivors would be to write a condolence letter expressing those feelings and sharing a happy memory with the grieving widow, widower or child. No rule of etiquette demands that you show up to a funeral — unless it happens to be your own.

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

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, try not to pick sides when asked for your opinion on a dispute between close friends. Giving the impression of picking sides may strain a friendship.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Many positive things are on the horizon, Taurus. You just have to get through a few rough spots before it is clearer sailing this week. Pisces is a pivotal player.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Challenge yourself this week, Gemini. Now is a great time to take on a new hobby or task and test your mettle. You will be glad you did when you accomplish your goals.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, trust those around you as they can be a valuable source of support and encouragement. Work to be there for them as much as they have been there for you.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, a travel opportunity is just over the horizon, so have your bags packed and ready to depart at a moment's notice. You can certainly use some time away.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, once you think you have everything figured out, a few variables get thrown into the mix. You will show your ability to solve problems if you can handle the task.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, someone close to you puts their faith in your ability to get a job done. Devote all of your attention to completing this task, and it will only enhance your resume.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, others are quick to look to you for help because of your work ethic, experience and attention to detail. Embrace these opportunities as they can help your career.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it could be in your best interest to remain out of the spotlight at the next social gathering. You might have a more enjoyable time as a fly on the wall.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, tight deadlines at work will have the pressure on you and your coworkers. But stick to the task at hand, and you will reap the rewards in the near future.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Hard work will get you ahead, Aquarius. Don't shy away from an opportunity that comes your way, even if it seems less than promising at first glance.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you may find yourself in a leadership role this week and will be called on to make a lot of decisions. Take advantage of this opportunity.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

**AUGUST 4**  
Billy Bob Thornton, Actor (58)

**AUGUST 5**  
Lolo Jones, Athlete (31)

**AUGUST 6**  
Soleil Moon Frye, Actress (37)

**AUGUST 7**  
John Glover, Actor (69)

**AUGUST 8**  
Scott Stapp, Singer (40)

**AUGUST 9**  
Melanie Griffith, Actress (56)

**AUGUST 10**  
Suzanne Collins, Author (51)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Tic
- 6 Chinwags
- 11 "Alfie" star
- 12 Draconian
- 13 Cook's wear
- 14 Sun Valley setting
- 15 Masses
- 17 Collins base
- 18 Pupil's place
- 19 Like driftwood
- 22 June honoree
- 23 Gizmo protector
- 24 Truman's hometown
- 25 Broccoli bit
- 27 Beatles descriptor
- 30 Iron target
- 31 Fertility clinic topic
- 32 Center
- 33 Didn't punish
- 35 Acrobatic
- 38 Next to
- 39 Dangerous gas
- 40 Mountain group
- 41 Genesis event
- 42 Places for pads

### DOWN

- 1 Trembling
- 2 Tropical fruit
- 3 Cot alternative
- 4 Snooty fellow
- 5 Edison's home
- 6 Greek's X
- 7 Suffered from
- 8 Region of Spain
- 9 Casual top
- 10 Was bright
- 16 Some paints

EMUS	S	S	Q	U	A	L	L
ZONE	A	U	N	T	I	E	
RODE	T	O	D	A	T	E	
ATE	N	A	T	O			
	R	H	O	N	E	U	S
A	B	H	O	R	S	A	N
H	E	A	P		I	D	O
A	N	N	I	E	A	D	E
B	E	D		M	I	X	E
	A	P	S	E		F	A
W	E	E	V	I	L	D	O
A	L	G	O	R	E	J	O
S	I	G	N	E	T		S

Previous Puzzle

- 20 Hiker's spot
- 21 That ship
- 24 First name in horror
- 25 Thrifty
- 26 Lusty urges
- 27 To give an example
- 28 Right, in a way
- 29 Scout's awards
- 30 Docking spot
- 34 Singer Jackson
- 36 John, to Ringo
- 37 Wrap up

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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						42			

8-3

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Piece of lumber
- 6 One of the Obama daughters
- 11 Relative by marriage
- 12 Praise highly
- 13 Count of music
- 14 Make fun of
- 15 Reporter's concern
- 17 Harrison of "My Fair Lady"
- 18 Loafer
- 22 Stench
- 23 Afternoon break
- 27 Spanish boys
- 29 Caesar's language
- 30 Barker's come-on
- 32 Tear
- 33 Race setting
- 35 Bro's sibling
- 38 Catherine — (wife of Henry VIII)
- 39 Boise's state
- 41 Main artery
- 45 "Message received"
- 46 Thread holder
- 47 Incline
- 48 Lauder of cosmetics

### DOWN

- 1 Feeding-time protector
- 2 "Not — dare!"
- 3 Capp and Capone
- 4 Shower makeup
- 5 Nerdy fellow
- 6 Put to sea
- 7 Chopping tool
- 8 Flag feature
- 9 Garden aid
- 10 TV's Trebek
- 16 Horror director
- 18 Mafia bosses

A	S	I	A		A	U	G	U	S	T
T	O	N	Y		S	N	I	P	E	R
M	U	T	E		P	I	G	S	T	E
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	R	Y	E		E	L	I	Z	A	
C	A	S	E		D	O	N	O	R	
A	C	E			T	O	T			
R	A	C	E		R	S	T	E	M	S
T	I	T	L	E		O	R			
	P	A	T	S		A	J	A	K	
A	T	E	A	S	E		D	E	L	I
L	O	G	S	O		E	C	O	N	
S	P	O	I	O	N	S		S	T	U

Previous Puzzle

- 19 Do magazine work
- 20 First-rate
- 21 Signs of sorrow
- 24 Crockpot contents
- 25 Comedy's Fey
- 26 Tennis star
- 28 Prop up
- 31 Pod item
- 34 Make blank
- 35 Letter start
- 36 Pop star
- 37 Heroic tale
- 40 Rooster's mate
- 42 Go bad
- 43 Sock part
- 44 Pub pint

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
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18	19	20					21		
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35	36	37		38					
39			40			41	42	43	44
45						46			
47						48			

8-5

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.

8-3

### CRYPTOQUOTE

E P B P I S T B Z L K Z J K G B X V

N I F P N K Z B U X L L X F I J E E K

Z B N K G B E P H S E P B P I S T B Z

L K Z W Z B H U . — N K E P B Z E B Z B V H

Previous Cryptoquote: THE TROUBLE WITH RETIREMENT IS THAT YOU NEVER GET A DAY OFF. – Abe Lemons

## COMICS

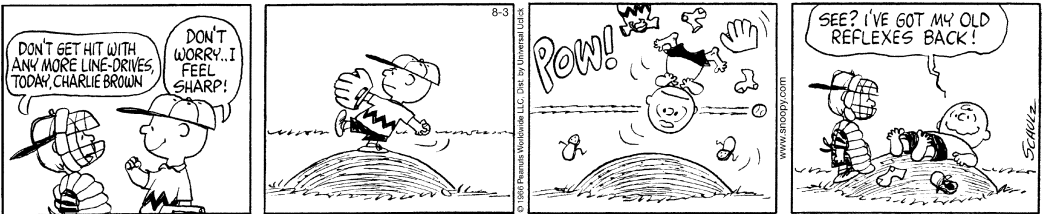
### Tundra



### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

