Sister immersed in virtual world blocks out the real

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: My younger sister "Lainie" is 14. She has had a smartphone for about a year. While I don't belong to any social media sites, Lainie is a social media junkie. She never goes anywhere without her phone. Sometimes she'll have her phone in one hand and her tablet in the other, taking turns when one or the other begins to bore her. It's almost impossible to interact with her because her face is buried in the virtual world just about every hour of the day and night.

I miss the way things used to be before she got that smartphone. I have talked about this with my parents. While they are equally concerned about Lainie's withdrawn, sometimes secretive behavior, they never do anything about it. What are your thoughts on this topic? — **GADGET GIRL'S SISTER IN NEW MEXICO**

DEAR SISTER: It's common for teens to spend a lot of time on their phones and computers. But when they become withdrawn and secretive, it is time for a parental intervention. If your folks are equally concerned about your sister's behavior, they should step in, find out what's going on and do something about it, if necessary. If they don't already, they could start by scheduling family dinners during which cellphones are turned off or put away.

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is nearly here, and I'm concerned about my brother. I'm afraid he blames himself for his 28-year-old daughter's suicide, which was by no means his fault. This will be his first Christmas without her. I don't know what to do for him. Any suggestions? — **CHALLENGED IN MICHIGAN**

DEAR CHALLENGED: When a close family member commits suicide, it is common for survivors to experience a range of emotions. Anger and guilt are two of them. If possible, encourage your brother to spend Christmas with you or other relatives. You should also suggest he join a survivors support group.

The American Association of Suicidology provides referrals to local self-help groups for survivors of suicide. Its website is www.suicidology.org. If he joins one, it will give him a place to talk about his feelings with people who will understand because they have them, too.

DEAR ABBY: A long time ago, I was dating and living with a wonderful woman. I was arrested and went to jail for possession of cocaine. She then had an order of protection issued against me for one year.

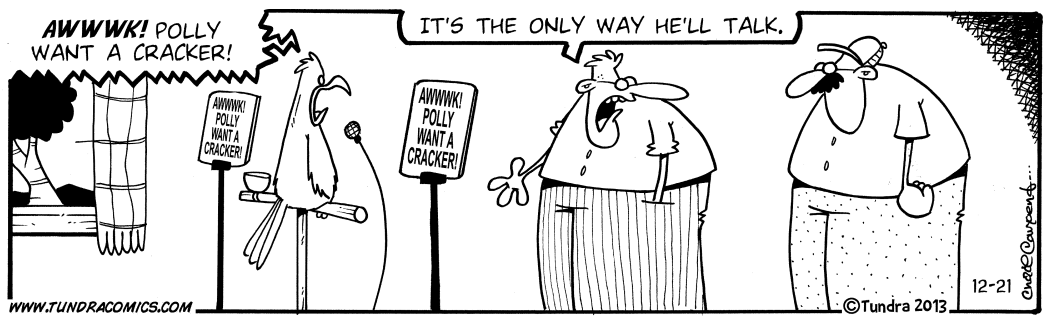
That was 10 years ago. I have been clean from drugs ever since. She has a child with another man now, and I hope everything is great. My problem is, I can't get her out of my mind. I miss her so much and just want the chance to be with her. Any advice? — **HEARTBROKEN IN NEW YORK**

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Your former girlfriend has gone on with her life, and your relationship is ancient history. If she had been willing to forgive you, she wouldn't have taken out the restraining order. If you want to be successful in moving forward in your life, stop looking backward. It's time to focus on your future.

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.

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts

Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

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

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, some difficulty awaits you, but you are strong and fully capable of handling what's coming your way. Maintain your composure and stick it out a little longer.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, this is your week to shine and let everyone at work know just how talented and devoted you are to the team. Enjoy the fanfare while you can get it.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Distractions are lurking, Gemini, but you will still manage to get things done. Somehow you find the focus needed to muddle through all the work.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Trust someone close to you with a few of your secrets, Cancer. Holding them in may only cause you grief in the long run. Don't worry, your confidante will be supportive.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, an investment opportunity has piqued your interest. Until you sign over the funds, be sure to research everything thoroughly and call in some expert advice.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, you have a lot on your plate, but you can handle it on your own. If things are to get done, you will get them accomplished of your own accord, even if it takes longer.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Some added confidence is all you need to get back on the right track, Libra. Things are bound to work out in your favor, especially when you put your mind to something.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, just when skepticism seems to be taking over, you will discover once in a while there are a few surprises with happy endings. Enjoy your good luck.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, though unusual, your behavior might seem perfectly reasonable to you. But unless you share your thoughts with others, they may wonder what is going on.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Remember that words said in the heat of the moment will not soon be forgotten, Capricorn. Don't forget to employ some tact when discussing serious matters with loved ones.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, this week you will have to be very convincing if you want plans to go your way. Brush up on your approach and give thought to exactly what it is you want to say.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Take a few days to let your mind wander, Pisces. You will probably find being a free spirit to be a refreshing break from the norm.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 22
Hector Elizondo, Actor (77)

DECEMBER 23
Eddie Vedder, Singer (49)

DECEMBER 24
Stephanie Meyer, Author (40)

DECEMBER 25
Annie Lennox, Singer (59)

DECEMBER 26
Jared Leto, Actor/Singer (42)

DECEMBER 27
Emilie de Ravin, Actress (32)

DECEMBER 28
Joe Manganiello, Actor (37)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

