

Mom wonders how to deal with children’s sexual play

DEAR ABBY: Last week-end some family members were at my mom’s house for a meal. My 6-year-old son and my cousin’s 4-year-old daughter were playing in the room my mom had set up for the grandkids.

When I went to check on them, I noticed the bathroom door was closed, so I knocked. My son answered, sounding rather panicked. I asked if “Jenny” was in there with him. He said no, then opened the door, but he looked scared, as if he knew he had done something wrong, and glanced nervously at the closed shower curtain.

Sure enough, there was Jenny, standing in the tub with her bathing suit around her ankles trying to get it back on. I told her to put her clothes on and took my son outside to speak with him. “Rory” admitted they were showing each other their private parts and had touched and rubbed them. I asked him why and where he learned how to do that, and he implied it was his idea!

Abby, he has never seen any adult movies, magazines, love scenes, or caught me or anyone else in the act. Why on earth would this be on his mind at such a young age? Do you think he needs counseling? — **WORRIED MOM IN CALIFORNIA**

DEAR WORRIED MOM: No. Playing doctor is a game children have played ever since curiosity was born. I think you need to talk to your child’s pediatri-



DEAR ABBY

cian and ask if this behavior is normal at this age.

DEAR ABBY: I have had very few female friends in my life. I have a hard time relating to other women. My fiance doesn’t approve of me having close friendships with other men.

I recently met a lesbian couple whose company I enjoy. My fiance doesn’t like us being friends because “they are trying to turn me gay.” Abby, this is ridiculous. I have never been attracted to women, and these ladies have never brought up the possibility that I may be lesbian, as they know I am straight.

How can I make my fiance come to terms with our friendship? I’m thinking of calling off the engagement. — **STRAIGHT GIRL IN THE SOUTH**

DEAR STRAIGHT GIRL: Has it become clear to you yet how insecure and controlling your fiance appears to be? Straight people are not “turned gay” because they have lesbian or gay friends. You can talk at him until the cows come

home, but unless he is willing/able to overcome his bias, he won’t believe you.

This is my long-winded way of advising you to find a more open-minded, secure man to marry because it doesn’t take a crystal ball to predict that the one you’re engaged to will eventually make you feel isolated, trapped and unhappy.

DEAR ABBY: Regarding the gent from Texas who likes to wear blue nail polish, there exists a famous fresco dating from 1500 B.C. or earlier from the palace of Knossos. The fresco was dubbed “The Prince” by British archaeologists and depicts a long-haired male stripped to the waist wearing blue fingernail polish and blue toenail polish. The original now resides in the Heraklion Archeological Museum in Knossos on the island of Crete. Any good art history book will have a reproduction of this well-known work of art. — **RON F. IN RICHMOND, VA.**

DEAR RON: Thanks for the heads up, and for confirming that fashion trends are cyclical. Sooner or later, what seems passe today is certain to come around again.

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

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

Previous Puzzle

HELOISE’S KITCHENEERING BY HELOISE

The Mystery of the Missing Oil

Dear Heloise: Thanks to you and something I read in your column in The Maui (Hawaii) News recently, a MYSTERY of the past nine years has been solved.

I have baked cutout cookies from my mother’s recipe for more than 40 years, and they always turned out just like hers. About nine years ago, the dough started being very “wet” and needed a lot of extra flour. We couldn’t figure out why. I had begun thinking maybe the margarine had changed.

When I read your advice about using butter or margarine with a certain oil content, I checked the different brands of margarine I had used, and the oil content was less. Using butter, the dough was back to what it had been! Thank you! — Bernadette Meno, Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

You’re welcome! Aloha to my readers in Hawaii. I’m sending you a big Heloise hug, and thank you for continuing to read my column. You send in great hints! I can just taste the fresh-picked mango and papaya with a squirt of lime juice. — Mahalo, Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: [Heloise\(at\)Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise(at)Heloise.com)

No Brown Bags

Dear Heloise: I had a question about a recent column regarding microwave safety. You listed several items that never should be placed in a microwave. My question was about brown paper bags.

