

# Trauma in teen’s past is a secret she should keep

**DEAR ABBY:** I’m a 16-year-old girl, just starting to dip my toes into the dating scene. It’s not that I haven’t wanted a boyfriend in the past, but I live in a rural area where options are few. I am becoming close with a guy who lives near me, and I care a lot about him. Therein lies the problem. We’re getting to the point where we are finding out EVERYTHING about each other. I love learning things about him, and I want to share myself entirely with him.

Lately we have been talking about the past. To make a long story short, my childhood was traumatic. From the age of 6 until age 11, I was molested by a family member. Although I am a virgin, when I’m with my friend, it’s obvious that I have done certain things before.

I don’t want to “unload my baggage” too early and scare him away, but if we are going to commit to each other, I feel it’s important for him to know. When is a good point in the relationship to tell him, or in future relationships as well? Any advice you could give would help a lot! — **DIPPING MY TOES IN THE DATING SCENE**

**DEAR DIPPING:** The answer depends upon how mature this young man is, because the information you’re considering imparting to him is sensitive. How would you feel if this first



DEAR ABBY

relationship ended badly and he broadcast your history to the entire community? This has been known to happen – as we all know – with intimate photos.

Personally, I think it will be a while – a few years – before you will be ready for a truly committed relationship. I’m not saying you shouldn’t have fun and romance in your life, but until you are absolutely sure that you are in a committed relationship, my advice is not to confide this.

If you haven’t already received counseling for the trauma you experienced as a child, please consider it. Licensed counselors are ethically bound not to reveal what is discussed during sessions.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in my mid-20s and have a close relationship with my mother. She always struggled to make ends meet, but has recently come into greater financial security.

For some time I have been embarrassed about her stingy habits when it

comes to splitting the check in group situations. She’ll often divide costs unfairly and rely on the generosity of her fellow diners to cover her share. I don’t want to embarrass her at the table, but I’m uncomfortable apologizing for her after the fact.

Now that I’m older, I feel responsible in these situations, but I know money is a sensitive topic for her. I don’t want to be critical or make her self-conscious. How can I talk Mom into correcting her behavior so we can salvage relationships that are important to both of us? — **KELLY IN NEW YORK**

**DEAR KELLY:** You shouldn’t embarrass your mother in front of others. But you should have a private talk with her and express your feelings.

The frugal habits of a lifetime can be hard to break, even if there is a windfall later in life. But if you feel relationships are being destroyed because of what she is doing, then you should tell her and give her some examples. That’s the only hope you have of convincing her to change.

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

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, now is a great time to take a chance and try something new. Something different may be just what you need to get back in the swing of things.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

A big change may be looming, Taurus. Think about leaving your comfort zone and trying an adventure. You never know what the experience will bring.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

There’s a lot to accomplish right now, Gemini, but distractions seem to turn up just when you get on track. Try to keep your attention focused on the tasks at hand.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

You tend to gravitate toward leadership roles, Cancer. That can pack on the pressure, and sometimes you need a break. Choose this week to stand on the sidelines.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, even though you’re excited about a planned getaway, you’re also a little apprehensive about leaving home for long. Shake off such feelings and enjoy the time away.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, trust your own instincts when an unusual situation arises. Others will offer advice, but you will be most satisfied if you go with your gut.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, a friend reenters your life this week and you are better for it. Enjoy this rekindled friendship and set aside some time to catch up and share a few laughs.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, be alert at work this week, as a great opportunity may be coming your way and you want to be prepared. Supervisors will like that you’re on your toes.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, your excitement over an upcoming revelation has you wondering how long you can keep a secret. Hang in there a few more days, and all will work out just fine.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, it is finally time to take a well-deserved rest. Make the most of this time to get some R&R as your schedule might be hectic once more in just a few days.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, put yourself first this week, even if you have a lot of things on your plate. If you’re not at your best, you will not be able to help others, so take some time for yourself.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, an unlikely source provides all of the inspiration you need this week. Be thankful to have such a person in your life.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 26  
Kevin James, Actor (50)

APRIL 27  
Sheena Easton, Singer (56)

APRIL 28  
Juan Mata, Athlete (27)

APRIL 29  
Jerry Seinfeld, Comic (61)

APRIL 30  
Johnny Galecki, Actor (40)

MAY 1  
James Murray, Comic (39)

MAY 2  
David Beckham, Athlete (40)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Sweeping

5 Small statue

9 “Gay” city

10 Dizzying designs

12 Galleon’s place

13 Bulldog fan

14 Southwestern capital

16 Homer’s dad

17 Greek vowel

18 Michael Keaton movie

20 Outcome

22 Unctuous

23 Edison’s — Park

25 Exchange

28 Singer Kitt

32 Carry on

34 With it

35 “Revenge” network

36 Souvenir shop

38 Roofing material

40 Thrill

41 Web-surfing need

42 Paddy crops

### 43 Turns right

44 Crystal gazer

### DOWN

1 Leave

2 Game settings

3 Plane fixture

4 Easily defended

5 “Gaslight” star

6 — tree

7 Deli buy

8 Of the clan

9 Tough puzzle

11 Minute

FIN	ISH		FEAT
ACAD	IA	RAGE	
REPENT		IRON	
	AGHAST		
APES		SCHMO	
BEA	GOT	TOWAR	
ORR	AWE	OCT	
DOTT	IER	RHO	
ETHAN		CMON	
	TISSUE		
ICON		ONLINE	
DONT		BILLED	
ODES		STOLES	