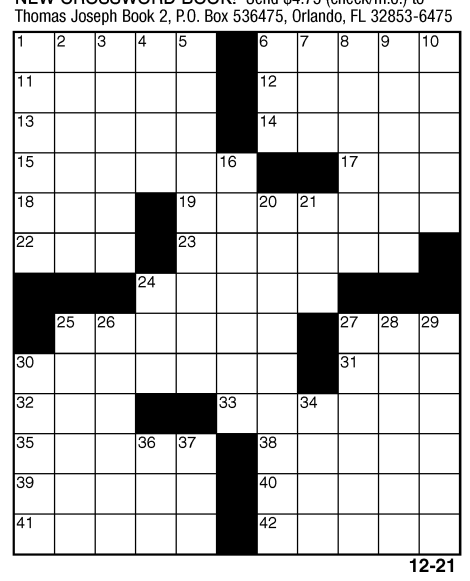
ACROSS
1 Propeller type
6 Plains grazer
11 Port-au-Prince setting
12 Draw out
13 Take, as advice
14 Emulate Astaire
15 Side-tracks
17 Failure
18 Brit's brew
19 Shrouds
22 Ocean between Eur. and Amer.
23 Blues singer Ma
24 Farm sights
25 "Settle down!"
27 Female rabbit
30 Chemical solvent
31 Clean Water Act org.
32 Seaman's answer
33 Trio of myth
35 Murdered
38 Avignon's river
39 Puzzle out
40 Alpine trill
41 Dawn
42 Watchful ones

DOWN
1 California mount
2 Sign of prestige
3 Ceremony
4 School near Windsor
5 Dark brew
6 Garden section
7 Lupino of films
8 Gooey treat
9 Take over
10 Calls for
16 Catching
20 Cover crop
21 Hosp. workers
24 Dickens nickname
25 Sri Lanka, formerly
26 "Paper Moon" co-stars
27 Crack, in a way
28 Starting bid
29 Studio stands
30 Low singer
34 Ship-to-ship call
36 "— had it!"
37 Court sight

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

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



12-21

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Christmas song
6 Sounds of suffering
11 "O come, let us — Him"
12 Christmas tree topper
13 Pencil part
14 River of France
15 Opera set in Egypt
17 Indicate assent
18 Entries for Santa
22 First-rate
23 Treat for Tabby
27 Seventh day of Christmas gift
29 Gallows sight
30 Targeted, as with a mailing
32 Irishman, e.g.
33 Glitters
35 That lady
38 "... — saw Elba"
39 One of Santa's reindeer
41 Emulate a bloodhound
45 Full of energy
46 Snowy wader
47 Yard plus a bit
48 Slalom curves

DOWN
1 Santa suit part
2 Commotion
3 King, in France
4 They're hung at Christmastime
5 Admit
6 Kuala Lumpur resident
7 Lennon's love
8 Not "fer"
9 Infamous emperor
10 Toboggan
16 Christmas mo.
18 One of the Mamas
19 Hockey's Gordie
20 — instant
21 They're hung at Christmastime
24 Christmas song
25 Vacation spot
26 Tabby and Spot
28 Pearly Gates tender
31 Lifeboat need
34 View over
35 Con game
36 Doughnut feature
37 Give off
40 Holiday lead-in
42 Tax agcy.
43 Clinic cost
44 Army bases: Abbr.

S	A	S	S	■	C	A	N	C	A	N	
E	C	H	O	■	O	R	I	O	L	E	
E	T	O	N	■	T	O	P	P	L	E	
D	I	O	N	Y	S	U	S	■	■	■	
■	■	T	E	E	■	S	A	S	H	A	
P	L	O	T	S	■	E	T	H	A	N	
E	A	U	■	■	■	■	■	O	F	T	
E	N	T	E	R	■	S	A	U	T	E	
L	A	S	S	O	■	O	C	T	■	■	
■	■	■	C	O	R	N	C	O	B	S	
S	E	S	A	M	E	■	E	U	R	O	
E	L	O	P	E	D	■	S	T	A	B	
A	L	D	E	R	S	■	S	S	T	S	

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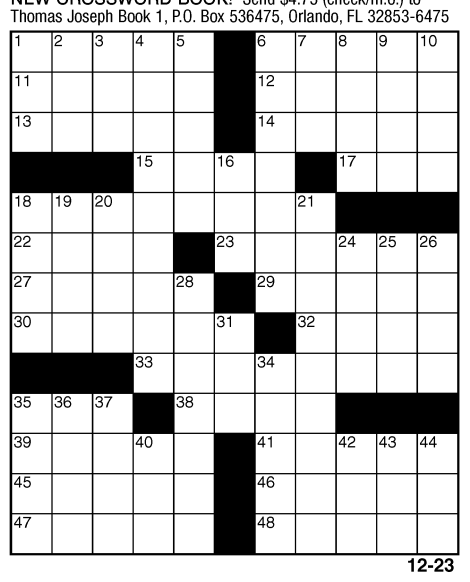

12-23

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.

12-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

E A J C U V P B U J Y M V P B S K U M V P T K S X H A E K B Y Q J L V U X P H S K M V P B S K , V P B E A K S X Y K J Y E A K M V P B S K N X S S P J E T K U A J Q E K P K B . — T C B B A V

Previous Cryptoquote: THIS IS THE FIRST TEST OF A GENTLEMAN: HIS RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO CAN BE OF NO POSSIBLE VALUE TO HIM. – William Lyon Phelps