I have a recipe for making regular popcorn in the microwave, which is very easy. Cleanup is as easy as throwing the paper bag into the trash. My family loves this simple way to make popcorn, so I hope that you can tell me that it’s still safe to use a brown paper bag in the microwave. — Holly in Florida

Sorry, but no, it’s NOT safe to use brown paper bags in the microwave! The U.S. Department of Agriculture states that the bags are not sanitary. Many are made of recycled materials, so you cannot be certain it won’t cause sparking in the microwave and result in a fire. Plus, the ink and glues can give off toxic fumes when heated. — Heloise

Ground-Out Odor

Dear Heloise: Washing my hands after chopping garlic and onions one day, I noticed the coffee filter my husband left draining in the other side of the sink. I took a small amount of grounds and added them to the soap. No more odors on my hands! — Gina D. in Illinois

Easy ID

Dear Heloise: We keep our plastic storage bags in a cabinet, and only the ends of the boxes are visible. I mark the ends with a broad black marker: “Q” for quart bags, “S” for snack bags, “P” for pint bags and “G” for gallon bags. This makes them much easier to locate in the cabinet. — Barbara G., via email

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cry from the crib

5 Man or mouse

11 Touch on

12 Microscopic critter

13 Jail division

14 Gizmo

15 Building wing

16 Tag info

17 Word separator

19 Cacao holder

22 Take pictures

24 Ten-armed swimmer

26 Made rugs

27 Radius partner

28 Aids in crime

30 Like alpaca wool

31 Neither follower

32 Some doors

34 “Das Kapital” author

35 Switch setting

38 Broadway’s “The — Game”

41 Track shape

42 Post-fall reassurance

43 1920s art style

44 Church plates

45 Sketched

DOWN

1 Spice from nutmeg

2 Cain’s brother

3 Ponders

4 Bahamas’ ocean: Abbr.

5 Potter’s field

6 Wows

7 Method

8 Ryan of movies

9 Presidential nickname

10 Back muscle, for short

16 Plopped down

18 Couplet creator

19 Stops for speeding

20 Sty cry

21 June 6, 1944

22 Symbol of grace

23 Boxcar rider

25 Throw in the towel

29 Tar

30 Caret’s key

33 Inside pictures

34 Produce

36 Clock part

37 Move smoothly

38 Orange seed

39 “I — Rock”

40 Write hastily

41 Bizarre

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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							45		

11-19

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Tailed flier

5 Newscast segment

11 Perfect place

12 City on the Rio Grande

13 Heavy metal

14 Not optional

15 India neighbor

17 Holiday lead-in

18 Old gold coin

22 Sacred song

24 Future fern

25 Museum topic

26 Team backer

27 Spirited attack

30 Makes finer

32 Get some shuteye

33 Pindar poem

34 Sporting dogs

38 Fall, e.g.

41 Lustrous stone

42 Wilde character

43 Dog from Kansas

44 2005 Super Bowl losers

45 Hearty dish

DOWN

1 Brown seaweed

2 Notion

3 Household whistler

4 Salad green

5 Dis-patched

6 Begg

7 Door-pounder’s cry

8 “Gnarly!”

9 Part of Mao’s name

10 Lawn material

16 Harden

19 Perking need

20 “I smell —!”

21 Wallet bills

22 Physics amount

23 Vaccine type

28 Trawler or tanker

29 Stand against

30 Heir, often

31 Block-heads

35 Small workers

36 Overdue

37 Deliberate

38 Spot

39 Hurler’s stat

40 Director Lee

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 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							45		

11-20

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.

11-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

X K C I A V K J C I U V E A F H J C M
J C S S V I W M B L V . A N M X

P V D N W V M B A V P V E N K V E

A F X M . — L C F C C I U V Z B N

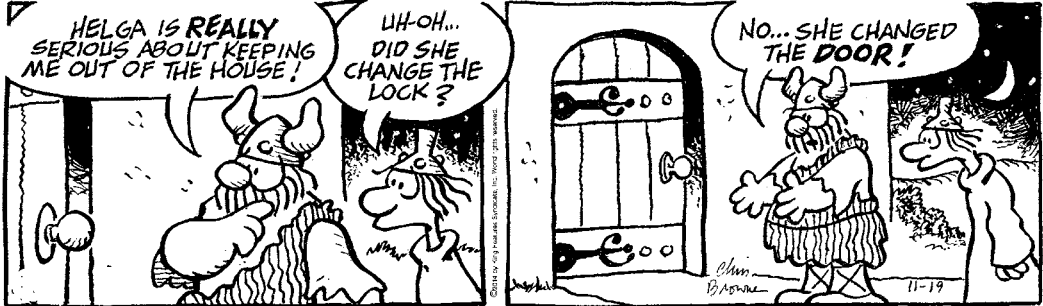
Previous Cryptoquote: THE GREATEST LEADER IS NOT NECESSARILY THE ONE WHO DOES THE GREATEST THINGS. HE IS THE ONE THAT GETS THE PEOPLE TO DO THE GREATEST THINGS. – Ronald Reagan

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