Previous Puzzle

15 Gym goal

19 Revolver, perhaps

21 Game callers

24 Prepares to shave

25 Twitch

26 Collection of posts

27 Game setting

29 Homeland of Orpheus

30 Home run king

31 Church areas

33 Checkout line count

37 Tennis’s Nastase

39 Kickoff aid

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
32						33			34	
35						36			37	
38						39			40	
41									42	
									43	
									44	

4-25

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

1 Sings like Ella Fitzgerald

6 Mount Olympus group

10 Politician Sarah

11 Bumbling

13 Laughable

14 Burton of “Roots”

15 Huck’s pal

16 Finish

18 Writer Levin

19 Sleep extender

22 Spelling contest

23 Resting on

24 Yawning, perhaps

27 Gushes forth

28 Son of Zeus

29 Gorilla, for example

30 Police alerter

35 Sock part

36 Longing

37 Method

38 Gladden

40 Mirror sight

42 Stopwatch button

43 More tender

44 Vast expanses

### 45 Listens to

### DOWN

1 Barbecue rods

2 Body of law

3 Texas landmark

4 Light metal

5 Reacted to pollen

6 Comic Radner

7 Start of a count

8 Go off course

9 Small song-bird

12 Vagabonds

CAS			JAPAN
HULAS			OVINE
EDUCE			NOLTE
AIR			DOGWOOD
POPULAR			TIE
	ITEM	END	
RUDE		AIDE	
GEN		DANA	
ALE		LINDEN	
SEQUOIA		OLE	
LAURA		CAPOS	
ISAAK		SLEPT	
TELLS		AYES	

Previous Puzzle

17 Once called

20 Past plump

21 Jacket flap

24 Turkey tool

25 Baltimore team

26 Set free

27 Tijuana tongue

29 Had lunch

31 Russian refusals

32 Not oblivious

33 Was furious

34 Mike of “Shrek”

39 Hot drink

41 One of the Stooges

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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									43		
									44		
									45		

4-27

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R  
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.

## 4-25 CRYPTOQUOTE

A W V H X Y M T Y D V E Q Z V

T F J J Q K Q U B Q , V U T X Y M W V L Q

H Y T Q B F T Q A W V H E F U T Y J

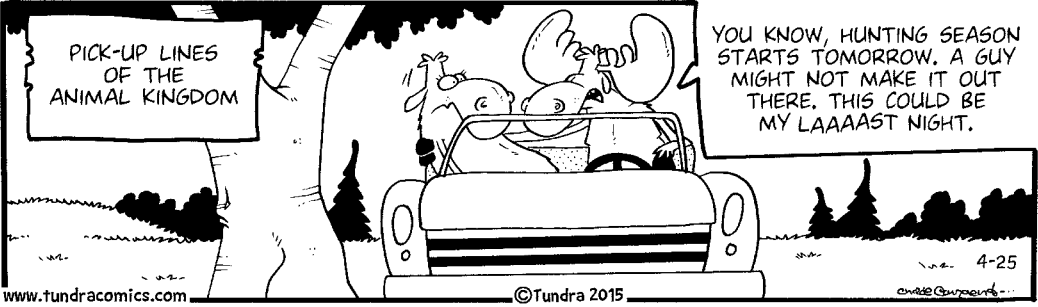
T F J J Q K Q U B Q X Y M A V U H H Y

D V E Q . — P V U Q I Y Y T V R R

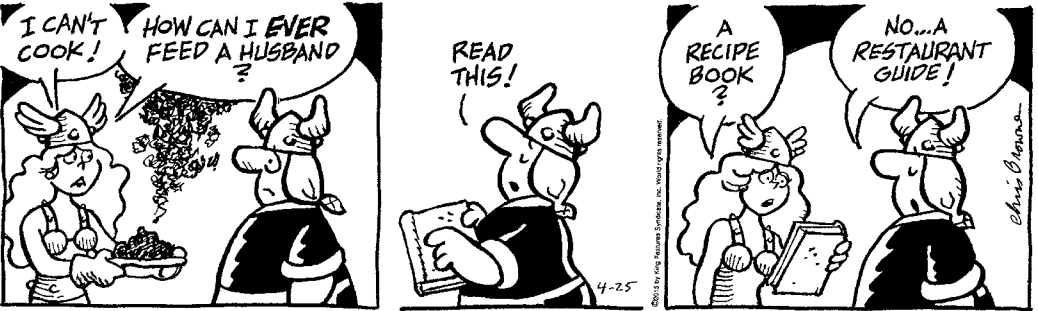
Previous Cryptoquote: ONLY WHEN THE LAST TREE HAS DIED AND THE LAST RIVER BEEN POISONED AND THE LAST FISH BEEN CAUGHT WILL WE REALIZE WE CAN NOT EAT MONEY. – Native American proverb

## COMICS

### Tundra



### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts

